

SOUTHERN TURNERS

This is a hurried personal response to a request for information about the early days of the Southern Turners. I have had access to a list of names of early members and some of the first meetings undertaken. Early- members included:

Craig Aird, John Ashbee, Doug Bell, Alan Bolton, Patrick Browne, Andrew Davorens, Brian Dedman, Dave Dunn, Harry Ellison, Brian Foreman, Syd Homer, Bob Johnston, Reg King, Doug Lane, Doug Leaney, David Munsberg, Hans Noom, Ralph Nunn, Bob Page, Richard Pillar, Noel Playfair, Doug Riley, Bob Skinner, Jim Stephenson, Ivan Stockton, Bob Summerhayes, David Tulloch and Stuart Weymouth.

Of these, seven members still participate actively.

Briefly, I believe the Southern Turners came into existence through the initiative and drive of Richard Pillar, who saw a need for assisting novice turners to gain experience, encouragement and guidance from practising turners.

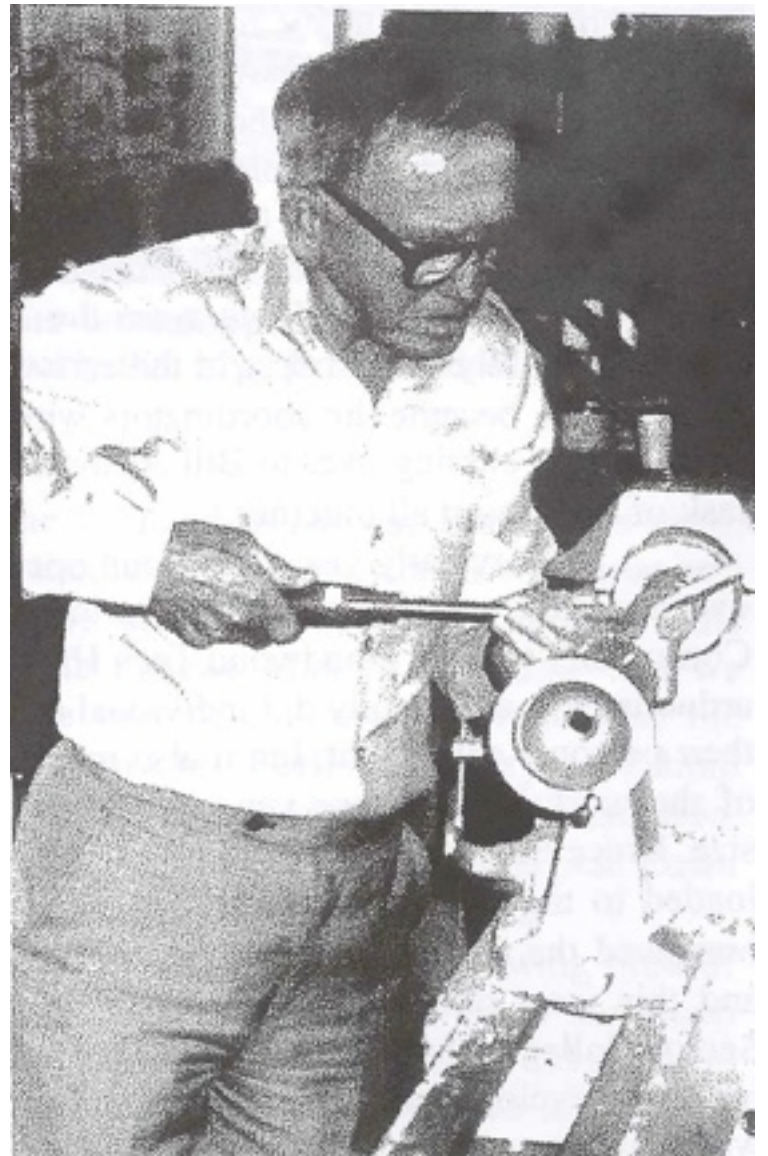
A pattern was developed whereby interested people (all men in the early days) could meet monthly in one another's workshops and share in the practice and art of wood turning. Interspersed with these mutually helpful activities (both successes and disasters - i.e. learning opportunities), were visits to tradesmen's workshops, wood gathering expeditions, sawmills and even a few caravan trips to more distant parts - the most memorable, to my mind, to Chriss Hortop's at Penola. A social camaraderie developed and wives joined in some social events and, of course, supplied modest afternoon teas.

We regularly entertained the public at the Willunga Almond Festivals from 1988 onwards, and occasionally at other public functions (Strathalbyn's penny-farthing race day and even at Carrick Hill). Trevor has educated and entertained us at his furniture workshop at Myponga several times. We also visited David Tulloch when he had his workshop at Woodside.

Noel Playfair

Southern Turners now meet on the first Saturday of the month in the Technology Studies Workshops at Aberfoyle Park High School.

The current Coordinator is Fred Wakefield.



Some early Southern Turners at work: Dick Pillar and Sid Horner