

PROFILE OF A TURNER

Ron Goodson has been a member of WAWA since the second meeting, well known for his many demonstrations, particularly on aids to decorative turning. He is also well known for his grandfather clocks which entail carpentry and joinery, turning and carving plus the fitting of the clock works.

Ron's great grandparents came to WA in 1842 arriving at Australind on the "Trustee". Ron was born at Wellington Mills in the Southwest of WA where his father was assistant manager. They moved to Mornington Mills, but the Great Depression in early 1930's forced closure of the mills. His father then bought a dairy farm at Harvey. Ron worked with his father on the dairy farm and combined this with small building work until the outbreak of World War 11.

Ron joined the 2/10th Armoured Regiment and served in Grant and Stewart tanks as a wireless operator gunner. By the end of the war, he had obtained his commission.

Under a post war rehabilitation scheme, he completed a course in carpentry and joinery and then worked as a journeyman for some eight years. During this time, he bit by bit, made 13500 cement bricks (due to the shortage of cement this took some time), with which he built his own home in Harvey. This home was eventually sold to the Medical Department and is still in use as the residence of the Harvey Hospital Secretary.

Ron's first wood lathe was made by an aircraft fitter and turner in Harvey. It was exceptionally well made and is very likely still in use after many years of service.

Ron next decided to undertake academic studies and, after obtaining his leaving certificate, joined the Education Department as a Manual Arts teacher on supply. In 1958 he graduated from Claremont Teachers College and was posted back to Harvey Agriculture Senior High School where he taught for eight years.

In 1966 Ron applied for and was granted a Colombo Plan appointment to the Singapore Training College. Together with other Plan officers, he supervised the installation into 17 secondary schools of the \$4,000,000 worth of machinery supplied by the Australian Government. He then initiated a training scheme for Singaporean teachers to use this equipment.

After returning to Australia, he taught at various Metropolitan Schools until appointed to the Nedlands Teachers College of Advanced Education later to become part of the Edith Cowan University. Under his stewardship, many mature age students with industrial experience were trained to become Manual Arts Teachers.



During his time, he attended a Plastics course at Norwood Senior High School in Adelaide with the aim of introducing plastics into WA schools through the Teacher Training Scheme.

Ron initiated courses in Freeform, Wood Carving, Marquetry and Wood Turning. He compiled the associated textbooks to complement these courses. At Nedlands, In-Service courses were run to re-in force these subjects and to assist their introduction into secondary schools. After 14 years as a lecturer in Woodworking subjects, Ron retired. Sadly, Manual Arts is no longer given the emphasis he believes it deserves.

Ron is greatly respected in WAWA as both a demonstrator and as one who is only too happy to share his vast knowledge and experience with any who care to ask. An expert in sharpening tools, he has appeared in a video produced by WAWA, and this is available on loan to members who wish to learn more of this important part of woodturning or woodworking.

He greatly enjoys the social and practical aspects of our Association, and his contribution is greatly valued.

Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 78

Life Membership

Ronald Goodson - 87

Ron Goodson, the Association of Woodturners of Western Australia honours you and confers upon you Life Membership in recognition of the outstanding contribution you have made to the Association.

Ron Goodson was born at Wellington Mill and spent his formative years in the southwest timber country and the dairying area of Harvey, where he became involved in the building trade and industry.

During the 1939-45 War, Ron obtained a Commission serving with the 2/10 Armoured Regiment, and post war, under the Rehabilitation Scheme, formalised his training as a carpenter and joiner. It was in this era that Ron was initiated into wood turning on a lathe made in Harvey.

Ron's desire to improve his knowledge and skills - and we have all seen many examples of his achievements - led him to undertake further studies and he subsequently graduated to teach manual arts. Under his guidance, many mature age students with industrial and trade experience became Manual Arts Teachers.

In addition to teaching at various schools and metropolitan colleges, Ron assisted, under the Colombo Plan, to introduce formal technical training in Singapore.

Is it any wonder that Ron, with his wood working skills, which include carving and marquetry, joined the Association, and so freely demonstrated, showing by his skills and expertise, and how the basic item may be embellished and beautified.

Ron is a stalwart of the Melville Group, always supporting its activities, and served two years as Convenor of the Group. He is a great supporter of the Shopping Centre exhibition group.

Ron Goodson is a great all-round wood worker - Jacobean Twist Model - and we honour you as a Life Member of the Association. Presented 1998

Extract from Newsletter issue 151 dated Dec 2010

VALE

Life member number 87

Ron Goodson passed away September 28th 2010

It has been my honour and pleasure to have a professional association with Ron over the past 52 years, first as a fellow student at Claremont Teachers College during 1958 and then as a close colleague at Nedlands College for around 12 years from 1975, in addition to our time as Members of the Melville Group of WAWA.

He was an individual of the highest integrity, commanded great respect, was highly skilled as a craftsman and as a teacher. He had a phenomenal work ethic, his output of turning and carving, marquetry, general woodworking projects and Grandfather clocks (think in terms of 47 Grandfather Clocks). Over the years we had many discussions and a few differences, but one could never argue with his final judgement.

I would like to offer the following as a tribute to Ron Goodson.

“The work of their craft shall speak for them,

In the things that their hands have made,

If his heart is pure and his hands sure,

The craftsman knells and prays.”