

OBSERVATIONS FROM MANDURAH WEWS MAY 2018

Pat Johnson from NSW

Pat has been touring the southwest and very kindly made himself available for this workshop. He has appeared regularly at the Queensland Turnfest, so we are quite privileged to have hosted him in WA. Pat told us about his background and how he became interested in creating art from woodturning. He started his demo by describing the burl he had and said he wanted to use as much of it as possible in creating an item. The burl – jarrah – was roughly 200mm diameter. Pat had sawn a piece, approximately 25% for the base, into which a recess had been cut for chucking. Then he reversed the piece, brought up the tailstock and started taking light cuts at high speed which resulted, from the unevenness of the piece, about a third



of the rough outer taken down to the wood. The edge was defined until it was in the round. Using the already cut recess, he created a hollow for the stem. Pat put oil on the bare wood and rubbed it in well. It was then sanded and removed to be replaced by a rounded piece of jarrah from which the handle would be created. The larger part of the burl was mounted. The base had been part-turned to a simple bowl shape. Pat started taking out the centre with the tailstock supporting the piece. The outer part of the centre was retained creating a large overhanging lip with a natural edge. The stem made earlier was measured against the recess. Pat then oiled the bowl in a similar fashion to the base. The stem was remounted and refined, and a spigot created, and a sanding plate was put in the chuck and used to level the bottom of

the spigot on the stem. The stem was fitted to the base and some work done on it with a Dremel to create a twisted effect. The edges of the bowl were charged with a flame and the bowl shape was shellacked. It was remounted and the base tidied where the screw chuck had been fitted. Pat made another cut to reduce the thickness of the wall.

A small bowl was hollowed and embellished with beads. The piece was reversed and prepared to take the stem. When fitted together, Pat felt the base was disproportionate. A piece left over from the bowl was made into a lid, thereby using the whole of the burl (except, of course, the quite large pile of sawdust!). Pat then displayed two large shallow bowls with



a metallic centre and explained the ideas that created them. Overall, an interesting and entertaining demonstration.