



Tutor's Tidings

TT

No 31 - Friday 11th Sept, 2015

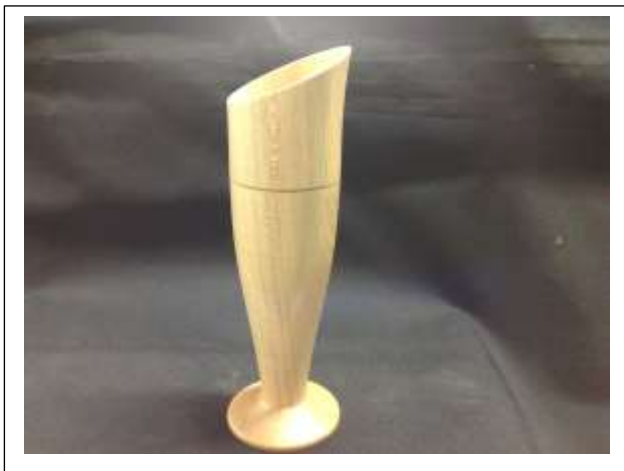


Look !

"I've been found again and very soon I will be back with my mates in the rack." – The Chuck

Members are reminded that at the end of each session ALL CLUB CHUCKS must be placed back in the storage racks. – The Tutor

This Week's Gallery



Two above pictures: Very stylish pepper mills made by MURRAY from sycamore wood.

A special feature of these mills is the shaftless mechanism. Picture left has the grinding mechanism at the top and the other mill has the mechanism placed at the base.



***ANDRE`** has turned a very tall and elegant pepper mill using beautifully grained rewarewa wood.*



***DYLAN** sets to work turning a square section length into a cylinder.*

This week's project is to make a garden dibber.

*The two wise men **MUHANNAD** and **BOB** discuss the most economical way of using a slab of valuable wood.*



***DOMINIC** meets the challenge of turning a natural edge bowl*

Member's group project No 4 - CLOCK MAKING

Open the other file attached to this week's TT and you will find an instruction booklet about a process for making a clock.

If you wish to join the group of clock makers and participate in this project then you would benefit from having a copy of this instruction booklet. **Print off your own edition.**

Start looking for suitable wood as this project will get underway on **Tuesday 22nd September and again on Thursday 24th September.**



STEPHEN made a great job of turning a small rimu wood bowl. After applying a coat of Liberon Finishing Oil then buffing with wax an outstanding finish was achieved.



CHRISTINE has achieved one of the most difficult tasks in turning. i.e. "replication of shape"
Now there is a **pigeon-pair** of **perfectly paired pepper pots**. (writer's apologies to Peter Piper who picked a peck of pickled peppers)



Not to be outdone **PAUL** also perseveres patiently, putting pizzaz into his pair of pepper pots.



ROBERT attacked a large slab of chestnut wood for tonight's turning session. A feature of this wood is the presence of lots of interesting grain patterns.



ANDRE` puts the finishing touches to his rewarewa wood pepper mill. The medullary rays, so prominent in this NZ native timber, were highlighted with the application of Liberon Finishing Oil.



COLIN has been commissioned to turn an exacting mould blank to be used in a fiberglass lamp shade project. White maire was selected for this project as the wood always finishes well with a super-smooth surface. A slight hiccup occurred but was fixed by inserting a wooden plug to repair a hole made by bark inclusion.

MURRAY has become quite skilled at turning hollow forms and this time has chosen Eucalyptus Saligna (Sydney Bluegum) for his turning. Murray got quite excited at the richness of colour, texture and the ease at which an excellent finish was achieved.



NEW ZEALAND'S NATIVE TREES



Our NIKAU palm tree

The nīkau palm is the southernmost member of the palm family and **New Zealand's only native palm species.**

The nīkau palm is the southernmost member of the palm family, a group that is usually tropical or sub-tropical. There are over 1100 palm species around the world, including some of the world's most useful plants such as the oil palm, banana, coconut, and sago palm. Although a number of palms have been introduced to New Zealand and are planted around our towns and gardens, the nīkau palm is our only native palm species.

A nīkau palm usually grows about 10-15 metres tall. It is easy to recognise in the bush with its circular trunk, which is ringed with evenly spaced scars from fallen leaves. The fronds are up to three metres in length.

Where is it found?

The nīkau palm is unique to New Zealand and it primarily occurs in coastal to lowland forest in warmer regions. It is found in the North Island and the northern South Island from the Marlborough Sounds and Nelson south to near Okarito in the west and Banks Peninsula (near Christchurch) in the east.

Nīkau facts

- The nīkau sprouts large clusters of mauve flowers that burst from the base of the lowest branch. The flowers are sticky and sweet with nectar, which attracts insects, especially bees.
- While insects are probably the main pollinators, birds such as tui, bellbirds and silvereyes also enjoy the nīkau nectar. Flowers occur throughout the entire year.
- The bright red nīkau fruits take about one year to ripen and are an important food source for native birds, particularly the wood pigeon/kererū and kākā.
- Nīkau palms have always had importance in Māori life. The leaves were used to thatch houses, to wrap food before cooking, and to weave into hats, mats, baskets, and leggings for travelling through rough undergrowth. The growing spikes can be taken from the tree about every eight months without killing it.
- From the outer portion of the trunk, Māori made storage containers and pots. The hard berries were made into necklaces or eaten when green. The immature flower is edible and can be cooked and eaten like cauliflower. The heart of the developing leaves (called rito) can also be eaten raw, but taking the shoots kills the whole tree.
- The nīkau is very slow-growing. Research conducted in lowland forests near Auckland found it takes 40–50 years to begin to form a trunk and about 200 years to reach 10 metres tall. On average two fronds are shed per year leaving behind a leaf scar on the trunk which can be used to give a rough indication of age since the trunk began forming.
- The nīkau is closely related to the betel nut, the seeds of which are used as a laxative. The centre shoots of nīkau can be used in the same way.