



# Tutor's Tidings

No 17- Friday 5th June, 2015

**GREETINGS** to all turners of wood.

It's good to be back home in NZ but what a big change in climate for me - from Hawaiian heat, to cold wind and persistent rain. Oh well.....

OK starting next week I intend placing greater emphasis on a very useful turning tool - **the humble scraper**. A voluntary project is in the offing.

Hopefully by now you might have sourced at least one scraper tool, either brand new or second hand. If not, then hunt around for old steel files to which you can fit a ferruled handle. If you are searching through second-hand shops or fossicking at garage sales **select the thickest steel old files**, rusty or otherwise, then and bring them along to our turning sessions.

- We will learn about different scraper profiles, each designed to do a different job in the turning world.
- We will also learn about "sharpening" to make a burr (that's the bit that does the cutting/scraping)
- If you make or have TWO scrapers, the second one will be profiled into a negative rake scraper.

Cheers

**Clive**



**WOOD for SCRAPER tool PRACTICE:**

Please note that the club's supplies of wood are very limited so you may need to think about bringing a length of 50mm X 50mm.

Some old recycled rimu 100 X 50mm would be ideal. We can rip it down the middle for our initial practice

This is a photo of one of two, magnificently huge turnings made from **Hawaiian KOA** wood.

The pot measures 1200 X 1200mm (for imperial thinkers that's 4 feet by 4 feet!)

Of all the timbers I saw in Hawaii **KOA** was certainly the most outstanding and is so highly prized by Hawaiian woodies.



***Pictures taken of superbly crafted wood that was for sale in the shops attached to our Hawaiian Hyatt Hotel. – Only Lotto winners need apply to purchase.***



***Above two pictures: Laminated softwood.  
Other four pictures: Beautiful KOA wood.***



**Tuesday session 2nd June, 2015**

**Just four turners showed up for this session.**

**CHRIS, DAVID, JAMES and JAN.**



**( Above) JAMES** uses WNI wood (**Wood Not Identified**) for his project. A humble scraper was used to eliminate the huckery STRIA marks on the outer surface.

**(Below) DAVID M** has launched into an ambitious project making a chess set. If the rest of the set looks anything like the excellently finished rimu-wood pawn he made today, then this chess set will be



**JAN** drills long, end-grain, 7mm holes dead-centre every time using pin jaws and square-section pen blanks.

**CHRIS** has completed all projects outlined in the club's **STAGE ONE** programme. A new turner who has quickly mastered the basic turning techniques, **CHRIS** is to be congratulated for achieving this target in such a short time span.

Tuesday's session saw Chris make a beginning on **STAGE TWO** with a candle holder project. Determined application has resulted in high quality outcomes. Well done.



# MATAI

## NEW ZEALAND Trees

The matai tree, also known as the black pine, is a conifer native to New Zealand. This tree is rare outside of its native country. While the tree is not considered endangered, massive logging of matai forests has reduced the numbers drastically and there are very few locations where matai is the dominant tree in the forest. The specific regional growth of this species contributes to the fact that few people are familiar with it outside of New Zealand.



*This tall forest tree can grow to 80 feet high.*

*The heartwood is yellowy, orangey-gold*



*Foliage and fruit of the matai*

## Where it Grows

- The matai tree grows in three places on earth. All of these locations are in New Zealand. Matai trees **grow in large numbers in the North Island and South Island** and are **occasionally seen on Stewart Island**. Because of the method of reproduction in these trees, the matai has not flourished elsewhere. The matai is limited to growth at elevations of less than 2,200 feet.

## Appearance *(rainbow colours in this tree)*

- The matai tree has a trunk that is bluish-gray on the upper part of the trunk and dark purple to brown at the lower reaches near the ground. Despite the cool, dark colors of the outer bark, the tree regularly sheds large flakes of the outer bark to reveal a bright red inner bark. ***The heartwood of the matai is yellow/orange to gold in color on the outer portions and deep red inside. The sapwood is almost white.*** The tree can grow in excess of 80 feet tall and develops a wide, rounded crown supported by stiff branches. The leaves are dark green with a silvery underside, and the tree produces small cones and a fruit that is dark purple with an edible pulp.



## Seed Dispersal

The matai tree is so limited in range because of the very specific way in which its seeds are dispersed for new growth. The Kereru, (woodpigeon of New Zealand), finds the matai fruit very palatable. The birds eat the fruits whole and distribute the seeds throughout the islands through their droppings. The bird's droppings act as fertilizer for the seeds and new trees grow where the birds drop the seed.



## Uses

The matai tree was one of New Zealand's favorite lumber sources for flooring for many years until deforestation caused massive dwindling of the tree's numbers. It is still used to construct wood floors, but it is not as popular as it once was. The matai provides sap used in an alcohol concoction similar to beer. The fruit is also eaten raw and has a very sweet flavor. The tree can be pruned into a hedge at an early age and is often used for residential hedgerows.



*Matai regularly shed large flakes of the outer bark to reveal a bright red inner bark*

## THE THURSDAY TURNING TEAM



*This week's session was the last for Course TWO and as tradition is maintained we celebrate with a shared supper.*

*Course THREE commences next Thursday and with the recent enrolment of new member DOMINIC, it appears as if the course will be fully subscribed with thirteen members for thirteen lathes.*



*Picture left: DAVE put the final sanding touches on his oak wood mini bowl.*

*Picture right: The club welcomed new member DOMINIC on Thursday who was launched straight into spindle turning.*

*Here he is making a handle for a knockout bar. This project introduces new turners to a range of basic turning skills.*





**ROBERT** wears a safety respirator while working with his burr.

*The challenge with this project is to apply a finish without clogging up the thousands of open pores that are typical of many burrs.*

**ANDRE`** works his large piece of beautiful kanuka wood on a sanding arbor to remove stubborn stria marks.



**PAUL and CHRISTINE** share ideas about sanding techniques.

*Woodturners with a positive attitude acknowledge STRIA as the persistent enemy.*

*STRIA must be removed before any kind of finish is applied.*





***Above: CHRISTINE's** positive attitude has ensured that no STRIA is visible on her macro bowl. The next step is to apply a preferred finish then turn the bowl around on the lathe to remove the centre.*



***MAURICE** works on an unusual piece of very open pored rata wood. This project was started and completed in just one turning session.*



***MURRAY's** turning is made from four pieces of laminate that he has glued together to form a block. This block was then turned into a hollowed out cylinder.*

*The little blue gadget in the picture is used to support the drilling of 12 evenly-spaced holes in the base of the turning.*

*A fancy clock in the making!*