

Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 131 dated August/September 2007

Observations from Swan Snippets

At the first June afternoon meeting we were treated to a faultless demonstration by **Bob Napthine**.

Bob is vision impaired and was working in unfamiliar surroundings and with a lathe he had never used before. We were amazed how he guided the tool with his fingers so close to the sharp end as he demonstrated making a paper towel holder.

Bob measures with home-made devices he is familiar with.

Well done, Bob, you did not have one dig in!



Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 138 dated October/November 2008

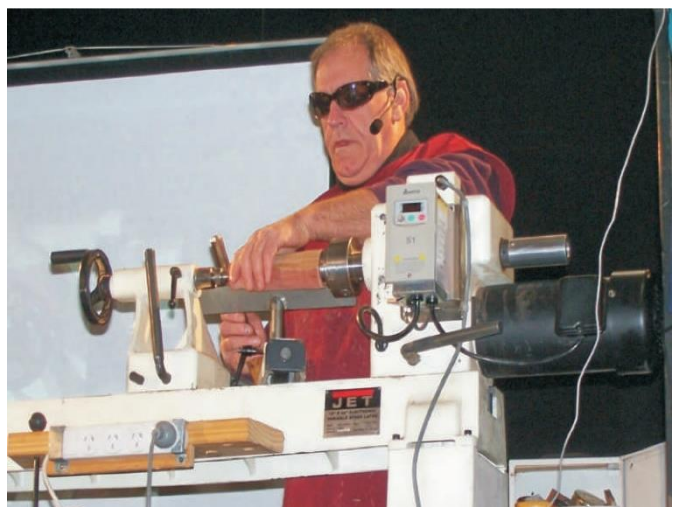
Observations from Swan Snippets

Once again, we were treated to **Bob Napthine's** inimitable style of turning by feel.

With tongue in cheek title of Seeing is Believing, Bob, who is sight impaired, deftly turned a bud vase.

In running and often amusing commentary Bob explained why his designs are often made on the run even more than his fellow wood turners and why he is particularly wary of sharp edges. He told of once almost unwittingly severing his finger.

Until his wife came into the workshop and inquired where all the blood had come from, he was totally unaware of his injury.



Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 151 dated December 2010

OBSERVATIONS Swan WEWS October 2010

Bob Naphine

My tools my way.

Bob is totally blind, and his demonstration was to let the members know how he copes with his disability and to give tips for sighted members how they can use some of his techniques to make their work easier and more accurate.

Bob explained how he splits tasks up into segments and memorizes them e.g., a pedestal bowl comprises base, stem and bowl, he then types the sequence and makes a voice recording which he commits to memory. He has made special tools to determine grooves from spade bits and gauges made from screwdrivers, he has an adapter to unscrew the allen key of long nose jaws.

A talking tape measure is an invaluable tool able to measure vernier measurements. Bob showed the capabilities of the tape measure including its ability to add measurements.

Bob then demonstrated how he turns a bowl which is a marvellous achievement, the major difference to sighted turners is that Bob has to use touch and gauges to measure his work at regular intervals whilst those with sight can visually check the progress of their work.

Then Bob really started to worry Safety Officer Jim Stiffall by using a drill with a wire brush to embellish his work, then using a mini carver to cut grooves in his work varying the speed and pressure to change the depth of cut and varying the angle to change the pattern.

An amazing demonstration showing how Bob has coped with his disability to do wood turning, a craft usually reserved for those with good vision.