



WORKSHOP: MINI WELDING TORCH

About 20 members attended the November general meeting to see a demonstration of the Mini Welding Torch, a New Zealand device handled in Australia by Projecta Port Hills (Aust) P/L of Melbourne. The demonstration was very capably provided by Mr. Alan Pennell of the above company.

Basically, the idea has been around for a long time, but is now being vastly improved. It consists of an adjustable-feed hand-piece in which are mounted two specially prepared carbon electrodes of a gauge to suit the work in hand. A controlled arc struck between the electrodes provides the heat for brazing, welding, fusing, soldering, heating and bending. The energy source can be a car battery for limited periods, or any common AC or DC electric arc welder running off mains supply. Flexible leads connect the hand-piece to the power source.

The device seems very versatile, coping with a wide range of metal thicknesses and materials (mild steel, cast iron, stainless steel, aluminium etc). Several developments of the device are in train including an improved hand-piece, and a dedicated electric power source for those who do not possess an arc welder or who do not want to move the heavy arc welder between jobs. Also, an air blower feeding through the hand-piece is being developed so that the device can be used for metal cutting in a way similar to that possible with an oxy-acetylene outfit.

The major advantages of the device are low cost (\$50), low running cost, versatility enabling gas-type operations on an electric welder while avoiding the higher purchase and fixed costs (rental on bottles) associated with gas.

Definitely worthwhile for members to consider, especially the improved models. We hope to supply more details when they become available.

Bill Graham.

