



Tutor's
Tidings

TT

No 23 - Friday 17th July, 2015

Mid-Winter Woodturners' celebration

Sunday 26th July 2015

Venue: The Mollekin residence

Address: 23 Scotsman Valley Road, Tauwhare
(opposite Tauwhare School)

Time: 12.30pm – 3.30 pm

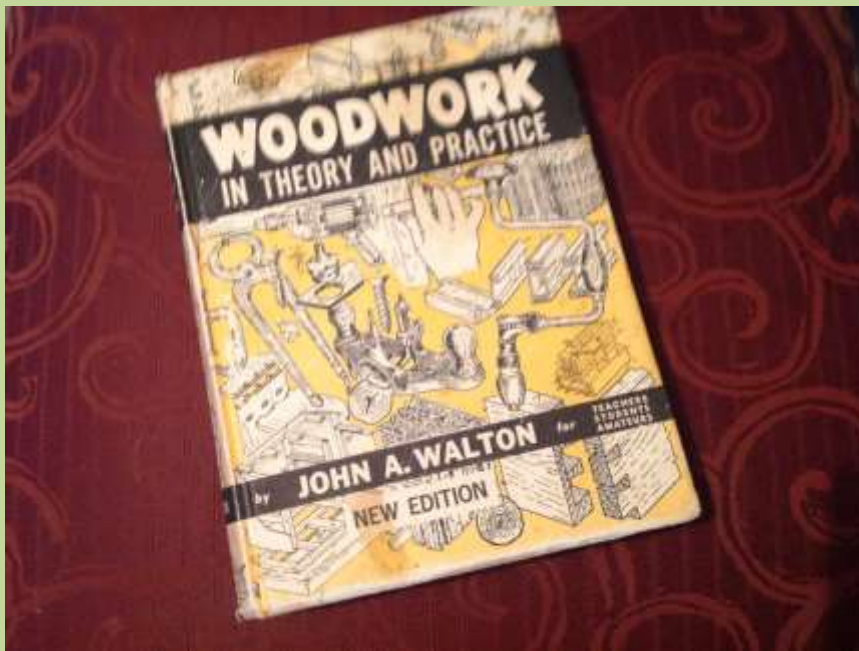
Please put this date in your diaries NOW so you can be free to attend.

EXHIBITION

All club members are asked to bring **TWO or THREE pieces** (OK well at least ONE) turning works that have been completed since the last Christmas function. These items of artful beauty will be placed on an exhibition table and be judged against a range of criteria.

Judges for the day will be the partners of those who have entered projects.

Cheers Clive



A couple of years ago I was given a very old text book (picture left) that was in common use in the early 1950s in secondary schools in New Zealand.

This Australian text, which was first published in 1947 contains a wealth of really interesting information about almost anything to do with wood.

From time to time I'll add an interesting point or two drawn from this very informative source of wood information.

Herewith the first instalment.

(see left hand box)

BOTANICAL CLASSIFICATION OF TIMBER TREES

The timbers we use are obtained from the wood of two groups of seed producing trees.

1. **Dicotyledons** - a large class of trees of the sub-division of seed forming plants called **ANGIOSPERMS**, which are flowering plants with seeds encased in the fruit. **These trees are evergreen OR deciduous** (shedding leaves) usually having broad or flat leaves. **Timber from dicotyledons is called pored wood or hardwood**
Examples[Eucalyptus, ash, balsa, birch, elm, beech]
2. **Conifers** - a class of trees belonging to the sub-division **GYMNOSPERMS**, which are non-flowering plants, the seeds, called "naked seeds", being formed in scaly cones. **Nearly all conifers are evergreens** and generally have scale-like or needle-like leaves. **Timber from this class of trees is called non-pored wood or softwood**. **Examples** [pines, firs, larch, spruce, cedar]

Given the above information, can you classify any of these well-known native timbers of New Zealand? →

TAWA

Hardwoods

MIRO

Or

KAURI

Softwoods?

KOWHAI



New Zealand's
Native Trees
POHUTUKAWA

Pohutukawa is a tree endemic to New Zealand. While it is wide spread over the country, its natural growing range was north of the latitude that New Plymouth and Gisborne sit. Due to its popularity, it is now grown all over the country and is a popular street tree.

Belonging to the myrtle family the same family as Manuka, its closest relative is the Rata and to the untrained eye, they can be hard to tell apart. Pohutukawa can be distinguished by its larger leaves and larger blossoms. Pohutukawa blossoms are a red to crimson colour (like the Rata) with the yellow blossomed "Aurea" being the exception. The blossoms appear in December and January leading to the tree being dubbed 'New Zealand's Christmas tree'.

They are a multi-trunked tree spreading as wide as 38 metres (124 feet). They are naturally a coastal tree and are renown for appearing to defy gravity in the way they cling to coastal cliffs. Although the trees are big, (the biggest at 20 metres/65 feet) they have very deep roots and on a cliff face, they dig their roots in a horizontal fashion deep into the cliff wall. When the trees are planted into the ground, they take on a more traditional shape with the trunks heading in a vertical direction.

The Pohutukawa has been introduced to other countries. A number of cities such as San Francisco have planted them as street trees. They also grow naturally in coastal areas in Sydney Australia as well as South Africa.

On the exact other side of the world in Spain is a Pohutukawa tree in the coastal city of La Corunna. The tree is even the city's floral emblem. Locals believe the tree to be about 400 to 500 years old which is certainly possible due to the maturity of the tree. However, the first European to discover New

Zealand was the Dutch explorer, Abel Tasman in 1642. This would make this Pohutukawa tree older than New Zealand's discovery meaning that the Spanish must have been the first Europeans to discover New Zealand. In support of this idea was a chance discovery around 1880 when a Spanish helmet was uncovered in Wellington harbour. But most think it is more likely that the Pohutukawa tree is younger and the Spanish helmet was brought to New Zealand by the British who claimed New Zealand as a British colony. If this is the case, it is still a mystery as to how the tree got there given that it is clearly the oldest Pohutukawa in Europe.

Pohutukawa photos



Yellow Blossoms



Did you know ... ?

The biggest pohutukawa in New Zealand is called Te Waha o Rerekohu. It grows at Te Araroa in the grounds of Te Waha o Rerekohu Area School, is 19.8 metres tall with its branches spreading over 38 metres and is reputed to be over 300 years old. Another pohutukawa at the tip of Cape Reinga is reputed to have been there for more than 800 years and is sacred to the Maori people as the departure point of the spirit from this world.

SALT and PEPPER MILLS project

This special project will be introduced to both Tuesday and Thursday sessions next week and offered to those turners wishing to enhance their mill-making skills.

In order to get the **Salt and Pepper Mill project** underway (for those who wish to take part) I have prepared suitable blocks of **super, high quality wood** extracted from my Coromandel storage sheds. This wood I intend to donate to the club for on-sales to participating members – Tuesday and Thursday sessions.

The wood has been well seasoned, and as far as I can tell, is blemish free. Each piece should yield a mill of the highest order.

The wood selection is comprised as follows:

Figured Rimu (*almost too beautiful to use. The early bird gets the worm on this one*)

Heart Rimu (*the deepest red of recycled 1890's native timbers*)

Swamp Kauri (*2,500 years old*)

Pohutukawa (*will sand and polish well. Sourced from the most beautiful part of NZ*)

Taraire (*unusual browns and streaky bits to make a great paired set of mills*)

Sycamore (*hard, pale and wonderful*)

Matai (*Historical - preserved in sand for hundreds of years – rich reddy brown*)

Macrocarpa (*the ultimate in turning ease*)

Coloured Swamp Kauri (*el magnifico –No fighting or queue jumping for this one*)

I have **revised the 2013 edition** of the instruction book and this publication together with the selected wood blocks will be **sold to members**. This initiative is yet another fundraiser to enable the **purchase of four sets of Teknatool 35mm Spigot jaws**. (TK – SP35) – current price \$62.00 each. Fundraiser target \$250.00

Twenty four blocks for these mills have been prepared, with varying lengths and timber varieties.

Prices for these blocks will start around **\$7.50** and range up to **\$18/\$20+** for some. (OK, the revised Instruction book will be free)

Members will need to provide their own standard mill mechanism available from Carbatec, via Hand Tool House Frankton @\$14.10 per unit.

Refer Carbatec catalogue: page 348 (2014 edition) Note: all shaft lengths are the same price so better to buy the GRIND-17 and the shaft can be cut to your preferred size)

SALT AND PEPPER MILLS PROJECT

Welcome to the salt and pepper mills project. In this project you will re-visit old skills and learn new approaches to making a very popular item. Salt and pepper mills make great gifts for family and friends.

Mills can be plain, traditional, funky, tall, short, chunky, dumpy, fat or thin. This is one turning project where you can really make a statement. The mills are easy to make and you can let free all your creative skills in the design.



The wood you choose for your mill is the most important decision in the whole process. I recommend a quite dense hardwood as those woods sand and finish really well – some woods rather spectacularly!

Here's a list of the bits you will need for mill making.

1. The best wood you can possibly find, clean and defect free, square section, any length between 250 - 600 mm
2. A standard ceramic mill (Carbatec **GRIND-17**)
3. **40mm** Forstner bit (**1 ½** inches)
4. **28mm** Forstner bit (**1 1/8** inches)
5. **A 7mm drill bit**
6. A jamb chuck with a **40mm dia spigot** (20mm long)
7. A lathe chuck fitted with 35mm spigot jaws.
8. Sanding equipment
9. Your favourite finish
10. An instruction book (Usually \$6 but free if you purchase a fundraiser block of wood)

For the Tuesday Turners this special project will start on Tues 28th July. The Thursday group will start on Thurs 23rd July. This early notice gives members time to gather all the things needed for the project.

The following skills will feature in this project: Re-centering an off-center hole; long hole drilling; power sanding in the spindle mode; making a spigot with a tungsten tipped Easy Wood tool; making and using a jamb chuck; plug cutting and fitting; cutting the aluminum square section shaft to size and re-shaping the shaft base; applying a finish; fitting the mechanism; and Beall system buffing to a preferred shine.

THURSDAY'S GALLERY OF PROJECTS.



This superbly crafted piece of swamp kauri has been enhanced by adding a texture around the flattened rim. **MAURICE** has made great use of the Sorby mini texturing tool.



This is **DOMINIC's** first-ever bowl and what an excellent turning it is. Undeterred by the knot in the wood, Dominic preferred to leave it as it and make it a feature of the turning. His own design and own effort too so well done that man!

Fundraisers

Two projects are currently operating. Each of these fundraisers will be based on sale profits of very good quality wood, which has been donated for turning projects.

Fundraiser A: Reason: To purchase a set of high quality metric drill bits (incremented by 0.5mm)

Wood sales to date have raised \$74.00 of the \$130 required. Not far to go now!

Fundraiser B: Reason: To purchase four sets of 35mm spigot jaws to fit the club's chucks.

Wood sales for the salt and pepper mills project were quite amazing as on the very first night of sales \$266.00 of the \$250 target was raised. (Target surpassed by \$16.00 - Woo Hoo!)

Any further sales of mill making wood can be allocated to fundraiser A.

As a result of this wonderful member support I have now placed an order with Hand Tool House and this supplier has undertaken to have the **35mm spigot jaw sets** to me by Wednesday 22nd July.