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PROFILE OF A TURNER

Robin Halbert grew up on a farm in Cunderdin. Went to primary school at a little bush school erected by parents of the pupils but staffed by the Education Department. He attended Wesley College as a boarder for five years and left after obtaining his leaving certificate.

While at school, Robin started a merino stud which is still operating today after fifty-three years. He went home on the farm and was active in what then was known as the Junior Farmers. Won two trips to the Eastern States and in 1953, was selected to do six months exchange in the United States. Last year Robin made a nostalgic trip back to the places he had been in during 1953. Robin was State President of Junior Farmers in 1955. He went farming on his own account in Tammin and in partnership with his mother at Doodlakine on part of her property. At school Robin had always liked accountancy and in 1970 he enrolled full time at what was then W.A.I.T. (now Curtin University) and qualified as an accountant while still running the farm.

Originally, he thought that the qualification would be useful in the changes he saw happening in agriculture. As it happened, the opportunity arose to go into public practice, and he has been there ever since.

When their youngest son decided to go farming, they sold out in Tammin and Doodlakine and bought a property at Eneabba. There was still 5000 acres to clear and it gave him the opportunity to achieve a great deal on his own. For eighteen years Robin was on the Council of Penross College, and for some years as Treasurer and later as Chairman. Robin greatly enjoyed being involved with education at that level.

Robin's introduction to woodturning came about through his friendship with Keith Johnson and Len Nicholls. While he has little enough time to do a great deal of turning, Robin finds it most enjoyable and sometimes even relaxing. He greatly appreciates the companionship at the weekend workshops and the many friends in different fields that he has made since being involved with WAWA. Robin was Editor of our newsletter for a number of years.