



## The Woodturners Association of Western Australia (Inc)

### *Life Membership*

#### **Chas Broadbent – 1469**

Chas has been a member of WAWA since 1996 and is one of the core members of the Busselton group. He is passionate about turning, timber and sharing this knowledge with others. His skill and attention to detail and design has resulted in some truly magnificent pieces.

He has always been an active member, often a Committee Member and Convenor several times over the years. Chas is an accomplished turner and also a patient teacher of woodturning. He is always willing to share his expertise and the Busselton club members have benefited greatly, both from his formal demonstrations and from informal lessons along the way. The greater WAWA membership has also benefited via his willingness to demonstrate at weekend workshops throughout the groups.

Demonstrations are always thoroughly prepared and with continuous detailed descriptions of tool skills and techniques there is always something for the beginners through to the advanced in the audience.

More recently Chas has been involved in providing training to WAWA judges. Judges both old and new have benefited from his tips on what to look for and the finer points of competition turning. Many have commented that they learnt not only about judging but ways to improve their own turning as well.



Charlie is one of the “backbone” members of the Busselton group, always available for demonstrations, public days, busy bees, maintaining the regular opening days for the workshop and organising wood runs. In the past, meetings for the group were held in his private workshop before the group found a permanent home.

He has contributed greatly to the Association and continues to do so and is a worthy recipient of the WA Woodturners Association award of Life Membership.

Presented September 2020

## **PROFILE OF A TURNER**

(extract from newsletter number 97 2001)

Charles Broadbent is the third eldest of nine children. Born in Jhansi, India, 1944. Brought up in the English style of parenting, father Ted (deceased) followed an army career which involved various transfers through India before returning to England in 1947, living in the towns of Dover and Didcot. In early 1950, Ted gave up his life in the army and the family immigrated to Australia on the Ten Pound Scheme.

Their first home was with mother Monica’s parents on their Bridgetown property for six months, before the family ventured into the deep south and took up residence at Shannon River, a mill town carved out of virgin forest in 1949. Shannon closed down in the early 1970's and has been converted into a recreational camp site, it is situated some sixty kilometres south of Manjimup.

Shannon River was Charles first introduction to timber though it be playing in the saw dust heaps at the mill. Early education was at the local state primary school, and besides the normal subjects, Charles was introduced to the craft disciplines of art, leather work, fret saw work and combining the use of paints and dyes with a French polish to complement his class projects. Secondary education commenced at Manjimup Senior High School in the late 1950's with a strong emphasis on sport and manual arts, where metalwork, woodwork and technical drawing were introduced. Charles’ first bowl was turned using a scraper and is still treasured by his mother.

Forest Guard traineeship was undertaken with the then Forests Department, and during a career which has spanned almost forty years, he has gained extensive knowledge in the management of our native forests and wildlife. The amalgamation of the Forests Department and the National Parks and Wildlife saw the formation of the Department of Conservation and Land Management (C.A.L.M.) in 1986. This required a wider conservation responsibility which included assessing conservation values of development proposals, co-ordinating marine mammal rescues and continuing with native forest and wildlife management.

Charles has always had a strong interest in woodwork, making small coffee tables, jewellery boxes and the like. Because of his sporting involvement, playing football, golf, basketball and darts and also being a member of the Busselton Lions Club for many years, he always felt he would take up woodwork at a later date when he had

more time. It wasn't until his 50th birthday when his wife Lalleen and their two sons, Travis and Jason, bought a Sontax lathe as his gift that he again rekindled his interest in working with wood. With encouragement and advice from Tony Milson, it wasn't long before he was producing turned items which had attractive designs. A new larger lathe was soon needed and so he bought a T-Gem which has now been replaced by a Vicmarc 300 with variable speed. Lessons from Gordon Ward and Dean Malcolm helped further his skills and passion for turning. Because of his many years working in the timber industry Charles has an eye for selecting specialty timber to work with. One unique aspect of his work has been the development of the use of braided leather incorporated into his turning. One of his she-oak platters with black braided leather won the People's Choice Award at the Timber and Woodworking Show in 1998.

As a member of WAWA he has enjoyed meeting and making many friends with people who are as passionate as he himself about all things to do with wood. Upon retirement on 28th June this year, he now feels he will be able to spend more time creating and developing new products along with lowering his golf handicap. Charles' involvement with WAWA has been strengthened with his recent (August 2001) appointment as Convenor of the Busselton Group