



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Jeanette and I recently got back after our big voyage through so many of the worlds favourite cities and iconic monuments. We did ofcourse especially represent the AAHS in England at the Royal Society of London and the British Horological Institute. Later in this magazine I'll touch on other high lights whilst representing our Society but on this page I'd like to introduce you to the BHI representatives.

### The AAHS meets the British Horological Institute



Jeanette Kenney, Lord Viscount Alan Middleton, Vivian Kenney, Jayne Hall

During our discussions with the BHI I raised the view that it would benefit both the BHI and the AAHS if we in Melbourne could tutor and mentor Australians at our Blackburn Hall Workshops towards fully accredited BHI Distance Learning Horological curriculums. The suggestion was warmly received and is being discussed at Upton Hall in Newark. We also discussed our well known clock-making projects and the current hobby course we are holding and they appreciated the AAHS's achievements and infrastructure and we had a wonderful time with these friendly and charming people. The BHI Distance Learning course may be made available with local mentor support from our members if all goes well n the negotiations – as their director Martin Taylor said to me “something good will come out of these discussions”. The British have such a welcoming attitude to Australians and it was great to experience that in our Horological field as well.

Vivian Kenney

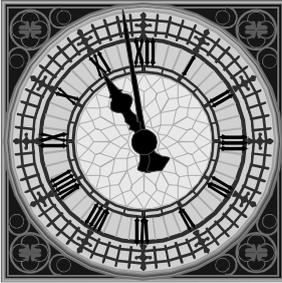


## **From the SECRETARY**

Getting back into the swing of things after our trip, it's great to see the work we did on the Website before leaving is working well and we are receiving many enquiries now. Although a lot are regarding valuations or repairs we are successfully building our membership through the site now and it was well worth the effort.

With winter coming into full swing it's time for reading up on your favourite clocks and enjoying the heater, or working on that “project” you bought at the mid-year mart! Enjoy!

Jeanette Kenney



# “Clock-about”

Local, interstate and overseas info column

By Mr. Vivian C. Kenney



Whilst in England Jeanette and I visited the **Royal Society of London** twice – Dr. Felicity Henderson had approved a personal tour of their grand building for us representing the AAHS.



*Dr Felicity Henderson takes Vivian on a personal tour of the Royal Society of London*

The wonderful portraits of all those great scientists are throughout the building and we saw where they held important meetings and the vast library rooms and memorabilia pertaining to the achievements of 300 years of these luminaries.

Of course I was also interested in seeing The Shelton Regulator of Cook’s Voyage once again to check some specifics sizes that I needed to review since the last time Dr. Henderson gave me access to it. I also asked that

there be a special plaque placed near it to commemorate its involvement in Cook’s voyage and the Transit of Venus in 1769. This was noted down and Felicity



*The Shelton Regulator of Captain Cook fame*

was interested in making sure that would take place before 06/06/2012. Our host made this a very special occasion for us and it was good to get the AAHS name known and accepted by this most important establishment.

## Visiting Chris McKay in Bournemouth

Mr. McKay is a highly respected authority on medieval tower clocks and teaches at the BHI as well as writing Horological essays for magazines and publishing books. Chris is advisor throughout England on Church and Public clock restoration especially BIG-BEN.



*Chris McKay with early medieval tower clock – note large arc of the pendulum.*



*Mr. McKay restored this French tower clock and it is one of dozens in this unknown museum*

Chris McKay is friendly, intelligent and humorous; these traits made him a great host as he drove Jeanette and I all over Dorset showing us medieval tower clocks that he worked on.

Chris made us a great lunch at his home (which included pheasant soup) and showed us not only his own collection of early clocks but took us to a treasure trove museum hidden in a forest. This private museum was packed with fabulous tower clocks movements and the walls were lined with long case clocks – all good ones. No-one owns these clocks as the owner is very old and living in a special care home with no relatives to leave it to etc. I'm still trying to find a connection with my surname and his on the hope I can put my hand up as a long lost relative come to claim the goods ☺ – after all Grandfather Kenney came from Durham (not so far away).



*John Wilding with the regulator he built years ago*



*Mr. Wildings trusty Myford lathe in his workshop*



*Another of the often copied Wilding project clocks*

### **Visiting John Wilding**

John Wilding is internationally recognized as the biggest influence in Amateur Clock making in our life time. His countless books on “how to” and his plans and articles since the 1950’s in model engineering magazines has made him a favourite in the world of Horology.

Once again we flew the AAHS flag and received a special invite to visit Mr. Wilding in a little village called Lurgashall in Sussex.

John is now in his late 80’s but happy and bright and a terrific host. John showed us his floor Regulator (36 of our members were involved in building from his plans at my workshops copies of this regulator for themselves) and thousands all over the world have built Wilding clocks of one sort or another. I showed him pictures of some of our members finished clocks and he loved to see them and was excited and pleased with our efforts, I explained the changes that member and engineer Graeme Carr introduced to his design and he thought they were very interesting – especially the knife edge design and agreed with me that they were all excellent choices.

We looked through all the clocks he made for his books on “How To” and I asked him if I could write a story about his life. John did better than that, he offered to write in chronological order the events that led to projects and mail it all to me to publish in our magazine for him. Obviously this was an incredible gesture and I thank him for it and asked his wife to remind him to please get it done. John gave up his “larger life” to live next door to his daughter who has an illness that requires constant attention and he and his wife help her 24/7.

I promised to send him more pics (he doesn’t have a computer) of our clock making groups work machining bits for his designs including the Great Wheel Skeleton Clocks we did a few years back.

Ironically John says there’s not a great deal of interest in these particular models of his in England and he’s pleased that we did take such an active interest in them

John is well aware of the AAHS Turret Clock Project and recalls the interest it generated when published by the BHI.

John still has his 'trusty' old Myford '7' and drill press/mill that he made his clock projects on and delighted in showing me around his workshop/accessories as well as the Meccano Clocks he now makes for fun.

I told John that the last time I spoke to him on the phone (2 years ago) he was less than pleasant. The reply was... "I can't imagine that!" Well after meeting Mr. Wilding I can't imagine that either, he is a lovely old gentleman with a pleasant disposition and we enjoyed him immensely.

### Visiting Whitechapel Bell Foundry – London



500 years of trading from the same location

The owners of this 500 year old business (always in the same location) were kind enough to give us (representing the AAHS) a tour of their world renown establishment.

It was here that the great bell Big Ben was cast and thousands of church bells for destinations throughout the world. These include the great bell for the World Trade Centre display in New York and now bells (like seen below) for the Queens 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Thames river celebration. They are currently supplying (via Holland) a huge bell for the 2012 Olympics as this goes to press.



Bells awaiting finishing and delivery in the courtyard