

Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 140 dated February/March 2009

It is fitting that the Woodturners Association of Western Australia confers an Award of Merit on **Mick Johnson**. 2008

Mick is one of the early members of the Bunbury Woodturning Group, having joined the Association on 14<sup>th</sup> of April 1997.

Mick has always been a hard and willing working member and has always been a Committee Member of the Bunbury Group. He is always keen to promote Woodturning and the Association.

Mick was one of the people instrumental in obtaining the Bunbury Woodturners Trailer. He has continued to be the main carer and now does all the towing and maintenance of the van.

Mick's work is exceptional and is of a very high standard in Design, Accuracy, Finish and Presentation. He is known for his superior finishes and is always teaching us how to achieve it.

Congratulations Mick on your achievements and the recognition of the Woodturners Association.

Mick Johnson - Always There – Always Willing – Always Helping. **The Quiet Achiever**



Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 182 dated January/February 2016

## *Life Membership* **Clifford Raymond (Mick) Johnson - 302**

In accordance with section 6(1) of the Woodturners Association of Western Australia, I propose that the following member be honoured with life membership of the Association.

Mick was a founding member of the Bunbury Group at its inception on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1987.

Mick has served the group in the following capacities:

- Convenor 1994 to 1995
- Vice-convenor 2008 to 2009
- Committee member from commencement to the present

A picture painting a thousand words—Mick Johnson of Bunbury Group receiving his Life Membership at Busselton, November 2014



He was instrumental in obtaining the Bunbury Woodturners trailer and, since its arrival, has been the principal caretaker of the trailer in ensuring that it has been maintained in a roadworthy condition and fit for use by the group. Mick is also the principal tower and housekeeper for the group's trailer.

Mick is a staunch supporter of the group and the ethos of the woodturning fraternity. He is always available and on hand to assist at workshops, functions, busy bees, sales days and demonstrations.

Mick has an extensive knowledge of timber, turning techniques and finishes that he freely passes on to other members. He will go out of his way to source timber for and provide assistance with projects.

Amongst many endeavours, Mick, with others, was responsible for the design and creation of the lectern presented to the City of Bunbury Mayoral Office.

It has significant historical value to Bunbury as it was made from timber salvaged from the old Bunbury Jetty.

Mick stands tall among his peers in his dedication to woodturning, his generosity, his selflessness, his humour and dedication to Bunbury and WAWA. He is eminently deserving of this award.

Presented 2014

Extract from WAWA Newsletter issue 216 dated May/June 2021

## **PROFILE OF A TURNER**

### **CLIFFORD RAYMOND “MICK” JOHNSON**

Mick was born 1<sup>st</sup> August 1932 at Sunnyside, a farm alongside the Blackwood River, just outside Bridgetown. The 368-acre property was hand cleared with horse teams by Mick's father. In those early days they farmed “a bit of everything”, milking 30 cows – separating the milk to produce cream for sale and using the milk to feed the pigs they raised. Milking the cows was Mick's job until, at the age of 14 or 15 he left school and started working for a ploughing contractor.

When he obtained his driver's licence Mick widened his horizons and worked for a carrier for 2 or 3 years.

In 1954 Mick joined Mobil Oils and worked throughout the Southwest of WA working his way up from tanker driver to operations manager. He was responsible for unloading the bulk tankers that, not so long ago, delivered our fuel and gas to the ports of Albany and Bunbury. In 1985 our fuel went to being delivered by road and Mobil closed their operations.

Mick took on a variety of casual positions in Bunbury and expanded on his love of woodwork. Woodwork was his favourite subject in school, and Mick inherited his father's interest and skill in using his hands to build high quality objects. Mick's father was a coachbuilder (building horse drawn carriages) in Adelaide before moving to WA to clear his farm.

Mick married his childhood sweetheart Evelyn Britten from Collie, they have 3 daughters and celebrated 68 years of marriage on Easter Sunday 2021.

Mick remembers the start of WAWA and the Bunbury Group – he and Evelyn attended the Dowerin Field Day and saw a display and demonstration by Brian Launer. He was encouraged to fill in a form with his contact details and was soon contacted by John Shinnick who was living in Brunswick. Mick attended demonstrations and tutorials at Johns house for the first few years after which the Group progressed to meeting at the Brunswick Show Grounds and after a while the Group continued with their meetings being held at a business premises in Bunbury, an old house generously lent by a business owner, the Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School and now in our premises leased by Bunbury City Council. The Group was allowed to use the premises at the Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School in exchange for mentoring and helping interested students. Mick took on responsibility for transporting and storing the group's lathe and made sure it was driven to wherever the Group was meeting.

Mick's skills go way beyond turning – he is well known for the beautiful pieces of furniture he has crafted over the years – many commission pieces have pride of place in homes in Bunbury and far beyond. His problem-solving skills were put to the test when he crafted a collapsible cabinet that had to fit in a suitcase for transportation to England. Mick was also commissioned to make a lectern for the Bunbury City Council – which is in use in the Council Chambers – specially designed with a hollowed-out base for the speaker cables to travel through safely. Mick showed me many pieces of his work, but my favourite is a very special memorial piece. A clock turned from a walnut tree that was planted on the family farm to commemorate the birth of his sister in 1930. The trees were cut down and Mick made the clock in 2002 – it is a beautiful piece with a walnut as a finial.

Mick was made a life member of WAWA in 2014 – he continues to be an active and valuable member of our Group and still is first in line if the trailer and lathe need to be transported somewhere. Mick is a Clubman through and through and the Johnson family continue to acknowledge John Shinnick with the presentation of an annual trophy in his name to the Bunbury Groups' Most Improved Turner.

Finally, how did Clifford Raymond become "Mick"? When he was 6 or 7 the family acquired a cocoa tin with Mickey Mouse around the edge and Clifford kicked up such a fuss – he so wanted that tin – that the family gave him his new name, which he has been known by ever since.



*Mick Johnson*