

The Woodturners Association of Western Australia (Inc)

Life Membership

Gerald Ian Young - 218

Gerald Ian Young, the Association of Woodturners of Western Australia honours you and confers upon you Life Membership in recognition of the outstanding contribution you have made to the Association.

Gerald was born in England and because of his father's work, received his primary education in Hong Kong, with secondary and tertiary qualifications in electrical engineering being attained in the U.K. This skill led Gerald to a professional career in the Army and interesting cutting-edge work, the roles including electronic gun control, surface to air guided missiles, radar development and guided missiles and weapons systems.

What a great background of technical skill and discipline to intensify, on retirement, an interest in wood working kindled as a child, and practised throughout his life!

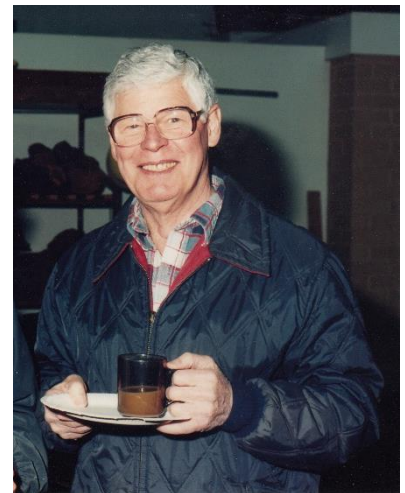
Prior to his introduction to wood turning, Gerald's interest was in furniture making, and it is no surprise that he has continued this interest, utilising his turning skills to embellish his furniture items.

In addition, Gerald has developed a unique feature of wood turning, art form on the lathe. This has been achieved by Gerald pursuing excellence and a desire to explore how far his idea of spiral/twisted turning can be pushed (or turned). Gerald has served as Weekend Competition Organiser, and been a great advocate of participation developing the skill of entrants, and he is a great example of this notion, as his participation has led to him being the recipient of numerous prizes at national level, as well as many successes with the Association.

Gerald joined the Association in April 1990 and we have all benefited from his enthusiasm for the craft and his generous contribution to our Association, as he has filled the following positions with distinction. Association President 1996-1998. During this term, Gerald guided the acquisition of the highly acclaimed Video projection which has added so much to our week end workshops.

Committee of Management, including Vice President and the co-ordination of a membership survey, the results of which have been used to define the Association's goals. Convenor of the Kenwick Group and a regular at other Group's meetings. Demonstrator at many group and Association workshops. Newsletter reporter.

Gerald Young, we honour you as a Life Member of the Association. Presented 1997



PROFILE OF A TURNER

(extract from newsletter 63 June/July 1996)

Gerald Young has been interested in woodworking from when he was a child. He has, over the years made furniture, built a boat and a caravan, but he did not get introduced to woodturning until after settling in WA in 1987. He had the good fortune to meet Gordon Ward and be introduced to WAWA. He maintains that WAWA is the best group of instant friends he has ever had.

Gerald has been a great contributor to our Association having at various times been Vice President, Weekend Co-ordinator, Convenor of the Kenwick group and presently is the Weekend competition organiser. He has also demonstrated and been a consistent entrant in the competitions.

Gerald was born in County Durham in Ireland but at 18 months of age his family moved to Adelaide where his father, an electrical engineer, was employed on a power station. After about two years, they moved again to Hong Kong where they remained until 1938. His primary schooling was in Hong Kong but secondary and technical education was in the UK. After obtaining a diploma in Electrical Engineering, he undertook National Service serving in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

While in National Service, Gerald had met and married Mary and by the end of this period had reached the rank of Captain and had a wife and child to support. He decided to make the Army his career and was posted to Army Area Command base workshops in Singapore and Malaysia during the emergency. In those times, the only reliable means of transport from Singapore to Kuala Lumpur was by train, as the terrorists would ambush the roads. They would also on occasions, derail the trains, but a detachment of Ghurkas always rode the train as a defence platoon. They would guard the train while the line was fixed.

In 1955, Gerald returned to England working on electronic gun control and the development of repair techniques, particularly in the field. He also spent a year with English Electric (subsequently to become British Aerospace) on surface to air guided weapon systems. This was followed by three years at the Woomera rocket range testing missiles.

The period in Australia re-awakened his interest in this country. He was however, to spend from 1960 to 1962 in the UK at the Royal Radar Establishment on radar development and guided weapons. The winters of 1961 and 1962 in England were so bad that he decided to migrate to Australia.

The Australian Army was very happy to accept someone with his experience and he came into the Australian Army with the rank of Major serving at Army Headquarters in Melbourne. He was promoted to Lt Colonel as Commander of RAME in Victoria and then to full Colonel as Deputy Director of RAME. During the Vietnam war, Gerald was required to investigate problems with radar in some units which necessitated going to the US to confer with the manufacturers. Gerald's final appointment was as a Brigadier and as Director General of Army Quality Assurance. This meant supervising and testing the quality of all ammunition, electrical gear and supplies for the Australian Army.

Gerald retired from the Army in 1981 and lived in Victoria until moving to Perth for family reasons in 1987. He now has time to enjoy his other hobbies - skiing, sailing and cross country running. Gerald has a very extensive workshop including three lathes, bandsaws, thicknessers and all the other necessary equipment. From this their five children and 13 grandchildren are well supplied with turned items. Mary always looks forward to another piece of furniture rather than another bowl, but turning has become a big part of his life.

As members of WAWA, we are very pleased Gerald made the move to the West. His contribution to our Association has been much appreciated.

VALE

Gerald Young

Passed away December 2020