

Brian Caplen - 2410 (B1)

Brian is one of the long-time members of Gosnells Woodturning Group with his membership going back to the time when the group was located in a community hall in Gosnells. It's been through several relocations since then, including the private hospital on Eudoria Street when it was abandoned and then to Southern River College. His WAWA number is 2410 so that goes back a fair way.

Brian joined when a couple of his neighbours invited him to come along with them. They eventually dropped off, but Brian stayed on.

Brian said he never intended to be a master of woodturning, but I suspect this is a little self-effacing. He has a determination to stick at things and get them to the best possible standard. Not only that, but he's also willing to give new things a try. He recently had a go at a three-sided vase and he had a crack at the copy lathe last week. There's a picture of him at the copy lathe below. He said to me, "All of a sudden something catches your eye and gives you a bit of inspiration." That's the perspective that results in improving your skills and outcomes with your work I reckon; it keeps you motivated and involved. Most woodturners don't have problems with this!



Brian has produced some really nice pieces. Have a close look at the pictures below - he's rightly proud of his work. Brian is one of several people I call 'Quiet Achievers' around the club. He'll be cleaning and organising the storeroom or tidying up around the kitchen area without drawing attention. And he'll move around the room offering advice, especially to beginners, in a helpful, encouraging way.

You might notice every morning Brian will go around and greet every person before he starts work; you might not notice but that's what he does. And he always has a beaming smile, and the room is a lot warmer because of it.

There was considerable anxiety generated when another Brian joined the club and Show and Tell had a lively discussion about how to manage the conflict, despite there being 4 Johns, 5 Roberts, 7 Ians and 4 Waynes. It was resolved the Brian C should be referred to as B1, and I should be referred to as B2. The labels have stuck, and the rest of the group have, generally speaking, been able to work with the distinction.

Brian, like many others in the group, is a migrant to Australia from the UK. He was born in the country not far out of the city of Portsmouth. He said he had no difficulty in his decision to move to Australia. He was 37 at the time and he and Maureen had two children.

When he left the UK, it was apparently 25 deg below, with a stop in Singapore, and a warm welcome with 42 deg when he arrived in Perth. I think I might have turned around and gone straight back but not B1.

Brian said that his learning and development was down to the generosity of mentors who helped him along including Ivan Moro, Chris Davis, John Gardiner, Owen O'Neill and Derek Beer as some standout individuals.

There are lots of pictures below of pieces that Brian especially treasures. Enjoy having a look.

