

THE WEEKLY TUTOR'S TIDINGS

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Remember, if I cannot break it, no-one can!

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Week 27: 5th August, 2016



TUTOR's comment and CLUB NEWS

Many thanks to **ROBERT WISELEY** who has kindly donated more great ready-to-use turning wood. The stack comprises several varieties for club members to make a selection for their projects. **MALCOLM PORTEOUS** has scored some recently cut kauri logs from an aborist so these will need to be processed as soon as possible involving slabbing, waxing, labelling and storing for a lengthy seasoning period. This work is likely to need another brief working bee so keep watching this space for the time and date for this activity.

1. Seasoning wood is an ongoing task but essential for the continuity of turning activities. This week's TT information section contains procedures for club members' to follow for natural drying (seasoning) of wet wood.
2. Vacancies have occurred for our 9.00am to 3.00 pm **Tuesday class** so if you would like to join our happy group of turners give me a call and you will be most welcome to join the weekly session no matter what your turning skill level is currently at. We cater for all levels of expertise.
3. Members were reminded about closing dates for the upcoming **Woodfest to be held at Kawerau**.
4. **In the box below is Dick Veitch's message to all woodturning clubs about the next month's woodturning symposium.**

Herewith a message from Dick Veitch, Symposium Committee. "We are now into August and this email is to all woodturning clubs. I would love to have your members attend our International Woodturning Symposium at Kings College from 29 September to 2 October 2016.

I appreciate that 29 September seems to be a long way off but I am also aware that we needed to add a late registration fee payment after the end of August - I would prefer not to hear too many screams as wood turners dig deeper into their pockets.

To help you all along I attach the registration form and our information sheet to accompany it.

Regards

Dick Veitch Symposium Committee 09 298 5775

Information Series



THIS WEEK'S USEFUL TIP



AIR DRYING (Seasoning) Wood

A challenge all turners face is the availability (and cost) of good quality wood for turning projects. One sure way of having a continuous supply is to have your own shed full of air-dried wood in your backyard.

While there are many ways to season wood the simplest process is air drying. This is the slowest method but always the cheapest way to get your wood ready to use on the lathe.

People often ask me how long it takes to dry say a 100mm slab of native timber. This is a difficult question to answer as each variety of wood may well have a different answer. The variables are:

- The thickness of the slab
- The initial moisture content
- Late spring season cut wood or Autumn/winter cut wood
- The density of the wood - hardwood or softwood
- The weather conditions the wood is dried in. (Air flow, temperature)

However, my usual response is "allow 12 months for every 30mm thickness of the slab". This is hardly a scientific answer but it is a useful guideline that gets quite close to reality.

1. Ok let's start with obtaining some wood. Suppose your neighbour, or bloke up the road a bit tells you he is about to fell a tree that apparently annoys him because the leaves fall everyday into his swimming pool. This tree is about to be euthanized – it's gotta come down!
2. As soon as possible after the felling cut the log into lengths that measure 100mm more than the diameter of the trunk/big limb. (wood shrinks as it dries) This is a really an important point to think about. Processing your log is best started within minutes not hours, days or weeks after the tree is felled.

3. Turn all the log round blocks on their ends and chainsaw them lengthways through the pith. Now you have half-round blocks.
4. Cut the half-round blocks into good sized slabs and remove the bark from the outer slab. (see picture that follows) Yes, get rid of the bark as it will hold the moisture in and is generally no good for turning anyway.
5. Brush on a generous coating of waxy end-sealer (thick, milky gooeey stuff) to the ends of the slabs. (We have some of this sealer stuff for sale at our workshop.) This waxy application will SLOW DOWN the loss of moisture through the end grain pores. Moisture will escape from the timber much faster through the end grain than anywhere else on the slab. If the ends are not treated with wax sealer then uneven drying can occur and your wood might end up looking like one in the picture just below.



Here's a layered stack of timber slabs each of which has had a wax end-sealer generously applied.

Make sure you put the processing date and write the wood variety on a label with a good quality marker pen for future reference.

Distortion

Some timbers tend to warp more than others. Some timbers tend to absorb moisture more than others. Every turner will notice that some timbers will “move” after they have been turned and exhibit anything from mild-to-wild wobbles after re-chucking.



Ready-to-use wood is wood that has reached EMC.

What's EMC? The **Equilibrium Moisture Content (EMC)** is the **moisture content** at which the wood is neither gaining nor losing moisture. In New Zealand's temperate climate EMC is about 12% moisture.

The best way to air dry timber is in a stack like the one in picture.



What's been happening in our workshop?



DAVID ROSE used a block of cypress wood to create this extra-special bowl with resin inlay and twenty-four spot windows around its rim.

A well thought out approach to a difficult process.

Goodonya David!



Our COLIN has been busy again. Here's a collection of this week's completed projects.

The top two bowls were made using white maire wood.

A three-board lamination of Purple heart was used to make the winged bowl.



ROSS Smith completed his garden dibber and made an immediate start on a kauri wood bowl. Great tool work on the dibber handle Ross!



CHRIS looks pleased with his rolling pin project. The replication of size and shape of the handles is a special feature. Now where's that Edmonds Cook Book?

INVITATION TO A DAY WITH CHRIS HOOTEN

The Tauranga Woodcrafters Guild invites your members to join us on Saturday 20th August

**Chris Hooten from Taupo will be giving a demo on tool sharpening in the morning, 10-30 am to 12 noon
Then from 1 o'clock –2-30pm he will be showing us how he gets a fine thin edge on his turning.**

This is a free day so come and enjoy a great demo from a very accomplished wood turner. This will give you a taste of things to come at the big Symposium in September.

**Bring your lunch, or buy a sausage from our Barbecue.
Our Workshop is at 3 Cherokee Place, Mt.Maunganui, first entrance on the left.**

Ok that's it for this week folks. The weather continues to depress spirits, the Chiefs have gone into hiding and may be there for some time (I have burned my Chiefs footie jersey), and it will rain again this weekend.

But there's always the Olympics I suppose. (betcha someone gets caught for drug taking) **GO THE HURRICANES!** - *Clive*