

Ken Rex – Member 79

Ken Rex was born in North Perth in May 1921. He was educated at North Perth School. His first job on leaving school was with a printing firm called Samsons; it was here that Ken met his wife, Joan.

As a youngster Ken had an interest in building and flying model aeroplanes and this led to him joining the WA Flying Club. As a member Ken was involved in building and flying gliders. At the outbreak of WW11 Ken joined the RAAF and spent four years in the UK serving as ground crew.

On his return to Australia in 1945 he renewed his relationship with Joan, and they were married on 11th June 1945. The marriage was blessed with three children, two girls and a boy.

On leaving the RAAF Ken joined a training scheme and became a telephone mechanic with the PMG. Ken and Joan purchased a block in Yokine where Ken proceeded to build the family home.

A trip to UK commenced an interest in Orchids and on their return began a long association with growing, cultivating and eventually as a judge.

In 1969 Joan passed away and it was sometime later that Ken met up with his present wife Dixie, who after a while got involved with Ken's interest in orchids.

In 1988 Ken and Dixie moved from Yokine to Samson where they now reside.

At this time Ken took an interest in wood, having done some major additions and alteration to the house. Ken joined WAWA and in a very short time was in the master class. He is always available for advice to all members and a willing demonstrator both at Melville and for the Association. Ken develops ideas for projects and will produce jigs and tools especially for the project.

Ken spends much of his time promoting WAWA by his fine workmanship in the items he produces both by his demonstrations at monthly weekend workshops and in the competition pieces he enters.

He is also a master carver and has encouraged members to embellish their woodturning by carving. For the past two years Ken has run a carver's class to help those who wish to go that step further in producing classic woodturning.

Many members visit Ken's workshop for advice or for him to make one of his jigs or tools. Always willing to give his time and knowledge, he is a treasured member of the Melville Group, and I am sure of the West Australian Woodturners Association.

Extract from Newsletter issue 155 dated July 2011

VALE

KEN REX

2.5.1921 - 3.6.2011

*Human kindness is the oil that takes,
The friction out of life,*

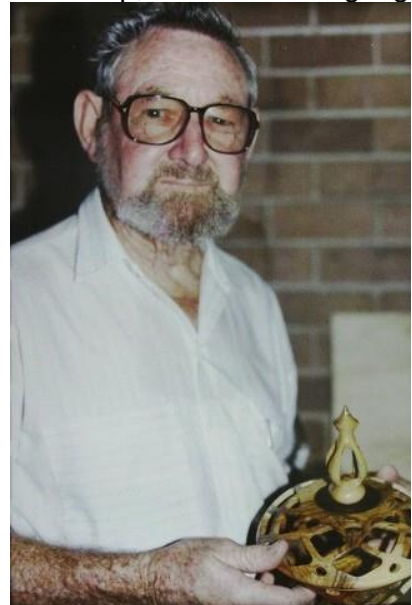
With the passing of Ken Rex, on the 3rd of June, WAWA and in particular the Melville Group has seen the passing of an era. Ken was a great stalwart of the Melville Group; known as the 'gadget man', he was a dedicated participant in all WAWA's activities.

Ken was a wonderful caring person who played a big part in forming a very friendly and happy club. He brought to WAWA his own special brand of fellowship and reached out to newcomers and old hands alike.

His legacy will be his attention to detail, the many and varied jigs to assist routing etc. on the lathe and the turning of a ball within a ball.

On a clear morning, 10th June, a large gathering assembled at Karrakatta Cemetery to celebrate the life of Ken Rex and to pay their last respects in a solemn and fitting manner.

*"He loved the scent released from wood that's seasoned,
Immured by careful carving and by time,
Nor would he make rash cuts that are
unreasoned, to him such desecration was
a crime."*



A small collection of Ken's magnificent work