



Tutor's Tidings

TT

No 32 - Friday 18th September

At the club's Tuesday session we welcomed a new recruit, **HEATHER THOMSON**. Thanks for joining the team Heather and we hope your time with us is long and rewarding.

Sadly we had to say farewell to **BRIAN DALY** who has work commitments but Brian promises to return to the club sometime next year.

MALCOLM and **DAVE** weren't able to join us for personal reasons. Good to see **DAVID M** return after a period of illness. **GARTH** brought back his smile into the team following a period of absence. Good on you Garth and David. It's great to see you both now with improved health.

Tuesday's Gallery



BRIAN finished his Kahikatea bowl achieving a high quality finish. Towards the end of his project the NEAGE philosophy kicked in and Brian made a determined effort to rid his excellent turning of all traces of STRIA. Attitude wins again and another fine product leaves the workshop



CHRIS has mastered the art of egg making and here's the proof! Well done Chris. You have used a whole lot of "free range" ideas and skills. I like the way you have just "chooked" them into a bowl. Skilled work indeed! Nothing "fowl" here!



***JAN** accomplishes another great turning task. This time it's a bowl made from liquid amber wood. Some very striking lines enhance the bowl's appearance. Patience pays dividends eh.*



***DAVID R** beavered away for quite some time with his well-designed pot. The plunge fitting top is a special feature and the finish is exceptional. (**WNI** wood used)*

WNI = Wood Not Identified



*Do you remember your first day at school? **HEATHER** will remember her first day at woodturning class I reckon. The above picture shows what was made at the first attempt. Methinks this turner is going places. Woo Hoo!*



***DAVID M.** has been super busy making tungsten-tipped woodturning tools. There's a whole new set of skills here so what an excellent effort to produce such a variety. **DAVID** uses these tools in preference to standard bowl gouges. The consistent cutting power of a tungsten tip speaks volumes.*

Harakeke/flax

NOTE: While this very iconic New Zealand plant is not exactly a tree, it has played an important part in our country's history. After 32 consecutive weeks this is the final instalment of articles about New Zealand's native flora (New stuff next week).

There are two identified species of flax in New Zealand - *common flax (harakeke)* and *mountain flax (wharariki)*.

We all recognise the tall, green, sword-like leaves of flax that can be found growing throughout New Zealand. Common flax is found throughout the country, especially in wet areas, while mountain flax is found both at higher altitudes and along exposed coastlines.



Facts about flax

- Flax is unique to New Zealand and is one of our most ancient plant species.
- Flax bushes will often support a large community of animals, providing shelter and an abundant food resource.
- Tui, bellbirds/ korimako, saddlebacks/tīeke, short tailed bats/pekapeka, geckos and several types of insects enjoy nectar from the flax flower.
- Flax snails, a rare land snail living only in the Far North, often shelter under flax bushes. These snails don't eat any part of the flax, but rather they munch on fallen leaves from native broadleaved trees.
- Harakeke was the name given to this plant by Māori.
- The first European traders called it 'flax' because its fibres were similar to that of true flax found in other parts of the world.
- Although we still call it flax today, harakeke is really a lily.



Flax on the coastline

Flax species

Common flax grows up to three metres high and its flower stalks can reach up to four metres. It has seedpods that stand upright from the stems.

Mountain flax never grows as large as common flax, rarely reaching more than 1.6 metres high, and its seedpods hang down.

Within the two flax species, there are numerous different varieties of flax. Some have drooping, floppy leaves while others grow as stiff and upright as spears. Flax flowers can vary in colour from yellow to red to orange.

Uses of flax

Flax was a valuable resource to Europeans during the nineteenth century because of its strength. It was New Zealand's biggest export by far until wool and frozen mutton took over later in the century.

Today, flax is used in soaps, hand creams, shampoos and a range of other cosmetics. Flaxseed oil can also be found for sale. There have even been experiments to make flax into wine!



Flax sap

USES: Flax was the most important fibre plant to Māori in New Zealand. Each pā or marae typically had a ‘pā harakeke’, or flax plantation. Different varieties were specially grown for their strength, softness, colour and fibre content.

The uses of the flax fibre were numerous and varied. Clothing, mats, plates, baskets, ropes, bird snares, lashings, fishing lines and nets were all made from flax leaves. Floats or rafts were made out of bundles of dried flower stalks. The abundant nectar from flax flowers was used to sweeten food and beverages.

Flax also had many medicinal uses. The sticky sap or gum that flax produces was applied to boils and wounds and used for toothache. Flax leaves were used in binding broken bones and matted leaves were used as dressings. Flax root juice was routinely applied to wounds as a disinfectant.



Flax flowers

Removing the leaves

Traditionally when harakeke leaves were removed from the plant, only the older leaves on the outside were taken.

It was believed the three inner layers of the plant represented a family. The outer layer represented the grandparents, whereas the inner layer of new shoots – the child – remained and were to be protected by the next inner layer of leaves, the parents.

Flax is generally a very common plant throughout New Zealand, but many of the special forms that were cultivated by Māori for weaving were nearly lost during the twentieth century.

Luckily, a few growers maintained their collections of special flaxes over the years. These cultivars have been in strong demand again due to a revival of interest in flax weaving over the last 20 years. Landcare Research now holds national collections of the unique cultivars and distributes plants to weaving groups and marae throughout the country.

Your Committee at work



The Committee: (Clockwise) left front - **ROBERT WISELEY; ANDRE DUIJNMAYER; MURRAY PRICE; GRANT TAYLOR; BOB HOYLE; SPENCER HEALD**

[Unable to attend tonight's meeting - MUHANNAD JUMA; DAVE MOODIE; MALCOLM PORTEOUS]

YOUR Committee:among a whole lot of other things it does.....

- 1. Meets at 7.00pm on the third Wednesday of each month.**
- 2. Plans for ongoing club development**
- 3. Promotes health and safety practices**
- 4. Allocates funding for prioritized equipment for members' use**
- 5. Works hard to generate additional funding for club expansion**
- 6. Ensures all members are kept informed of club happenings and turning events**
- 7. Supports a programme of instruction where you can learn and consolidate new woodturning skills.**

This information inserted by your appreciative TUTOR - Clive

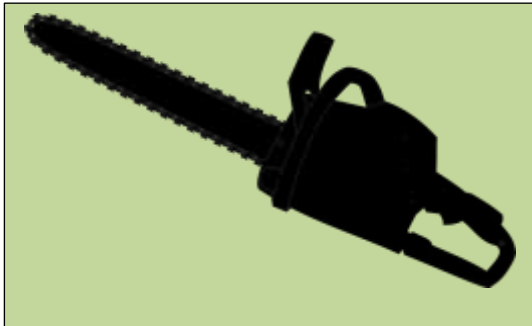
REMINDER TIME

A couple of weeks ago I put a notice in the TT inviting members to put their name forward for a weekend turning experience with "Dave" Hewitt. The name should have read **SHANE** Hewitt, my apologies. No excuses, just dumb proof reading on my part.

If you are interested in securing one of the two available places then get in touch with Robert Wiseley (07)825 9963

This weekend starts on Saturday 10th October and carries over to the Sunday 11th October. Just TWO lucky members from our club will be able to attend for the whole weekend.

HOWEVER,... for the Saturday morning, starting at 9.00am and finishing with a BBQ lunch all our club members are invited to attend for just that part of the weekend's programme. Come along and see SHANE Hewitt at work.



We have an amount of wood accumulating outside our workshop door. This wood needs to be processed before it deteriorates to a useless state.

Thus a members' working bee is scheduled for **9.00am on Saturday 3rd October**

It is expected that this job will be completed very quickly as the pile of wood is quite small at the present time.

THURSDAY'S SESSION

Eleven keen members attended last night's session and worked on a wide range of turning projects.

MURRAY: turned a rimu bowl using a blank prepared from a "wet" turning.

COLIN: very quickly fashioned a shallow bowl from Australian blackwood.

SPENCER: figured out ways to fit a triangular tang to a tool handle.

ANDRE`: spent his time making a mid-size bowl

ROBERT: made a start on a small lidded pot made from dark kauri wood.

PAUL D: shaped a small bowl using a beautiful block of walnut wood.

PAUL B: started his second project skillfully adding curves to his bud vase.

CHRISTINE: is in the final furlong with her twin pepper mills.

DOMINIC: patiently worked on his snazzy natural-edge bowl.

MUHANNAD: made a flying start to the clock-making project.

DYLAN: Completed STAGE 1 of the club's instructional programme and made a start on free choice STAGE 2 projects.

This is a repeat notice from the TT dated 11th September

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.**

Have a great weekend. See you all next week. CLIVE