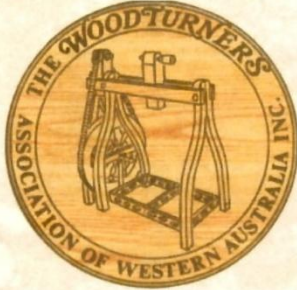




CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Barry Cobb



Barry has been a member of the Woodturners Association since 2003 and has recently retired from woodturning activities on account of health concerns.

Barry was born in Western Australia just as the country went to war in Europe. Growing up in the post war years would not have been without its challenges, but Barry has always been a man ready to respond to life's challenges.

At a young age Barry successfully applied for a job as a ringer on a station in the northwest. With little, if any experience, he quickly mastered skills in horsemanship and making damper and bush tea. Barry then switched from horses to horsepower in the form of motorcycles. He was a keen Motocross rider along with his sons. When his body told him it was time to stop inflicting unnecessary pain on himself he began calling the races instead of riding in them. His wife, Lesley, tells us that the patrons loved his gravelly voice although she has no idea why.

No doubt, as a young ringer Barry would have become familiar with guns. He was a good marksman and made the State team. He turned his hand to making rifle stocks and became skilled in the making and bedding of rifle stocks. This skill would no doubt have contributed to his later skill as a woodturner.

On leaving the North West of the State, Barry and the family moved to Mandurah. Barry worked as a draughtsman in the Postmaster General's Department where he demonstrated skills in penmanship and where he also spent time out in the field supervising. The family had a house with a small shed so Barry bought himself a small lathe and in 2003 joined the Mandurah woodturners group. Barry soon graduated to the Advanced Turners group, and his early work on Celtic knots became well known. He later transferred to the Wanneroo group, now known as the Northern Suburbs Group. When they were looking for a larger home, Barry told Lesley he wasn't bothered about the house as long as it came with a big shed - and it did, and a large Vicmarc lathe quickly followed. He has taught many of us the technique and skill involved in turning Celtic Knots and many such decorated pens and other objects have been turned by our members since.

In recent years Barry has been limited by health difficulties. Over the years he has always been generous with his knowledge and skills, giving his time to help less experienced members. He recently donated his extensive collection of library material to the branch. Sadly, this year Barry took the difficult decision to sell his lathe and equipment, an acknowledgement that it was time to stop woodturning. Barry is a colourful, generous character with a dry sense of humour and a big heart. The Association has benefited from his presence and membership over many years. We thank you Barry, and hope you will stay in touch with us.

President E. Buzchell
Northern Suburbs Group
18 October 2025

Secretary B.W. North
Northern Suburbs Group