



# Tutor's Tidings

No 16 - Friday 8th May, 2015

## Aloha From Hawaii



*By the time you receive the TT this week I will be on my way to Hawaii.*

*Keep those chisels sharp and remember all the safety practices when turning.*

*See you all in three weeks.*

*Cheers*

*Clive*

## The Tuesday Team



*JAN has just completed an excellent turning of a small bowl made from highly-figured rimu wood.*



**Picture Left: MALCOLM** is in the process of making a handle for a gardening tool for his wife. That should be worth about 40 Brownie points when he gets home.



**Above picture: DAVID** turns the leg for one of a pair of lamp stands. The big challenge next is to drill a long hole through the leg shaft to take the electric cord.



**Above two pictures: JAMES** is turning one of two small condiment pots for his paua platter. The paua shell is set in a carved-out cavity and rests on a bed of epoxy resin that holds it firmly in place.



**CHRIS** is about to drill a hole into his second project – a bud vase. Strong flowing lines and a great shape on your vase Chris.

*This is another fine example of James' carving/turning creations.*



**DAVID M** uses the drop saw to prepare blanks for his pen-making venture. Good interpretations of the printed instructions David



**GARTH** continues his determined efforts in turning a fine macro burl. This much-loved turning project is destined to become a gift to mark a special family occasion.



One of the most difficult turning challenges is to turn something very small. Today **RAEWYN** achieved a turning of a small bobbin without the benefit of mini chisels.

Great skills here!



Oops! This Hawaii again....

I must keep my mind on getting this TT finished!

# NEW ZEALAND'S NATIVE TREES - TAWA

The **tawa** tree (*Beilschmiedia tawa*) is a New Zealand broadleaf tree common in the central parts of the country. Tawa is often the dominant canopy species in lowland forests in the North Island and the north east of the South Island, but will also often form the subcanopy in primary forests throughout the country in these areas, beneath podocarps such as kahikatea, matai, miro and rimu. Individual specimens may grow up to 30 metres or more in height with trunks up to 1.2 metres in diameter, and they have smooth dark bark.

The word "tawa" is the Maori name for the tree.

Tawa trees produce small inconspicuous flowers followed by 2 - 3.5 cm long fruit of a dark red plum colour. With such large fruits the tawa is notable for the fact that it relies solely on the kererū (New Zealand woodpigeon) and, (where present), the North Island kōkako for dispersal of its seed. These are the only remaining birds from New Zealand's original biota large enough to eat the fruits of this tree and pass the seeds through their guts and excrete them unharmed. Tawa can also support significant epiphyte gardens in their canopies, which are one of the few habitats known to be frequented by the enigmatic, arboreal striped skink.

This tree gives its name to a northern suburb of Wellington, Tawa.



The topside of Tawa leaves are willow green and are paler underneath.

## Uses

Tawa is an excellent flooring, furniture, and finishing timber. Its strength properties make it suitable for handles and rods, and it is very good for turnery across the grain thus has long had a reputation in New Zealand as a utility and joinery timber.

One of the few hardwood trees in the country with good timber, the wood of this tree can be used for attractive and resilient floorboarding. Although largely protected in conservation areas and by robust environmental legislation, licences are occasionally granted for the odd fallen tree to be milled for its timber. Tawa is a very strong high density timber that has always been regarded as a specialty timber. The Maori used to soak, dry and pulp the fruit for food and often used the wood for making bird spears.

## Appearance

Dry heartwood is a light creamy brown. The outer wood is uniformly white throughout and of higher strength. The contrast between white and brown colouration can be used to good effect. The grain is very straight with fine texture.



*With such large fruits the tawa is notable for the fact that it relies solely on the kererū (New Zealand woodpigeon) and, (where present), the North Island kōkako for dispersal of its seed. These are the only remaining birds from New Zealand's original biota large enough to eat the fruits of this tree and pass the seeds through their gut and excrete them unharmed.*

## THE THURSDAY TURNING TEAM



*MURRAY prepares a series of rounds from very interesting looking wood slabs.*

*Good to see members taking safety precautions (ear muffs).*



*Picture left: MAURICE and CHRISTINE share ideas about paper knife making processes.*

*Picture right: MAURICE's creative skills kick in here.*

*Having made two paper knives already this time it's a two-wood model on the lathe.*

*Note the textured section added to the handle.*





**DAVE** has started his second project – a bud vase.

One of the earliest skills to master is to learn how to “rub the bevel” while removing wood on a spindle turning. Dave catches on quickly here!

**SPENCER** turns another wooden egg. The next step is to make a jam chuck to hold one half of the egg while the other half is completed.

Complicated? Nah... Spencer’s got the hang of it.



**PAUL** has learned how to use a parting chisel to make a rounded parting off cut on the end of his chisel.

Note the safety practice of wearing a full face shield when turning.

Good to see as eyes are very precious.





***Above: MIKE** happily beavers away at making his maire wood paper knife. Lucky Mike has recently acquired a range of quality scrapers for future use with his turnings.*



***BRUCE** prepares the band saw to cut his wood for his next turning.*

*With safety practices in mind he has the wooden push stick nearby ready for use. Goodonya Bruce.*



***ANDRE`** adds the finishing touches to his wooden tool handle. Later he fitted a 10mm stainless steel rod and brass ferrule to the handle and Hey Presto ! – knockout bar completed - all done in one session. Wow!*





**Above: MUHANNAD** continues with his pen making for international friends.

Enjoy this week's trip to Japan Muhannad.



**STEPHEN** is about to turn a square-leg bowl. (The legs will be turned down from each corner, so watch out for those spinning corners Stephen).



**A view from my Hawaiian Hotel**