

Life Membership

Les Small - 933

Les Small, the Woodturners Association of Western Australia honours you and confers upon you Life Membership of the Association in recognition of your outstanding contribution.

The President or Chairman of any group or association of which Les is a member would welcome having him on the Executive or Committee of Management, as he is such a great contributor. That has been my experience during the last year, and I am sure my predecessors in office from 1993 on would have felt the same way.

Les joined the Association on 22nd September 1991 and was elected to the Committee of Management in September 1993, 10 years ago, and Les has served continuously during that time, in various roles, but always with good sense and sound discussion.

Les has applied himself in assisting the Association achieve its objectives and been a staunch supporter of the Melville Group. Les is a quiet achiever, and a natural leader, working with people to produce a desired result.

Les was elected President of the Association in 2000 and during his 2 years in office, displayed his leadership characteristics, one significant result being the formation of a Group at Albany.

Immediately following the expiration of his presidential term, Les volunteered to act as Weekend Coordinator during Brian Fowlie's indisposition, again displaying his willingness to assist in any role.

Les is a regular attendee at Association Workshops, Melville meetings and also turns his hand to wood carving and being a supporter of the Goldfields Specialty Timbers Industry Group, a kindred organisation.

Les is a great advocate and supporter of fellowship within our Association. When workshops are held in Busselton or Bunbury, Les and Eve's home is the mecca for socialising and fellowship.

Les Small, we honour you as a Life Member of the Woodturners Association of Western Australia.

Presented 2003

Extract from Newsletter issue 112 dated June/July 2004

PROFILE OF A TURNER

Les Small was born in May 1933. At that time Busselton was a small town principally involved in export timber, mainly Jarrah railway sleepers. I can recollect in those early years walking out on the poorly lit jetty at night to watch loading operations. In addition to timber the district was involved in rural activities, mainly dairy farming.

In 1939 my father, who worked as Clerical Officer in the Railways commenced his career progression resulting in a number of country postings throughout the state over the following eight years. Whilst this gave me the opportunity to see quite a few districts in WA, I intensely disliked the frequent changes in schools.

My final year of Primary School was at Kalgoorlie followed by three years at the Eastern Goldfields High School, which was responsible for me achieving a Junior Certificate. Following a short stint with a local transport firm (4 days) I returned to school until a job with the National Bank became available.

Two years later I was posted to Kojonup, met an attractive young lady whose parents took me into the family and in 1955 whilst working in Boddington, Eve and I married.

Bank service was interrupted in 1952 via an "invitation" from the Government to do three months National Service Training. Upon completion of this three months military training, I went back to the bank and received a number of postings, including Boddington.

In 1966 whilst at Claremont branch I was appointed Manager at Goomalling and subsequently at Williams. We returned to Perth in 1972 and I worked in the metro area in various appointments until 1987 when I was offered and accepted early retirement from the bank.

I subsequently continued working at various jobs, interspersed with occasional travel, until 1997 when full time retirement appealed.

In my working married life we have met and maintained a great number of friends throughout the state, raised four children (2 boys and 2 girls) and are now blessed with 8 grandchildren who keep us young but quite often tired.

In September 1991, I was introduced to woodturning by Alan Giddings and became a member in that year. It is a move neither of us have regretted and has resulted in a significant expansion in our circle of friends both from a social fellowship and skills respect.

We look forward to many more years of participation in the activities of WAWA.