

PROFILE OF A TURNER

Milton Rundle attended the first meeting of WAWA in September 1985 at McQueen's Caravan Park Eneabba. He and 17 others (and 9 apologies) decided to incorporate the Association. He is thereby one of our foundation members and his number is 13. A year later he was elected to the Committee and has served continuously since holding office as both Secretary and Treasurer.

Born at Kununoppin in the eastern wheatbelt Milton spent his youth in Kalgoorlie. Eastern Goldfields High School introduced him to woodturning. He says it took him several weeks of manual art classes to make a circular breadboard only to see one of the instructors turn one up in minutes.

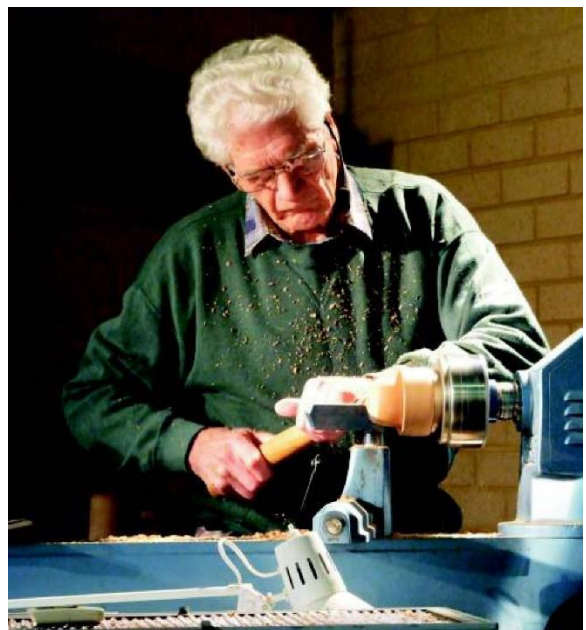
Milton's interest in wood continued with his first job as office boy at Millar's Timber Company in Kalgoorlie. He attended trade apprentice classes at night school for a couple of years learning theory and practical skills in woodworking. At this time, he applied his skills to some "very amateur furniture and toymaking" using the rather less sophisticated hand tools available to him in those days.

He went to Darwin for six years in the 1950's and he returned to marry Norma at Kalgoorlie on 16 August 1952. Two years later they moved back to Kalgoorlie where Milton worked in retail grocery, the District Hospital and then the Kalgoorlie Town Council.

Back to night school and Milton qualified in accounting. This led to his promotion to Assistant Town Clerk of Kalgoorlie and later to be Shire Clerk in Narembeen. In 1966 he became Assistant Town Clerk in the City of Perth and he held that post until his retirement in 1994.

Milton and Norma had three sons, Cliff, Stephen and Peter and they now have seven grandchildren. They are active in their Church and Milton was a King Scout and Scout Master of the City Beach Troop. During a 1983 holiday in New Zealand Milton saw displays of wood turning that really kindled his interest. On his return to Perth, he bought a second-hand Tough lathe and enrolled with TAFE at Vic Park. The class of 12 had two lathes and the instructor was a fitter and turner. Soon after he met Keith McQueen at the Royal Show...

Milton's administrative skills contributed a great deal to the sound establishment of the Association and to the smooth management we all enjoy today. He has been Treasurer since 1986 and was both Secretary and Treasurer in 1988 and 1989. He was closely associated with the two Exhibitions of Excellence promoted by WAWA and with the display as part of the Bi-Centenary Exhibition.



In 1993 Milton received the well-deserved honour of Life membership of the Association. He strongly supports the Association and its objectives and sees its strengths as a great hobby/pastime with weekend workshops giving a great opportunity for learning and for social contact with many partners participating. The willingness of the more skilled members to share their knowledge is another strong feature. Milton will retire from office with much goodwill and thanks from us all for a job well done.

Extract from Newsletter issue 150 dated June/July 2010

Observations Wandi WEWS July 2010

Milton Rundle took the stage to demonstrate how to turn fruit. He first showed a stand with various types of fruit, including apples, pears and bananas.

Milton used the clear plastic centre finder then mounted a block of cedar on the lathe and cut a spigot; this was fastened in the chuck. He then shaped the top of the apple and after sanding finished with shellac sealer, tripoli and sellawax cream. Milton then fitted the top of the apple into a special holding jig to shape and finish the bottom. There are various options to make the stem using either wire or turning a wood stem. The black spot on the bottom can be made from a small piece of bootlace. A pear was then made in a similar manner to the apple. Milton described that he used real fruit for his patterns and natural wood such as she-oak or jarrah, some lighter woods can be stained to obtain a natural look, lemons and oranges are also made in a similar manner. Milton explained that making bananas was different as they came in all shapes and sizes although 180mm long with several flats on the sides, he describes several different techniques involving discs, faceplates or Cole jaws but basically cutting the wood halfway through to make a circle then reversing and cutting through. This circular solid tube shape can be cut to make four bananas ready for finishing and painting.

Extract from Newsletter issue 166 dated May/June 2013

Observation from Melville WEWS March 2013

Milton Rundle demonstrated turning of a Saueracker Shell.

J.E.H. Saueracker was an outstanding ornamental turner, who lived in Germany and died in 1942 aged 87. His work was destroyed during WW2, but documents remained. The shell is described in "Woodturning Methods" by Mike Darlow. The procedure is quite complicated and involved several diagrams, and consequently it is suggested that in the interest of accurate reporting of Milton's demonstration, members refer to Darlow's book, which is available from our library.