



The Woodturners Association of Western Australia (Inc)

Life Membership

JIM CLARKE – 132

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

Jim is one of our long-standing members, having joined in June, 1986 and becoming member number 132.

Jim has been and is still a great participant in Group and Association workshops. In earlier days, Jim attended the Lesmurdie and Mundaring groups, and no doubt the display of his technique and skill was appreciated as much then as it is now.

At the end of 1988, circumstances caused the folding of the Lesmurdie group and the formation of Midvale, to which Jim transferred his allegiance. He was always a stalwart of the group, one of the back-room boys, ensuring the necessary planning was done and that workshops ran smoothly. It was fitting that Jim acted as Convenor of the Group 1997-1999, and saw the introduction of video screening of demonstrations.

Jim has also served on the Committee of Management, 1990 -1992.

Jim always responds cheerfully when requested to demonstrate at weekend workshops and delights many with turning and finishing of small items.

The Association is lucky to have members like Jim, who give support in not only turning skills, but others like operating and monitoring the public address system, fabricating lathe stands and other necessary equipment not otherwise available.

Jim Clarke, you work tirelessly for the Association in pursuit of its objectives, and the Association honours you with Life Membership.

Presented 2001

PROFILE OF A TURNER

James Clarke WAWA member 132

Jim (as we call him) was born in 1928 and lived his early years growing up in Victoria Park. He was one of seven siblings. Four sisters and two brothers. He attended Victoria Park Seventh Day Adventist Primary School (one teacher school grades 1-6) in Victoria Park and then completed his secondary schooling at West Leederville High School.

His completed his Fitter & Turner Apprenticeship with Harris Scarf and Sandovers in their West Perth Factory. Jim then worked his trade in a number of places in Perth metro, then in the Eastern States as well as Tasmania.

He met Coralie in 1952 and married her (the lady of his life) in 1957. They have one son and one daughter, as well as 3 grandchildren.

Jim's interest in wood turning started before his retirement and he attended wood turning classes at night school in Leederville. He then made his own lathe. It was about this time that Coralie noticed an advert in the paper regarding the wood turners meeting at Eneabba in 1985. Jim joined the Western Australian Woodturners in 1986.

The first meeting Jim attended was at Mundaring and while at this meeting he was invited to attend the Lesmurdie group which later became the Swan group.

Both Jim and Coralie remember the great old days when the weekend workshops were in fact held over a weekend. They remember the Saturday nights which were social, friendly events more like a family get together. They attended all the country weekend workshops all over the Wheatbelt and Southern Western Australia.

The Tuesday meetings as well as the Christmas BBQs were held at members workshops and homes. They were only a small group so it was possible to fit everyone in.

Jim joined the Shopping Centre Group in 1988. He spent many hours producing wood turned items for sale at the Shopping Centre Events. They had lots of fun times at these sales events.

The position of Swan Convenor was held by Jim in 1988 – 1989. He gave a further seven years on the Swan Committee.

Jim produced many of the deep hollowing tools with the support arm and curtain wire depth measure as well as making the high-speed steel cutters. Many members still use these tools.

In the last few years Jim has attended with members of the Swan group at events at Gidgegannup Small Farm Field Day, Darlington Arts and Railfest Bassendean. Jim likes nothing better than to sit behind the tables of sales items, sell a bit and to join in the fun and camaraderie between the members and public.

It is still great to have Jim attend our Tuesday meetings at Swan but most days you will find him at his home of 53 years in High Wycombe.

One of life's true gentlemen.

Written by Mary Byers April 2021

