



# Tutor's Tidings

No 12 - Friday 10th April, 2015

*In case you are wondering where the TT for last week got to, well it wasn't published as it was taking an Easter break. Also just 6 members showed for last week's Tuesday session and the Thursday session was postponed.*

*OK, this week we are back to normal with Tuesday and Thursday turning sessions operating.*

*Daylight savings has finished for the year and there are just 259 days to Christmas. Wow!*

*This weekend is Showtime at the Claudelands exhibition centre .*

*Our Hamilton Woodturners' Club will be there for the duration of the show, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We have set up a display incorporating a working lathe where club members will be demonstrating the turning of small projects (pens, tops etc) Murray, our ever- busy president, with the valuable help of other club members, has worked hard to prepare our display stall to promote club activities and services.*



*The Club's display has been set up at the Claudelands exhibition centre by **MURRAY, PAUL** and **CLIVE**.*

*We are now ready to roll for the next three days.*

*Plenty for sale too!*

## TUESDAY TURNERS



*DAVE has just completed his Grecian style pot.*

*An interesting, eye-catching design and a high quality finish to a carefully made turning project.*

*Great care and a NEAGE philosophy underpin Dave's outstanding results.*



*MALCOLM's work just gets better with each turning. This project incorporated a textured band around the top rim. This feature added colour and contrast to the wood's smooth finish.*

*GARTH finishes his swamp Kauri (rootstock) using the Beale three-stage buffing system. When he gets home I reckon he's in for a heap of Brownie points for this snazzy project.*



**WOW!**





***JAN** is about to complete her sixth rubber stamp holder. Each time one of these is made Jan makes them quicker and better than the previous one. Goodonya Jan..*



***DAVID** is willing to have a go at new ideas. Here he is having a shot at making a paper letter opener using the club's guidelines for the project.*



***JAMES** finishes the session with a major spring clean of the sharpening bench and dust extractor corner. Many thanks James for taking special time to care for our workshop.*



*On Tuesday of this week we welcomed **GAIL** as a new club member. Gail will attend two Tuesday sessions during the school holidays then become the thirteenth fully-paid up club member of the Thursday turning group.*

***Thus the Thursday session is now at capacity membership - 13 lathes and 14 club members.***

# Trees of New Zealand

## Kōwhai



**Kōwhai** are small, woody legume trees in the genus *Sophora* native to New Zealand. There are **eight** species, *Sophora microphylla* and *S. tetraptera* being the most recognised as large trees. Their natural habitat is beside streams and on the edges of forest, in lowland or mountain open areas. Kōwhai trees grow throughout the country and are a common feature in New Zealand gardens. Outside of New Zealand, kōwhai tend to be restricted to mild temperate maritime climates.

The name kōwhai comes from the Māori word for yellow—a reference to the colour of the flower. The name is usually spelled as kōwhai but frequently without the macron, and is sometimes spelled kōhai in some areas.

Despite having no official status as such, the blooms of the kōwhai are widely regarded as being New Zealand's national flower.



### The 8 species of the kōwhai are:

- [\*Sophora chathamica\*](#), Coastal kōwhai
- [\*Sophora fulvida\*](#), Waitakere kōwhai
- [\*Sophora godleyi\*](#), Godley's kōwhai
- [\*Sophora longicarinata\*](#), Limestone kōwhai
- [\*Sophora microphylla\*](#), Small-leaved kōwhai
- [\*Sophora molloyi\*](#), Cook Strait kōwhai
- [\*Sophora prostrata\*](#), Prostrate kōwhai
- [\*Sophora tetraptera\*](#), Large-leaved kōwhai

Most species of kōwhai grow to around 8 m high and have fairly smooth bark with small leaves. *S. microphylla* has smaller leaves (5–7 mm long by 3–4 mm wide) and flowers (2.5–3.5 cm long) than *S. tetraptera* which has leaves of 1–2 cm long and flowers that are 3 cm–5 cm long.

The very distinctive, almost segmented pods, which appear after flowering each contain six or more smooth, hard, yellow seeds. These seeds can be very numerous and the presence of many hundreds of these distinctively yellow seeds on the ground quickly identifies the presence of a nearby kōwhai tree. Many species of kōwhai are semi-deciduous and lose most of their leaves immediately after flowering in October or November, but quickly produce new leaves. Flowering of kōwhai is staggered from July through to November, meaning each tree will get attention from birds such as tui, wood pigeon and bellbird.

The wood of kōwhai is dense and strong and has been used in the past for tools and machinery.



*Tui are very attracted to kōwhai and will fly long distances to get a sip of its nectar.*

## Cultivation

Kōwhai can be grown from seed or tip cuttings in spring and autumn. The hard, dark or bright yellow seeds germinate best after chitting and being soaked in water for several hours. They can also benefit from a several minute submersion in boiling water to soften the hard shell and then being kept in the same water, taken off boil, for several hours to soak up the water. Young kōwhai are quite frost tender, so cuttings or seedlings should be planted in their second year when they are 30 cm or higher.

If grown from seed kōwhai can take many years to flower, the number of years varies depending on the species.

*S. prostrata*, sometimes called "Little Baby", is used as a Bonsai tree. It grows up to two metres high, has zigzagging stems, and sparse smallish leaves.



## Dangers

All parts of the kōwhai, but particularly the seeds, are poisonous to humans. There, however, do not appear to have been any confirmed cases in humans of severe poisoning following ingestion of kōwhai in New Zealand.

## Traditional Māori use

Traditionally the Māori used the flexible branches as a construction material in their houses and to snare birds. The kōwhai flowers were a source of yellow dye.

Māori would also use the kōwhai tree as medicine. The bark was heated in a calabash with hot stones, and made into a poultice to treat wounds or rubbed on a sore back<sup>1</sup> or made into an infusion to treat bruising or muscular pains. If someone as bitten by a seal, an infusion (wai kōwhai) was prepared from kōwhai and applied to the wounds and the patient was said to recover within days.

## Tuesday and Thursday groups.

This week's demonstrations/tips and information included:

1. MALCOLM presented his now completed bowl that featured Dremel tool texturing. Another successful project!
2. COLIN, BRUCE, MAURICE and ANDRE` showed their completed paper knives.
3. Selecting the cut lines on a block of wood from a recently felled tree. (All turners)
4. Cutting round blocks to the correct length compared to the tree's diameter. (all turners)
5. Use of a square-tipped Easy Wood chisel.(Gail)
6. Mounting a small faceplate to an irregular-shaped surface such as a knobby burl. (Garth)
7. Using an oversize sanding arbor to remove stubborn stria (chisel marks) inside a large pot (James)
8. Operation of the dust extractor. (Jan)
9. How to use the club's new fluted parting chisel (Malcolm)
10. Deciding when to use an internal or external spigot. (Garth)
11. How to use left, right, and straight captured ring tools (Stephen)
12. Use of a Sorby roughing gouge (*Isaac*)



**COLIN** provides a helping hand to **ISAAC**, our new Thursday evening course member.



**STEPHEN'S** first venture into captive ring turning. (Took to it like an old hand at the job)



**MURRAY** practices making toy spinning tops ready for the Waikato show.



**BRUCE** sets the scene for a safety-conscious turner. Well done Bruce!



**MIKE** used a surform blade to shape his blade



**ANDRE`** buffs his knife to a high gloss



**PAUL** eyes up the shape of his knife blade. (A NEAGE philosophy developing here)



**CHRISTINE** is almost finished her very first paper knife





A common occurrence is the sharing of turning ideas among colleagues.

**MUHANNAD, MIKE and STEPHEN** talk about techniques for making captured rings on a shaft of wood.

**SPENCER** fits a brass ferrule to a handle for a mini tool



**STEPHEN's** captured rings.  
Got it right first time too!

See you at the show this weekend.

