



# Tutor's Tidings

No 18 - Friday 12th June, 2015



*BRIAN, is working on stage one of the club's sequential skills programme.*

*Picture left shows the excellent outcome of his second module - a well-constructed BUD VASE using Australian Blackwood (formally known as Tasmanian Blackwood)*

## SCRAPERS

The scraper project got underway with participants from both the Tuesday and Thursday sessions bringing along old files and turning them into useful turning tools.

After a few minutes on the belt sander any rust was removed and the files smoothed. Members chose their preferred profile (round-nose being popular) and an 80 degree bevel created at the scraping end using a grindstone.

The next step was to fit a ferrule and handle with the file tang being seated and held in place with epoxy resin.

Voila! A scraper was born!



*Two old steel files destined to become useful round-nose scrapers*



***MALCOLM** prepares to drill a hole to take the tang of an old steel file which will eventually be turned into a woodturning scraping tool.*

*RIGHT: Spindle turning **DAVID** turns the head of his pepper mill. A jamb chuck assists with the correct lining up of the mill parts.*



*RIGHT: **CHRIS** very quickly fashioned a ferruled handle for his scraper then fitted the tang using two-pot epoxy resin.*

*A second scraper was commenced soon after.*



***DAVID** made a nifty little mallet for his carving tool set.*



**LEFT: The SCRAPER MAKERS!**

Swapping ideas about the processes used.

- Handle shaping
- Ferrule fitting
- 35mm chuck jaws
- Hole drilling
- Fitting the tang
- Profiling the tool
- 80 degree bevel
- Negative rake angle

That's a lot to info swapping eh!

Right: **JAN** continues to enjoy her work in making 7mm pens and recognizes the critical step in the process where square facing the ends to the brass tube ensures correct assembly of the pen parts.



**FREE Woodturning Demonstrations - Robert Sorby tools**

**Sunday 5th July at our workshop 1.00pm. – 4.00pm**

A selection of tools will be available to purchase at the event.

**Limited spaces available**

*PSVP to reserve your place (Murray Price 0274 889 432 or [murrayprice@xtra.co.nz](mailto:murrayprice@xtra.co.nz))*

# Kanuka and Manuka

Though frequently look-alikes, and often confused with each other, there are major differences between kanuka and manuka. Both trees can adapt their forms according to the growing conditions. Kanuka and manuka may look much the same, but often the differences are obvious, even from a distance.

Until about 30 years ago, kanuka and manuka were both identified as closely related species in the genus *Leptospermum*. Then, fundamental differences, especially in the flowers and seed capsules, led Australian botanists to reclassify them in different genera. *Kunzea ericoides* is the 'new' scientific name for kanuka while *Leptospermum scoparium* remains the name for manuka.



*Kanuka leaves and seed capsules (left) are smaller than manuka's distinctive larger seed capsules and prickly leaves (right). Copper-coloured manuka seed is pictured here spilling out of split seed capsules.*

We might feel aggrieved at the Aussies fiddling with the names of New Zealand species in this way, but kanuka and manuka are part of a large complex of similar species shared with Australia.



*Close up of manuka flowers.*  
kanuka has softer leaves than manuka, and a stronger smell when leaves are crushed, the scent being similar to eucalyptus.

Manuka has much larger flowers than kanuka

kanuka has softer leaves than manuka, and a stronger smell when leaves are crushed, the scent being similar to eucalyptus.

The different lifespans of manuka and kanuka is the basis of another important distinction between them. Manuka is comparatively short-lived – generally to about 60 years. As a stand approaches this age, there is a progressive breakdown of the canopy as individual manuka die or fall. This allows seedlings or saplings of other species to come through.

Kanuka by contrast is long-lived. Stands dating from the abandonment of land during the economic depression of the 1930s, or before, are widespread.

Manuka and kanuka have other values, too. While some iwi leaders have declared that manuka (including kanuka) have no worth, others consider that its former use for prized tools and weapons represents a cultural value of high importance.

On the utilitarian front, perhaps the best known value, for kanuka especially, is as a source of firewood.

Both kanuka and manuka yield honey in large volumes. This is generally sold as manuka honey with a significant price premium over clover honey. Spectacularly effective antibiotic activity has been tested in some manuka honey (but not from kanuka).

The oil extracted by steam distillation from manuka leaves from the East Coast also has striking anti-bacterial and fungicidal properties. Manuka oil is being used in a variety of medicinal and cosmetic products, commercially produced and marketed from a number of sites.

## **Telling differences between kanuka and manuka**

Kanuka and manuka are distinctly different species, though they can look very similar. Kanuka grows faster and bigger than manuka, but you can't simply call it manuka for the small stuff and kanuka when it's bigger! The following features help define the differences:

- Kanuka has narrow parallel-sided leaves several times longer than wide and notably soft to the touch
- Manuka leaves are more ovoid but sharp-pointed ('lanceolate') with the prickly apex giving the foliage a harsh feel.
- Kanuka foliage is generally a rather bright olive-green. Specific colour features of kanuka and manuka vary with the seasons, and regionally.
- Manuka is duller, generally darker (not so obvious when very young).

*In overview manuka often has a grey-brown look, from a combination of the leaf colour and the branches/stems which typically have a covering of sooty mould (which thrives on the sugary excretion of an introduced scale insect). This mould is much more prevalent on manuka than kanuka.*

- Kanuka bark is a light tawny brown. Narrow vertical strips of bark are characteristic of kanuka.
- Manuka bark is darker with a reddish tinge. It comes off in very thin flakes, wider and less regular than kanuka bark.
- Kanuka flowers are notably smaller, 4-5mm across, creamy white.
- Manuka flowers are 10-12 millimetres across and generally pure white.
- Kanuka flowers are carried in dense elongated clusters (or 'cymes') towards the end of the branchlets
- Manuka flowers are more evenly scattered over the plants as single flowers.
- Kanuka generally flowers once a year only, in midsummer.
- Manuka flowers strongly a little earlier than kanuka, and additionally in irregular bursts at other times.
- The kanuka seed capsule is less woody, only 2-3 millimetres across and generally disappears after a month or two. Generally kanuka does not carry seed capsules, except briefly in late summer.
- Manuka has a hard woody seed capsule 5-6 millimetres across which persists on the plant for a year or more after flowering. At any time of the year you will see seed capsules of various ages.
- Kanuka generally has faster growth rates and reaches a larger size so it is commonly seen as trees, 10-15 m tall and more, and 15-40 cm diameter.
- Manuka generally stops at about 6-8 m height and 7-10 cm diameter, or less on the poorest soils (e.g. 1-2 m on the Te Ahumata plateau).

*The growth forms of kanuka and manuka are slightly different – the somewhat droopy branchlets of kanuka often contrast with more erect manuka – but there is much variation caused by the character of the site, the density of the stand, and tree age.*

The next time you spot a good-sized piece of **KANUKA** in a friend's firewood box, rescue it and cut it down the pith, then let it dry out for several months. You will be surprised at the beautiful colours in your turnings when using this New Zealand wood.

It sands particularly well and takes most finishes then capable of being buffed to a dazzling shine.

# CLUB WORKING BEES (2)

## HELP PLEASE

We have just taken delivery of a quantity of cut logs which, in time, will provide members with quality wood for turning.

In our current premises there is a storage space problem. To help overcome this we need to deal with all of our slabs and logs and turn them into waxed rounds for long /short-term seasoning. **Working bees have been scheduled for this big task.**

**TUESDAY** turners have opted for **FRIDAY 19th JUNE** ( 9.00a.m. - 1.00pm) to make a start on this important club development.

**THURSDAY** turners are asked to provide some time and energy the following day **SATURDAY 20th June** (9.00am – 1.00pm) to continue and complete the work.

***Please bring your chainsaws  
and anything else you think  
would be useful for these  
working bees.***



## THE THURSDAY TURNING TEAM



**DOMINIC** discovers that a blunt hacksaw blade makes hard work of cutting through ultra-hard stainless steel 10mm rod. A grinder had to be used to finish the job. (I must buy some better blades)

This shaft of steel was fitted to a completed handle for a knockout bar. Dominic's first woodturning project was a real winner!

**Woo hoo!**



**Picture left: MUHANNAD** discovered an unfinished resin project sitting in the storeroom so it was set on the lathe and in a short while an oak bowl with paua inserts was placed on the front table.

(see picture below)

**MISSING:** I am unable to find my steel potter's wheel. This precious piece of equipment was in the club workshop when I left for a holiday in Hawaii but on return last week it was not there. I just hope someone has borrowed it and it will turn up real soon.

**Clive**







**MAURICE** puts the final touches to his rata wood bowl. This is a most unusual piece of wood having thousands of small holes right through the wood. When air is blown on the inside of the bowl, dust is removed from the outside of the bowl. That's unusual eh!

**STEPHEN** works his round of tanekaha wood to a smooth finish remarkably free of STRIA. This fine achievement is likely be due to the use of sharp tools and the taking of fine, non-aggressive cuts.



**MUHANNAD and BRUCE** share ideas about turning techniques.

**BRUCE** brought in a supply a various scrapers, sharpened a few then surprised himself with the success he was having by using the humble scraping tool.



**Above: MIKE** has mastered the art of pen making as evidenced by the work completed at Thursday's session. Great colour contrasting and crafting Mike!



**Above: SPENCER** turns a handle for his scraping tool using ideal ash wood.

*His engineer's file, that is destined to become a scraper, was partly smoothed using the belt sander. Then the grinder was expertly used to create the 80 degree bevel and a burr for scraping.*



**ANDRE`** was in such a hurry to get to Thursday's session he drove away from home completely forgetting his large tool box. Undeterred, he still managed to almost complete a turning of spectacularly coloured wood.



**CHRISTINE** is another keen scraper maker. The tool work on the old file has been completed and now the handle is in production.



**DAVE** discovered what effects *STRIA* has on the appearance of a bowl. Power sanding was brought into play and the enemy (*Stria*) was soundly defeated. Result - a high quality finish to his project.



Hey it's *DOMINIC* again. Here he is applying epoxy resin to his knockout bar shaft to glue into his handle.

Well that's it for  
another week  
**HAPPY TURNING**

*Clive*