

15 members, (plus the bloke who took the picture) take time out for a cuppa at the working bee



SMOKO time at last Saturday's WORKING BEE

Yaaaaayyy! We did it! This gathering was the best attended and most successful working bee ever. Sixteen very helpful people turned up to help with the list of jobs that needed to be done: chucks were serviced; repairs to lathes were carried out; a big pile of slab wood was turned into manageable square shapes, priced and stacked on the back shelving; air filters were de-dusted; dust extractor pipes were unblocked; tool racks were checked..... etc etc.

One job remains. The buffing station has to be bolted to the floor.

Many thanks to all those members who were able to assist last Saturday.

TOP TURNINGS THIS WEEK



A VERY SPECIAL TURNING

This is a superbly made, large bowl that **DAVID Rose** turned from a near-flawless block of pohutukawa wood.

The finish on this special wonder is a hard coating of carnauba wax and is about the best seen for a very long while.

Well done **DAVID!**

A new turner makes a great job of her first foray into pepper mills.

KATRINA used a length of green-tinted swamp kauri for her mill project.

Success started with an aligned lathe and was assured with a correctly formed spigot, a straight line bored hole and precision measuring.

Goodonya Katrina.



This week's useful video clip



How to drill long, straight holes.

A useful tip here. However, the video is presented in a light-hearted way by a couple of blokes who probably like to clown around a bit.

Look beyond the frivolity as the actual tip for hole boring is quite interesting.



LONG drill bits for wood

Go to ...

Google

Type in: How To Drill Long, Straight Holes

Click on.. video 2.6 minutes

Watch the serious parts

then.... try using the tip.

Long drill bits are a very useful addition to a wood turner's tool kit.

However, the longer the drill bit the greater the potential for the drill bit to wander through the wood.

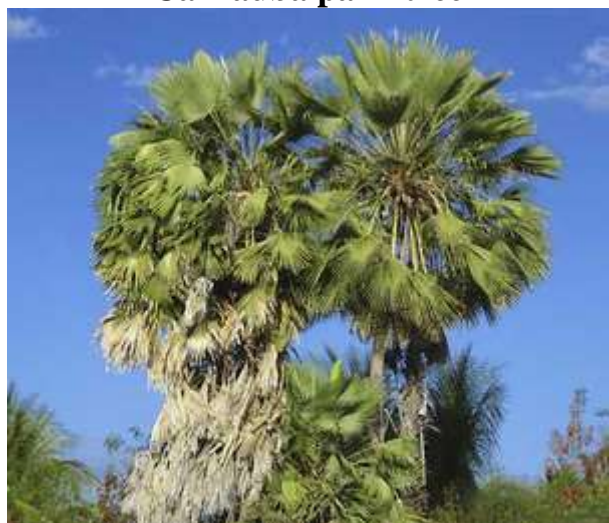
There are some very useful tips about drilling long, straight holes to be found on videos for woodies.

The TT Information section

Carnauba wax

Carnauba wax, also called **Brazil wax** or **ceara wax**, a vegetable wax obtained from the fronds of the carnauba tree (*Copernicia cerifera*) of Brazil. Valued among the natural waxes for its hardness and high melting temperature, carnauba wax is employed as a food-grade polish and as a hardening or gelling agent in a number of products.

Carnauba palm tree



The carnauba tree is a fan palm of the northeastern Brazilian savannas, where it is called the “tree of life” for its many useful products.

After 50 years, the tree can attain a height of over 14 metres (45 feet).

It has a dense, large crown of round, light green leaves.

Although it has been planted in Sri Lanka and Africa, as well as other parts of South America, **only in northern Brazil does the tree produce wax**. During the regular dry seasons in Brazil, the carnauba palm protects its metre-long (three-foot) fronds from loss of moisture by secreting a coat of carnauba wax on the upper and lower leaf surfaces. The leaves are cut from September to March and left in the sun to dry. The powdery wax is removed (by beating the shriveled leaves), then melted, strained, and cooled. The final product is yellow or brownish green, depending on the age of the leaves and the quality of processing.

The wax has a melting point of about 85° C (185° F). Although it has been replaced in many applications by cheaper synthetics, it is still used as a polish for candies and medicinal pills, as a thickener for solvents and oils, and even as a hardener for printing inks.

With a maximum cutting of twenty leaves per year from a tree, the average yield of wax for each tree is about one kilo per cutting.

Carnauba wax is rather remarkable. Harder than concrete and pretty much insoluble in both ethanol and water, it also has one of the highest melting points of all the natural waxes, beating **beeswax** hands down in this department:

Carnauba wax melting point: 82 °C to 86 °C (180°F to 187 °F)

Beeswax melting point: 62 °C to 64 °C (144 °F to 147 °F)

If you use the club's Beale buffing system then you will be familiar with carnauba wax as the “Yellow” bar.

MICHAEL DOYLE continues his fearless adventures into woodturning. This time it's with the joining of two small cubes of macrocarpa wood turned into a tall pot featuring a collared mouth.

Another winner here Michael.



This giant wooden “sausage” is actually **AARON’s** French-style rolling pin.

Note the slight high point in the centre with a subtle tapering off to each end.

The best cooking tool ever for making a batch of scones! (very subtle hint)

STEPHEN O’Connor ticked away his time making an attractive kauri clock featuring plug-cuts for digits. How many ways could you hang this clock and still get the time being presented correctly? [Go on – figure it out]





Can you identify the two woods used to make this lidded pot?

A special prize was offered to all who could come up with a 100% correct answer.

This wood identification challenge was put to every club member who attended one of our three sessions this week but only ONE person managed to score 100%. Some of the offerings were black walnut, mahogany, blackwood, rimu, swamp kauri, teak, and rata.

SPENCER Heald got it right first shot and very correctly identified the lid as **POHUTUKAWA** and the pot as **LIGNUM VITAE**. Spencer will probably now be nominated as the club's WINI wood consultant. Goodonya Spencer! Your prize is pictured below.



The original lawn bowls were made from stone but after 1409 bowls were made of wood.

Initially they were made from Boxwood, Holly, Yew or Oak but after the 16th century the exceptionally hard wood **Lignum Vitae** from Santa Domingo in the Caribbean was used to make the bowls.

Today these bowls are rare and highly sought after by wood turners. Having one of these treasures is like owning wooden gold.