



# Tutor's Tidings

# TT

No 22 - Friday 10th July, 2015



*CHRIS POUNCY, a representative from SORBY Tools, England demonstrated a range of Sorby products at our workshop last Sunday afternoon.*

*A sales table operated so quite a few members took advantage of the opportunity to enhance their tool kits with SORBY products.*

*A captured audience listens to the SORBY tool demonstrator explain the advantages of the Pro Edge sharpening centre.*

*Next came the Turnmaster multi-tool, then the spiraling devices.*

*Impressive presentation!*



## Our SORBY Tools demonstration last Sunday



*President **MURRAY** opened the demonstration session with a welcome to visitors and an outline of the afternoon's proceedings.*



Pro Edge Sharpener

# New Zealand's Native Trees

## RATA, Northern and Southern

(*Metrosideros robusta* and *M. umbellata*). These two rata are amongst the best known of New Zealand trees because of the profuse crops of red flowers they bear, in good flowering seasons, about Christmas time. They are also the only broad-leaf trees which, together with the conifers like rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*), rise above the general level of the broadleaf canopy. There are a number of other New Zealand rata, but they are all climbers of varying habits. The coastal tree, pohutukawa, also belongs to the same genus. *Metrosideros* belongs to the myrtle family which is a very large one, mostly tropical and subtropical, well represented in Australia especially by the genus *Eucalyptus*. Species of *Metrosideros* also occur in Australia as well as in Malaya and Polynesia.

The northern rata is found in coastal to lower montane forests from the Three Kings to the northern part of the South Island. **It is a remarkable tree in that it starts as an epiphyte in the crowns of tall forest trees, often rimu. Aerial roots then grow down the trunks of the host tree and from these lateral roots are given off which finally encircle the host. The rata continues to grow till roots reach the ground and the rata finally displaces the host altogether.** The trunks of large rata are therefore most irregular, composed as they are of a tangled, fused mass of roots. The southern rata occurs in lowland to subalpine forests from just north of Auckland to the Snares, Auckland, and Campbell Islands. It commences as a ground plant and grows up to 60 ft high, with a large rounded crown. In many forests on steep mountain sides west of the South Island Main Divide, and especially in Fiord-land, it is the dominant tree.

The leaves are relished by opossums. The wood of both trees is very hard and strong. It is highly prized for firewood, but otherwise is not much used because of the difficulty of getting good logs for sawing. In the early days of settlement, southern rata wood was used for shipbuilding. It is now used, when obtainable, for coach work and cross-arms for telephone poles.



Southern rātā



## Tuesday's Session

A new 30-hour, five-week course started today

Our numbers are building and that's a good sign for the health of the club. Today we welcomed back **MAURITZ** Slabbert and **DAVE** Moodie making a busy session of 10 club members. **DAVID M** has sent in his apologies for not being able to attend this week. Both Mauritz and Dave showed the group what they have been making with their lathes at home. *(Check out this week's Tuesday Gallery of projects).*

### **Session in action:**

**JAMES** completed his gold hinged project. *(see picture in the Gallery)*

**DAVID R** put the finishing touches to his lamp stands.

**DES** completed his knockout bar. *(His first project and a great job done too!)*

**DAVE** finished off an earlier project

**MAURITZ** commenced work on a small pot. *(check out the examples in the Gallery)*

**JAN** progressed her highly figured bowl.

**CHRIS** learned new skills with plug cutting with his pepper mill project. *(Gallery)*

**RAEWYN** worked on a two-wood lidded bowl.

**MALCOLM** used the Dremel tool to add embossing to his excellent walnut bowl. *(Gallery)*

**BRIAN** made a great job of his fourth Stage one project - a garden dibber. *(Gallery)*

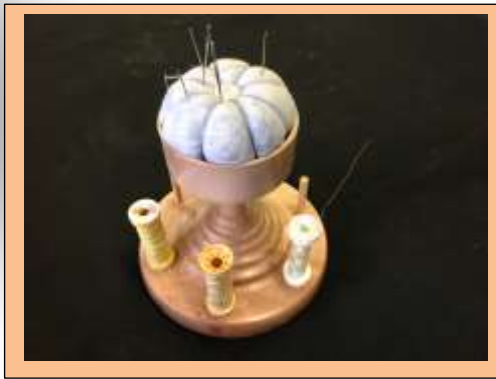
**Tuesday**  
**14th July**

***Next week's session will be marked with absences as I have received apologies from several members.***

***I too need to tender my apologies as I will be away from Hamilton until late that night.***

***Clive***

**TUESDAY'S GALLERY of  
Projects Completed  
this Week**



**MAURITZ's** fine functional art work should make someone "sew" happy.



**MAURITZ** has been busy specializing in small beautifully crafted turnings using high quality wood.

Picture right: Note the three-part sewing accessory.



*Above:* **CHRIS** learned new skills about re-centering the hole on the top of his pepper mill.



*Above:* **JAMES** has mastered the task of fitting a hinged lid to a box



**Above: BRIAN** intends using his new garden dibber for the upcoming spring planting season



*LEFT: MALCOLM* used walnut for his bowl project, achieving a high gloss finish using the BEALE system. A Dremel tool fitted with a ball cutter was used to emboss the outer rim edge.

# Thursday session happenings

They're a hardy lot those Thursday turners!

On the most bitterly cold evening, (Hamilton's coldest in years), the club was honoured to cater for a full muster of brave, shivering members who arrived wearing keep-away-the-chill woolies. All 13 lathes were in use and I found myself in full flight assisting turners here and there. Great fun. Let's keep doing it.

The special fundraiser initiative benefitted by quite a few dollars too and I'm pleased to advise that we are nearly halfway to a target of \$150.00 that will buy us the much-needed set of drill bits. Woo hoo! Cheers **Clive**

## THURSDAY'S GALLERY OF PROJECTS.

Stephen



Christine



Dave



Muhannad



Maurice



Maurice



Left: Our new junior member, Dylan has completed his first project – a knockout bar. Great shape and balance to the tool. Next week it's a bud vase.

# Thursday evening action.

(Apologies PAUL , I lost your photo)



Mike (Mr Big)



Maurice



Murray



Dylan



Muhannad



Spencer



Nigel



Robert



Stephen



Dominic



Dave



Christine