

Hamilton Wood Turners Club

This is a hearty greeting to all members of the Hamilton Wood Turners Club. We are now half-way into the level four lockdown period so I thought an encouraging word would be a good idea. On Mondays, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings of the past two weeks I have been quite fidgety at about the time we would have had the club's lathes operating.

However I have been doing other Club thingies at home. We continue to hear positive messages about the need to stay at home in order to conquer the dreaded covid-19 devil. Great - let's do it - and wipe out the evil virus so we can get back to standing at our lathes making, creating, laughing, learning, sharing, showing and telling.

I'm also coping by spending bonus hours in my garden preparing for the next spring season tidying sheds and turning bowls and stuff too.

There's at least two more weeks for the LOCKDOWN period (it could be longer).

So..... I would be pleased to hear your stories and receive any photos of what projects you might have completed at home. email to: cdwilson@xtra.co.nz

I could then share these snippets with your fellow members by publishing newsletter specials.

Photos should be described with your name, wood variety and anecdotes about the making, finishing etc.

When? a.s.a.p. If I have enough material I could get a special out next week, Cheers **Clive**



LOCKDOWN TURNING ACTIVITY

Send me photos of
your lockdown turning
projects.

BURIED TREASURE - “Monsters of The Mud”

If there's one variety of wood that stirs up a bit of excitement with many wood turners it probably is the good old New Zealand **SWAMP KAURI**.

Why is that so you might ask? Surely there are heaps of other wood varieties that look just as spectacular as a bowl or platter or indeed any other turned project. Well, that may be correct BUT.... those alternative varieties are not easy to get.

My favourite woods are currently growing in Central America, South America and South Africa. Woods such as **Ebony, Blackwood, Pink Ivory and Cocobolo** are hugely expensive together with over-the-top freight costs. Thus I just have to dream sometimes.

SWAMP KAURI is comparatively cheap, iconic, as Kiwi as, historical, beautifully figured (mainly rootstock) and generally available from suppliers or you can go find some yourself.



Betcha it took more than five spades and some wheelbarrows to unearth this ancient KAURI monster.

Although used for generations by the Maori people (they used it as chewing gum, for lighting fires and tattooing) the Kauri Gum industry had its beginnings in 1814 when a trial shipment was sent to London by early European pioneers who were keen to export products back to their homeland. Although nothing became of that shipment and it was dumped in the Thames river it was the beginning of one of our largest founding industries.

As the Kauri trees grow they shed their bark and the gum adhering to the bark ended up around the base of the trees. Large quantities also collected in the crown where the branches joined. Many older trees are hollow inside and the gum that has collected in the crown can fall down inside the hollow trunk and collect at the base of the tree.



A lump of KAURI GUM



40,000 years in the making of this stunning slab of Swamp KAURI

A \$25,000 table top.
After the removal of loose- fitting bark inclusions, the holes were filled in using Kauri resin.



Swamp Kauri bowls like this beauty are regular examples of Kiwi turning preferences.



A swamp KAURI clock is now ready for a gift or a tourist's luggage to take back to Europe, Asia or the Americas.

Buried underneath farmland such as this one in Northland are numerous colossals of the mud, many of which are thousands of years old.
It's a massive undertaking to resurrect each majestic giant.
Maybe the rattle of dollars in the tin make it worthwhile.

