

PROFILE OF A TURNER

Margaret Young grew up in Melbourne, and after leaving school completed a four-year apprenticeship to hairdressing, which in those days included making all the products used in the salon, as well as scalp and face massage, face packs and manicures which are now regarded as a separate career altogether.

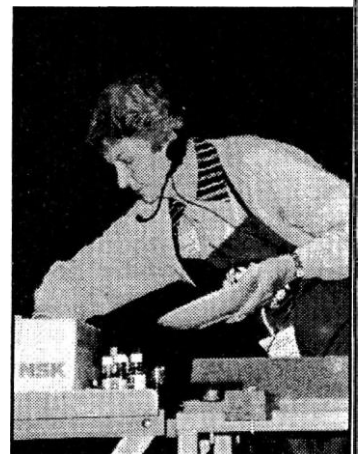
On finishing her apprenticeship, she worked for some time as relieving manager around the state before opening her own business in Melbourne.

Around this time Margaret married a Merchant Navy Officer and spent part of the time living in England and Ireland while company ships were being built on the Clyde, later coming home on the new ship's delivery run.

An opportunity came to open a hairdressing business in Lae in New Guinea - the only one in the territory. This was just before independence, and all the colourful characters of the region were still there. There were no roads and to go from Lae to Wau and Bulolo one drove along the mountain ridge with huge drops on either side.

Returning to Melbourne Margaret decided on a change of career and became a Technician in the Kodak research laboratory close to where she lived.

Margaret's introduction to WA was a 1.000.000 acre cattle station in the West Kimberley on what is now called the Gibb River Road. Housing was rather primitive with a gap between floor and walls, so that at the onset of the "wet", all the livestock, including scorpions, spiders and frogs, moved inside out of the rain. Power was 32 volt from 5.30 to 7.30 morning and evening and cooking could be done on either a wood stove of gargantuan proportions which took a half a ton of wood to heat - not only the oven but the entire house to a crisp, or a wire cake rack balanced on three bricks outside the back door. The latter usually won.



Coming south to Perth Margaret went to work again for Kodak, this time as lab supervisor, later transferring to the service division as a camera repair technician. While working for Kodak Margaret went to night classes to study pottery and became so interested, she gave up her job and went to Perth Tech full time for the next four years, completing the diploma of advanced ceramics, afterwards working as a full-time potter from her studio at home and teaching night classes at Perth Potters Club of which she was president.

This led to woodturning because wood and clay go so well together. Margaret found it difficult to get lids etc turned just as she wanted them, so decided to do it herself. Margaret was fortunate to have Vaughn Richmond for her teacher. The time spent at pottery and design were a great help when it came to shape and decoration.

These days pottery has been overtaken by turning and the WAWA weekend workshops have been a wealth of information not to mention the friendships which have developed over the years, along with the knowledge that if a turning problem arises, the answer is only a phone call away.

In the future Margaret hopes to devote more time to turning, along with her other interests like spinning, weaving and lead lighting.