

NORTHERN TURNERS

The Northern Turners celebrated their tenth year in February 2003. When searching through my records, I discovered the following interesting facts about its formation:

- the first official contact with Golden Grove High school was a letter from Andy Smylie on Nov. 13th 1992 seeking approval to use the workshops. I was Technology Studies Coordinator at the time and was enthusiastic about the concept, and had further discussion with Andy and Dick Pillar.
- An Official Agreement was signed on February th 1993.
- On Feb 9th, a General Public Meeting was held at the Tea Tree Gully Civic Centre, at which 70 interested people attended. Not all were interested in wood turning and it was reported that several would have been interested in wood carving. Dick Pillar chaired the meeting and established some of the principles for the new group.
- A practical workshop was held on Sat Feb. 13, with demonstrations by Dick Pillar, Neville Sanders and Bruce Elix.
- The first scheduled regular meeting was held on Sat Feb. 27. We have continued to meet on the last Sat of the month.



When looking at our current membership list it is quite noticeable that many members at that inaugural meeting are still very active. The photograph of the meeting in the workshop was taken in the early days (probably in 1994).

The Northern Turners have always been a very active group. We have been fortunate to have many members who are always willing to be involved in activities. We have always planned a years program of demonstrations with active and cheerful support of members such as:- Dick Pillar, Tim Skilton, Roger Humphris, Neville Sanders, Brian Fraser, Ron Adams, Mal Wameke etc. Additionally, regulars like George Reeves, Leo Gaskin and Alf Woolley have always supported Craft Shows. Many of our newer members have provided support over the past two years.



Through the Original contacts of Trevor and Kath Bretag, the Northern Turners have planned and hosted two major visits by the Mildura Woodworkers. Both of these have been two day events. We have also reciprocated by alternating annually with trips to Mildura. We have also had a weekend visit to the Whyalla Woodies, and look forward to visiting the Copper Coast members in May next year.

We demonstrated at the Barossa Wood Show until its demise, and at the Herb Festival and Tea Tree Gully Craft Fairs. We have been involved with the Salisbury Craft Show for most years since 1996, including two separate events in 2003. We held two major Exhibitions at the Gallery of the Salisbury Council Offices. We have strongly supported activities planned by the Woodgroup generally. Over the past three years we have held annual competitions in three different grades. These have been very successful in challenging members skills in design and technique.

At our elections in October 2003, the following were elected.

Coordinator - Ron Allen,

Treasurer - Ken Allen,

Scribe - George Pastuch,

Members - Anne Kerr and Ron Adams

Ron Allen



Ray Young tries his hand at demonstrating