

PROFILE OF A TURNER

While **Nancy Launer** may not be a turner in the usual sense of the word, she has been granted that status by the award of a Life Membership of WAWA. As our new editor it seemed to the writer that members would wish to know about someone who has made a big contribution to WAWA in her own right not just as the spouse of one of our foremost turners.

Born in Busselton Nancy moved to Rosa Brook soon after. She was the eldest of 8 children and soon found responsibility around the farm. Her mother's ill health brought Nancy more responsibility as she became head cook and bottle washer and also learned the skills of hand milking. Demands of the family cut short her schooling one week after her 14th birthday. She did not want to leave but that sort of responsibility was thrust on young people in those days.

After leaving home Nancy became house maid on a dairy farm, eventually becoming its manager as it changed from dairy to beef cattle, sheep and racehorses. These were her favourites, the work including some training but also breeding and preparing for yearling sales.

Demands of the farm led Nancy to learn welding, mechanics, and veterinary skills. In all she spent 24 years on that farm.

After the property was sold Nancy met Brian and married in 1968. They spent 3 years in Perth where Nancy learnt the art of making lamp shades working for a manufacturer.

Nancy and Brian then purchased their own farm at Rosa Brook. It was a sheep farm and they agisted racehorses. Diversifying, they started a new industry for the district by growing vegetables and Nancy showed her versatility by becoming a truck driver for taking the produce to the markets.

Fourteen years ago, Brian suffered a heart attack forcing them to sell up and move to Busselton to live and that is when they entered the world of Woodturning.

The WAWA citation says, "WAWA confers upon your Life Membership in grateful acknowledgement and recognition of the tremendous contribution made by you". This followed a period of 2 years October 1990 to September 1992 while Nancy was Secretary to the Management Committee of WAWA. Travelling to and from meetings in Perth Nancy must have used the time to think up many bright ideas about the organisation of WAWA and how it might do even better. She provided invaluable support to our Late Past President Cyril Jones, another resident of Busselton while he was President. One beneficial task was the typing and updating of the Convenors Handbook.

Nancy showed a flair for presentations and has been actively involved in exhibitions. She has travelled extensively with Brian to interstate and overseas exhibitions, expos etc. She has been successful in attracting some of them to the West including Del Stubbs from the USA, Michael Hosaluk from Canada and Stephen Hughes from Melbourne. And now she is Editor! Good on you Nancy we expect a great job.