

## PROFILE OF A TURNER

**Joe Hegney** was born in Wyndham, the most northerly town in Western Australia, in 1935. Both his parents were associated with the Wyndham meatworks and the family travelled up and down the coast on the State ships "Kalinda" and "Koolama" each year for the 'season'.

The year he commenced school, his father returned north alone and therefore was in Wyndham when the Koolama limped into the port, having been hit by the Japanese at sea and subsequently rolled over while tied up and is still lying in the mud near the jetty!

Having completed the Junior Certificate under the guidance of the Christian Brothers while at St. Patrick's Technical School, Wellington St. Perth he gained an apprenticeship (5 years in those days) in Mechanical Fitting at the Midland Workshops, in January 1952. Fortunate to have the encouragement of parents, he commenced study in addition to that associated with the apprenticeship, in the evenings at Perth Technical College. This proved to be a hard slog, two and three nights at PTC for 2 and 3 hours a night after 8 hours manual work in the workshops. The effort and endeavour did not go unnoticed by the Master of Apprentices, Mr. George Groves, who placed him in various office placements and finally in the Drawing Office for the last 18 months of his apprenticeship. Shortly after completion of his time, while still in the Drawing Office, he gained the position of Assistant Engineer C1.4. having almost completed the Diploma of Mechanical Engineering at PTC.

In February 1958 he entered Claremont Teachers College to undertake a special 12-month course leading to appointment as a Manual Training Teacher. Another member of that group, who became a long-time friend and colleague, was Ron Goodson. First appointment was to Governor Stirling SHS, but that only lasted 6 months. Having a number of science units in his Diploma and with a shortage of science teachers, he was transferred to another school as a Science Teacher. Science and Trade Maths subjects occupied the next 5 years.

In August 1960 he finally married a young lady whom he had been dating for some time. When he announced he was entering Teachers College she decided to enter Nurse training at RPH, which had the effect of delaying things a while. They have now celebrated 43 years of marriage, which has produced 5 children and 11 grandchildren.

End of 1965 he was appointed to Manjimup SHS as Senior Master, Manual Arts, a position he held for 3 years. End of 1968 transferred to Hampton SHS displacing Viv Paust as Head of Department. ("not sure Viv has ever forgiven me"). Three years at Hampton, including 6 months as Acting Deputy Principal saw another move, to what was then considered a premier Manual Arts Centre at John Curtin SHS, with a staff of 13 Manual Arts Teachers.

While at John Curtin he commenced an undergraduate degree at WAIT in the area of Industrial Arts and Design. January 1975 was appointed Lecturer at Nedlands Teachers College, where again associated with Ron Goodson.

The next 20 years was involved in the preparation of Manual Arts Teachers as well as the developments in the area as the various name changes suggest- Manual Arts, Industrial Arts, Design and Technology etc. and the Nedlands College became WACAE and then Edith Cowan University. Quite some changes and the rate of change at times were difficult to keep up with. The time at college saw him develop additional units in Teaching Methodology,

Design, Photography and CNC (Computer Numeric Control Machining). The year following voluntary redundancy was asked by ECU, on two occasions to prepare and deliver units of study on the Island of Mauritius, as part of a project to upgrade some of their Design and Technology Teachers. An honour and a very satisfying experience.

WAWA was not unknown to him, in fact he had given a couple of presentations before retiring part way through 1994. With a little more time on his hands joined the Association, first with the then Midvale Group followed by the Melville Group, having moved home.

The Association has given him reason to develop his own interests, but after some 40 years imparting and encouraging others to develop their own knowledge and skills, still enjoys the challenge of the occasional demonstration. The social aspect of WAWA, where the partners can also participate, is an added bonus, one that is greatly appreciated.



Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 141 dated April/May 2009

### **Observations Manjimup WEWS 2009**

**Joe Hegney** took to the stage to demonstrate how to make a cheese board and knife.

Points of interest included laminating timber for strength and visual effect to make a large board, benefits of a round tool rest and fitting of the tile insert. Joe showed how to drill an insert for the handle at an angle of 10 degrees.

A smooth demonstration interspersed with wine jokes and compliments for Kelvins sharpening.

Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 154 dated May 2011

### **Observations Melville WEWS April 2011**

**Joe Hegney** was next with a tribute to Ron Goodson, an association which began in 1958. Joe commenced by welcoming and introducing Ron's daughter Janet to the members. After talking about Ron Joe stated that the best way, he could honour his friend was to demonstrate the making of a Jacobean and a Barley twist done Ron's way. Using Camphor Laurel, Ron's favourite wood, he first made a Barley twist explaining the technique as he proceeded. Next was the Jacobean twist employing the hand tools and rasps that Ron had used. Several examples of Ron's work were passed around for members to admire. Joe completed the tribute with a reading of "The Craftsman".

Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 155 dated July 2011

### **Observations Mandurah WEWS May 2011**

**Joe Hegney** was next with Bowl turned, cut and re-assembled, he quoted from a book by Stephen Hogbin "The Purpose of the Object" that "the cross section is more interesting than the turning itself", and passed around several samples to illustrate this point. After a Power Outage the power came on at 1045hrs thus enabling Joe to briefly demonstrate what he had planned to do of turning a bowl cutting and reassembling. Using templates, he turned the outside shape then split and re-glued to the final shape. Mounted on a faceplate with clamps to hold the pieces Joe then hollowed out the bowl shape ready to be sanded and finished. Turned out to be a very interesting demonstration delivered under difficult conditions.

Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 160 dated May 2012

### **Observations Melville WEWS April 2012**

**Joe Hegney** was next to demonstrate the making of two wall brackets with fluting. They were made as one piece then split to form two units. As usual Joe had planned well with diagrams and templates, and he passed round various examples of different types of fluting, grooves etc. Joe showed a blank with paper join for the stem, and a circular shape with paper join across the diameter for the platform. He then roughed down the stem and shaped as per drawing and template. Joe then set up the router and cut the flutes, showing various set ups to obtain different results. After completing the stem, he separated the join to make the pieces. To make the platform, Joe fastened a blank with hot melt glue, to an MDF base, with the tailstock as support. Joe shaped the platform and split two sections. He then cut the recess for the stem and fitted them together. Joe also took the opportunity to show the method of how to hang the unit. A well planned and executed demonstration with considerable tips and information.

Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 166 dated May/June 2013

### **Observation from Melville WEWS April 2013**

**Joe Hegney** took the stage to demonstrate an offset jewellery tray, and showed a finished work, and the design in a book featuring the theme of the cone. Joe first makes a scaled drawing (always make a drawing). The tray of 180mm dia. is made with the previously sanded back fastened to a wood faceplate. With a bowl gouge Joe turned a round edge and flattened the bottom. The cone is turned from a blank, with the finished size being 70mm at the base, tapering to a point 130mm high. The base is cut off at 75 degrees, leaving the short side at 110mm. Joe used a specially made plate to line up the tray, so as to drill an angled hole to take the cone. If your geometry and your work is as accurate as Joe's, then the cone sits on its



base, angled to the rear and the tray is parallel to the table. Throughout the demonstration Joe provided continuous information, as well as some questions for his audience.

Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 173 dated July/August 2014

### **Observations Mandurah WEWS May 2014**

**Joe Hegney** took the stage to demonstrate the making of a tea light carrier using the theme of wood and metal. Joe explained his method of using ideas to generate the final product and showed the final result. Joe first turned the base then, placing it in a cole jaws type holder, drilled the hole to take the 1inch diameter aluminium rod. To make the top, Joe used two pieces cut in half and glued with a paper joint. In spindle mode he turned to round using a template to obtain the desired shape. After sanding and splitting Joe placed it in a cradle he had constructed to enable him to drill the holes for the tea lights and the rod. After turning a wood insert rod for the aluminium rod Joe then assembled the project. With questions from Joe and the audience there was no opportunity for anyone to take an after-lunch nap.

Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 186 dated September/October 2016

### **Observations Bunbury WEWS August 2016**

After lunch it was the turn of **Joe Hegney** to present the next demonstration, the title of which was Chucking Methods. In Joe's opening remarks he advised that he was going to call it Various Methods of Holding Material in a Lathe. Joe advised that his demonstration would start with a historical look firstly at equipment used many years ago through to modern day stuff. He went right back to the equipment of the 1950's by firstly simply mounting a piece of wood into the morse taper of the head stock spindle. After mounting the wood into the spindle Joe proceeded to bring the piece to the round. The fact that the piece fell off the lathe demonstrated that this method was not a good way in which to hold a piece of wood on the lathe. Undaunted, Joe simply made a few adjustments, cut the piece to a shorter length with a parting tool and remounted it inside the morse taper of the headstock spindle. Joe also explained that this method was not recommended as it abused the morse taper inside the spindle. The next item Joe introduced was a Cup Chuck. This was screwed onto the headstock spindle then the piece of wood was pushed inside the morse taper of the Cup Chuck. One of the main problems when using this chuck was being able to place the piece of wood back in the same place if it fell off the lathe. Joe advised that one method of securing the piece of timber in the chuck was to drill a small hole in the side of the chuck and then insert a screw into the hole which would hold the piece of wood in place. Joe then introduced a second Cup Chuck which was a little larger than the first. The next chuck Joe introduced was a chuck with a collar and he demonstrated how this chuck was employed in holding a piece of wood. Next Joe moved onto face plate work, and he produced several examples of face plates. He advised that all of these were available before the scroll chucks were invented. Next Joe introduced the first in the range of scroll chucks, a Teknitor, to be introduced to woodturners. He fitted one to the lathe and demonstrated how it was employed. This chuck came with two aluminium bars which were used to open and close it. Joe also advised that over his many years of involvement in wood turning that he had made many face plates.

Joe reminded us of all that in the early days of face plate turning it was necessary to use a number of screws in the base of your work to hold the timber in place. The legacy of this method was that you ended up with holes in the base of your work. This was overcome by the use of green felt being stuck on to the base of your work. As we all know the use of green felt today is frowned upon but in those days it was essential. Joe then went on to explain the use of hot melt glue as a means of holding work in the lathe and how he was introduced to it in the early 90's. Joe admitted to being a little concerned about using this technique however as time went on, he warmed to the concept. Next Joe demonstrated how you could successfully mount timber on a lathe by simply tightening the tailstock hard up against the work. He advised this method was perfectly safe for light work such as finishing, however, heavier cutting using this method was not recommended. Next Joe produced an array of jigs that he had created to not only hold a sphere to the lathe but also finish it off and drill holes into it. He demonstrated how he uses a jig to hold a golf ball so he can drill a hole into the golf ball using a forstner bit. This is necessary so as to be able to place a clock into the hole in the golf ball. Lastly Joe produced a collection of Cole Jaws that he had made over the years. He demonstrated and explained how he went about making Cole Jaws. He demonstrated how they were used to hold bowls onto a lathe so that the base could be cleaned up.

A very interesting presentation by Joe who clearly has forgotten more about woodturning than most of us have learned.

Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 188 dated January/February 2017

### **Observations Busselton WEWS November 2016**

After Lunch the next demonstrator Joe Hegney was introduced, and Joe outlined how he was going to demonstrate the noble art of making a cabriole leg.

Joe mounted a piece of timber between centres and using a skew chisel quickly brought his work piece from square to round. Whilst doing this Joe explained his proven method of having some of his fingers under the tool rest. He explained how it gave him better control using this method and assured everyone it was a perfectly safe way to hold and control a chisel. Joe also explained how he had learned over the years that many turners were reluctant to use the skew chisel. He further outlined why this was the case and then set about encouraging everyone to use the skew chisel more often, to master it and get used to it by using more often. Joe explained the use of several other tools whilst shaping his work to the design he wanted to achieve. He continued to demonstrate the use of the skew chisel indicating how great it was for a finishing cut and showing how fine the shavings from the cut could be. Next Joe introduced his detail gauge or spindle gauge and he explained how he preferred one with a long grind and a shallow flute. Joe then explained how the traditional cabriole leg was off centre. He produced some examples of these which were passed around. Joe indicated because it was off centre it would be difficult to turn on a lathe using conventional methods. Joe then proceeded to demonstrate the turning of a cabriole leg using offset or off centre turning. He explained the angles he set the piece at as being 12 degrees at one end and 15 degrees at the other end. The tools he used to turn the piece off centre were a roughing gouge, a detail gouge and a skew chisel. After completing the offset turning of the piece Joe

removed it from the lathe, then remounted it between centres and finished of the foot section of the leg.

As always with Joe another very interesting demonstration.

Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 192 dated September/October 2017

## **MEMORIAL** – JOSEPH HEGNEY 12/8/1935 - 23/7/2017 Life Member. No. 1245

Following relocation to Canning Vale in the early 2,000's Joe became a regular attender at the Melville Group meetings. With his quiet, humble personality in displaying his knowledge of woodworking techniques & procedures acquired in his earlier occupation in the Education Field, Joe quickly assimilated into the Group becoming a regular demonstrator at our weekly meetings and periodically at week-end workshops.

Members could approach Joe seeking assistance for solutions to problems with projects which was always given freely & explained in easily understood language.

For a number of years, he also contributed to the Association Newsletter as the Technical Editor. For his contributions to WAWA, Joe was conferred with Life Membership 2013.

It was Melville's loss, Bunbury's gain when Joe and Elaine relocated four years ago to be closer to family living in the Southwest area. The gods most certainly smiled on Bunbury when Joe and Elaine chose to retire to our little patch of paradise.

Joe was preceded by a formidable and enviable reputation in both his chosen profession in education and his dedication to and knowledge of turning. Joe came to Bunbury about four years ago, his effect on the club and its members was immediate, he conducted training classes for new members, and some not so new ones. His vast knowledge of, and his precision in turning was extra-ordinary, and he shared it generously with all.

When Joe spoke, he had the undivided attention of every person in the room.

He was most assuredly one of nature's gentlemen and will be sadly missed by all.

Contributed by Les Small (Melville) & Tony Mellar (Bunbury).