

Robert McNamara – The Story of the Plaque

Just opposite our little library is a plaque in commemoration of Robert McNamara. Robert was a carpenter, then became a high-school teacher, then a wood turner. He taught wood turning at our Club and ultimately became its much-loved President.

After Robert died, many Club members joined together to design and make a memorial plaque, which has pride of place just opposite the book shelves. The plaque features a portrait of Robert taken from a photo of him demonstrating woodturning at an Australia Day demonstration. The Eucalyptus coolabah burl background is symbolic of the burl timber that Robert loved to turn on the lathe, to reveal the colours and intricate grain buried beneath the gnarled external surface. The Queensland White Beech is symbolic of the fact that Robert was in Queensland attending the turning expo when he died. The Celtic strap work incorporated into the border symbolises Robert's Celtic heritage.

(based on original tribute by Bryan Thompson)