

REMINISCENCES

Cliff Stevenson

I joined the Calligraphy Guild in the early 1980s when one of the first Calligraphy Exhibitions was being held in the Leederville Community Hall. This kindled an interest in me and later I enjoyed the monthly meetings and particularly the workshops which were held occasionally. It was here I met a kindly gentleman by the name of Cliff Stevenson. Cliff had been instrumental in the founding of the Guild in 1982, crucially supporting meetings to establish a name and objectives for the Guild, along with Eric Tristram and others, and he later took on the roles of Chairman and Vice President.

Cliff conducted several workshops. He was innovative, talented and creative. He introduced us to the art of writing with quills which he made himself. These were mainly from turkey feathers, others from a goose. He deftly showed us how to cut and pare the ends to obtain a good pen width. Cliff also made pens from reeds. They incorporated an ink reservoir he made from a sliver of tin which he cut from a coca cola can. I still have my reed pens he made and they are very effective to write with.

Another of Cliff's talents was working in wood. I somehow came into possession of a small carved toothpick holder he made and it stands today in its rightful place on my sideboard.

written by Jennifer Young

