



Tutor's Tidings

No 15 - Friday 1st May, 2015



*We have enrolled another new member for the **TUESDAY** session so a big welcome from all of us to **DAVE LITTLEWOOD**.*

Dave commenced his turning journey today by making a tool handle for a knockout bar and completed this project on his first day.



GARTH made a well-proportioned pepper/salt mill.

His matai wood project has an exceptionally fine finish, the head mechanism turns freely on its base and the décor lines on the base are expertly cut and coloured.

This project is destined for a lucky person in Brisbane.

TUESDAY TURNERS



***RAEWYN** was welcomed back to the team after her trip to Australia.*

Today it was pen making to get back into the swing of things.



***Picture left: MALCOLM** has just completed his handle for his new cup chisel. The wood used for this project was unearthed in 2001 by a bulldozer working alongside the bank of the Waikato River near Horotiu*

***GARTH** continues to work on his large macro burr. The picture to the right shows the outside surface has been finished and now the removal of the inside presents the next challenge. A masterpiece in the making.*





***JAN** watches a demonstration of wood removal from the inside of her well-crafted, highly-figured rimu bowl?*

(I wonder who took this photo?)



***GARTH** lends a hand too!*



***JAMES** has a whole box of pen wood ready to turn and he's wasting no time churning them out.*



***DAVID** turns the column for his lamp stand from a piece of silver birch.*

This project has a fine finish and lots of decor features.

New Zealand Trees

REWAREWA (NZ Honeysuckle)

Mature rewarewa (*Knightia excelsa*), also called New Zealand honeysuckle, are recognisable from their tall columnar form, similar to a poplar. It is one of New Zealand's taller trees, growing to over 35 metres in height. **Rewarewa is a member of in the Protea family** – a large group of plants, many of them found in South Africa and Australia.

Rewarewa grows in lowland forest throughout the North Island, and in the Marlborough Sounds at the South Island's north-eastern tip. **It is common in regenerating forest.**

Juvenile leaves grow to 30 centimetres long and are thin and coarsely toothed. Adult leaves are thick, bluntly toothed and only half as long. **In spring, rewarewa has clusters of dark reddish-brown bottle-brush flowers.** When open, the petals coil into tight spirals, exposing long styles (the female part of the flower). The flowers are pollinated by tūī and bellbirds, which drink the nectar. The fruits are dry, brown capsules that split open to release small winged seeds.

Rewarewa wood has prominent rays. When cut on the radius it produces attractive, silvery red-brown timber, used in inlay and decorative work. **In the past it was used to make bush tramways, brake blocks and swingletrees (crossbars between a horse and vehicle).**





Rewarewa trees are prominent in the regenerating bush.. They are tall, conical trees that stand above the surrounding blanket of greenery like exclamation marks, similar to the shape of the imported Lombardy poplar.

Rewarewa grow in lowland and hill forests throughout the North Island, in the Marlborough Sounds, and on D'Urville Island. They reach heights of 30 m and their trunks may be up to 1 m or more in diameter. The bark is greyish, dark brown, or almost black, and has a finely warty surface.

The tough, leathery adult leaves are one of the tree's distinguishing features. Like many New Zealand tree species, the juvenile leaves differ from the adult leaves. On young trees, the soft leaves are 10 – 25 cm long and 2 – 3 cm wide; adult leaves are shorter (10 – 15 cm), tend to be wider, are rigid, feel hard to the touch, and have coarsely toothed edges. **(see first picture)**

Another striking feature of rewarewa is its **flowers,(see above picture)**, which because of their similarity to honeysuckle flowers, give the tree its other name, although it is not a member of the honeysuckle genus. In late spring the flowers appear in dense bunches called racemes, each bunch about 10 cm long, comprising 50 to 80 individual flowers. These, altogether, give the appearance of one large, ornate bloom. The dark red flowers have four parts, called corolla lobes, and, as the buds open, the individual lobes separate and coil back tightly to form a tangled mass around the base of the flowers. The pistils (the sexual part of the flower) are then left pointing outward, like the bristles of a bottlebrush, where they are pollinated largely by birds such as tūī, korimako (bellbird) and tauhou (waxeye), which seek the nectar from the flowers.

The seeds are produced in woody capsules that take nearly a year to open. The opened pods look like a miniature boat.

Medicinal use

A record from 1871 states: that to stop the flow of blood from a wound, and promote healing, the inner part of the bark of rewarewa is placed over the wound and a bandage wound round it.

Sweet nectar

As well as being popular with native birds, rewarewa nectar makes a fine, light-coloured honey. Beekeepers put hives out in the bush in late spring for the bees to gather this popular nectar. It is one of several native flowers that make distinctive honeys, the most famous being mānuka honey which is dark in colour and known for its antibacterial properties. As well as judging by the colour and flavour, beekeepers define a “bush” honey by studying the tiny pollen grains. Different species of plants have distinctively different pollen grains. A high count of one type of grain enables the beekeeper to classify that honey as being derived mainly from a particular species of plant.

Tuesday and Thursday groups.
This week's demonstrations/tips and information included:

1. Notice given of an upcoming tool making project **SCRAPERS**. (all members please read *next three pages of this TT*)
2. Power sanding techniques (Chris and David M)
3. Procedure for re-facing an internal spigot to eliminate wobble (Garth)
4. Shortening the shaft on a pepper mill for a correct fit. (Garth)
5. Using a Sorby roughing gouge (Chris)
6. Procedures for snug-fitting a ferrule on a tool handle (Chris and Malcolm)
7. Using a deep hole guide to help with the removal of wood from the inside of a bowl (Jan)
8. Drilling a horizontal long hole. (David R)
9. Using the *Easy Wood* pen tool fitted with an R2 tungsten tip. (Raewyn)
10. Using a goose-neck LED light to illuminate the base of a hollow form (Bruce)
11. Matching a spigot to the size of chuck jaws. (Gail)
12. Rounding the end of a tool handle while parting off. (Paul)
13. Drilling a long horizontal hole and fitting a tool tang to the handle. (Dave B.)



THURSDAY session

Members extended a special welcome to our new Thursday session club member, **DAVE BLOOM**.

Tonight Dave completed his first project by making a knock-out bar.

Dave's handle has been carefully designed to fit his hand, the ferrule is a very snug fit and the finish is outstanding.

What a great start!

Negative Rake Scrapers

So what are Negative Rake Scrapers? (NRS)

The **NRS** tool is simply a standard scraper which has been modified to have both a top and bottom bevel. This alteration makes the **NRS** less aggressive, able to be controlled better, almost eliminate grabbing/dig-ins/catches and even reduces grain tear-out problems.

Turners should be remember that **NRS** are for *final finishing*, not for roughing or initial shaping.

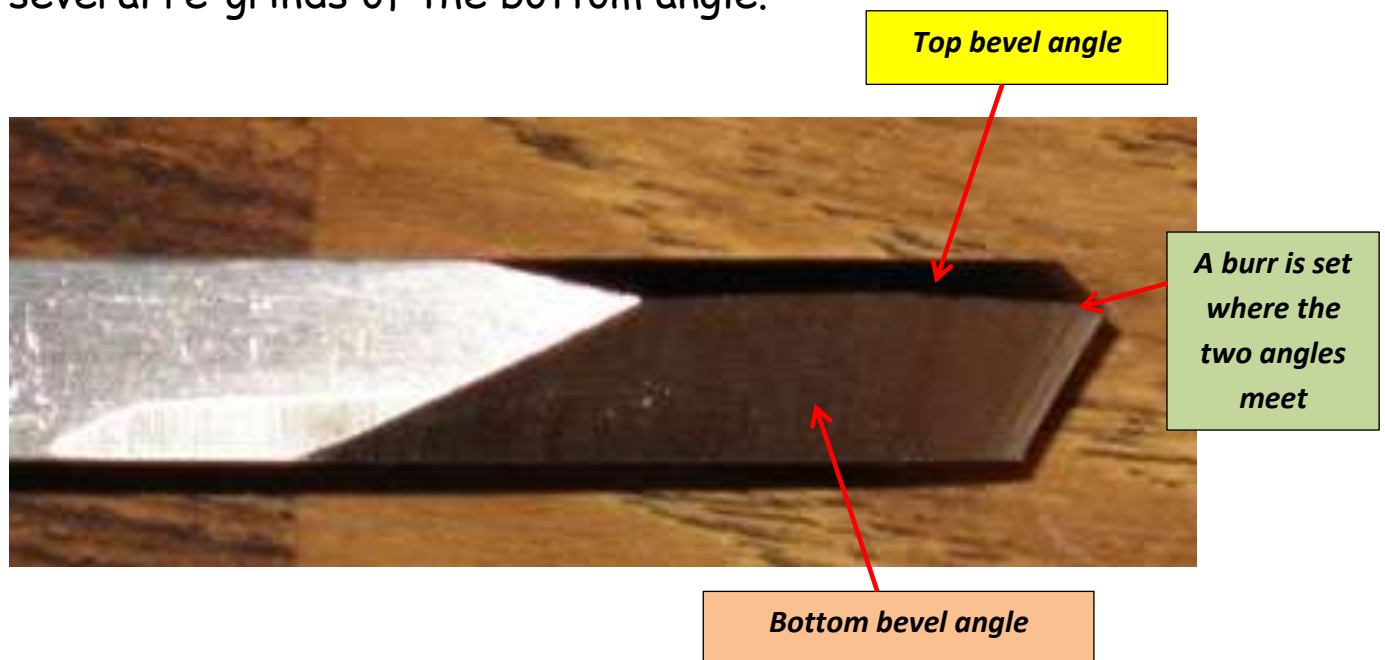
DESIGN: The **NRS** has a second bevel at the cutting edge which when used correctly might totally convince you that scrapers can play a very useful role in woodturning. So have a go with a **NRS** tool.

NRS are pretty good at making clean cuts on burls/burrs, twisted or feathery grain and work well on end grain too.

As with all scrapers the **NRS** works much better on hard or dense wood but perhaps not so good on very soft, open-grain wood. (Anyway some woods just won't scrape well at all and cold-hard experience will tell you which timbers don't behave well when scraped).

NRS should not be considered an aggressive cutting tool. Light, fine cuts are the way to go with these very useful tools.

The **burr** is the most important aspect of a **NRS** so you will need to re-sharpen as soon as the burr is gone if you want to maintain the clean, fine cutting (scraping). To create a burr you need to re-grind the bottom angle each time, thus the burr is refreshed on the top angle. Then of course the top angle needs re-grinding only when the bevel wears away after several re-grinds of the bottom angle.



A burr a "set" at the juncture of the top and bottom bevels.

Negative rake scrapers have both a top and a lower bevel edge, and the burr at the meeting point enables the scraper to produce very smooth and controllable cuts on turnings.

(During our tool making project I will use diagrams to explain how "catches" are significantly reduced)

Scrapers come in a wide variety of shapes, sizes, designs for different purposes and almost all of them are **EXPENSIVE**. **However, cheap options** are readily available and these home-made "el cheapos" work just as well. I have fashioned very useful scrapers out of old steel files by grinding the cutting/scraping end to suit various purposes.

Tool Making Project - SCRAPERS

During our future courses (approx. five weeks away) I would like to place greater emphasis on a very useful turning tool - **the humble scraper**.

Five weeks should allow all members time to either access a couple of scrapers such as round-nose or side-cut scrapers **OR** as a much cheaper option, discover old discarded steel files that can fitted with a handle and have the ends ground into any desirable shape to act as scrapers.

I have one in my tool box that cost me \$1.00 and it works well as a scraper after quick modification.

If you are hunting through second-hand shops or fossicking at garage sales **select the thickest steel files** you can find and bring them along to our turning sessions.

All members who wish to participate in this voluntary project will make their own scraper tools, one of which will be round or square-nose negative rake scraper.

Cheers

Clive

The THURSDAY Turning Team

It's official! The Thursday team broke all records! There were no absences. Tonight's session saw the highest turnout of members ever, with fourteen keen turners arriving for the session. However, we managed to cope even though the club owns just thirteen lathes (and Muhannad's lathe was out of commission with motor problems). Muhannad was able to use **ROBERT's** midi-lathe for tonight's session while Robert caught up on some of his treasurer's tasks.



COLIN works on a piece of yellow-heart kahikatea.

Tonight we wished him a happy and eventful overseas trip that will include a month or so in Britain and later to Scandinavian countries.

Colin will be away for twelve weeks, so during that time we will miss his regular offerings of turnings and other woodcraft he completes each week.



See picture bottom left



PAPER-KNIFE EXHIBITION

Tonight's exhibition concluded the paper knife project. The photo shows the many interpretations and quality outcomes for this special Thursday team project. Interest remains high and some members will probably choose to keep the idea going.

*Picture right: **MUHANNAD** figures out which bit goes where in his pen making project.*

*Bottom left: **BRUCE** works on his hollow form (one of his specialties) and, with the aid of a goose-neck light, is able to see the inside shape.*

*Bottom right: **DAVE Moodie** and **MURRAY** take time out to continue the valuable committee work essential for the running of the club.*





Above: Concentration and determination here! **MIKE** prepares a cylinder of black maire wood to make another paper knife.

Below: **PAUL** continues to build up his tool kitset by rebuilding some of his chisels he purchased second hand. While the wood in the handle was unsafe with bug attack the steel remained in good condition. Paul then set about the task of recovering the steel from the perished wood and making newly-designed handles for each tool. This longer-term project is a challenging but very worthwhile task. Goodonya Paul.



SPENCER hatches an egg while **STEPHEN** looks on. This is a beautifully crafted wooden example using two different woods.



GAIL - Oh heck! My lathe broke down so I couldn't finish my XXXOS platter. Oh well I'll just have to turn a small bowl on another lathe tonight.



***ANDRE`** has developed his pen making skills where he can now turn out a high quality pen in a very short time.*



***CHRISTINE's** determination is remarkably positive, and together with a NEAGE philosophy applied to her work, her paper knife is a winner.*



*Pictures left and right: **MAURICE** has already made and sold one of his paper knives and here he is pictured making another. But this time he is a little more adventurous by using two different coloured woods – one for the handle one the for the blade. (Purple Heart and Camellia)*

News from woodturning clubs, woodworking groups, craft institutions etc, etc.

From time to time we receive information from various bodies and while it is not always possible to include this info as part of our TT weekly, I can insert a link so you can access the information. Go visit: FranklinArtsFestival.co.nz

Happy turning, **Clive**