



Tutor's Tidings

TT

No 20 - Friday 26th June, 2015



JAMES uses an Easy Wood tool to clean up the bottom of his soon-to-be lidded pot.

This project introduces the fitting of a round box-hinge.



MALCOLM looks happy with his kowhai wood project.

(or is that big smile the result of working on the club's new DVR lathe?)



Guess who lives under the black woolly hat.

Last Tuesday morning turners had to ward off the freezing cold brought about by a big frost.



CHRIS put the finishing touches to his tool handle using the Beale buffing system.



JAN assembles one of her many pens



RAEWYN has completed a beautifully crafted London Plane wood bowl.



DAVID makes sure his area is cleaned spic and span

Tuesday's Gallery



Beilschmiedia tarairi



TARAIRE

Beilschmiedia tarairi, commonly called **taraire**,^[2] is a tree of the Lauraceae family, endemic to the North Island of New Zealand. It is a common canopy tree in lowland forests north of Auckland, often growing in association with *kauri* (*Agathis australis*), *pōhutukawa* (*Metrosideros excelsa*), *tawapou* (*Pouteria costata*), and *pūriri* (*Vitex lucens*) on basalt rocks and soils. *Beilschmiedia* is a genus of about 40 mainly tropical trees and shrubs with alternate to opposite leaves.

Distribution

Taraire only occurs in the North Island north of 38°S latitude. It is most common north of Auckland and Thames at about 37°S. However, scattered populations of the tree occur on the west coast between Port Waikato and the Kawhia Harbour, and inland at Pukemokemoke. On the east, it occurs in scattered locations to East Cape.

Description



The fruit of the taraira is a favorite food of the New Zealand pigeon or *kererū*

Taraire grows up to 22 m in height, and has a very wide crown. The trunk may be up to 1 m in diameter. The bark is dark brown and smooth. The branches are stout, and tend to spread widely. Fine reddish-brown hairs densely cover the branchlets, young leaves, leaf stems, and young flower buds.

The dark-green leaves, which are generally between 50 and 72 mm long, and 34 to 48 mm wide, are alternate, leathery, and simple, with depressed veins. The leaf stems are 8 to 12 mm long.

Flowering occurs between September and December, with a peak in November. The greenish flowers are 3–5 mm in diameter and often clothed in dense reddish-brown hairs.

The fruit is an erect, elliptical to ovoid drupe about 30 by 16 mm, dark purple when ripe, and covered in a waxy bloom. It contains one seed. Fruit ripen between March and November, and are a favorite food of the *kererū* (New Zealand pigeon).

Taraire is a very distinct species of tropical appearance whose broad, dark-green leaves with their distinctive depressed veins, and large, erect plum-like dark purple fruits distinguish it from all other indigenous trees and shrubs of New Zealand.

Taraire is one of three endemic *Beilschmiedia* species in New Zealand. The others are the common canopy tree *tawa*, (*B. tawa*), which has thin willow-like leaves, and the *tawaroa* (*B. tawaroa*), which is similar to *tawa*, but has broader leaves.

Propagation and conservation

Propagation is easy from fresh seed, and better germination results if the flesh surrounding the seed is removed. It is not regarded as threatened, but future dispersal may be limited because the increasingly rare New Zealand pigeon is the only species which can disperse the large seeds of the taraire, which pass through its gut unharmed.

Uses

The wood of the taraire is straight-grained, but brittle and prone to split, and is not durable when exposed to the elements. It has been used for flooring, light carts, furniture, picture frames, ship's blocks, and firewood.

Pictures from Last Saturday's working bee team



Muhannad chainsaws the logs into slabs



Bruce uses the small band saw to cut "rounds"



Spencer uses the band saw to cut out the "rounds":



Christine seals the wood with liquid wax



Paul checks each slab and marks out the "rounds"



"Rounds" of wood stacked and ready for use.

THE THURSDAY TURNING TEAM

A good number of club members braved the chilly evening to continue their individual project work. The scraper tool project is well underway with several tools being completed and now ready for use. In some cases a second scraper has been completed.

- **Spencer** has accepted the challenge of making a hinged pot
- **Christine** completed two of her projects (scraper and paper knife)
- **Andre`** polished the base of his big kanuka wood bowl
- **Murray** hollowed out his three-wood lamination project
- **Mike's** huge platter made good progress
- **Robert** very quickly shaped and hollowed out a very large bowl
- **Paul** completed his excellent yellow-heart bowl
- **Dominic** surprised everyone with his outstanding bud vase
- **Muhannad** polished the base of his superb black maire wood bowl
- **Dave** started another handle (guess who has bought himself a lathe? - Goodonya Dave!) - that's the second lathe our club members have purchased in the last two weeks. Woo Hoo!

We also welcomed the visit of another soon-to-be junior club member **DYLAN RANSTEAD**, a Hillcrest High School student who is very keen to learn woodturning skills. Dylan starts his turning journey next week.

NEXT THURSDAY's session - 2nd July 6.30 pm.

Club member, Robert Wiseley will demonstrate the use of an air brush to add colour to turned projects.

NOTE: We hope some Tuesday members can attend as well

Gallery of turnings completed by the Thursday team members



Robert



Christine



Muhannad



Robert



Dominic



Christine



Paul

All club members (Tuesday and Thursday teams) should rightfully feel proud and pleased with the progress made through their high levels of enthusiasm and commitment.

Well that's it for this week.

Happy hours in turning. Remember **STRIA** is the enemy and keep those chisels sharp!

CLIVE