



The Woodturners Association of Western Australia (Inc)

Life Membership

Neil Piper - 285

Neil Piper, The Association of the Wood Turners of Western Australia Incorporated Honours you and confers upon you Life Membership, in recognition of the outstanding contributions you have made and are making to the Association.

You have served as an active member of the Executive Committee for four years, one as Vice President.

As Video Librarian for many years, under your guidance, the video library has become a very popular and worthwhile section of our organisation.

Neil as a member of WAWA you took on the job of instructor for the Melville City Council's woodturning classes at their recreation centre as an unpaid volunteer. You applied yourself to this job for at least seven years. Many of your students have become members of our Association.

For a number of years, you have been responsible for the well organised Melville Group. You have achieved this by arranging good programs and working closely with Melville Convenors both past and present.

You have played an important part in the Shopping Centre Group, organising the cartage and setting up of the equipment.

You are popular and well respected by your fellow members. You are noted as a quiet achiever which was recognised by the Melville Group with presentation of an Award of Merit.

Neil Piper we honour you as a Life Member of the Wood Turners Association.

Presented 2002

PROFILE OF A TURNER

(extract from newsletter number 118 June/July 2005)

Neil Piper was born in Cambridge, England in 1927 and came to Australia in the same year moving onto the family farm at Bindi Bindi in February 1928.

His primary school years were done at the local school travelling by horse and cart with three other brothers.

Secondary schooling was at Narrogin School of Agriculture for a period of two years, returning to the farm in 1942.

Owing to acreage restrictions, there was not enough work on the farm, so he and his twin brother spent three years with a shearing team working through the Kimberly, Pilbara and Murchison regions and finally at two stations not far from the family farm.

As the war had finished, he returned to work on the farm and formed a partnership with his father and twin brother in 1951.

Neil married June in March 1951 - a daughter was born in 1952 and a son in 1954.

In 1956, Neil and his twin brother bought their father's share of the farm and the senior Pipers retired to Bunbury. Neil and Ian also purchased the next-door property, which increased the farm to 4,500 acres.

Neil and June left the farm in 1975 owing to June's tailing health, and moved to a home in Willetton. Neil got a job with Wesfarmers at the Midland stock yards, working there for the next 15 years.

June passed away in 1991 after a very long and debilitating illness.

In 1992 Neil moved to Gosnells with his daughter and son-in-law, living there for the next 12 years. Then another move on to Roleystone, this time on half an acre block.

Neil joined WAWA in March 1987 and still thinks it was the best move he has made.