



The Woodturners Association of Western Australia (Inc)

Life Membership Awarded to

Michael Kenny – 41

In 2012

(extract from newsletter number 194 January/February 2018)

We heard recently from Michael Kenny, a Life Member of WAWA and the proud holder of membership number 41.

Michael has been living in retirement in Brunswick Junction with his wife Sandra for a number of years. He was the WAWA safety officer for 13 years, and joined WAWA at its second meeting, which was held at the late John Shinnick's house at 22 Shines Crescent, Brunswick Junction.

Michael tells us that he and his mate John Shinnick used to drive to Eneabba in his ten-year old Valiant ute for the weekend workshops held there in WAWA's early days. The workshops were run by Keith McQueen who specialised in turning goblets and greatly inspired him.

Later, at the Yarloop workshops, he passed on the skills that he had acquired and taught



fellow woodturners how to sharpen their (mainly carbon steel) tools without getting them too hot. This was a technique that he had learned from his father. He also shared his experiences at the Manjimup and Bunbury sheds where he, too, specialised in turning goblets, many of which were given away as gifts after a public demonstration.

Michael's interest in turning was not confined to goblets, of course, and he sent through a number of pictures of work that he had done over the years, but one item that gave him great pleasure was the round jarrah dining table which still occupies pride of place in his home. He worked on this, on and off, for nearly two years, but going through the grits got to be more than he wished for. After eight long hours with a hired industrial floor sander, and thoughts that he was never going to complete it, he decided to take the whole lot to the Boranup Gallery. The people there finished the sanding, polished the table, and made matching jarrah and leather dining chairs with jarrah burl armrests.

The item which gave him the greatest pleasure, and which he still has, was a freestanding floor lamp that he designed. The design took three weeks. The turning took another 30 hours. After all these years, he is still extremely proud of the outcome.

Michael was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2001. He is now unable to walk and has limited mobility in his left arm and hand which restricts his use of a number of woodturning tools. But he still attends the Harvey Men's Shed weekly for social interaction and continues to enjoy the opportunity to share his knowledge and do the occasional small project. 2018