



Tutor's Tidings

TT

No 27 - Friday 14th August, 2015



SCENES AROUND THE WORKING BEE

All the log wood we had in storage has now been slabbed or rounded and treated with end-sealer wax.

Picture left shows the results of sorting the **GOOD** from the **BAD** and the **UGLY**. The waste wood on the trailer will be given to charity to help keep a few people warm this winter.

Several members from the Tuesday and Thursday groups turned up to provide willing hands at last Saturday's working bee. The help was much appreciated so a special thank you to all members who were able to help.

The process started with the chainsaw gang who sliced the wood into various sized slabs. Then the marking crew used a range of circle templates to draw the rounds. Next came the band-saw team who cut out the rounds. These cutouts were then handed over to the waxers who sealed the wood by painting on a water-based wax ("end sealer"). Finally, the stacking crew placed the wooden treasures onto fillets in the drying/storage racks.

The whole process worked like smooth clockwork with everyone pitching in, maximizing the short time we had available to complete the work.

Well done to all ! When this wood is well seasoned, club members will benefit from having access to some high quality turning wood. (The heart-wood of the black walnut is a treasure!)



THE
CHAINSAW
GANGS
SLAB
the
LOGS





SPENCER, the band saw guru, cuts out a monster round for some lucky person to use in a few months from now.



Well if you make a mess you have to clean it up eh. The saw dust is bagged and taken away to make someone's bed of roses very happy.



David cuts out a whole stack of marked rounds then sends them off to the end-sealing team.



Dave applies a generous coat of sealer wax to prevent the wood from drying out too quickly. (main contributor to cracking problems)



Christine carefully places the waxed rounds into well-organized racks.



Tidy up time after the work has been completed.

Tuesday's session

A new 5-week course started today with seven members enrolling for the first session.

Both RAEWYN and MAURITZ have indicated that they are unable to enroll in the new daytime course.

DAVID R: Used the Longworth chuck to complete his most excellent swamp kauri bowl.

DAVID M: Continued his 14-pepper mill challenge and completed another fine job.

JAMES: Turned a large rimu bowl for a kind lady who donated the wood two years ago.

CHRIS: Completed a talisman project using the skew chisel. Result - brilliant!

JAN: Finished her rimu bowl and made a start on turning pens.

DES: Made a great job of spindle turning a garden dibber with special handle grips.

DAVE M: Made patient progress with his exceptionally well-crafted deep bowl using rewarewa wood.

Tuesday's Gallery



MAURITZ visited the workshop briefly to show us his beautiful black walnut project: a bobbin holder for lace making. Sadly for us, Mauritz is unable to attend the new course.



DES made a great job of his garden dibber and on the way learned a heap of new turning skills. (the use of mini-chisels; burning lines into wood; the Beale buffing system)
Next week a paper pots-maker project will get underway.



DAVID M completed another pepper mill. (five more to go) David showed us his multi-laminated model too.



DAVID R put the finishing touches to his large swamp kauri bowl. A high quality turning.....well done!



JAN has finished her highly-figured rimu bowl project. This has been a long patient job resulting in a superb finish. Congratulations Jan, your perseverance has paid dividends.



CHRIS very bravely took on a “using-a-skew-only” challenge and turned a laminated block to produce a wooden talisman. This was a clear cut case of *The Taming of the Skew* (with apologies to Shakespeare of course)

Next week Chris will make a start on an ambitious project by turning a **LARGE** bowl using kahikatea wood

NEW ZEALAND'S NATIVE TREES

Kohekohe, one of the funkiest trees in town!

There are **FOUR reasons** that make kohekohe (*Dysoxylum spectabile*) one of the funkiest trees in town.

FIRST, unlike many other trees, Kohekohe flowers sprout from the trunk and branches. This feature is known as cauliflory and it's believed to be an adaptation to pollination and seed dispersal by animals that can't fly or insects living at the ground level.



Branches of Kohekohe (*Dysoxylum spectabile*) with flowers.



A close up of a cluster of flowers forming on the trunk of Kohekohe



THIRD. Kohekohe is the only representative in New Zealand of the tree genus *Dysoxylum* which is otherwise only found in tropical and subtropical regions of the world.

FOURTH. Kohekohe was one of the first trees collected in the country by the scientists Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander during the first trip of Captain James Cook to New Zealand in 1768.

SECOND. Kohekohe trees do not flower every year. Blooming generally occurs during early winter and after pollination of the flowers has occurred fruits will take up to 15 months to ripen. Thus, you will not see flowers on trees that are currently fruiting or vice

A fairly close relative of true mahogany (*Swietenia*), it is also called **New Zealand Mahogany**.

Kohekohe is notable for having characteristics normally associated with trees growing in the tropics, for example, its white flowers and red fruit grow directly from the trunk or branches (known as cauliflory), and it has large, glossy, pinnate leaves up to 40mm in length.

Kohekohe is sometimes known as New Zealand Mahogany, because its wood is light, strong and polishes to a fine red colour. Māori boiled the bark in water and drank it as a tonic. The wood was used for building canoes but is soft and not as durable as hardwoods and tends to rot quickly. It is valued for carving.

THURSDAY'S SESSION

Another busy session to round off yet another 10-week course. (The next course starts on Thursday 20th August, next week)

MAURICE: showed us his beautiful pohutukawa bowl and started another.

MURRAY: worked long and hard on his large hollow form vessel only to have it explode into fragments towards the end of the process. Oh heck!

MUHANNAD: launched into another pepper mill.

SPENCER: finished off a project then started pen making.

ANDRE`: finished his major turning project for the course – a magnificent kanuka bowl.

COLIN: experimented with turning a winged bowl using pear tree wood.

PAUL: continued his challenge with his rimu wood pepper mill.

CHRISTINE: made decisions about the final shape of her taraire wood pepper mill.

STEPHEN: almost finished his pohutukawa pepper mill. Fitting the mechanism is next.

DOMINIC: learned about 'dimples and pimples' at the bottom of a bowl then very skillfully eliminated them both. Another great job!

DAVE: Made an excellent turning job with his taraire wood pepper mill.

THURSDAY'S GALLERY



DAVE's taraire pepper mill.

Great shape and a 'Wow!' finish



STEPHEN's pohutukawa pepper mill. This well-made turning features flowing lines and good proportion of head to base.



MAURICE has achieved a most brilliant glossy finish to his bowl. The natural edge looks well ...natural.



ANDRE` can usually find the best possible treasure hidden away in any wood he picks up. This is a good example from a quick turning during the session.



DYLAN has achieved a scratch-free smooth finish to his kahikatea bowl. This is just his third project in Dylan's turning journey and he shows real potential.



Here it is !
ANDRE`s long-awaited kanuka wood bowl complete with natural bark bits left on to provide special features. A superb finish to a great job.

Finally.....

We celebrated the close of yet another 10-week course with the traditional shared supper.



HOWZATT!

It's been fun.

Progress was made by all.

See you all next week at the start of another 10-week course.

More challenges await the eager learners.

Thanks for being such great contributors to the team effort.

Clive