

PROFILE OF A TURNER

Bob Adams was born in Subiaco but grew up on the family farm east of Winchester on the Midland line. Like many farm children, his primary education started at a small country school and then at the Coorow Primary School. Bob then became a boarder of Scotch College for three years before returning to the farm at Winchester.

In that same year, they moved to a property of Waddi Forest where he worked with his father for three years. He was then able to buy a tractor and some basic machinery to go share farming on the adjoining property. After five years, he and his brother were able to purchase a partly cleared 3000-acre block. Using a homemade scrub roller, they were able to clear the rest of the property. When they had been there for four years, his brother married a Beverley girl and moved to Beverley. Bob and his wife Ivy then purchased his brother's share.

By the use of leguminous pastures and in later years, a lupin rotation, the fertility of the property was increased to such an extent that they gradually doubled their crop yields. In 1974, they added a further block and after surviving three drought years added yet another block. Gradually the hard work was passed over to their son and Bob and Ivy moved to Toodyay.

Always interested in growing trees, Bob and Ivy become involved with a Soil Conservation group of which Bob was the first secretary and the second president. The group purchased a tree planter which enabled them to increase the scale of planting substantially. The group collected seed of indigenous varieties which were sent to a nursery in Manjimup where they were raised as seedlings. The seedlings were mostly planted in groups and along creek banks. A seed box was attached to the planter and wattle seed was distributed to provide an under storey. This helped the eucalyptus by providing protection from wind and with the nitrogen fixed by the wattles.

Bob was first introduced to wood turning by Rod Swallow who was at the time a bank officer in Carnamah. Rod had a Tough lathe which he lent to Bob while he was on long service leave. Bob then bought his own lathe and when the first meeting was held at McQueen's Caravan Park at Eneabba, he joined as one of the original members. Bob has been a keen supporter of WAWA, a committee member and convenor of the Moora group in its early stages. Bob is a regular attendee and participant in the weekend workshops. He enjoys the opportunity to learn new techniques and the meeting with other people from all walks of life all with a common interest in wood turning.

Bob says that once you join WAWA, you immediately have a wide circle of new friends. He makes mostly bowls but also some thirty different items and lately has been doing more spindle work turning coffee table legs for a furniture restorer in Toodyay. He hopes to enjoy many more years of fruitful turning.