

Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 143 dated August/September 2009

Observations Wanneroo/Joondalup WEWS 2009

One of the group's newest members **Andy McFadyen** demonstrated Staved Construction. Andy explained that this was the old traditional way of constructing wine barrels and he had adapted those methods to make urn type presentation vessels, Andy stressed the importance of accuracy in preparing the staves that the blade angles and mitre of the saw be exact and that the wood be flat and square. He used a jig on the saw to maintain this accuracy and constructed a mock-up in MDF before cutting the expensive wood to be used in the vessel. After making and gluing the staves into 2 then 4 then 8 he clamped them together in a jig prior to turning.

To ensure that the audience could follow this rather complicated procedure Andy had prepared his demonstration well and had the progressive steps ready to pass around at the appropriate time.

After a very lively Q&A session the members showed their appreciation for an extremely interesting demonstration.

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Andy McFadyen was next with a laminated segmented bowl in bricklayers' pattern; he showed a vase shaped bowl that looked like it had been made from miniature bricks.

Andy explained that planning is essential and that the wood must be square, flat and with parallel edges. After determining the size of the bowl Andy showed us how to calculate the number and size of each segment. The saw is the next component in the task, the blade must be sharp and cut at exactly 90degrees, he used an inclinometer to check the angle.

Andy showed the jig he had made to maintain the angle and to cut accurate lengths.

All segments are sanded and glued with a laminate in the joints and the rings are gradually built up, the surfaces are trued up on a lathe. The rings are glued together with a laminate in between to form the brickwork pattern, the work is then compressed in a special press Andy has made and dried, and a base is made to fit a chuck. After drying the assembly is turned, inside first then the outer, the base is made in accordance with the size of the vessel. Andy stated that at first it may appear complicated but by working accurately and methodically a good result can be achieved.