



The Woodturners Association of Western Australia (Inc) *Life Membership*

NORM GRATTE – 1847

Norm Gratte joined the Melville Group of the Woodturners Association of Western Australia in May 2001, bringing with him invaluable skills as a long-standing Manual Arts teacher. Over the last decade and a half, Norm has developed to become Melville's most valuable and appreciated member.

Norm's major contributions to the Group and Association include:

- The lead lecturer and content advisor for Melville's very successful Beginners Classes
- An exceptionally competent organizer of Melville's monthly hands-on program
- Bringing to prominence the annual toy making by Group members
- Establishing Christmas gift bowls for the elderly
- The organizer of numerous bushfire appeals
- The organizer of demonstrations by Association members at the Royal Show, for the last eight years
- Regularly assists in transporting of the Group's equipment for community demonstrations
- Offering his services to demonstrate and judge at weekend workshops, on numerous occasions
- Undertaking a series of demonstrating and judging lectures for the Association



Norm is always willing to share his knowledge, and has become a regular and much appreciated mentor to new members. He is also very forthright with constructive advice to fellow members, both at meetings, and at a personal level. On countless occasions, he has conducted one-on-one private instruction with fellow turners, who have required specialized tuition.

Another of Norm's attributes is that he is regularly asking the question of Melville members as to how they can improve their own turning, how to grow the Group's presence, and how Melville may contribute towards the wellbeing of our Association.

Today Norm is arguably one of Melville's (and the Association's) most talented and innovative turners. He is exceptionally active with his turning, and is constantly trying to improve his skills, willing to try new ideas and techniques, and both directly and indirectly, challenging other Group members to do likewise.

Consequently, our Group believes that Norm is a very worthy recipient of the Association's Life Membership Award.

Presented 2016

New Horizons - A Great Investment.

For nearly forty years, I was an Industrial Arts Teacher working in wood, metal and graphics. Having been retired for a number of years, I decided it was time I knew something about wood turning.

In 2001, I attended turning classes organized by the Melville Recreation Centre. The instructors were two volunteers, Ron Eddy and George Franz, from the Melville woodturning Group. These two guys inspired me into becoming an avid woodturner. Bowls, platters, vases, pepper and salt mills, etc. were churned out.

After nearly four years of fairly similar type of work, I was looking for more challenges. The Forest Heritage Centre advertised one day workshops at Wandi. These appealed as "Just the thing" for a turner whose enthusiasm was waning.

I applied for two of the five days that were available. "Embellishment" with Vaughan Richmond and the "Perfect Platter" with Robert Jones. These two days at Wandi were, for me, stimulating and exhilaration. Both Vaughan and Robert were well organized, prepared to share their extensive skills and diligent in their instruction. To summarize, they were highly professional, I intend enrolling in more of these workshops, for they have shown me new horizons and given me renewed enthusiasm. Norm Gratte.

(extract from newsletter 118, June/July 2005)