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## **VIC WOOD**

Western Australian Woodturners have been privileged over the past three weeks to have Vic Wood, one of Australia's premier turners and educators, demonstrating and teaching to groups.

Vic Wood was born in Melbourne and educated in Dandenong. He trained as an Art and Craft teacher doing grades 1 and 2 Woodturning and grades 1,2,3 and 4 in Cabinet Making and completed a fellowship in gold and silversmithing.

Vic taught in high schools in Victoria and was then seconded to a tertiary institution to train teachers. After a period of secondment the position was made permanent, and he remained for 12 years.

In 1982 Vic went full time turning, conducting intensive woodturning courses as well as marketing his work and competing in National Craft Exhibitions. He has won several awards including the Marbut Gunnerson Wood Award, Kraft National Wood Award and 2nd and 3rd in stand for them. National Woodturning Awards.

While in WA Vic has conducted a summer school in Albany for two weeks, judged and given a critique at the Denmark Woodturners exhibition. He then gave a full day's demonstration at the WAWA January weekend and conducted two-day workshops at both Bunbury and Perth.

Vic has found the WA groups both attentive and very interested to learn as well as totally co-operative. He finds the standard of turning here to be of a high quality but feels that there is a lot to be learned in finishing. He also believes that more attention needs to be paid to design. He suggests that turners can learn a great deal by copying designs that have worked, e.g., Richard Ratfan's designs. He made the point that it takes 7 to 15 years to be recognised as a professional.

We have benefited greatly from Vic's visit, and all appreciated the diversity of techniques and methods which were so well demonstrated. In April, Vic will be spending 8 weeks in USA and Canada, both demonstrating and attending various conferences to do with woodturning. This gives a measure of the standing Vic Wood has in the woodturning world.