

This week's TUTOR'S TIDINGS



Week 13

Friday 29th April, 2016



PURPLEHEART

(Peltogyne paniculata)

BEAUTIFUL WOODS of the WORLD

(No 7 in a series of 10)

Purpleheart comes from the rainforests of Brazil, Guyana, and Suriname. The species of the genus range from southeastern Brazil through northern South America, Panama, Costa Rica, and Trinidad. Purpleheart trees are medium-sized to large growing to 30–50m (120–150 ft) tall, with trunk diameters of up to 1.5 m. The leaves are alternate, divided into a symmetrical pair of large leaflets 5–10 cm long and 2–4 cm broad. The flowers are small, with five white petals, produced in panicles. The fruit is a pod containing a single seed.



Wood

- Purpleheart is an extremely dense and water-resistant wood. It is ranked one of the hardest and stiffest of the woods in the world.
- It is so durable that it can be used in applications that require toughness, such as truck decking.
- The trees are prized for their beautiful heartwood which, when cut, quickly turns from a light brown to a rich purple color.
- Exposure to ultraviolet (UV) light darkens the wood to a brown color with a slight hue of the original purple.
- The longer the wood is exposed to UV lights (sunlight), the colour of purple slowly changes from a light purple to a substantially chocolate-purple colour.
- Carbide blades are recommended when working with purpleheart wood.
- The wood is also known as amaranth and violet wood.
- Overharvesting has caused several species to become endangered in areas where they were once abundant.



Big, purple, hard, and heavy sticks of beautiful wood.

What possibly could be the uses for a purple-coloured wood? Billiard cue butts, gym equipment and chemical vats, to name a few. This wood has a wide variety of craft uses from the practical to the sublime. It is sliced for decorative veneers and used in cabinetry and furniture, sculpture, turnery and marquetry and has a variety of specialty uses that includes diving boards, skis or filter press frames.

Purple heart wood is also used to make parquet and traditional flooring, tool handles and even for marine & bridge building. Your imagination is the only limitation.

Wood Description:

Purpleheart has a creamy white/gray sapwood but like its name suggests, the heartwood is a bright, striking purple when freshly cut, darkening into a deeper purple with age. It has a medium to fine texture with a luster that ranges from medium to high; its grain is usually straight but can be wavy or irregular.

Purpleheart has high bending and crushing strength and stiffness with medium resistance to shock loads. A great feature when used as truck decking.



Machining:

Purpleheart has a moderate to severe blunting effect on tools; sharp, high speed steel knives therefore are recommended as are 15 degree cutting angles. It can be somewhat difficult to work with using either hand or machine tools. Some wood seems to be relatively soft textured and easy to cut and other wood has been so hard it burns all your tools, so there is a high degree of variability in cutting characteristics, depending on the piece of wood or possibly the exact species of *Peltogyne* that you received. Watch particularly carefully the grain direction on planing any wood that shows an interlocking grain. It has a nasty habit of tearing out when you least expect it.

CLUB NEWS

WE have received an offer of a quantity of **BLACK WALNUT** wood from a generous donor who has three walnut trees for wood removal by our club members. The most convenient approach for both club members and our benefactor would be to hold a **mass working bee** to gather this lot of potential treasure.

Hopefully the committee can organize a suitable time and day for a working bee that will enable club members to fill their trailers and car boots.

TERRY SCOTT *visit*

Where: Tomorrow morning at the club's workshop

When: Starting at 8.00a.m. – finishing at 12.00noon

Who: All folk interested in woodturning.

Cost: \$5 per person (covers the cost of morning tea) Also \$5.00 for a raffle

Parking: Please follow the signs and park in the area behind the first Green shed. If you arrive a bit late you might need to park on the lower area. **Do not park** in the quad next to the workshop. This area is reserved.

A large turnout is expected so it might be a good idea to bring a folding camper style chair. (just in case we run out of seats)

Following this event 10 paid-up wood turners will continue with Terry for the remainder of the Saturday and then all day on the Sunday. The focus for this seminar will be “**how to add embellishments to your turnings**”

See you tomorrow. Cheers **Clive**

What's happening in our workshop?



ROSS made a bud vase in double quick time



MALCOLM resisted the urgings of "ditching the job," boxed on, and triumphed with his Kowhai wood bowl.



***DYLAN** continues to surprise us with his woodturning abilities and skills.*

This time, largely unsupported, he produced a stunning kauri bowl complete with a well - formed undercut rim.

Woo Hoo!

***CHRISTINE's** special achievement – a natural-edge bowl.*





CHRIS, one of our new Thursday group members proudly shows his first-ever turning: a knockout bar.

Great lines and careful gouge work.

*Chris applied a *NEAGE approach to the sanding job and produced an excellent finish to the rimu wood handle. Well done!*

***NEAGE** = Near Enough Aint Good Enough

NOTE: The NEAGE philosophy is an attitudinal aspect to woodturning.

I continue to promote this important idea and will always place high priority on instilling this attitude in all club members. All club members are well aware of this "push" and have responded magnificently.

Cheers

Clive

HEALTH and SAFETY

Let's make an all-out effort to stay safe by following a few simple workshop rules/expectations.

1. **ALWAYS** wear a full face mask when using chisels and gouges while turning wood.
2. Do not use any workshop machine for which you have not been trained.
3. **ALWAYS** wear a dust protection mask when sanding a turning.
4. **PUSH** sticks have been provided for each band saw. Use them.
5. Safety glasses and ear muffs must be used whenever using any sawing machine.
6. Feel free to remind those who might have forgotten to follow these safety requirements. Don't be offended at being reminded about safety rules - just thank the person for caring for your safety!

GO the Chiefs!

Prediction: Sharks to come second