

FORGE TALK

EDITION 100 - AUGUST 2016 - BAWA.NET.AU

Letter From The Editor

Hello all, Blacksmiths new and old, near and far... It's time again for an edition of Forge Talk.

Before I go any further I'd like to recognize the efforts of previous Editor In Chief, Brian Keenan, for delivering a quality publication for longer than I can remember. Brian hasn't hung up his hammer (and hopefully not his pen either) and is taking some well earned time to follow some of his own projects – we thank him for his time and wish him all the best with future endeavours.

With a new Editor has come a few changes - firstly we are aiming for a more frequent (and possibly slightly shorter) publication so that things can be done in a more timely fashion. It is hoped that these will be initially published in an electronic form (PDF being the weapon of choice in this day and age) making it easier to e-mail or obtain from our website. These "editions" will then be made available in a traditional hard copy version at the end of the year for those that like the dead tree format (and let's face it, many of us forge with partially burnt trees!) Switching over to InDesign as our layout tool means much faster assembly (even if the initial setup has been very slow).

Finally none of this will be possible without *YOU*. Without your input, contributions and commentary this could make for a pretty dull read so please forward your ideas, reviews, drawings and photos to me at info@bawa.net.au (or for the tech savvy ask for the link to our DropBox).

See you down at the forge!

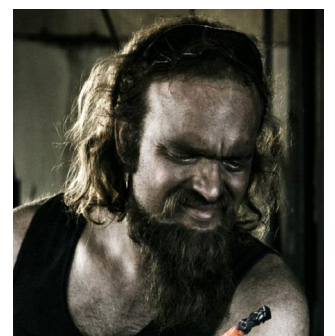
Cheers, Anton.



President's Report

Well now, it seems like a donkey's age since I've written one of these. So how bout we just go from the last Royal Show. It was a resounding success, with most of the active members participating throughout the week. In line with having a new Facebook page and website, we brought in a cameraman to produce a short video of the club at the show, a video that turned out rather well.

Next off the bat was the annual York Medieval Fayre with Mike and Meitek joining me there to do our thing and put on a show for the fantasy folk. As always, summer produces a lull in our activities, except for the fine folk in the wheat belt. So off to Kellerberrin Mike, Mietek and I went for the Woodstock Muster weekend. This being our second year at the show, we wangled more room for ourselves and were able to operate three forges without tripping over each other's feet. For next year's show we are going to do a night time demonstration. Due to redevelopments at the Supreme Court Gardens the Perth



Medieval Fayre was cancelled, though we hope it returns in 2017. April saw us doing a couple of heritage shows in Fremantle and Hamilton Hill, shows that we will return to next year.

As for the club in general we have had a general refit of the shop. The tool room in particular has been completely revamped, with a lot more room for fabrication and finishing work. Work still remains to organise the ever increasing steel stores, but that's always been an ongoing problem. The shutters have been fixed and are now fixed to open outwards, allowing us to strike at the main forges without having to miss the damn shutters. The other upside is that the shutters should provide us with a larger crowd during the rainy days at the show. Special mention must go to Richard and Paul for doing a lot of the grunt work.

We also welcome a raft of new members, both young and old and we hope they continue to grow in their skills.

Well that's the past, now onto the future. It's time to gear up for the Royal Show again, so start working on those blasted horseshoes people and it's letter openers for me. As always we will try to do a project for the long weekend, discussions on what to come.

Keep the iron hot and the hammers swinging,
Your out-going President,
Dale

[We'd like to extend a special thanks to Dale for his service as President over the last 4 years - he has been a regular fixture down at the forge, at field days and at the Royal Show. Thanks again. – Ed]

New & Old

Welcome to a new section of Forge Talk – in “New & Old” we'll be doing a short Q&A each edition with a couple of people to help you get a better idea of our members.

We get things rolling with Bruce Wylie :

How long have you been part of BAWA?

15 years

How did you wind up being part of BAWA?

I needed a hobby

Did you have any blacksmithing / metal working experience beforehand?

Fitter and Turner tradesman

What do you enjoy most about blacksmithing in general?

Blacksmithing is an art

What do you find most useful about the BAWA facility?

The camaraderie at the work shop used to be one of the main attractions

Do you have a particular focus on the type of work you do?

Sculptural and traditional work.

Who would you say has been the biggest influence on you (either from BAWA or beyond)?

Malcolm Paine

If you could pass on one tip / secret to new 'smiths what would it be?

Learn traditional Blacksmithing not Railway spike knives.

What do you do / did you used to do when not at the forge?

Engineering supervisor with the Shell Company for twenty five years.

What do you find most challenging about blacksmithing?

It is not an easy craft to learn.

Where do you get your inspiration from?

Internet



Do you have a setup at home / away from the forge? If so tell us a little about it

I have a very good workshop at home.

Do you normally work with charcoal, gas or something else?

Charcoal at the shop and gas at home

What's the silliest question you've been asked?

"What's a blacksmith ? "



Secretary's Report

Me again – I won't waste too much time here. Ever since we set up the new web address, website and e-mail list and dragged the association in to the space age not to mention putting our contact details on the door and in chalk on the forge canopy we've been receiving a deluge of enquires. This probably accounts for such a large number of new members down the forge and they run the gamut from fresh out of school amateur bladesmiths through to retired boiler makers. We've had plenty of commission enquires and a great deal of people looking for resources from coke to tools to videos.

It's taken a while for everyone get the hang of these new technical things (especially the "damn fangled DropBox thing" as one member described it) but it certainly has helped get us organized and centralized. Many of the old photos from random CDs and hard drives have been put together in an archive for all to see.

The forge itself has seen a tremendous amount of work with a trial relocation of the forges from the sides to the centre, centralization of the blowers, extension and consolidation of the tool area, repairs to the shutters and more. Richard has done a great effort in leading this charge with help along the way from Paul, Michael and many others.

There's been plenty of boring but essential statutory work too – a clean-up of the Constitution, the creation of standardized documents for (A)GMs, minutes, agendas, membership cards, booking forms and beyond all with our new logo. The re-introduction of four official meetings a year under the shade of the peppermint trees has seen plenty of discussions.

It would be fair to say there has been some friction and stern debate over many things over the last 12 months with pressure from new membership, charcoal scarcity and a few fierce opinions but it would be fair to say the passion and determination of the group is moving us ever forward.

Forge on everyone!



Vale

It is with much sadness that we announce long term member Harlan Mullins left us on the 22nd of July.

Many of you will remember his weekly visits to the forge (especially during smoko later on) and his job as long time BAWA Treasurer.

He was always a source of amusement (he certainly gave as well as he got) and was a familiar face at many shows and, along with his wife Virginia, were gracious hosts of many official BAWA functions at their home more many years.

A memorial hammer will be hung at the forge as a reminder of his time and contribution to our association.

Rest in Peace Old Friend.

Elementary projects for the beginner

Contributed by George Car

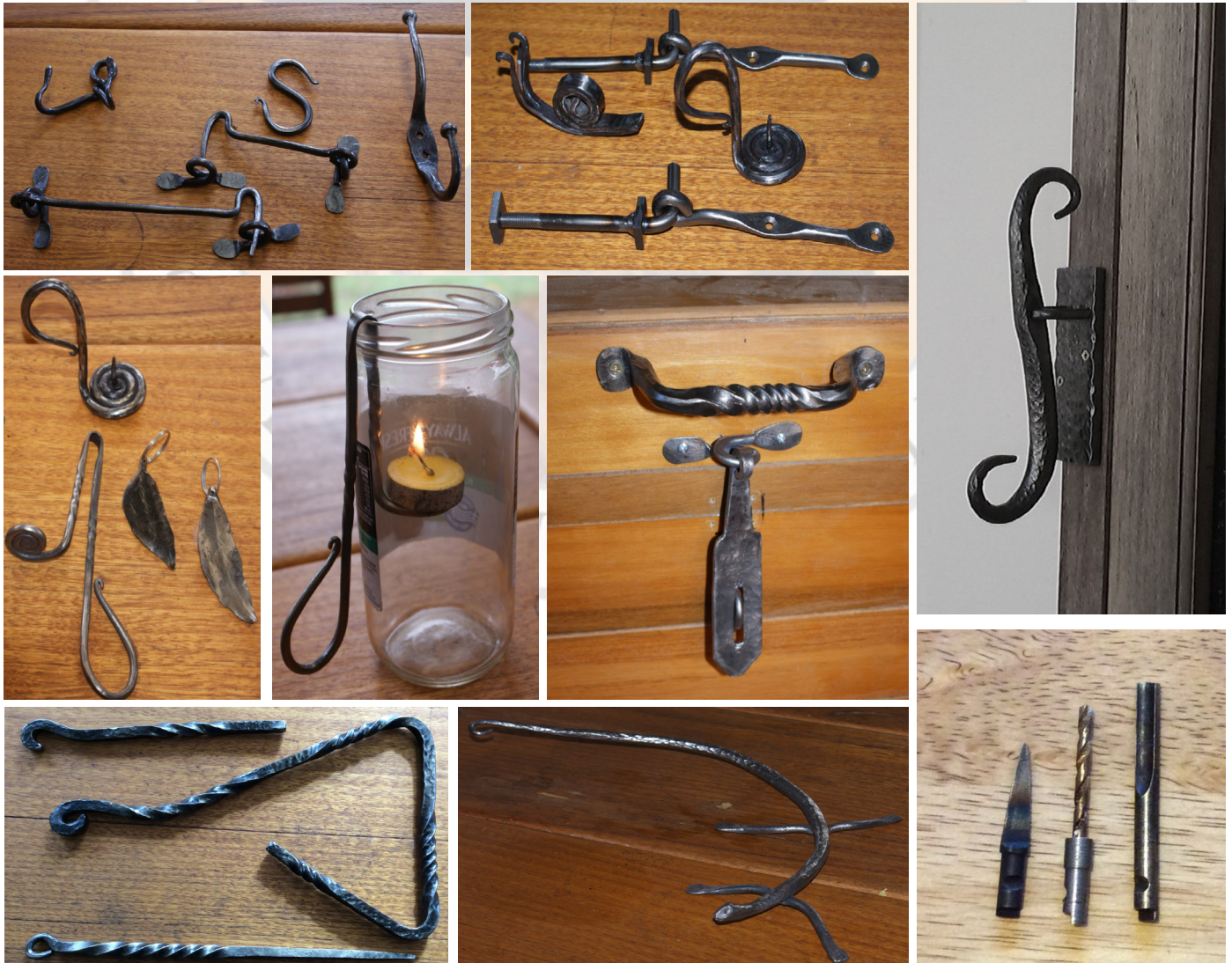
Learning blacksmith skills can be helped by a series of easy projects that build skills – and provide useful articles. Searching the web for do-able projects, these ones popped up, here are my versions. The skills needed to develop are obvious in many cases, but certainly the beginner will benefit from the freely given advice from the experienced BAWA members – Thanks!
Much appreciated!

The small projects (snaps 1,2 &3) have found ready use, the snail does serious work as a paperweight...

The candle holder (top pic 2) is not so useful, who uses such candles now? However the tea-light holder is good (pic 3). The handle and hasp (pic 4) has improved a wooden tool-box, while the dinner chime (pic 6), while it works well, was forged from mild steel and has a dull ring, though the second version, forged from coil spring, hardened and tempered, rings resoundingly – can't be missed from anywhere in the garden (though we limit its use, for the sake of good neighbourliness).

The lizard loo-roll holder (pic 7) needed a lot of hammering to get the texture right, but is now doing good service in a dunny. The door knocker (pic 8) has attracted much comment from visiting family – but it has not actually been used in earnest, even once (perhaps you will call one day?). Though all of the items made so far are in use, the most used is the D-bit (pic 9) made for a 'Yankee' driver I have. That last project was particularly useful for learning – the first version was not tempered after hardening (assuming as it was only used in wood, and so not subject to shock loads, need not be tempered – it shattered on its third use...

(Images left to right, top to bottom, 1, 2, 8, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9)



I Have Been Just Too Trusting

by Jo Mazzarol

There is a law which states that, 'metal will get lost in a forge fire at a rate in inverse proportion to the size of the piece'.

If there was no such law there is one now. I've done enough investigation into the matter to satisfy the most critical scientific Board of Inquiry.

I have lost count of the number of times I have allowed a small job to sit all by itself in the fire on the understanding that it will stay there and not go wandering about investigating the coals or whatever small pieces of iron do for amusement while they are supposed to be behaving themselves, and they just disappear.

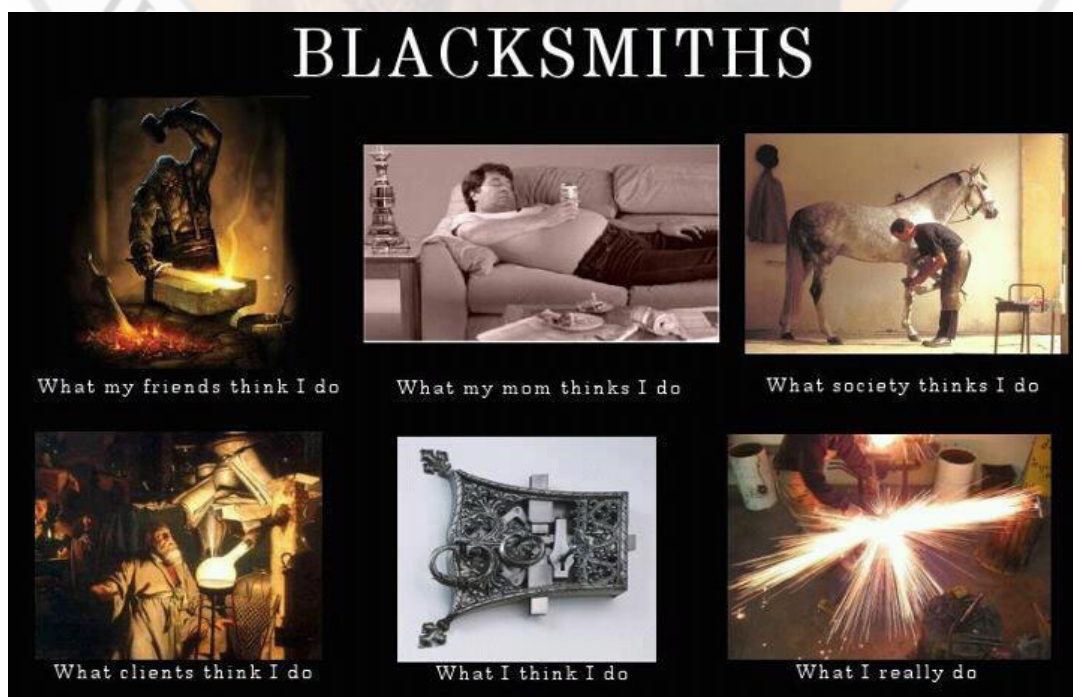
It happened again today. I turned away only for a minute to throw a ball for the dog while I was waiting and do you think I could find that piece of steel, no way. I carefully took the fire to pieces but to no avail, it had completely vanished. I think it must have climbed down into the air intake while I wasn't watching.

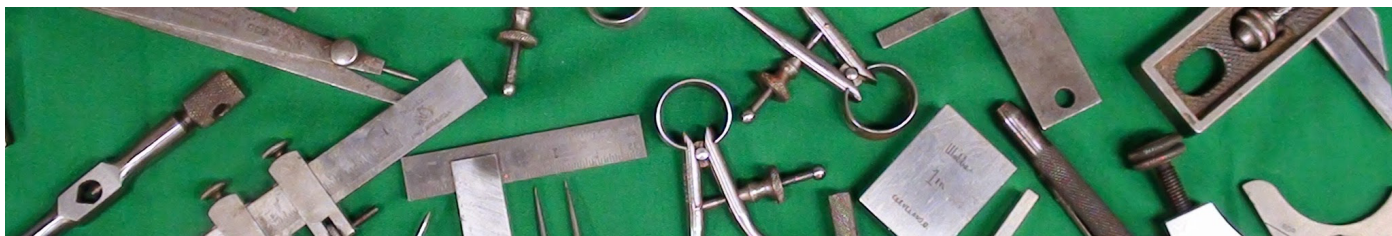
Coal and coke burners don't have this problem because that fuel tends to burn to an ash, but we charcoal burners have a fluidizing phenomenon where the very light, glowing, almost burnt pieces of charcoal, swirl and tumble around in the pot and if a small piece of metal is placed on them it very quickly sinks to the bottom. You have to kind of sit it on an incandescent lump of charcoal that has a bit of substance left and is reasonably stable.

Sometimes if I completely rake out the fire, small jobs can be found sulking in a far corner, but always, without exception, they are the last thing to come out of the tuyere, so if someone else hadn't come up with the fact that charcoal (carbon, C, at. wt. 12.011) is lighter than steel (iron, I, at. wt. 55.847), I would have.

I am working on a method of attaching small pieces to a length of light wire so that I can keep track of them. They are counting on the fact that I don't like leaving my tongs in the fire and are getting away with murder. I have been just too trusting.

[Special thanks to Jo for sending us this. This is one of several articles he has sent us that graced editions of Forge Talk a long time ago and are worthy reading of members new and old - Ed]





Reference Material

We figured some of you might not have seen these. Every edition will have the best of books, web and beyond...

Tempil's "Basic Guide to Ferrous Metallurgy Chart" – Probably the best chart around

http://www.tempil.com/assets/1/31/Basic_guide_to_ferrous_metallurgy.pdf

Mark Aspery's YouTube Channel – You know he has videos now don't you?

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MarkAspery>

Tubalcain (MrPete222) YouTube Channel – Machinist p\$rn by skilled old instructor. Not blacksmithing but very applicable.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/mrpete222>

IForgeIron Forums – The best place to ask a serious question

<http://www.iforgeiron.com/>

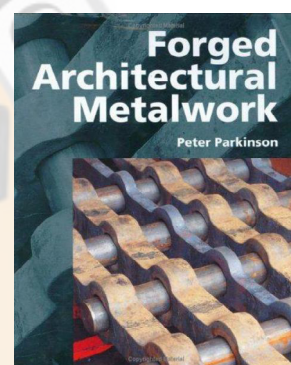
Blacksmithing For Beginners Facebook Group – Get started here for the young'uns

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/655819754511434/>

"Forged Architectural Metalwork" by Peter Parkinson – Not new (published in 2006) but first rate large scale work – all his books are first rate [Ed]

<https://booko.com.au/9781861268174/Forged-Architectural-Metalwork>

BAWA Royal Show 2016 Video : <https://youtu.be/g8KGvj-XyCE>



Foot Notes

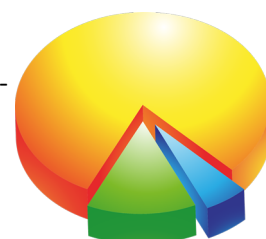
Need to get in contact with BAWA?

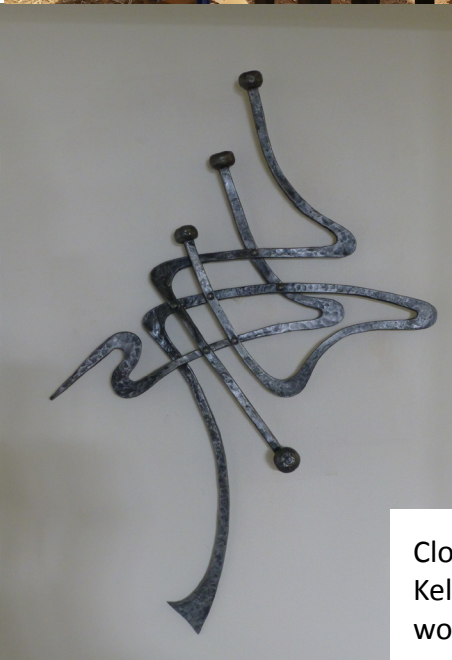
Check out our website at www.bawa.net.au or drop us a line at info@bawa.net.au

If you are a BAWA member reading this from afar and you have not paid your annual membership fee please get in contact with the secretary or make payment to "The Blacksmiths' Association of Western Australia" BSB 126548 ACCT 01037726.

If you are a member and have not filled out our new on-line survey it would be greatly appreciated – you can find it here - <http://www.bawa.net.au/survey>

Thanks to everyone who helped with the first of the "new edition" of Forge Talk in particular George Car for his piece, Jo Mazzarol and Jack O'Brien for trawling the archives and all those who sent in photos.





Clockwise from top left : Keith's mini anchor, Michael @ Kellerberrin, Kellerberrin spectators, Arthur Grady Day, more Kellerberrin, Richard working on the forges, wall art by Bruce, Mietek @ Kellerberrin

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF WA
IGA PERTH ROYAL SHOW
26 SEPTEMBER - 3 OCTOBER

SPECIAL THANKS
AS ALWAYS TO
THE RAS FOR OUR
HOME!

