

Extract from Newsletter issue 185 dated July/August 2016

## Observation Melville WEWS April 2016

**Martin Burgoyne** was the second demonstrator for the day.

Martin explained how he had developed a passion for both 'Marquetry' and 'Parquetry' and that he was a member of the 'Fine Woodworking Association of Western Australia'. He had brought with him a large number of pieces he had completed, and many were first prize winners at the Wood Show. He explained he became involved in this passion of his when he was at school in the late sixties in Shoreditch in England. His woodwork teacher had introduced this to him. He went on to a very successful career as a woodwork teacher, craft designer, technology teacher and finished up as a Professional Development Officer in South Yorkshire.

Then he moved with his family to Australia.



Martin explained how he was always up for a challenge and how he tried to always look for difficult projects to do. The harder the better was his way of looking at it. Martin introduced a bowl made from English Walnut and explained how he went about creating a parquetry design in the base of the bowl. He said this was his first project after he arrived in Australia. He explained the major differences between parquetry and marquetry. He explained that parquetry was the making of geometrical things, repeat patterns, brick work type and basket weave patterns. It was done by building sheets of timber and using glue to hold them onto a flat base. He explained how his father used to do marquetry on the

kitchen table using balsa cement. He then introduced a 'Rotengen' Belgian Clock Cabinet plus some Andre Boulle Boxes, some tortoise shell veneer and some Silas Kopf marquetry boxes. Martin explained how he used a 'fret saw' to cut his veneer pieces and the blades he used were normally 1.5mm in size. He explained how you can get blades which are 0.7mm in size however because of their size more care is needed when using blades of that size. He explained how the use of butcher's paper prevented splintering when glued to the back of the veneer. He also explained how he used suet paper sheets between multi layered packets of veneer, and this lubricated the veneer making the pieces easier to cut. Martin explained how he prepared a design by firstly scanning an image onto the



computer, tracing the outline of it using Microsoft drawing tools, then tracing the image onto tracing paper. Once the design was placed in the computer, he could use it over and over again. Martin explained the tools he used in the cutting of the veneer, the use of tracing paper, veneer tape, the fret saw fitted with a fine piercing blade and magnifying eyepiece attached to his head. He also mentioned how he would pin the bottom of his work apron to the underside of the table so as to catch any small pieces which may fall from the work bench. He explained several different methods of making the pieces which included the boule method which allowed you to make multiple pieces of the same shape. Another method was known as the chevalet method which he said was currently undergoing a revival in America. A very interesting demonstration.