

## PROFILE OF A TURNER

**John Lillywhite** was born 77 years ago into a Western Australian farming community; John spent his early youth at Cadoux. He left school to help with fencing contracts to minimise the effects of the Depression on the family.

In 1941 he joined the AIF and was in active service in the Middle East and North Africa (El Alamein). On returning to Australia John was sent for training in Queensland and again was engaged in active service in New Guinea where he was wounded and later invalided out of the Army.

Returning to civilian life John did a short stint at farming and later worked in Boddington at the Extraction Plant where he studied steam engine driving for his First-Class Certificate.

Hettie arrived in town and into his life. They were married in 1950 and raised 2 girls and 1 boy. On leaving Boddington John worked for the S.E.C. (Western Power) for 31 years, most of it on shift work.

John's community work included helping at South Fremantle to improve working conditions at the Power Station, President of the Parents Committee in Sea Scouts, had involvement with Y.M.C.A. projects and for Y's men (service club of the Y.M.C.A.). In conjunction with Harry Norman he organised and directed Christmas Tree Sales over a 25-year period.

On retirement, travel had first priority - exploring Australia and New Zealand, visiting relatives in Canada, U.S.A. and friends in England and Europe.

John was introduced to woodturning by Ern Margetts in 1985 and in that year discovered The Woodturners Association of W.A. After night school lessons and W.A.W.A. hands on workshops, he produced more items than his relatives could handle, his specialities being wooden bowls and table lamps, so John assisted at the first shopping centre wood turning demonstration and sales at Melville Shopping Centre. From this evolved his ability to direct operations and more so to persuade and interest shopping centre management to allow space for woodturners to demonstrate and sell.

Since Melville club's inception John has continuously held the position of Treasurer, has taught classes at Melville for 4 years and served 2 years as a Committee Member for WAWA.

Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 126 dated October/November 2006

## VALE

### John Lillywhite

John joined the Association in April 1986 becoming member 113.

He was one of several Y's men who formed the nucleus of the Melville Group and continued to work for the group ensuring the growth and management of that group.

He served on the Association's Committee of Management between September 1991 and September 1993. He took on the role of Shopping Centre Coordinator and wood working shows, providing an opportunity for the public to see our work and learn of the Association's activity.

John had a real love of woodturning, ever ready to give a hand to others and for some time was a teacher at Melville on behalf of the Council.

He is missed by all who came in contact with him.