

PROFILE OF A TURNER

James Clarke WAWA member 132

Jim (as we call him) was born in 1928 and lived his early years growing up in Victoria Park. He was one of seven siblings, four sisters and two brothers. He attended Victoria Park Seventh Day Adventist Primary School (one teacher school grades 1-6) in Victoria Park and then completed his secondary schooling at West Leederville High School.

He completed his Fitter & Turner Apprenticeship with Harris Scarf and Sandovers in their West Perth Factory. Jim then worked his trade in a number of places in Perth metro, then in the Eastern States as well as Tasmania.

He met Coralie in 1952 and married her (the lady of his life) in 1957. They have one son and one daughter, as well as 3 grandchildren.

Jim's interest in wood turning started before his retirement and he attended wood turning classes at night school in Leederville. He then made his own lathe. It was about this time that Coralie noticed an advert in the paper regarding the wood turners meeting at Eneabba in 1985. Jim joined the Western Australian Woodturners in 1986.

The first meeting Jim attended was at Mundaring and while at this meeting he was invited to attend the Lesmurdie group which later became the Swan group.

Both Jim and Coralie remember the great old days when the weekend workshops were in fact held over a weekend. They remember the Saturday nights which were social, friendly events more like a family get together. They attended all the country weekend workshops all over the Wheatbelt and Southern Western Australia.

The Tuesday meetings as well as the Christmas BBQs were held at members workshops and homes. They were only a small group, so it was possible to fit everyone in.

Jim joined the Shopping Centre Group in 1988. He spent many hours producing wood turned items for sale at the Shopping Centre Events. They had lots of fun times at these sales events.

The position of Swan Convenor was held by Jim in 1988 – 1989. He gave a further seven years on the Swan Committee.

Jim produced many of the deep hollowing tools with the support arm and curtain wire depth measure as well as making the high-speed steel cutters. Many members still use these tools.

In the last few years Jim has attended with members of the Swan group at events at Gidgegannup Small Farm Field Day, Darlington Arts and Railfest Bassendean. Jim likes nothing better than to sit behind the tables of sales items, sell a bit and to join in the fun and camaraderie between the members and public.

It is still great to have Jim attend our Tuesday meetings at Swan but most days you will find him at his home of 53 years in High Wycombe.

One of life's true gentlemen.

