



Tutor's Tidings

TT

No 30 - Friday 4th Sept, 2015

Another MYSTERY. The missing chuck reappeared last weekend... BUT.....another (and different) chuck is now missing from our storage rack. This discrepancy was noted on arrival for last night's evening turning session.

We seem to be accumulating more logs of donated wood and the stack is growing outside the workshop doors. While the club is hugely grateful for this wood, it means that on occasion, another working bee is needed to deal with the treasures. The good part about the ongoing need for wood processing is that club members will benefit over the course of time.



"This is what we look like when we are all home in bed".

- **The Chucks**



DAVID used a sliced cross-section piece of gummy kauri for his session project then switched to completing a ribbed box.



JAMES has finished his highly figured bowl (check out the gallery for this week) and finishes the session with pen making.



CHRIS completed his kahikatea bowl then launched into wooden “free range” egg production. (Check out the gallery)



DAVE made such a great job of his first rewarewa bowl he is under family instructions to make another.



DES finishes his beautiful walnut bowl by polishing using the Beale buffing system. (see the gallery)



Two wise men, **RICHARD** and **MALCOLM**, are figuring out how to make best use of the 50mm Forstner bit.



BOB cleans up after testing his work in sharpening the club chisels.



JAN works with a piece of liquid amber to make another deep bowl.

A hive of industry



Another Thursday evening session draws to a close and it's tidy-up time. Dust and shavings are air-blown off workstands, machines and lathes, tools are put back into racks and the floor is swept. Part-finished projects are carefully wrapped in protective cloths and finished items are admired by all. Well that's it for this week but in seven days from now we do it all again. There's fun in learning and participation.

ADVANCE NOTICE.

WORKSHOP WEEKEND with DAVE HEWITT

The **Dave Hewitt workshop weekend** to be held on **October 10/11** will be a chance for **TWO lucky club members** to attend this exciting event. If you are interested in being one of these lucky persons let **Robert Wiseley** know as soon as possible. If there are more than two names received then the lucky two will be drawn out of a hat.

(A reminder for this event will be posted in mid-September)

THIS WEEK'S GALLERY



DES is having much success with his woodturning. Eager to learn and catches on very quickly.



*A masterpiece from **JAMES** with a flawless, faultless and highly-figured shallow bowl.*



*More quality work from **DES** with great bowl shape and no sign of the pesky stria. Woo hoo!*



***CHRIS's** large kahikatea bowl would sit proudly on anyone's table. High-quality work here.*



***MALCOLM's** stylized rolling pin has all the correct dimensions to please any masterchef.*



***MALCOLM** made this snazzy looking clock block from an old kauri fire surround, which was once fitted to an Auckland villa.*



DOMINIC has added a distinguishing mark, centre inside of his well- finished bowl



ROBERT used spray-on lacquer to achieve the high gloss finish to his pepper mill



COLIN persevered with an uncooperative piece of pohutukawa wood. Well worth the effort eh!



DYLAN continues to impress us all with his turning skills, this time making a paper-pots maker. (a gardener's treasure)



PAUL B completed his first project - a knockout bar. Great handle shape, careful turning and a good finish.



BRUCE used the session time to deal with all his treasured wood by cutting most of it into rounds ready for use.

Will the silver fern be
part of New
Zealand's new flag?

PONGA

New
Zealand's
special
tree fern



The **silver tree fern** is a species of medium-sized tree fern, **endemic** (not found naturally anywhere else) to New Zealand.

Arriving relatively late in New Zealand's history during the Pliocene epoch (around 5 – 1.8 million years ago), it is one of several tree ferns native to this country.

The silver fern is known by Maori as ponga, which is specific to this type of tree fern. However non-Maori New Zealanders have adopted ponga as applying to all tree ferns, especially tree fern logs used in landscaping.

It is often incorrectly spelt, and pronounced, as "punga".

The silver fern has become an international symbol of New Zealand, especially in the sporting world.

Identification: Ponga is the most distinct and easily recognised New Zealand tree fern, especially when viewed from underneath. The underside of the fronds and the stems of the fronds near the trunk are a **distinctive silver-white**, giving the fern its English name. It grows to a height of 10 m or more and has a thick trunk up to 45cm in diameter. The base of the trunk is a mass of old fibrous aerial roots while the upper part of the trunk is covered in the bases and stalks of old fronds.

The fern fronds are a bright green on the upper surface and reach lengths of up to 4m, arching out in a circular, somewhat flattened, crown. **Young silver ferns are green on the underside and it can take the plant several years for the silvery-white colour to develop.**

Distribution: The silver fern occurs on the main islands of New Zealand and on the Chatham Islands to the east, mostly in the sub canopy areas of drier forests and in open scrub. Its distribution is not even, however. It does not occur naturally in an area around Lake Taupo in the North Island and is largely absent from most of the South Island except for scattered occurrences on the Kaikoura Coast, Banks Peninsula, Coastal Marlborough and Northwest Nelson south to about as far as Westport, parts of Fiordland on the southern west coast, and the Catlins on the southern east coast.

Uses: Maori and European New Zealanders have marked routes through the bush by breaking off a silver fern frond, or part of one, and leaving it upside down on the trail where its silver stands out starkly against the dark earth for several months. Whole upside down fronds placed in a circle in a clearing are recognized as a signal for help readily seen by searching aircraft.

OTHER NZ TREE FERNS

A very famous New Zealand symbol gets its name from the Mamaku tree fern (**KORU**)

Where are the Mamaku Ranges in New Zealand?

Mamaku koru



Mamaku: Mamaku tree ferns grow in damp gullies throughout New Zealand. Reaching 20 metres in height, they have oval-shaped frond scars on the trunk. The white pith of the trunk and the koru (new shoots) are edible, although slimy when first cut. Māori stripped the trunk's outer layers so the slime could dry or drain away. The plant was then cut down and cooked whole. Alternatively, koru (new shoots) were hung to dry. Baking was the preferred way to cook mamaku, to separate the stringy fibres from the flesh. Although the taste is bland, the nutritional value is high.

Whekī and whekī-ponga

There are several varieties of whekī and ponga ferns, growing 5–20 metres high. **Whekī: (rough tree fern)** has peg-like extensions marking where old fronds have fallen off, and is found throughout New Zealand.

Whekī-ponga: (brown tree fern) is distinguishable by its large skirt of old brown fronds, and grows south of Auckland. Both provided building materials – the trunks were used for walls, and the fronds for roofs.

Kātote: (soft tree fern) grows throughout New Zealand and is half the size of mamaku. It was a favourite food of South Island tribes.

Large Lidded Ponga Jar



***OK until next week,
HAPPY TURNING***

- Clive

