

## A Day with Eli Avisera

A Day with Eli Avisera on 1st April, on his way home to Jerusalem after demonstrating at Turnfest 2012, we had the pleasure of witnessing the skills of Eli Avisera.

As the day unfolded the members were convinced that it was an honour and a privilege to have this extremely talented, friendly and polite visitor to our Association.

Eli's first demonstration was a small ornamental bird. Using a skew to mark out, then the roughing gouge and making the finishing cuts with a skew, Eli completed



**ELI AVISERA MAKING CHIPS FLY AT WANDI**

a body and a rounded head. Most impressive was his accuracy and speed of work; his finish with the skew was comparable to what we can only strive for with considerable sanding. This short, quick display of skill set the pace for the day.

The next demonstration was small box from Sheoak, housing a toothpick dispenser. After roughing to round and cutting a spigot on each end Eli then parted off the lid, drilled the body and shaped the lip. He mounted the lid blank in another chuck and then shaped, decorated and coloured. Fitting the lid to the body he decorated, sanded and finished the body and lid. Eli then made the plunger and turned the dowel, and then assembled the toothpick dispenser. Responding to calls to make a toothpick Eli was happy to oblige, laughing at calls to make another 60.

The third demonstration was a three-part spinning top in jarrah, comprised of the top, pull and a handle. Eli first made the control handle with predrilled stock, noting that the size and position of the holes are critical. The handle can be shaped and decorated as desired. The top was next, making the bottom first with a brass nail in the centre, and decorated as desired. The top of the item was burnt in decoration with a piece of formica. He then made a small handle and the fitting of the cord. After testing the unit was passed around.

Eli turned another top in sycamore as a colouring exercise. He explained that he got the idea of a spiral cutter after watching his mother using a cloth marking tool and adapted it to wood marking. A chatter tool was made from a piece of bandsaw blade. He used these tools to cut a variety of patterns to which colour





was applied. After cutting away the patterns he redid them several times. Eli then turned another top and decorated it with 2 spiral cuts, then a chatter pattern followed by another spiral pattern, which were coloured.

After lunch, Eli turned his hand to off-set spindle work, to produce a “lady” pen. Using pin jaws Eli turned to round and created an egg shape at the tailstock end this was to be the pivot ball for offset turning. The blank to this point, was fastened in the chuck and a 3mm hole drilled for the refill. The nib end was shaped as a women's leg, sanding and finishing as he progressed up the body. The foot was offset 10mm and free of the tailstock, her bottom was shaped, then offset 10mm in the opposite direction to shape the bust and neck, bringing back to centre to shape the head. After parting off it was passed round with a previously made “man” pen.

The sixth item for the day was a square bowl, between 80 and 100mm square, and 20mm thick. After carefully marking the centre of the blank, it was held between the flat of the jaws and the live centre and a spigot was cut. The wings were marked out with a template and cut with a bowl gouge, then hand sanded using a velcro block. The top was painted black, and the sides numbered. After drying, side 1 was offset 3mm and 2 lines cut, this procedure was repeated for sides 2 3 & 4. A jam chuck was made so as to finish the bottom.

Eli's final work for the day produced a 200mm diameter platter, from a 50mm blank. With the blank mounted on a faceplate Eli took the opportunity to explain how to cope with end grain and side grain whilst cleaning up the edges. After cutting a spigot for the base he explained how he planned to shape the bottom in a convex and concave shape with flowing lines so that the joints between the curves is indistinguishable. Eli then cut the curves demonstrating various tools to make the finishing cuts. After sanding and finishing which included power sanding, Eli removed the work from the faceplate and mounted it in a chuck. He then shaped the inside with a bowl gouge, leaving a raised area in the centre, which was then shaped down with a spindle gouge. The edge was cut with a knife and blackened with formica. Using a screwdriver sharpened to a V he cut grooves from the centre, opened up with a knife and blackened with formica.

At this stage Eli used the indexing system to mark out guidelines and after lacquering and sanding he planned the coloured mosaic that he intended to produce. Eli then showed examples of what can be achieved in producing a mosaic platter and hollow forms providing you have the skill, patience and imagination. He also showed many ways of achieving various results with a specially ground drill bit, plus different bits in power tools, to make patterns and used gold, silver and copper paints in different sequences.

At the conclusion of this exhausting but exhilarating day, Eli thanked WAWA for inviting him to demonstrate in Western Australia. In particular he thanked John Gardiner, George and Myrtle Sharpe and Bruce Jackson, saying that he felt like part of their family with their friendship and assistance that they extended to him during his stay.

John Gardiner took the opportunity to present Eli with a WAWA badge, name badge and a short tool rest.

David Rechter called for a special vote of thanks to John Gardiner, for the considerable effort he had expended to make Eli's visit a resounding success.