



## The Woodturners Association of Western Australia (Inc)

### *Eneabba Award*

Rudy Goh - 2288

**Eneabba Award:** Rudy Goh, member 2288, joined the Gosnell's Group at the beginning of February 2008. Since that date he has embraced wood turning with great enthusiasm and has become a significant contributor to his group and to the WAWA membership as a whole.

His catch cry 'happy with that' has become the signpost for the application of great skill and imagination in the production of eye-catching high-quality objects. In the beginning, Rudy's skills were developed in collaboration with other more experienced WAWA turners who freely shared their knowledge, often in their own workshop. And that was richly returned. It wasn't long before Rudy began to share his growing skills with a wider audience, initially at group level but very quickly through weekend workshops and, before long, with disadvantaged groups and communities in Asia. His great success in these activities was based on careful preparation and a clear and confident presentation that detailed the technical aspects of the turning in terms which everyone could follow and understand, all the while embellished with Rudy's understated and gentle sense of humour. WAWA Newsletters document some of Rudy's contributions. Take this example from Newsletter issue 156, June



2011, Rudy's first demonstration to the Gosnells group: On the 29th of June Rudy Goh demonstrated his prize-winning technique in turning a cake stand. Rudy was well prepared.

He showed us the glass stand he had used as a model along with the two copies he had made, explaining that the stand would have three parts: a base, a stem and the top. Rudy made the base first, drilling a 35 mm hole to fit the chuck jaws and later to hold the stem. Rudy then completed the base until 'he was happy with that'. Next, he turned the stem to a pattern that he marked out and fitted into the base until 'he was happy with that'. The top was made in similar method to the base and after fitting to the stem, Rudy proclaimed 'I'm happy with that'. Judging from the applause that he received from the audience, they were also happy with that. Throughout the demonstration Rudy provided a detailed explanation of his work. This was his first time and the group look forward to many more. Rudy's contribution to demonstrations fuelled his desire to get more knowledge. This was partially fulfilled when he with his wife Mang became WAWA's librarians, a role they carried out for three years. He also joined the WAWA Committee of Management over this period which also heralded a reinvigoration of the turning competition which had been starting to lose interest among members, particularly from country groups. Rudy started demonstrating at the weekend workshops of the non-urban groups in 2012, beginning with Manjimup but, in time, including Mandurah, Bunbury, Busselton and Collie. He believed that WAWA needed to support these groups which were small and often lacked the confidence to compete and did so by demonstrating things that promoted interest in woodturning, developed skills, and built confidence to the point where participants were willing to submit entries to WAWA competitions. Often this meant staying one or two days and holding small workshop sessions or picking up entries to take to competition

Rudy has taken the view that he was encouraged from his very first involvement to try things and was supported by positive comments and suggestions to try things out in a different way if what he was doing did not work out. This is a view he has worked very hard to pass on. The result has been that his impact on the groups he worked with has been very great. They are vibrant and well-functioning and make a major contribution to WAWA activities. Rudy's impact has not been confined to groups of course but includes his own family. His daughter Nat, in a very short period, developed very high artistic and turning skill and became a vibrant demonstrator with Rudy. Enabling others to develop their potential is a common theme. How to stimulate interest in woodturning is captured in a Newsletter number 172 report: Rudy explained that to influence young people to take an interest in woodturning you have to do something different, such as triple axis turning, and showed an example of four figures fitted to a stand. ... Rudy explained that you are only limited by imagination and can form a barbershop quartet or any other gathering. Rudy displayed skill combined with humour to produce a memorable demonstration. In more recent demonstrations, an elegance and simplicity of object with a real 'wow' factor has figured, such as butterflies with wings made from thin burl slices, a log cabin, turned spoons using hollowing methods and split turning, decorating with string painting, willy wagtails and ibis' birds. The common threads for all these demonstrations are (1) that they are something that can be done by turner at any level of skill and (2) can give great pleasure to the maker, recipient or teacher with simple tools and methods. There are no doubt members who have seen these demonstrations have experienced Rudy's enthusiasm, skill and generosity of sharing his knowledge. Rudy's involvement in WAWA is a great example of how an individual can have a positive impact on the wellbeing of others by freely giving his ideas, showing how to do things with a good manner and attitude. Rudy has also derived much pleasure from this giving and here is a message for all of us: the act of helping others has long term positive benefits for both the recipient and the giver.