

## Observations Mandurah WEWS May 2018

**Tim Harrison**, Wandii, was warmly welcomed to his first WAWA workshop demonstration.

His speciality is coffee mug bases. Tim spoke about the different types and styles of the basic mugs / cups available. He described some of his first attempts at shaping wood cases and went on to describe the process of making segmented bases, suggesting that 15mm width slats is a good starting size for the most common mugs. Because of the height of most of this type of coffee container, wedges as spreaders often need to be cut to fill the gaps.

Tim showed the process of gluing the case together, using metal strap clamps to hold things in place and recommended at least 2 hrs is required to cure and bond. He then showed his method of producing a base – simply turning a piece of wood to look something like a spigot until the “spigot” matched the hole at the bottom of the glued strips. The hole generally needs



a light clean-up for the spigot to fit neatly. Tim used a forstner bit to round out the inside prior to shaping the inside with tools to match the shape of the mug. He showed us a template he'd made for the vertical profile of the mug insert, saying you need to put the template in at the centre to be sure of achieving the correct shape.

Tim mentioned he preferred to use tools with carbide cutters for most of his work. A tip for fitting the mug insert – use a marker pen to make vertical lines on the mug, insert it in the hollowed piece and hand turn then inspect where the vertical lines have rubbed away. He spoke on the use of polyurethane glue – don't buy large bottles unless you know you are going to use the lot within 6 months as it will go off.

He also spoke briefly on the use of wipe on poly. Using a circle of metal, the same diameter as the top outer rim of the mug as a jam chuck, he rounded off the piece then shapes if required. Tim

showed us the use of a beading tool to embellish the case but also uses a chatter tool to create a slightly roughened area for grasping the mug. The base was parted off at approximately 5mm to finish the item.

In finishing the item, steps must be taken to prevent water (coffee) getting down between case and insert – Tim uses a silicon sealant under the rim of the mug before gluing the insert into the casing. To glue the mug into the case, Tim has found a light spray of water on the wood before liberally applying the glue assists in the adhesion when the metal mug is inserted then gently clamped until the glue is fully set.



After a few questions about tools, Tim completed his excellent demo.