

## **PROFILE OF A TURNER**

**Roy Harris** was born in Bunbury in 1935. He left school just before his 14th birthday and started work at Haywards store as a delivery boy until he was able to get an apprenticeship with a local building company as a fibrous plasterer. It was here that he learned all the different trades in the building game. In 1953 he left Bunbury and went to Perth to work for Celoyds working on large buildings in the CBD.

He was called up to do his National Service in the army. After completing his 3 months training, he was posted to Brigade Headquarters intelligence section to serve his time in the CMF.

After a year in Perth, he transferred to Canberra to work in the plastering trade building houses and government office blocks to house the public servants moving to the capital from Melbourne and Sydney. While in Canberra he joined the Werrima Regiment as Intelligence Officer, A Company where he rose to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. As well he attended night school at Canberra University to study Mechanical Engineering. After a quick trip home, he returned to Melbourne for 9 months before going back to Canberra. He then moved up to Sydney to work and continue his studies at Sydney University. While in Sydney, he was posted to the University Regiment in the intelligence section before being discharged in 1959.

Needing a break, he headed out west where he shot kangaroos for skins before moving into S.A. to a station called Quinyambie in the Strzelecki desert to shoot rabbits for a living. In 11 months, 6 teams of shooters took 2 million rabbits off the property.

He returned home in May 1960 and joined a sand mining company at Capel where he helped design and build machines to separate the different minerals. His main job was to design a machine, build it in miniature, get it to work properly then scale it up to full size and build that machine ready for production. It was while working on these designs that he learned how to turn on a metal lathe making his own patterns for the castings of these machines.

After leaving the sand mining, he joined a local building company who were opening up a concrete block manufacturing plant and he designed and built a sand screening plant for them, then went on to design and build the different block moulds to fit machines they had bought. In the 11 years Roy was with Modulars he helped to design a fully automatic block machine using hydraulics and industrial computers.

After leaving Modular Bricks Roy bought his first business, a service station/deli/news agency/post office. He sold this in 1983 then bought a video shop. After 2 years he bought the deli next door for his wife Maureen to run. He sold the video shop in 1988 then concentrated on running the deli until he sold that and retired.

It was in the last year in the deli that he ran into the Bunbury Group in the local shopping centre where they were demonstrating and selling. The bug bit him again and knowing most of the Bunbury boys he went and bought himself a Woodfast 908 and tried his hand out and ran into trouble straight away as he was trying to turn as you do on a metal lathe. After a quick lesson from John Shinnick it was all go, go, go.

Roy loves to judge other turners' work and enjoys imparting his skills and knowledge to anyone who seeks his advice and help. A very uneventful life.