

This week's
TUTOR'S TIDINGS



Week 16

Friday 20th May, 2016

PINK IVORY

(rhamnus zeyheri and also berchemia zeyheri)

BEAUTIFUL WOODS of the WORLD

(No 10 in a series of 10)

Methinks PINK IVORY could be **Fred Irvine's** favourite wood



Above is a picture of a pink ivory tree, which was pushed over by an elephant. That elephant sure did the lucky finder a big favour.

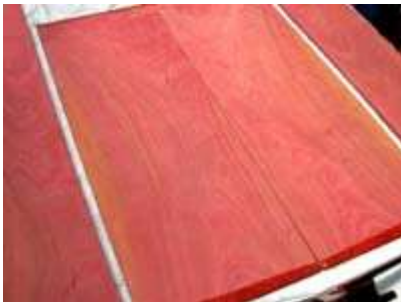
The same tree after milling. As the tree came down by way of "natural causes" it was allowed to be purchased and milled.

- Pink Ivory trees are said to be both rare and valuable, and have been rumored to be “rarer than diamonds.”
- According to folklore, the tree is considered sacred to the Zulus in South Africa and is reserved for royalty. Pink Ivory wood, a sacred wood of Zulu chiefs in Southern Africa, has long been treasured as a rare wood.
- According to rumor, non-royals who possessed the wood would summarily be put to death.
- The tree is protected and sustainably maintained in South Africa, only felled by very limited permit.
- The wood is extremely hard, with a density of 990 g/dm³.
- The wood grows in various parts of Africa, and takes hundreds of years to reach a size suitable to make a bowl blank.
- It has a very fine grain and takes as high a polish as you would like to give it.
- Pink Ivory is a fantastic ornamental turning wood, very hard and heavy, with the ability to take very fine details.

Seasoning pink ivory is no simple process. The logs are allowed to dry for 5-10 years and they crack profusely during the process. This leaves an average yield of 18% from each log that is free of defects and has good color.

Selling wet pink ivory is very different and has far lower costs. To dry a piece that is 2 x 2 x 12 from the wet/waxed state will take at least 3 years (usually 4) of constant humidity above a certain level and a fairly constant temperature using the right techniques. It takes years of monitoring and occasional adjustments to dry a piece of wet pink ivory if you can provide the right conditions.

Truly dry Pink Ivory is so much trouble to produce that it is rare on the market.



Pink ivory (*Berchemia zeyheri*), also called **purple ivory**, **red ivory**, **umnini** or **umgoloty**, is an African hardwood used to make a variety of products (for example: billiard cues and knife handles).

The pink ivory tree produces a yellow, brownish, reddish, or purplish drupe fruit that is delicious to taste. Other parts of the tree have been used traditionally as remedies and medicines.



NOTE: This is the 10th and final edition of *BEAUTIFUL WOODS of the WORLD*. While the 10 woods might not be available through New Zealand traders, they are available in a range of sizes and can be imported from international outlets. It is OK to import timbers into our country as long as the wood is free of bark or knots as these could hide unwelcoming little creepy critters.

I hope this series has been of some use to readers.

Cheers

Clive



A fine piece of work using Purpleheart wood.

The tall, whitish centre stem is made from deer antler.

The three small feet are also sourced from some unlucky deer.

*A top job by our **COLIN***

CLUB NEWS

- 1. More members have enrolled for the Tuesday session and more are about to start next week. That's great for our club and we look forward to their enthusiasm and creative thinking.*
- 2. The Thursday group has reached its maximum number and is a really busy session. Several projects recently completed are of outstanding quality. Well done everyone.*
- 3. President **Murray** showed his versatility last weekend by demonstrating his skill on a pole lathe, which dates back to ye olde England's medieval years.*
- 4. Many thanks to **Robert** who gathered blocks of good turning wood and delivered these to our workshop storage racks.*
- 5. An evening with a fibreglass expert is being planned. This event will provide members with new ideas in using resin embedding skills. More information soon.*

(a repeat notice)

National WOODSKILLS Competition

Kawerau 23, 24, 25 September

Entry forms due by Friday August 2015 - Exhibits received by Friday 16 Sept.

All details available at: www.kaweraudc.govt.nz/Woodfest

(more information to be found in this week's TT - continue reading....)

National Woodskills Competition

National Woodskills Competition, NZ's premier event for wood craft artists, with big cash prizes.

[Woodskills Entry Form 2016](#) 

[Woodskills Brochure 2016](#) 

[Raranga Entry Form 2016](#) 

[Raranga Brochure 2016](#) 

In **2016** there will be over 15 categories for the artistic wood workers to consider:

- Pinus Radiatus
- Carving/Sculpture - Open
- Woodturning - For first time entrants
- Woodturning - Traditional
- Furniture - For first time entrants
- Furniture - Open
- Marquetry & Intarsia
- Toys, Models & Games
- Miscellaneous
- College Students Years 9, 10, 11, 12, 13
- Raranga/Weaving
- Best Local Entry
- Kawerau Rotary Accolade
- Lily Stubbs Memorial Honours Board
- Special Category (Public Vote)



For more information go to:

www.kaweraudc.govt.nz/Woodfest

NOTE: Please ensure you read the [Brochures](#) and [Entry Forms](#) thoroughly for any new changes.

First Time Entrants

This year there are two new categories for first time entrants: ***Woodturning and Furniture***



College Students

There is a change to the College age category with Woodcrafting of any sort being encouraged by any ***College Students of year 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13***. Previous years has seen good levels of junior entries into the competition and the National Woodskills Trust would like to see even more enter this year.

Public Vote

The special category is named '***The Great Gatsby***' with prize money for 1st, 2nd and 3rd placings, and will be judged by popular public vote. Be adventurous in creating anything ranging from the practical to the bizarre that links in with the theme of The Great Gatsby set in the 1920s. The organising committee would really like to encourage entries to be really 'out there' - the more bizarre the better.

Entries can be left totally to the imagination but should predominantly be made from wood or wood products, however they can be painted or left 'au naturel'.



The number of entries will be limited and the organising committee reserves the right to reallocate entries into another category if required.

Exhibition Opening

As with previous years, the Thursday evening (24 Sept.) prior to the official opening of the show will be an exclusive opportunity for sponsors, artists and the public to view the exhibits, the **Exhibition Opening** will also allow potential exhibits to be reserved for purchase once the weekend has concluded.



Another **SUPERB** turning from club member **MAURICE**.

This special piece is heading overseas.



Picture top right is a garden dibber made by **SHANE** who has just commenced his turning journey. A non-slip grip on the handle was skillfully carved. Good one Shane!



SHANE checks out what's going on other lathes



SPENCER (above right) and **MIKE** (right) started a dual production line turning wooden mouldings for a mate who is in the process of renovating doors etc.

OK seven down and nine to go.



Workshop Happenings



An excellent turning by COLIN



COLIN with another project



MURRAY polishes a handle for his bell. Will this one find its way to rugby park?



ANDRE` with his large rimu bowl.



STEPHEN and another pen on the way.



CHRISTINE adds the final touch to her wonderful achievement – a kauri bowl.



ROBERT helps out with advice about tools and turning ideas.



MAURICE turns his hand to a new project having completed his beautiful black walnut, folded vase



CHRISTINE's beautiful swamp kauri bowl, which took many hours of careful turning and sanding to produce an excellent finish.



DYLAN looks on and satisfies his thirst for picking up new ideas to add to his own turnings



CHRIS carefully sands the last bit of his project – a garden dibber.



DONAL looks pleased with his special turning project - the bits needed for an Irish game of skill



To all past members and other interested persons:

**Please feel welcome to visit one or both of our sessions and
take in the happenings of the Hamilton Woodturners' Club**

We would be happy to see you.

Tuesdays: 9.00am - 3.30pm

Thursdays: 6.00pm - 9.00pm

GO THE CHIEFS!