



The members of the Woodworkers of the Southern Peninsula are sad and mourn the passing of John Kremser. Our sincere condolences go to John's wife, Gerie, his 2 sons and their families.

Our friendships & experiences with John reflect that his life is one that should be celebrated.

Kremser is an Austrian/German name. John's father jumped ship back in 1902 and so he was born an Australian in Carlton in 1928.

Initially he went to school to Grade 9 and started life as a plumber. It was in later years when he obtained his engineering degree as he found mathematics & sciences much to his liking.

With his family John spent a number of years in Port Moresby & Lae, New Guinea, renovating army housing. He loved a challenge and would think about it until he had a solution. In a hot climate like New Guinea refrigeration was an issue so he set about demonstrating the making of refrigerators.

John & Gerie were very social always having a welcoming home. This extended to his relationships within WOSP as he was friendly and wanted to share his woodturning experiences with the session attendees.

John started woodturning in a time when there were not a lot of lathes or chisels available. So he took a vertical borer and turned it into a horizontal lathe. He made chisels out of old files after first heating them in an oven to temper them. He flattened & bent concrete nails so that he could capture timber rings. He used a car piston to make a device that would create a thread. Subsequently he made a timber nut which screwed onto a timber bolt and threaded lidded bowls.

Ernie Garro remembers it was in 2003 he & John joined the club and with Walter Kolon John immediately shared the responsibilities of a session leader. Within a couple of years John became the sole session leader and continued until his health started to slow him down in 2016. Within those 14 years John demonstrated he was



a thoughtful man with initiative, enthusiasm & energy, friendly and happy to share his knowledge.

He taught many people to turn timber. He wanted everyone to start with a written down plan. He said, "This way a person would always learn because what they ended up with was not always what they planned".

He did not fancy members making bread boards in his session. "We are here to turn timber", he would say.

John's 6 sided nipples was a project that showed his thoughtfulness & skill. He even chained together the stages so people could see how it was done. It is a project I have yet to see repeated at the club.



Besides woodturning he also loved carving.

Who can forget the mouse he carved on a door stop, his walking sticks or his bottle pourers. They are something yet to be repeated at the club.



He liked to challenge people to develop their skills. He guided me in making a kaleidoscope; a feat I never considered was possible.

He enjoyed the comradery of the club & encouraged all attendees

to know each other by always wearing their name tag.

The club was a big interest to John in his retirement and he was always present at functions and general meetings. Even though in 2017 John stopped tutoring he would regularly drop in for coffee & a chat with his Friday morning friends.

It was only in 2017 that WOSP started the best clubman award but if it had started a few years prior John would have been a worthy recipient.

His presence will be missed but he leaves us with a legacy of yet to be filled challenges. Thank you & farewell John.