

Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 146 dated February/March 2010

### **Observations Bunbury WEWS 2010**

**Jim Cunniffe** came next to demonstrate with “Let’s Play with Dolphins”.

Jim explained that ring turning (doughnut turning) was not new with the first records of this craft dated back to the 1500’s and possibly earlier, although this date was the time of the spread of information due to books being printed with movable type.

In the workshop the ring turner was a tradesman of great importance as he could keep 5 other people employed by turning for only 10 minutes, his other skill was the ability to see things in silhouette. Jim showed how you take a circular piece of wood with a disc on each side (lined up). Using a specially made chisel used as a scraper he cut one side for the top of the dolphin then reversed the wood and cut the other side for the bottom of the dolphin then shaped the fin. After completion you part off. What do you do with 60 dolphins? Jim was pleased that this question was asked, and he brought out and passed around many samples which included: a Childs mobile, 3 examples of a music box and a merry go round with dolphins pumping up and down. Other examples used, were sea horses, frosty the snow man, kangaroos and elephants.

This demonstration certainly got members thinking of ways to employ ring turning.

Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 170 dated January/February 2014

### **Observations Bunbury WEWS November 2013**

**Jim Cunniffe** explained that Kinetic turning was making something that moves and proceeded to show us a nonstop display to illustrate his statement, they came so fast that I may have missed recording some as I and everyone else was fascinated by the display which included.

Friction turning: A variety of spinning tops, decorated and using lights.

Three Banksia lights on a stand, large top with impelling screw and a carousel of birds with impelling screw causing the birds to fly outwards.

Wind driven: Mobiles of dolphins hanging from cords, Music box style of hanging dolphins.

Motorized: Merry go round music box, Merry go round with snowmen, Dancing partners on a music platform, Motorized sheep, pigs and fowls, Four ducks with clock mechanism in base one completing a revolution in 12 hours, Bouncing cow on a spring, Ducks and figures on diamond shape base, People, animals and objects. Jim made everything move to provide an imaginative demonstration.

Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 182 dated January/February 2016

### **Observations Bunbury WEWS November 2015**

Next to be introduced was another man of great experience, namely **Jim Cunniffe** whose demonstration was to be on the creation of ‘Turtles’.

Jim is one of those people who always seems to be looking to create something different, particularly in the field of children’s toys. Jim went on to explain why he started creating and turning turtles. He related how he felt a spiritual connection to turtles in a similar way to other cultures who held certain animals to be sacred.

For example, India holds the cow as sacred. During his travels Jim stated he felt this connection with animals and discovered turtles were just another thing he wanted to actually create using wood turning as opposed to simply carving the animal.

Jim used a board, mounted to the lathe bed and he explained how he started his creation by drawing it. In drawing it he developed the shape that he was looking for.

He started with the creation of the body itself, followed by the flippers and then onto the actual head of the creature. Lastly Jim went about creating the tail of the creature by firstly drawing it. Jim then demonstrated how he went about creating the animal itself on the lathe.

He used a series of jigs to create each piece. Some of the pieces had small tenons left on them and some had a hole drilled into them. This was necessary to allow all parts to come together thereby creating the whole animal.

A very interesting demonstration by a very creative man.

Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 186 dated September/October 2016

### **Observations Bunbury WEWS August 2016**

The next demonstrator was **Jim Cuniffe**, and he demonstrated the art of Thermoforming.

Jim explained how Thermoforming was a technique similar to inside out turning and was best employed to make multiple pieces of the same item, say for example table legs or axe handles. Jim went on to explain how Thermoforming was almost certainly used in the making of multiple pieces of stairway balustrading during the 17th Century. They achieved this by mounting several pieces on a carriage which could then be mounted on a lathe. Axe handles were another item almost certainly made using the Thermoforming technique. Jim produced a cylindrical shaped item which had four pieces of wood glued together using a paper glue joint. At each end Jim had fitted a hose clamp to ensure the four bits of wood stayed together. Jim then explained why he used green electrical tape to cover each of the hose clamps - this was for safety only as it made the hose clamps much more visible when the carriage was spinning on the lathe.

Jim then produced a very large dragonfly which he had previously made using the Thermoforming technique. Firstly, he explained and demonstrated how he made the body of the dragonfly.

This was followed by demonstrating how he made the wings. Jim also produced a number of duck like statues which had also been made using Thermoforming. As a project Jim produced a group of shapes he called 'Meerkats'. He then mounted a carriage on the lathe which had six pieces of timber glued together. Using a detail gouge, he turned the carriage to the required shape. Jim explained how when using a large number of pieces glued together it was important not to go too far into the wood as the pieces would be cut in half. Once the turning was finished, he removed the hose clips and produced the shapes he called Meerkats. Jim then went on to demonstrate how he turned three legs for a small three-legged stool. Once he finished turning the carriage to the required shape, he pulled the pieces apart and explained how he made individual tenons for each leg so they would fit into the holes in the base of the stool.

Once again, a very interesting demonstration by Jim. He certainly thinks outside the box as they say when it comes to creating something a little different.

Holey Rollers. Rolling pins with a variety of profiles for different types of pasta shapes. Jim's experiments during Covid.

