

## **PROFILE OF A TURNER**

### **Doug Chamberlain**

Doug was born in Birmingham to a farming family in 1919. At the age of four his family were conned by the notorious Group Settlement Scheme into migrating to Australia. They finished up in Margaret River; a vastly different, remote and unserviced Margaret River than today's tourist attraction.

They endured life there until 1932 when, with some money from England, Doug's mother bought a farm in Pinjarrah. To move there meant abandoning the results of nine years' work without reward or compensation, which they did.

Doug went to school in Margaret River and Pinjarra leaving, as we did in those days, at 14 to take a job on a farm in Yarloop where he milked cows and did general farm work at 10/- per week.

In 1942 he joined the A.I.F. but was pronounced medically unfit. 60-odd years later and still doing his mile or so daily walk, he wonders a bit at that assessment.

Following his rejection by the A.I.F. he became subject to the then Manpower Direction and was sent to work extracting wandoo which was used (and I choke as I write it) for leather tanning. When the extract mill folded (and, hopefully the wandoo was spared) Doug was directed to W.A. Wire Netting which job he endured for six months before being accepted by the A.M.F. whose medical officer, we must assume, was a bit more clued up.

Whilst attending the wedding of his sister in 1941 he met his future brother-in-law's sister, May and, liking what he saw married her and 64 years on, he reckons it was not a bad decision.

After the war, in 1943, Doug took a job as a driver with Watson's Supply stores but shortly after went to Fremantle Road Board where he stayed for five years.

In 1951 the urge to farm returned and he bought a dairy farm in Nannup. In 1955 he started to augment his farming by doing some truck-driving for the Forestry Department and three years later, sold the farm to the Department and started driving full time with them until being appointed Overseer, which position he held in the last fifteen years before he retired in 1981.

Doug joined WAWA in 1993 about a year after buying his first lathe and teaching himself how to use it.

He became a firm friend of our late and esteemed John Shinnick and benefited from the generous advice John gave him and it is appropriate that Doug twice won the John Shinnick Award for turning.

He is a perfectionist and has an artistic flair for turning the unusual item.

One of his most recent was a full-scale working model of a spinning wheel.

Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 136 dated June/July 2008

## VALE

### **Douglas Chamberlain** No 1100 WAWA

Born the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February, 1919 passed away 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2008 aged 89 years. Doug started turning when in his seventies and he became very prolific with it.

He became a member of the Bunbury Group about 15 years ago and was a valued club member who always helped out when he could. Douglas was known for his tenacity in trying out new ideas and getting good results that allowed him to participate actively and interestingly at the show and tell nights.

Always a true gentleman he is missed by all his turning friends.

Goodbye "Dougie".