2. I have already mentioned the Constitution. This will be completed within the next week or so and we have drafted it keeping in mind the possibility of a national group.
3. We will hold our next Tool Sale and Swap in March, but details will be forwarded in the next Newsletter after clearing up the various details and publicity arrangements.
4. We are exploring the nature to cost of insurance but this has been put onto the back burner in an endeavour to complete the Constitution and seeking of Incorporation.
5. There are some shirts and windcheaters available from Doug McIvor and your committe is considering the future purchases and ensuring that we have a consistent logo for identification.

I think you will agree with me that your Executive Committee has been very busy on your and the Association's behalf. We hope you have thought the efforts have been worthwhile.

We do look forward to receiving you help, ideas and input.
Thank you
Watson Cutter
November 1991

CLUB DIARY - 1992

January	- 18th	Caine Tools Working Bee
	- 21st	Executive Meeting
February	- 4th	Executive Meeting
	- 18th	Club Meeting
March	- 3rd	Executive Meeting
	- 6th	Ken Roberts Lecture
	- 17th	Club Meeting
	- 20th	Club Tool Sale - Strictly members only
	- 21st	Club Tool Sale - Open to public
April	- 21st	Caine Tool Meeting
	- 25th	Caine Tool Working Bee
May	- 5th	Executive Meeting
	- 19th	Club Meeting
June	- 16th	Caine Tool Meeting
	- 20th	Caine Tool Working Bee
July	- 7th	Executive Meeting
	- 21st	Club Meeting
August	- 18th	Caine Tool Meeting
	- 22nd	Caine Tool Working Bee
September	- 1st	Executive Meeting
	- 15th	Club Meeting
October	- 20th	Caine Tool Meeting
	- 24th	Caine Tool Working Bee
	- 24th	Also Working with Wood Show
November	- 3rd	Executive Meeting
	- 17th	Club Annual Meeting
December	-	Club Family Outing

ROUTING PLANES

(A Discussion at our November 1991 Club Meeting)

I am going to limit my discussion to router or routing planes which I understand are limited to cleaning or smoothing out housing waste or the bottom of grooves or other depressions below and parallel with the surface of the piece being worked. Sometimes those tools are called "depthing routers".

What about the tool that cuts out a groove and is also called a router? Lazily we have applied the term "router" to a number of tools which differ from one another in purpose, operation and appearance.

I believe that the term "router" nevertheless is most appropriately applied to the "router plane" which is in fact used for "routing" out or working out the bottom of a rectangular cavity previously delineated by saw or chisel cuts.

The other group of tools known as routers should be called "groovers". They usually cut a groove which has not been otherwise marked or delineated. They generally resemble spokeshaves in outward appearance though they differ in most other respects including their narrow and frequently profiled cutter. Many of these groovers were used by carriage-makers working on curved surfaces. The cooper's croze is a form of groover.

I am not going to try to change the habit of ages but will try and instil the name "routing planes" on those tools I want to describe this evening. don't be upset if you brought a "groover" tonight.

The purpose of my talk is to outline some of the improvements and approximately date those which have taken place over the life of the "routing plane". You can still buy a routing plane but it won't be long before they are extinct. The electric router/groover has taken over.

I have used Seller's "The Stanley Plane" as a guide to dates and I think it is interesting that it took almost fifty years in "metal plane" time to bring about all the improvements. None of the individual improvements is earth-shattering and one wonders why it took so long.

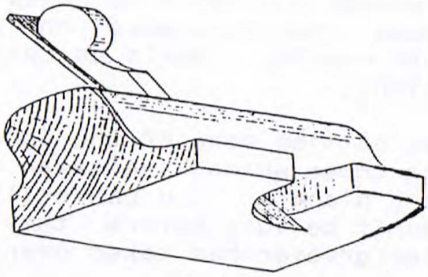
At first the Stanley routing plane was numbered 71 which applied to the closed mouth variety (1883). The open throat feature was initiated about 1892 and has been retained in its basic form and shape ever since. The closed throoat type was put back into production from 1896 and renumbered 71 1/2. Numerous improvements were subsequently added:-

1896 - 1902	Attachment for partially closing the throat when working narrow surfaces. Note the two methods of doing this.
1902	Cutter adjustment vernier wheel first shown. Why no cutter graduations?
1909	Screw holes for wooden bottoms. Why?
1917	2 cutters, 1/4" and 1/2" originally but patented extra V shaped cutter supplies.
1939	Adjustable fence added. Note grooves in plane bottom
1941	Cutters marked with gradations to aid in setting depth of cut.

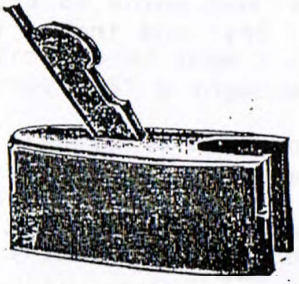
Note: Generally cutter can be clamped either fore or aft to change from regular to bullnose work.
Handles or Knobs - Either beech, maple or tropical hardwood. In 1962 they were hardwood with a dark blue finish.
Finish - Either japanned or nickel-plated.

All these improvements including "metalization" had their beginnings in the "old woman's tooth plane". These were often made from a piece of stair-rail. Three basic wooden shapes are common.

D shape
U shape
Stair-rail shape



—Ordinary Router.



—Router or Old Woman's Tooth Plane.

I ask you to look at the progression of routers planes fr wooden to metal and the accompanying inmprovements which I ha discussed. Perhaps you can add further details to t developments which I have noted.

Watson Cutter
November 1991
(Notes for a talk at our November 1991 Club Meeting)

ROOFING: The Magic of Slate

We frequently romanticise about corrugated iron and the pitter-patter of rain on the roof during a storm. Slate is a more subtle and durable material. Good quality slate is practically non-absorbent, thus minimising the deterioration of the slates and the nails which held them to the roof. As a roofing material it is firm and solid, effectively resisting wind, rain and storms in a quiet and effective manner. Whilst slate has apparently been used for centuries as a roofing material its use was restricted to local areas due to a lack of sufficiently effective land and sea transportation. It was only from the late 18th century and throughout the 19th century that slate became a primary roofing material used throughout the world. We unconsciously associate it with Victorian buildings. Slate was, however, used for a range of uses other than as a roof covering. It is still the deluxe billiard table top, and was used for mantlepieces, flagstone, tiles, shelving in cellars, tombstones, ridge rolls, baths, cisterns, wall linings and various other architectural and industrial purposes. For example many early switch boards were mounted on slate.

Slate is a sedentary rock which has been deposited underwater as silt and compressed into rock over millions of years by the following deposits above it. Slate was formed very slowly and as a result can be split into their flat sheets. When quarrying slate it is just blasted out in large rectangular blocks and later split into the desired sizes. Traditionally a slate cutter split roofing slates from larger blocks leaving the slate dresser the taste of dressing the edges using a zax. Whilst slate has become a very expensive roofing material and is no longer used for baths and other extravagant uses it has a significant place in our history.

One hundred years ago in Melbourne and Sydney the firm of Wilson, Corben and Company flourished. The business was founded in 1869 in Lonsdale Street, Melbourne and grew to a staff of over 200 by 1882. Machinery was used extensively to shape and work the imported marble and slate as well as the local stone quarried by the firm at Castlemaine in Victoria. In Sydney the firm dressed sandstone as well. It is reported that the task of dressing, cutting and moulding the stone quarried at Castlemaine was carried out locally using steam-powered machinery. The dressed stone was then railed to Melbourne for finishing by skilled workmen. The firm gained a high reputation for enamelled slate baths and won prizes at both the Sydney and Melbourne Exhibitions.

Nigel Lampert
November 1991

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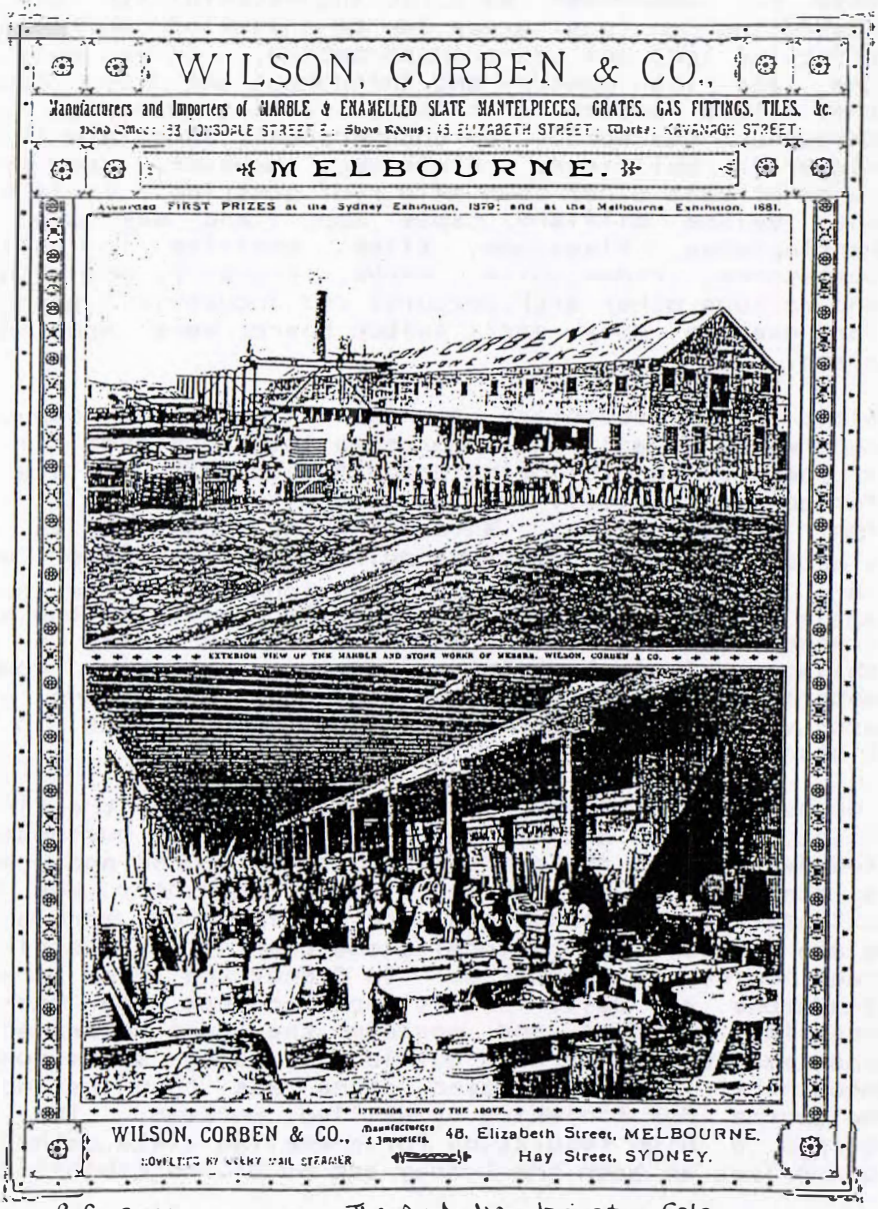

Reference ——, The Australian Irrigation Colonies, Unwin Brothers, London, circa 1890

Qualities of Slates.—Good slates for roofing purposes should possess both toughness and hardness, and a very fine but easily distinguished grain. They should be tough enough to be easily punched for nailing, and should cut to standard sizes without splintering or becoming friable at the edges. They should also be practically non-absorbent, for the action of frost on a slate containing moisture will cause the edges to crumble and will also tend to enlarge the nail holes, thus causing the slate to loosen from the roof.

The grain should run lengthwise of the slate. Veins or ribbons are objectionable markings, especially when parallel with the grain. Crystals of pyrites are sometimes found in slates. The yellow variety is found to be practically unobjectionable. Slates containing white pyrites, however, should always be rejected. The colour of slates varies considerably, and is in no way indicative of the quality of the material. Blue, blue-black, purple, grey, green, and red are the most common tints, although cream colour is occasionally found.

Varieties of Slates.—The number of quarries from which roofing slates can be obtained is so great that a few only can here be mentioned. The chief supply of slates in the British Isles is obtained from North Wales, where Bangor and Portmadoc slates are quarried in very large quantities. There are many quarries in each of those localities, but generally speaking the term Bangor refers to all slates quarried from the Bangor district or range, which are purple, blue, or red in colour, while Portmadoc is the name of a port whence slates quarried in the neighbouring district are shipped. Portmadoc slates are of a blue colour. Dark-blue Carnarvon slates of excellent quality are obtained from quarries at Bettws-y-Coed, and olive-green slates can be procured from South Wales. For durability and colour perfection Westmoreland green slates are generally considered the best on the market. These are much thicker than Welsh slates and are supplied in random sizes. Slates of a somewhat similar character are obtained from Ireland. Cornish slates, which are of a grey-blue colour, are sound and reliable. Scotch slates are used locally to a considerable extent. These often contain iron pyrites, but as this is usually the yellow variety it does not interfere with the weathering qualities of the slates. Many varieties of imported slates from America, France, Germany, and other countries can be obtained, but great care should be taken when selecting them, as their quality and weathering properties often leave much to be desired.

Sizes of Slates.—With the exception of Westmoreland slates and other similar varieties, slates may be obtained in the

TABLE II

SQUARES COVERED BY SLATING

Name	Size Inches	Gauge Inches	Squares Covered by 1 Mil
Doubles	12 × 8	4½	2·9
Ladies	14 × 12	5½	5·3
Ladies (large)	16 × 8	6½	4·2
Viscountess	18 × 10	7½	6·0
Countess	20 × 10	8½	6·8
Marchioness	22 × 12	9½	9·1
Duchess	24 × 12	10½	10·0

various stock sizes and are generally sold by number, not by weight, that is, by the *mil*, or 1,200 slates for every thousand. The sizes in general use, together with the gauge allowing for a 3-inch lap and the number of squares, 100 square feet, of roof surface that a mil of 1,200 slates will cover, are given in Table II. An additional allowance must be made for waste due to cutting, which will vary considerably in accordance with the form of the roof. In some districts the sizes of slates of the same names as those given in Table II may vary slightly, so that if extreme accuracy is necessary, the dimensions should be quoted, when ordering. The gauge values given in Table II are calculated for slates nailed near the centre.

Terms Used in Slating.—The terms applied to the different portions of a slated roof are: The gauge, which is the distance from nail hole to nail hole, as shown at *a*, Fig. 6; the margin, that portion of the slate exposed to the weather when laid, as shown at *b*, this being always equal to the gauge; the lap, which, in the case of head-nailed slates, is the distance each slate overlaps the nail hole of the second one below it, as shown at *c*; the head, or upper end of each slate, as at *d*; the tail, or lower end of each slate, as at *e*; the bed, or under surface of each slate when laid; and the back,

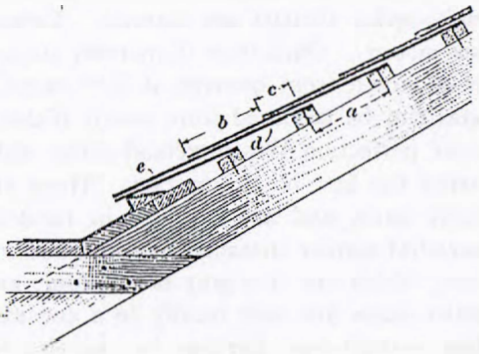

FIG. 6