

ABOUT RAY AND HIS HISTORY OF MAKING LAMP BASES

Meet Ray Donk a wood turner like no other in Australia. His lamps are sold exclusively to Wildwood Designs at 334 Victoria Road, Gladesville.

On deciding he wanted to make unusual lamp bases from old timber Ray was thrown out of TAFE the on the first day he enrolled because he turned up with a telegraph pole. Their machinery was too small to cater for timber like this.

Not one to be discouraged he went home and made his own lathe and cutting equipment to handle telegraph poles and the likes he collects from around Sydney and the north coast.

At any one time he has 800 pieces of timber drying in his backyard.

He is pictured here with his biggest Olive lamp yet. The tree this lamp is made from was 100 years old when it was cut down. Old olive this big is almost impossible to get hold of in Australia because no one cuts them down because they are still producing valuable olives.

Because of the oily nature of the tree, timber from an old olive tree is full of swirls and waves, perfect for making lamps. Ray says these pieces sat cut down dead for 6 years before he found them and have also been in his backyard waiting to be made into something for another 3 years.

Ray puts 10 coats of French polish on every lamp before he finishes them.

Ray is actually allergic to the dust he generates from making lamps out of Olive trees, but because he loves the end product he puts up

with the sinus he gets for days afterward....only to hit it again...and again.

Prices of Ray's lamps range from \$60 to \$3900. We have about 20 of his lamps for sale in our shop now.