



Tutor's Tidings

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No 25 - Friday 31st July, 2015

Many thanks to those club members who supported our club fundraising initiatives. The sales of good quality, dry-ready-to-use wood went really well and the bargains were scooped up very quickly.

Successful fundraising has meant that members now have access to six chucks fitted with sets of 35mm spigot jaws. In addition, hole drilling just got better with the addition of a boxed set of brad point drill bits.

Members are asked to ensure that all chucks are released from work at the end of each session and that all chucks are returned and placed correctly in the chuck racks.



Woo Hoo!

13 chucks are now stored in our rack.

Tuesday's Gallery



David's Australian Blackwood.

This wood sands well and takes a high gloss finish



Malcolm's Matai Pot.

A great shape and a superb finish.



JAMES creates an amazing finish to his small vase-pot.



MALCOLM uses masking tape to align the grains while turning



JAN continues her masterpiece ridding it of STRIA.



DAVE uses an effective home-made tool on his pohutukawa project.

CHRIS confidently turns another pepper mill.



MAURITZ enjoys success with the turning of smaller objects



DAVID will be turning mills for a while - he has fourteen units to make!



DAVID R fits a face plate to a select piece of black maire.



RAEWYN readies herself for the lightning-fast gluing job in pen making

BRIAN puts the finishing touches to the base of his paper pot maker.



MIRO

NATIVE TREES - NEW ZEALAND

Miro was known and cherished by Maori because of its fleshy covered fruit, about an inch long, on which the native pigeon feeds and fattens. It is a softwood forest tree growing up to 90 ft high and 1 to 3 ft through the bole. Miro (*Prumnopitys ferruginea*) grows to 25 metres tall and its trunk to 1 metre in diameter, forming a round-headed tree. It is widely distributed in lowland and high-altitude forests from north Auckland to Stewart Island. The tree prefers moist, well-drained soils, and fine specimens grow on the deep pumice soils of the central North Island.

Miro

Seed and foliage



Young plants look like miniature versions of adults. They have dark green, feathery, needle-like leaves flattened into two rows. Small mataī and miro trees look similar, but can be distinguished because miro oozes resin from its bark when it receives an injury.

Each year miro produces a regular crop of fleshy, bright red seeds, which smell strongly of turpentine. The seeds are an important food for forest birds in winter. Māori hunted kererū (New Zealand pigeons) at this time, as the birds often gorged themselves on so many seeds that they could barely fly.

Miro timber closely resembles that of rimu, and it is usually marketed as such. Heartwood is somewhat darker in colour, finer in grain, easily worked, and of exceptional strength.

In the past, miro was used mainly for building houses. The timber looks like rimu and has similar properties.

Miro bears prolific crops of fleshy red seeds. They smell strongly of turpentine when fresh, and are a favourite food of kererū (native pigeons), the plant's main seed disperser. Miro's leaves are slightly curved and flattened into two rows, giving them a feathery look.

THURSDAY'S SESSION

It seems the Thursday evening session continues to grow in popularity. We now have more enrolments than ever before. One of our long-standing members **COLIN** has just returned from an overseas traipsing about so we welcome his return to the team. In addition, we have another soon-to-be member lined up ready to secure the first vacant spot.

We were able to cope with the numbers by re-commissioning a dormant lathe and having our prospective member spending the time observing the unfolding of the Thursday evening session.

Do we need a bigger building? More lathes? Start another evening session? The answers to these questions might be worth exploring.

*Left to right: Big **MIKE**, **MURRAY** and our new-member-in-waiting **PAUL** Bradding share a few thoughts about the running of the Thursday evening woodturning session.*



THURSDAY'S GALLERY



***ROBERT'S** swamp kauri pepper mill*



***ROBERT'S** sand-blasted black and white bowl*



***MURRAY'S** selection of pens*



***DAVE'S** first-ever small bowl*



MAURICE's small bowl has a natural edge and a brilliant finish!

DYLAN completed his second project this session – a bud vase.



DOMINIC reaches out for more ambitious turnings. A kahikatea bowl.

MUHANNAD also turns a large kahikatea bowl



COLIN, the world tourist, gets straight back into the turning task

SPENCER puts the finishing touches to his totara wood whiskey bottle.



ROBERT uses totara burr to make another pepper mill.

CHRISTINE fashions her pepper mill using taraire wood.





***ANDRE`** prepares a sanding arbor to use with his bowl project.*



***PAUL** adds shape to his rimu pepper mill*



***STEPHEN and DAVE** share ideas about drilling a long hole.*



***MIKE (Mr Big)** is in the home straight with the biggest turning ever!*



***MAURICE** has a real knack for creating the best possible finish to his work.*

*While in Switzerland **COLIN** found this natty little turning of a wooden basket*



WORKING BEE - Saturday 8th August

9.00am at the workshop.

Lots of chainsaws and willing hands please.

Remember to keep those gouges sharp.

Clive