

## Letter to the Editor

Australian Planes - Bob Crosbie, Epping N.S.W.  
Concerning Vol.2 No.2 HTPA Newsletter, article p. 19  
Australian Planemakers. I have two moulding planes with  
local imprints. The tools were obviously made in  
England.

- 3/8" Ovolo. Aitken & Sons, Pitt St. Sydney.  
Made in England
- 3/8" Bead (not slipped) T ? Linley. 573 George St.  
Sydney. (very small script, not clear impression)

Both tools probably date between 1910 - 1930.

Early writers refer to planes made of such timber as  
have seen a plough  
made from cedar!

Regarding the metal planes. Pope Falcon were copies and  
well executed. Carter were copies but crude. In the  
1960's they supplied planes to the state schools. I  
think they were located in Granville. Turner also  
supplied schools in the 1960's. Turner planes were not  
merely copies, and incorporated 'progressive' ideas, e.g.  
plastic handles, nicely made items. Of course we should  
also include Stanley (made in Australia) from the mid  
1960's. The only metal jack plane I have is a Stanley  
Australia purchased in the late 1960's. I never use it  
as it is totally useless for accurate work.

Hope this is of some interest.

Bob Crosbie.

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## Editor's Note

Bob Crosbie also included some fascinating details of  
early joiner's tools requisition for the Colony of N.S.W.  
This information will be included in a later issue.

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## NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following members:-

- \* Max T. Wills - Member no.87 - 24 Pamela Place Tauranga New Zealand. Phone New Zealand (075) 66 588
- \* Robert A Crosbie - Member no.81 - 3 Chesterfield Road Epping NSW 2121. Phone (02) 369 8292
- \* Robert Butcliffe - Member no.88 - 45 Laurie Street Newport Victoria 3015 Phone (03) 391 - 6624
- \* Laurence Jones - Member no.9 - 30 Orchard Street Ascot Queensland 4007. Phone (071) 268 4158
- \* John R E Brown - Member no.91 - 16 Norman Street Tweed Heads NSW 2485. Phone (075) 36 4659
- \* John Derrett - Member no.89 - Guildford (054) 734 402

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## AUSTRALIAN PLANEMAKERS

## CARTER TOOLS PTY LTD

The following information was obtained from Tom Carter, the son of Frank Carter. Frank Carter died in 1972 at the age of 54. His brother Jack will be retiring soon from the company. I had hoped to have had a discussion with Jack Carter at a later date on his return home in a square rigged ship following his sojourn overseas, but this has not taken place as yet.

The company at present operates under the name of Carter Werco Sales Pty. Ltd at 6 Abbott Street, Seven Hills, NSW producing trailer couplings and axles.

The two brothers, Frank and Jack Carter started business on the corner of Grose and Buller Streets, Parramatta in 1946 and operated there till 1958.

The first produced shoe lasts then went into precision tool making. During this period they also produced carpenter's tools (planes etc), vyces sic, (wood and engineering) clamps (various types).

The production of power (petrol) lawn mowers was also undertaken, pioneering the use of an aluminium frame. It would appear that during this period that others were developing lawn mowers - e.g. Victor, Pope and Villager.

Another partner, Mr J.M. Firby, was with them till 1958 when his interests were bought, and the company moved to Daking Street, North Parramatta NSW.

During the 1946-58 period, the Carter Co. had a contract to provide the Education Department of NSW with carpentry tools, including vyces and clamps. For how long I'm not sure. There were no official catalogues available, other than some photographs of the various planes and routers that were produced.

As listed:-

C 7 Jointer,	C 6 Fore,	C 5 1/2 Jack,
C 5 Jack,	C 4 1/2 Smooth,	C 4 Smooth,
C 1 Bench Rabbit,	C 71 Router,	C 40 Plow,
C 54 Plow & Groover,	C 78 Duplex Rabbit,	
An Exploded View of a Bench Plane.		

It would appear that they exported some of these tools to Montreal and Vancouver in Canada during the 1950's.

Their operations at Daking Street, North Parramatta during 1958 and 1960 was limited to the production of Vyces, G-clamps and some general engineering work.

In 1960 the company moved their operations to 6 Abbott Street, Seven Hills, where they still operate today, producing trailer couplings and axles which they started in 1971. The production of vyces and G-clamps finished in 1973 due to the cheaper imports being brought into Australia at that time.

DLG: 21/11/86

John & Priscilla McDonald, A.T.C. has since forwarded copies of two pages of a Goodall & Co. 1955 Trade Catalogue showing some of Carters Tools. There could be others! What I did find surprising was that there was no method by which you could finely adjust the position of the blade in the throat. (Prior to the BAILEY/STANLEY 1907-9 models)

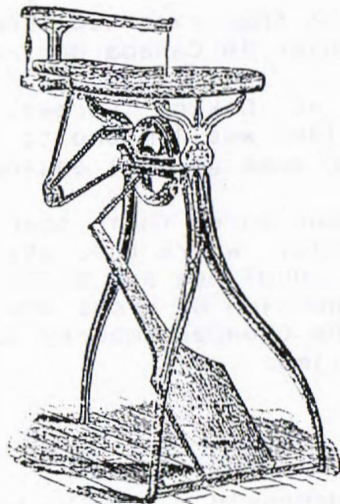
The spelling of VYCE is apparently an old term for a vice, which no doubt the Carters used as a trade mark. The only reference I have been able to find to the origin of the spelling of Vyce is in Websters Dictionary circ. 1896 - VYCE - Coopering - A kind of clamp with gimlet points for holding a barrel head while the staves are being closed around it.

DLG: 28/6/90

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