Presidents Report

I am happy to report the society is tracking well and there are no burning issues or major concerns. So this will be a fairly short report this quarter. We are still receiving regular expressions of interest from our website and we have had several new members recently join the society and many have attended the fortnightly workshops. (on the second & fourth Saturdays.)

A quick reminder that the mid-year mart is fast approaching and will be held on the 8th June, commencing at 9am at our Blackburn clubrooms (see separate article in newsletter).

Attendance at the monthly meetings continues to grow (bit low in May due to many members enjoying holidays, including myself!) we also had quite a few apologies from members who were unwell and unable to attend. We wish a speedy recovery to all members who are suffering ill health.

On a final note, the library has acquired some more new books recently and I encourage all members to take advantage of this fantastic resource.

The society is always seeking volunteers for the monthly book reviews, tech talks or monthly presentations. If any members have suggestions or topics for the monthly talks or possible guest speakers who may be interested in attending / presenting, Please feel free to call me directly.
(0417 561 751)

Regards
Mick Connolly
President AAHS

A note from the editors….

Another late edition we must apologise for our tardy behaviour….My accident last year did cause a bit of upheaval, which I hope I can now get some catch up time to work on the Newsletter a bit more. Most of the work has been done by Caitlin with me throwing in the oar every now and then, to disrupt her good work. Thank you, Caitlin.

We are still working towards an electronic version which is getting close, we will keep you informed.

As far as material goes, we do have a reasonable amount for articles, however we have a lot of sifting through all the bits and pieces to put together so we can produce something for you to read. If you have any articles, photos or anything of interest please send them in. Keep up the good work. Images and word documents are best, PDFs are a little harder to put in.
The AAHS
Restoration and Conservation Classes

Tutors Mr. Vivian C. Kenney (currently on sick leave) and Fergus Forsyth

Restoration Workshops held on the 4th Saturday of each month

- Saturday June 22nd
- Saturday July 27th
- Saturday August 24th

25 Central Road, Blackburn. (10-am to 4-30pm)

Every 2nd Saturday of each month General AAHS Workshop

(Clocks, Watches, Hobby Items, Fun Projects)
Drop in – have a coffee and a chat with other members

Graeme Germaine – Ph: 03 53678513

25 Central Road, Blackburn 10.am to 4.30pm

- Saturday June 8th (mid-year mart)
- Saturday July 13th
- Saturday August 10th

Members can utilize this hall for many Saturday activities. E.g. hobby sports/fun- Birthday parties meetings with friends- teaching new interests etc. It is your space to use and if you book ahead we will happy to make it available provided care is taken to stick to the usual times and clean-up of the hall after use.
LOST TRADES FAIR
This year the LOST TRADES FAIR in Kyneton was held on the 9th and 10th of March, the weather ranged from sunny and warm on Saturday to slightly wilder winds on Sunday. The food was varied and delicious – BBQ brisket and ribs, the Fermentary’s water kefir and Ruben sandwiches, calamari, lamingtons, ice-cream, baguettes and German sausages… The wasps were out but they didn’t dampen the interest in unusual, forgotten, and traditional trades and methods. Exhibitors came from all over Australia and even internationally. The trades were corralled into pockets, some examples are; the food was in one area, the ceramicists, woodworkers, Smiths (eg. blacksmiths, knife makers, armour), Glass/Metal, Paper (printing, marbling etc), Fine trades (like gunsmiths, toolsmiths, model makers and clockmakers.) and Leatherwork.

The AAHS had its nook – on display clocks, tools and work on the go. Trever Herbstreet’s winning clock and others of his make and design were also on display. There was a steady stream of visitors and people who stopped and engaged with the AAHS members. Inviting interest, questions and discussions from the young to the old.
(AAHS) AUSTRALIAN ANTIQUARIAN HOROLOGICAL SOCIETY’S

JUNE MID-YEAR MART

Come in and discover a world of clocks. Where time is at your fingertips: clocks, watches, tools, books and more...
BUY- SELL – SWAP  
Members only

Where: Pines Senior Citizens Centre, 25 Central road, Blackburn, 3130
When: Saturday 8th June 2019 - Open: 9am
Entry: free

ENQUIRIES (and Table Bookings): Graeme Germaine (03) 5367 8513

Please visit society web page: http://www.clockandwatchclub.com/
BRAVE FACES AT BASELWORLD

(condensed article – the original published in 5-7 April 2019 The Australian Financial Review – Life&Leisure L8 and was written by Bani McSpedden)

Last week the Baselworld watch fair finished in Switzerland. Attendance down 22% from last year. The fall in attendances followed the departure of a swathe of exhibiting brands; citing cost, inflexibility and the relevance of fairs in an online world. One departure was the entire Swatch group- its leading brands: Omega, Breguet, Blancpain, Jaquet Droz, Glashutte Original and Harry Winston – have organised their own ‘shindig’ or fair in Switzerland next month.

520 brands exhibited at Baselworld 2019, drawing 81,200 visitors; compared to the 1100 brands and 130,000 visitors from two years ago. This year the fair was shortened by two days and the exhibition space was reduced to sharpen the focus of the fair.

Despite the departure of bands and fall in attendance, Baselworld still had the brands most popular with watch lovers – Rolex, Tag Heuer, Patek Philippe, Breitling, Hublot. All of which delivered.

**Rolex** – ‘all they have to do is change a clasp and its devotees respond with delirium’. The new models announced include: a fresh steel-cased GMT Master II with a blue and black “Batman” bezel and now on a jubilee bracelet rather than the Oyster version; and an enlarged Yachtmaster, now 42mm with an uprated movement inside its white-gold case (delivers looks and performance).

**Patek Philippe** - a white-gold and military hue of khaki Aquanaut Jumbo Reference 5168G; the Calatrava Weekly Calendar brought back a circa 1955 display that shows the time, date, day of the week, month and week number.

**Tudor** – had a prototype-based release. The Black Bay P01 is no mere reissue but the first production model of a 1968 concept watch that failed to make it. The watch is based on a prototype with a unique bezel-locking mechanism produced for the US military. The prototype was rejected at the time because it was ‘expensive, fiddly and not very handsome’.

**Breitling** – re-edition of the iconic 1959 Navitimer but with updated internals.

**Zenith** – had re-editions with a trio of El Primeros but they impressed with its watch Defy Inventor. The Defy Inventor is powered by a pulsing plate of silicone that replaces the usual cogs, springs and gears; it does this in full mesmerizing view.

**Tag Heuer** – revealed a fresh movement that features a carbon-composite hair-spring; great for magnetic resistance and good for chronometer-grade certification. Called the Isograph, the movement powers a competly new range of three-hand Autavia models cased in wither steel of bronze with painted dials that graduate from light to dark and either steel or ceramic bezels.
Bulgari – the Octo Finissimo, readily recognisable and wafer-thin. The watch appeared at Basel with a fresh Chronograph GMT movement in case 6.9mm deep.

Grand Seiko – the Spring Drive model SBGZ00 ($108,000) a gorgeous hand-tooled and platinum-cased three-hander.

Gucci – The Grip, stands out due to the cushion-shaped case in steel or gold. It comes in two sizes with discs that reveal the time and date in little cut outs.

Hublot – collaborated with painters (Marc Ferrero), tattoo artists (Maxime Plescia-Büchi) and even Ferrari’s head designer (Flavio Manzoni). The watches - Plescia-Büchi’s striking Big Bang Sang Bleu, and Manzoni’s Classic Fusion Ferrari GT – with their completely new case architecture they bring more than time to your wrist.

MB&F – Legacy Machine Flying T, the first of the brand’s three-dimensional horological art pieces dedicated to women; was roundly admired by men. It is ‘deliciously different’ – the workings sit adjacent to the dial on a base of black laquer or carpet of diamonds, all under the cover of a domed crystal (rather like a miniature cover or cloche that you might find over a plate of hot food).

Schwarz Etienne – produced its first women’s watch for the occasion, the Fiji Floral Seconds self-winder. The watch has an animated seconds display thanks to a disc that rotates underneath a latticed grid in the six o’clock position.

Karsten Fräßdorf – Spirograph Port tourbillion; all the aesthetics (strap, case, alloy, dial motif, movement decoration, hand colour and strap colour) of the watch can be personalised.

Despite the highlights of this years Baselworld – the empty spaces, closed off exhibition halls, no jazz band and dwindling crowd numbers… all affected the mood of the fair. According to the organisers the plan now is to transform Baselworld ‘from a classic trade fair to an experience platform’. Time will tell what changes they make and if it will boost the attendance and reignite interest.

AN AMATEUR'S FIRST QUARTER REPEATER REPAIR

Rob Raverty

WATCH BACKGROUND
- Another of the innumerable inherited watches in drawers belonging to acquaintances and friends. Friend’s wife’s grandfather. History obscure.
- Condition
  - Movement not working
  - Repeater not working
  - Dial damaged
  - Crystal out
  - Minute hand off
  - Otherwise perfect!

THE INITIAL FORAY
- De-cased movement, removed the dial (repair fell off) and found the repeater mechanism partly disassembled.
- Where do the parts go?
- No Tech Sheet but several patent numbers so off to the NAWCC website to look for info.
- US Patent 14462 led to 855358 which identified the movement was Giuseppe Citelli 1907
- But the diagram wasn’t the same as the movement

MORE WRESTLING/RESEARCH
- More NAWCC queries and was pointed to Google Patent and Espacenet and found the Picard 1907 patent 40342 with correct diagram ... and text in Swiss/French!
- I now know where the parts go but not how they interact
- After putting the parts in the correct locations a brief test indicates the mechanism still doesn’t function
- Disassemble and clean and more research

MORE RESEARCH- THE SWISS/FRENCH TEXT
- Google Translate really helped if you consider......
- In the mechanism, object of the invention, the snail b quarters is carry on the axis a of the roadway e, but it is driven by this roadway by means of an anchor fixed to said snail b and engaged with between two teeth, D and E of the roadway e.

- What it really means
  In the mechanism, subject of the invention, the quarters snail b is loose on the arbor a of the cannon pinion e, but it is driven by this cannon pinion by means of a pin f fixed to said snail b and engaged between two teeth, D and E of the cannon pinion e.

* I need to translate the text
MORE RESEARCH- THE SWISS /FRENCH TEXT

- At this point I didn’t know what a snail dial!
- The text plus diagram was as good as a Tech Sheet
- I found out what a “surprise piece” does

SURPRISE!

- “In his book, Crespe’s student asks “Please give me a description of the surprise-piece, which few horologists can explain?” It seems that nothing has changed in the last two hundred years and few, if any, twentieth century horologists can explain it. Perhaps this is because of the misleading name that it has been given”.
- The term “surprise piece” comes from the surprising way it appears from under the quarter-snail rather than its function, which is odd as all other pieces are named for what they do.
- The purpose of the surprise piece is to extend the hour step, so that on and just after the hour the snail arm cannot drop into the 3/4 step, and so the full hour with no quarters sounds correctly. (R. Watkins www.watkins.id.au.)

DISASSEMBLE AND CLEAN THE TRAIN

- Pivot are OK, Jewels not perfect but serviceable except for one broken balance cap jewel
- Jewel was rubbed in bezel setting
- Problem- I can’t do bezel settings
- Wise counsel said rubbed in setting can be done but will cost more than the watch is worth
- I can do Friction jewel settings… decision made!
- Source the jewel, ream the setting (how do you hold these things?) and install the jewel

DISASSEMBLE AND CLEAN REPEATER MECHANISM

- All the parts are here
- The spring for the repeater slide is not connected
- So just clean, reassemble and oil… it looks straightforward!

REASSEMBLE REPEATER- THE INTERESTING PART!

- Everything goes back OK but seems to be missing a spacer/washer under the repeater slide
  - Can’t find one so just make one!
- Install the wire gongs
- The wire gongs fit but the hammers don’t strike them
  - Just adjust them!
  - And when you do, the wire gongs touch other parts of the movement- I need a small joggle in the wire
  - 3 days later I think I have them correct!

REASSEMBLE THE TRAIN

- All good… it works nicely!
  - Except it gains about 60 secs per hour and can’t be regulated.
- But if you get the balance spring between the regulator pins rather than sitting against them...
- It gains around 20 secs per day

- Movement working, repeater working…. On to the dial

DIAL DAMAGE AND REPAIR

- Enamel above the dial leg was chipped and had been repaired with plaster and ink marking
- The plaster fell off as soon as the dial was moved
- I tried dial repair wax and didn’t like it
- Time for some modern materials from my dentist
WARNING

- The following information may offend traditionalists.
- If you are concerned about the use of non standard materials look away now!

CASE AND NEW CRYSTAL

- Chemically cleaned the case to remove the crud but not the patina
- The crystal bezel was twisted and slightly oval
  - Flatten and reshape the bezel
- The case is slightly oval around the bezel aperture
  - Live with it
- The crystal pops out of the bezel when the slide is activated and the case/bezel distorts
  - Crystal adhesive
- The minute hand is hard to set on the arbor and keeps dropping and touching the hour hand
  - Close and broach the hole in the hand

THE FINISHED ARTICLE

CASING THE MOVEMENT

- Movement into the case.......
- The gongs touch the case
  - by a poofteenth!
  - 3 days later!
- The repeater spring runs out of puff at the end of the rack movement
  - “reshape” the spring to provide more spring force

WHAT MAKES IT INTERESTING?

- Researching & planning – the thrill of the chase
- Trial & error learning (careful) -
  - It’s not hard to be held back by the fear of breaking or losing something
- Diagnostics and problem solving
- Acquiring & applying new skills, using new tools and materials
- Making parts and tools - the right tool...
- Anyone wavering over the decision to venture into a horological project ......

WHAT DID I LEARN?

- How to find patent information
- How a repeater functions
- How a snail works
- What a surprise piece does and what a flirt is
- How to sequence a striking wheel
- How to make a brass spacer/washer 0.5 mm thick x 2.8 mm diam
- How to reshape a bezel
- How to fit a crystal (in less than an hour)
- How to repair a dial (patch, paint, mask and line mark)
- How to reshape gongs and other springs
- How to close holes and broach hands
- And improved my school French

Thank you for listening
Meetings continue in mysterious and timeless places. Crowded with Time Secrets and Masters of Time…
The Work continues…
The Adventures of a Clockmaker

Michael Guiver ponders the advantages of old versus modern... Part 2

***

Following on from my article in the November/December issue of TimePiece – now you are ready to start the repairs, cleaning and re-bushing on a chain-wound clock.

Watch out for the larger bushes on the chime side, namely those that have cams on the front plate, as these tend to wear sideways, likewise the pin wheel on the strike side and gathering pallet front bush. On the going side, look out for the rear escape and third bushes. (Note the gathering pallet will need to be removed with levers and must be replaced using a staking set when the movement is fully assembled.)

There is no setting up to do on the chime side other than allowing half a revolution of the warning wheel on stopping – the rest will fall into place so to speak – but be sure to set the correct lift on the double locking mechanism if it has inside levers held on with set screws. Remember that if it is necessary to re-bush the front centre you must remove the cannon pinion. A lathe used to push this away between centres works well and can be used to reassemble afterwards – note the position of the four points, as these release the quarters and must line up with the hands. You must also ensure sufficient end shake on the hour wheel on the centre arbor with the hands on and the hand nut tightened. Check this before re-assembly of the movement as there must be end-shake otherwise the clock will not run, and you will have to start all over again – yes I have done it and I needed more than tea to console me! (see Figure 1)

A quick note on cleaning. If the plates are lacquered do not place them in a proprietary cleaner. What works well for me is an ultrasonic tank with paraffin to loosen everything then a quick dip in the cleaner, followed by rinsing. Alternatively, you can clean by hand with a toothbrush and lighter fluid. Please note that these methods work for me, but I am not suggesting that you do the same. You must develop your own methods – the writer takes no responsibility for your mistakes. Remember to be careful with all cleaning fluids as some are hazardous!

We have already mentioned that the gathering pallet must be removed for servicing and that small levers should be used to squeeze it off. The question is how to re-fit the gathering pallet?

Figure 2 shows the correct set up. Do not just tap on the gathering from the front. If you have re-bushed the back bearing, then you will push it out. In the picture you will note I am supporting the rear bush with the stake set. This is a bit of a balancing act. Use a hollow punch to tap home the gathering pallet. It’s a good idea to have all of your tools ready in front of you and be sure to line up the gathering pallet carefully with a trial run by just pushing it on and testing – the train must stop dead as soon as the hammer has dropped. You will also note from this picture the previously mentioned brass stilts fitted to both front and back of the clock movement. These will support both sides of the clock and must be long enough to cover all extensions of the movement. At this final stage I feel it worth mentioning the auto-night-shut-off version of these clocks which can be troublesome as I have found, Figure 3.

They operate as follows: The clock chimes finish at 21.45pm and re-start at 07.00am. If you reason that the clock must resume chime with the next quarter following that which it finished on in order to achieve continuous
chiming without error, then you will understand how this works. On these clocks the front centre bearing must not be worn. If it is then you must re-bush it otherwise the chime will not operate correctly. Bush it as tightly as you can but allow just a little play – don’t forget that the end shake on the motion work must be checked as previously stated. When removing the auto-night-work there is no need to undo the wheel, just pull the whole assembly off its post, but watch out for the keeper spring that holds this assembly either up or down, i.e. for auto off or continuous. With a little practice you will master these seemingly complicated clocks and will have earned that cup-of-tea! See you next time.

www.theclockmakersworkshop.com

*********************************************************************************************************

**Guild’s watch parts database goes global**

Supporting the Industry for more than 100 years, TIMEPIECE - www.bwcmg.org. Site is now multilingual and includes CAD drawings for hard to obtain parts.

The Guild’s Spare Parts Database is now available in four different languages following a surge in overseas interest. The Danish Guild of Watchmakers has approached us with a view to recommending the site to its members. In preparation for that, a Danish colleague has provided translations. French and German is also now available as well. Interest has also been shown from America and Australia. Another new feature is the addition of CAD drawings for hard to obtain spare parts. A total of 16 are now listed that can be made in an individual’s own workshop with an investment of less than a £1,000. Included are such rarities as the Omega 320 hammer spring. Further parts will be added constantly so that a good database of do-it-yourself parts can be compiled over the next year.

In the last 30 days, the site had 728 users, of which 652 were new users. There were a total 970 online sessions and 5,846 page views. There are now 98 registered users who are listing 12,488 spare parts. A total of 226 requests for parts have gone through the site so far. Guild Director Christian Dannemann, the site originator, is delighted with its success and says it is a much-needed facility. ‘Each week we have new members registering and I am particularly delighted to welcome overseas colleagues to the site. We will do all we can to make the process easy by continuing to expand the number of languages available.’ A new section for requests has also been added, where users can list parts they are looking for, and other users can point them in the right direction. The database is totally free to use and was launched by the Guild in a bid to help members find unusual parts and at the same time advertise surplus stock for sale. It can also be used privately as a on-line stock record.

www.watchparts.org.uk
**AAHS E-mail contact list**

As mentioned briefly in the Presidents report, the AAHS committee would like to establish an email address book, or contact list to facilitate a faster and more direct communication channel with our Members if or when a special need arises.

If you have no objections, please send me an email titled “AAHS contact details” containing your name and phone number and send it to maconnolly@optusnet.com.au your email address will then be automatically generated in the “from” section of the email.

This email list, once composed will be used solely for the societies internal communications and to facilitate timely notifications of Meeting changes, upcoming sales, obituary’s, auction notices, lost & found, etc. NOTE: Only senior committee members would be allowed access and only for internal club communications.

So far I have approx. one quarter of members email addresses.

So there’s still a way to go!

Regards

Mick Connolly

---

**TALKS/PRESENTATIONS**

If anybody is interested in giving a talk or presentation for the members, we’d be delighted to hear from you.

These talks or presentations can be on any horological adventures, or on a weird and wonderful clock related fact – technical or otherwise; as long as you the speaker find it interesting.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>AUSTRALIAN CHAPTER MEETINGS</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chapter 72 – Sydney</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meetings are held in the <strong>Wentworthville Uniting Church Hall</strong>, near corner of Station and McKern Streets, Wentworthville, 1.00pm – 5.00pm on 1st Sunday of the even months.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Contact:** President: **Peter Simonis** at psimonis@optusnet.com.au or 0416 018320  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Electrical Horology Group</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact:</strong> Graham Mitchell at <a href="mailto:gmclocks@gmail.com">gmclocks@gmail.com</a> or on (02) 9416 2766</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Special Interest Watch Group</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meetings will be held on various dates throughout the year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact:</strong> Colin Thompson at <a href="mailto:igc2thomp@hotmail.com">igc2thomp@hotmail.com</a> or (02) 98717263</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Chapter 168 - Torsion Clocks</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sydney meetings Location has changed</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact:</strong> Doug Minty (02) 9631 4720  Mob: 0412 100390</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Queensland Association of Watch and Clock Collectors Incorporated</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Queensland</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| General meetings held at **Clubhouse, Rocklea Show Ground. UBD - Map 199 (I-6), 1430 Ipswich Road, Rocklea.**  
  Use gate, corner Ipswich Service Road & Goburra Street  
  Postal address is PO Box 153, Rocklea Markets, QLD 4106 |
| **Contact:** President: **Allan Roberts** at allan-r@bigpond.net.au or 07 32777858 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Chapter 182 – Canberra</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Roger Little  
MACGREGOR ACT 2615  
(02) 6254 9243  
littleandson@y7mail.com |

*All members of the AAHS are welcome at any other Chapters Meetings*