

George J Parke, Bunbury Member 1935

George started woodturning in the late 1980s (WAWA 1935). He absolutely loved wood, especially fruit wood, and pecan wood from pecan trees his father planted) and wood from Australian natives such as sheoak, jarrah, banksia and wandoo. His pieces ranged from jewellery boxes, pendants, pot pouri bowls and clocks to pepper grinders, candle stick holders and, at one stage which mercifully passed, coloured wood christmas tree-like things. But his real skill and passion was in creating unique artistic pieces, often with finials and segmented wood. His magnificent Hot Air Balloon, which was featured in an International woodturning magazine, was made of approximately 2000 individual pieces of wood, from ten different tree species. The lidded box with finial, which also featured in the magazine, was made using leftover laminations from the hot air balloon project. Dad carved his finials as a point of difference from others. And another completely random fact - one of Dad's segmented pepper grinders has even ended up on the kitchen benches of George Clooney!

Dad won 101 certificates from the WA Woodturners association for his work, many of them first prizes. Dad was most proud of his wins in the Popular Vote, because he regarded creating pieces that were most pleasing to the public as more important than an obsession with technical perfection (though he also did well in the Advanced category).

George's Life

Early Works

Segmenting

Lidded Bowls and Finials