



## **The Woodturners Association of Western Australia (Inc)**

### *Life Membership*

**John Lillywhite - 890**

John Lillywhite, 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. John is a long serving member of the Association, having joined in April, 1986 becoming member 890. This was less than 12 months after the formation of the Association, and already the Melville Group was taking shape.

John was one of several former YMCA Service Club men who formed the nucleus of the Melville Group, who continued to enjoy and promote in their woodturning activities the fellowship they experienced through the YMCA Service men. John has served the Association well in the growth and management of the Melville Group.

John served on the Association's Committee of Management between September 1991 and 1993, and during that time he took on the additional role of Shopping Centre Coordinator. The Shopping Centre activities and those associated with wood working shows have been an excellent window of the activities of the Association. They provide an opportunity for the public to view items being turned and informed of our activities and showcasing our work.

John has been coordinating this work with wisdom and brought a high standard of personal credit to himself and a great benefit to the Association for over 10 years.

There can be no doubt that John has a love of wood turning.

John Lillywhite, we honour you as a Life Member of the Western Australian Woodturners Association.

Presented 2001

## **PROFILE OF A TURNER**

(extract from newsletter number 80 February/March 1999)

John Lillywhite was born 77 years ago into a Western Australian Farming community; John spent his early youth at Cadoux. He left school to help with fencing contracts to minimise the effects of the Depression on the family.

In 1941 he joined the AIF and was in active service in the Middle East and North Africa (El Alamein). On returning to Australia John was sent for training in Queensland and again was engaged in active service in New Guinea where he was wounded and later invalided out of the Army.

Returning to civilian life John did a short stint at farming and later worked in Boddington at the Extraction Plant where he studied steam engine driving for his First-Class Certificate.

Hettie arrived in town and into his life. They were married in 1950 and raised 2 girls and 1 boy. On leaving Boddington John worked for the S.E.C. (Western Power) for 31 years, most of it on shift work.

John's community work included helping at South Fremantle to improve working conditions at the Power Station, President of the Parents Committee in Sea Scouts, had involvement with Y.M.C.A. projects and for Y'smen (service club of the Y.M.C.A.) In conjunction with Harry Norman organised and directed Christmas Tree Sales over a 25-year period.

On retirement, travel had first priority - exploring Australia and New Zealand, visiting relatives in Canada, U.S.A. and friends in England and Europe.

John was introduced to woodturning by Ern Margetts in 1985 and in that year discovered The Woodturners Association of W.A. After night school lessons and W.A.W.A. hands on workshops, he produced more items than his relatives could handle, his specialities being wooden bowls and table lamps, so John assisted at the first shopping centre wood turning demonstration and sales at Melville Shopping Centre. From this evolved his ability to direct operations and more so to persuade and interest shopping centre management to allow space for woodturners to demonstrate and sell.

Since Melville club's inception John has continuously held the position of Treasurer, has taught classes at Melville for 4 years and served 2 years as a Committee Member for W.A.W.A.

**VALE**

**John Lillywhite**

**2006**