

## Greetings to all on this WAITANGI Day



Hi, **James Gee** here again. My Persian Silk tree bowl featuring a Rimu wood inlay is in the final furlong. I'll have this project completed next week as soon as I turn off the spigot on the base.

To do this the bowl will be held in place using a Longworth chuck.

**Raewyn** enjoys experimenting and trialing with various woods and today was no different.

Today's project involved placing a candle cup atop of a highly polished column of Manuka wood.

(pictures right)

**Raewyn** is now an accredited user of the large band saw and used the machine today to cut several short lengths of kowhai and olive wood. Now labelled and stored for seasoning.



**Grant** beavered away all day at making a baby's rattle that features four captive rings in its design. (Camellia wood)



**Mauritz** worked another turning wonder using highly-figured Rimu wood. This is destined to become another lidded pot.

## The TUESDAY TEAM

Tuesday 3rd February demonstrations/tips included:

1. Making instant wood filler with dust and Starbond glue (James)
2. More about the use of steb centres for spindle turning (Jan)
3. Use of a safety cradle when bandsawing a round log shape (Raewyn)
4. The use of special tools to make captive rings (Grant)
5. Problem solving about cutting up a block of wood (all)



**Jan** completed her shopping bag handle made from Australian eucalypt. The finish on your wood is something really special. Well done Jan.

## **THE THURSDAY CREW**

**Flask making:** This project got underway with Colin taking a lead in the project. Some preliminary work was required and each member of the flask group needed to prepare a block of wood incorporating slabs of waste wood being glued onto two sides of the block.

**Oh No!** My USB port on my computer has developed a fault and I am not able to show you any of the photographs I took at the Thursday flask makers at work.  
(a pesky repair job coming up)

### **Wood selections for flasks:**

**ROBERT** selected figured rimu

**MURRAY** chose white maire

**ANDRE`** settled on pohutukawa

**COLIN** used Australian blackwood

## **ANNUAL CLUB MEETING (at the club's workshop)**

**Have you set aside this time and date?**

***7.00pm Wednesday 18th February***

***Nominate someone you expect will be a hard-working, proactive committee person.  
Nominate yourself!***

**YOUR CLUB NEEDS HELPERS (lots of them!)**

**Your club needs YOU!**

## Maximizing the wood blocks 'n slabs

### PROBLEM SOLVING - Cutting up a wood block

Last year when I was in Amsterdam I visited a **diamond factory**. This very high security place is where many of the world's finest diamond jewellery is made for those who can afford it.

I was happy to just ogle at the brilliant stones set in gold rings. The one I had my eye on would have been the equivalent cost of twenty-two DVR lathes, three bandsaws, and six full sets of chisels. (Try wearing that lot on your finger).

The bloke in charge of the diamond cutting department explained that each day they use a team-problem-solving approach when deciding how to cut and polish the rough stones into bright sparkling diamonds. **One false move in the process and 90% of the stone's value can be lost.**

Woodturners too need to make decisions about how to cut up a block of well-seasoned, precious wood. The idea is to maximise the potential of the block of wood. (OK pretend your block is a big diamond)

**Should I cut longways?**

**No maybe crossways?**

**How many bowls, platters or other projects can this block provide?**

**What will be the topside?**

**What will be the base?**

**If I cut it the block this way will there be enough depth to allow for an internal spigot? Nah, I'll use an external spigot.**

**How do I dodge the shakes, cracks or bark inclusions?**

**Do I want to have a symmetrical balance of sapwood and heartwood?**

These are just a few questions that turners need to ask themselves before breaking into...say a precious block of black walnut, swamp kauri, South Island heart rimu or, if you are lucky, black maire.

This week both the Tuesday and Thursday turning groups were given a problem-solving task of deciding how to attack three quite different blocks of 15,000 years old swamp kauri.. **RESULT... Great decision-making and the potential of all three blocks fully maximized.**

These canny folk should end up with little unnecessary waste when cutting up wood blocks. Well done to all.



From this....

To this.....

