

Observations from Mandurah WEWS May 2013

Harry Butler took the stage to tell us everything we don't know about making pens.

First, he explained that one of the most common problems was over tightening the mandrel, resulting in a bow and oval pens, this can be avoided by the use of a mandrel saver, and an adjustable mandrel. Harry showed these items and went on to show his different types of pen kits.

He showed the clamp to hold the blank vertical in the drill press, and how he seals the tube with potato or play dough, to stop the adhesive entering the tube. Harry uses araldite to glue in the tube to the timber blank, twisting the tube as it is inserted to spread the glue. After leaving for 24 hours, the excess glue is cleaned out and the ends squared and trimmed, so that the tube and the blank are exactly level by the use of a barrel trimmer.

Harry mounted the blank on a mandrel and fitted it to the lathe, before using a roughing gouge then a skew chisel, to shape and smooth the blank. Sanding to 600grit and completed with micromesh, Harry then used super glue and boiled linseed oil as the finish and gave an extra polish with Shellawax. Using a pen assembly press, he completed the pen. Harry passed round cases filled with a variety of types of pens made of different material and a variety of styles.

Harry also explained the variety of acrylic blanks available and showed examples; when combined with the range of pen kits and the turner's imagination, the amalgamations are limitless. He advised when drilling acrylic, allow extra length for breakout.

Harry commenced his acrylic demonstration by fitting the tube to the blank. He turned with a roughing gouge and a skew, and finished with a carbide cutter, sanding with 400 and 600 paper, and finished with micromesh.

Harry has turned some different combinations such as burl on both ends, with acrylic in the centre, and another pen made with Blackwood with aluminium.

During the demonstration, Harry provided many tips and ideas over diverse subject matter, and then conducted a lively question and answer session.



Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 203 dated July/August 2019

Harry Butler has completed a beautiful replica of a ceremonial torch for the Dawesville RSL to replace their gas fired unit. Several of our club members attended the presentation on Thursday the 20th of June.



A replica of the
Ceremonial
ANZAC Flame
made by Harry
Butler of
Mandurah
Woodturners for
the Dawesville
RSL



The Plaque read:

ANZAC Flame Reproduction

It is an honour that I was offered the task of reproducing the Ceremonial ANZAC Flame for the Dawesville RSL Branch.

As soon as the job came up, I remembered that the Members of our Group were gifted some of the old Carob Tree (*Ceratonia Siliqua*) from the Anglian Church in Mandurah. A few years ago I heard a story at The Mandurah Dawn Service of a young Pinjarra soldier, Lance Butcher, who brought some seeds back from WW1 and planted some to remember his brother who died in Florence on the 5th of May 1917. I knew where some of that timber needed to go. I have also been gifted some of the Jarrah (*Eucalyptus Marginata*) Timber from the Old Mandurah Town Bridge, so I used that to make the handle, to make the accents I used Western Australia Sheoak (*Allocasuarina Fraseriana*) as it grows in the Dawesville area. The Laser Engraving was done in Mandurah by local engraving company Lasersharpe Engraving.

I hope this does the job for many years to come.

Mandurah Woodturners Group