

Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 173 dated July/August 2014

Wandi Woodturner **Allan Miller**, centre, says his mates Andy Phillips, Dorothy Seeman, Russell Potter, Robin Campbell and Graham Lewis have been instrumental in changing his life for the better.

Stroke victim's life takes turn for good.

A few simple tools and some kind words from his mates were all it took to change the life of stroke victim Allan Miller.

The Wandi Wood Turners member said he had a new lease on life since group leader Graham Lewis embarked on a mission to fund a specially designed lathe, chair and hand tools, to help Mr Miller carve a specially designed walking stick and backscratcher, as well as other creative pieces.



Mr Miller said there was no question Mr Lewis' dedication to securing thousands of dollars in funding had changed his life for the better.

"I look forward to every Tuesday now, because I can come down here, work on my things and see my mates," Mr Miller said. "Graham is our leader. If I didn't have this, I wouldn't be getting up too much. My wife is really impressed."

Mr Lewis, who has been heading up the group at the Wandi Progress Association for more than six years, said Wandi Woodturners now had the capacity to accept others who may face physical challenges. He said Mr Miller had learned new techniques and felt he had renewed purpose. "Allan is doing very well — we now have great facilities at the group, thanks to help from MP Ken Wyatt," Mr Lewis said.

Mr Miller said he had once had a penchant for woodturning and rediscovered the craft last year, seven years after a serious stroke left him immobile and unable to use his right hand.

He said his wife Vickie encouraged him to take up the hobby and he had not looked back.

Article by Arran Morton appearing in the Sound Telegraph News Wednesday 7th May 2014.