

Tena koutou katoa

Wow! This prolonged spell of beautiful weather makes turning in the home workshop a hot and steamy affair. However, we are rather lucky at the club as we can open the large door for generous air circulation.

Our session numbers are climbing with **almost a full house on Thursdays**, and when a couple of long-holiday makers return, it will be the same case for the Tuesday team. That's great for the club eh.



DAVE uses the large band saw to break down the NZ Oak to spindle size square sections. Now it's off to the drying racks.



JAMES has made excellent progress with his three-legged table, worked out a very complicated angle tri-joint for the legs and now plans to fit the table top next. He must have taken his geometry lessons at school very seriously. Well done James.

DAVE turned up with a trailer load of new Zealand oak and he spent most of the session sorting through the load to find the best bits for spindle turning. Many thanks Dave.



The picture below shows **RON** putting the finishing touches to his large Indian Bead Tree bowl.

His project has resulted in a high-quality turning with great shape, design and finish



Please read this through this week's news (TT) and when you get to the bit about HEALTH and SAFETY, then read that section at least twice. Many thanks.

Clive

The TUTOR's MOBILE WORKSHOP



Each session the tutor (CLIVE) rolls up with the back of his truck packed with his tools and other equipment that enables members to experience a much wider range of turning experiences/activities. The club has done much already to install quality machinery in the short time since moving from WINTEC. However, much, much more needs to be done to build up workshop gear. The committee is working on this big challenge.



DAVID is determined to remove any of that pesky STRIA from the surface of his Cedar wood bowl



BRIAN is new to the club and is learning quickly. Howzatt for a fine STRIA-less finish?

GARTH admires **JAN's** Matai handle to be fitted to a knockout bar.

(Don't get any of the EEE on the brass ferrule 'cos it reacts with the metal and creates a blackish stain)



MAURITZ continues his wonderful , small-pot turnings.

Timbers of New Zealand



The Mighty Kauri

The **first in a series** of articles about New Zealand's native trees which will be included in upcoming weekly **Tutor's Tidings**

Tāne Mahuta is a giant [kauri tree](#) (*Agathis australis*) in the [Waipoua Forest](#) of [Northland Region, New Zealand](#). Its age is unknown but is estimated to be between 1,250 and 2,500 years. It is the largest kauri known to stand today. Its [Māori](#) name means "Lord of the Forest" (see [Tāne](#)), from the name of a god in the [Māori pantheon](#).

Kauri are among the world's mightiest trees, growing to more than 50 m tall, with trunk girths of up to 16 m and living for more than 2,000 years.



Kauri forest

Kauri were prolific in the past

Kauri forests once covered 1.2 million ha from the Far North of Northland to Te Kauri, near Kawhia and were common when the first people arrived around 1,000 years ago.

Past uses of kauri



Looking up at kauri

Swamp Kauri is only found in the top half of the North Island of New Zealand. Most of these forests have been buried for up to 3,000 years.

Research has revealed the further north swamp kauri is found, the significantly older it tends to be. Hence we changed the name from Swamp Kauri to Ancient Kauri to better reflect its true age. Some ancient Kauri is more than 45,000 years old.

Numerous independent radio carbon dating by world experts confirm that at more than 45,000 years old, the buried Ancient Kauri recovered in the far north of New Zealand by Ancient Kauri Kingdom, is amongst the oldest of all Ancient Kauri found and certainly the oldest workable wood in the world... by a long, long way.

Maori used kauri timber for boat building, carving and building houses. The gum was used as a fire starter and for chewing (after it had been soaked in water and mixed with the milk of the puha plant).

The arrival of European settlers in the 1700s to 1800s saw the decimation of these magnificent forests. Sailors quickly realised the trunks of young kauri were ideal for ships' masts and spars, and the settlers who followed felled the mature trees to yielded huge quantities of sawn timber of unsurpassed quality for building.

The gum too, became essential in the manufacture of varnishes and other resin-based products. The gum was obtained through digging, fossicking in treetops, or more drastically, by bleeding live trees.

More forest was cleared as demand for farmland and timber increased in the early and mid 20th century.

Pressure to protect kauri forests

There are calls for a national park comprising all the substantial scattered remnants of kauri forest. Adolescent trees have straight pole trunks and a distinctive narrow conical crown. As the trees mature the trunk thickens and the lower branches are shed, resulting in the clean, straight trunk of the adult kauri.

Kauri forests are home to many other trees and plants including taraire, kohekohe, towai, Kirk's pine, toatoa, tanekaha and rata, and a diverse understory of shrubs and other plants. In fact, because kauri live so long and their leaves are high in tannins, they modify the soil they live on, and create specialised habitats such as gumlands.

Saved from destruction

The Waipoua forests of Northland were at first saved from destruction by their remoteness. The land was purchased by the Crown in 1876, but for decades there was debate over what should be done with the forest. Public pressure for total protection increased after the turn of the century, although in the 1940s kauri was logged for wartime boat building supplies.

In 1952 the 9105 hectare Waipoua Sanctuary was finally declared, with all remaining kauri forests in Crown lands coming under the protection of the Department of Conservation by 1987. Kauri trees on private land are now also largely protected.

TWO GIANT (*and very old*) KAURI TREES

Waipoua is home to **Tane Mahuta**, king of the forest and the largest remaining kauri tree in the country. The 1,500 year old Tane Mahuta is 51.5 m tall, with a girth of 13.77 m.

New Zealand's TWO Big KAURI Trees

1



Tane Mahuta

2

Te Matua Ngahere is a giant [kauri](#) (*Agathis australis*) [coniferous tree](#) in the [Waipoua Forest](#) of [Northland Region](#), [New Zealand](#). The tree's [Maori](#) name means "Father of the Forest". Although not as massive or tall as its neighbour [Tāne Mahuta](#), Te Matua Ngahere is stouter, with a [girth](#) just over 16 metres (52 ft). It is believed to be the second largest living [kauri](#) tree, and to have the biggest girth of any kauri in the country. According to [The New Zealand Herald](#), it has the biggest girth of any tree in New Zealand.

Though there is no proof of the tree's age, it is estimated to be between 1200 and 2000 years old; or between 2000 and 3000 years old; or even 4000 years old. One resource, published by [National Geographic](#) Books, claims that Te Matua Ngahere may be the oldest tree in New Zealand, while another suggests that it's the oldest rainforest tree on earth.

The forests of Waipoua are vitally important refuges for threatened wildlife. The endangered North Island kokako and the North Island brown kiwi both live here. More abundant are the kukupa/kereru (New Zealand wood pigeon), fantail, pied tit, tui, grey warbler, shining cuckoo and kingfisher. Another distinctive creature is the large and very handsome kauri snail, a carnivore which feeds mainly on earthworms, slugs and soft-bodied insects.

Lasting reminders of the once-thriving kauri industry are the kauri dams. Kauri driving dams were built by loggers to drive large quantities of kauri logs downstream from remote areas. While they played a major role in the destruction of the forest, they were also impressive engineering feats, built without drawings or detailed calculations, yet able to withstand the pressure of tonnes of water and kauri logs which were swept through with tremendous force when the dam was tripped.

In the [Kauaeranga Valley](#) on the Coromandel, kauri was logged extensively for over 50 years with more than 60 dams built. In 1970 remaining areas of surviving forest were deemed protected as part of the Coromandel Forest Park. The Kaiaraara Dam on Great Barrier Island (40 m wide and 14 m high), is one of the largest of 3,000 kauri dams built in New Zealand in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Committee organization - 2015

At a special meeting of your newly-elected committee representatives held on Wednesday 4th March the designation of club officers took place. The results of this process are as follows:

PRESIDENT

Murray Price

SECRETARY

Spencer Heald

TREASURER

Robert Wiseley

Committee members who have general oversight for:

MACHINERY

Bob Hoyle

EQUIPMENT PURCHASING OFFICER

Clive Wilson

PUBLICITY

Malcolm Porteous

GRANTS APPLICATIONS

Dave Moodie

COMMITTEE SUPPORT

Muhannad Juma

COMMITTEE SUPPORT

Andre Duijnmayr

CAPITAL GROWTH SCHEMES

Grant Taylor

Club members should feel free to approach ANY committee person with ideas for club promotions, suggestions for improvements, fundraising ventures, complaints or any other matters that members wish the committee to consider at the club's general monthly meetings.

All those in favour...



RAFFLE The raffle for the 150mm bench grinder was drawn on Thursday evening and the **LUCKY WINNER** was **Mike Burningham** with ticket No 5

The club would like to thank all those who supported this fundraiser.

Other Thursday session happenings



MIKE's look of surprise is probably because he has just drawn the winning number in the raffle for the bench grinder. Goodonya Mike!

SCRAPERS: (Useful tools) Fellow members should have a chat with **PAUL** and have him show you his special Sorby scraping tool. This scraper can work with some really tight curves to create a smooth, even, stria-less finish.



CHRISTINE is developing a great eye for shape as shown on her second project – a bud vase. A scraping tool was used to achieve a smoother surface prior to sanding.



COLIN displays his "cigar" pen. Our Colin can whip these excellent items in almost no time at all. Must be practice makes perfect eh.

It's clean-up time at the end of the evening and we all pitch in to make the room presentable for the turners in the next session. Muhannad makes sure his area is spotless. Tailstock in place etc, etc



It's great to see the **teamwork** during the busy clean-up time.

All colour-coded chisels put into the correct racks. Chucks removed from headstock spindles, tailstocks back on the lathe bed, all shavings on lathes removed, all tutor's tools put back into correct containers, front table cleared, brooms, brushes and mallets hung on wall racks and floors swept.

SPECIAL THANKS to **JAN**, a member of the Tuesday session team, for once again taking home the crockery box in order to give all our cups etc a thorough clean. This work included removing the stubborn tea and coffee stains. There's a place in heaven for people like **JAN**.



ROBERT

comes well prepared for turning sessions.

(TWO boxes of additional equipment)

HEALTH and SAFETY

Thursday members were reminded about **Health and Safety practices** such as:

1. Ensuring that you have had training and re-checking of the skills needed before you become an accredited user of the band saws.
2. New club members will be issued with the club's H&S policy
3. ANY accident, (even seemingly minor ones) that have occurred MUST be recorded in the club's records

Tuesday turners will have this discussion next week

A serious meeting takes place here.

Who can be available to help look after a club display at the Claudelands show?

(should this become a possibility)



"OK. Count me in for the Friday date."

This week's demonstrations/tips included:

1. **DAVID** explained how wooden bangles are made (all turners)
2. How to shorten and refit a pepper grinder shaft (Garth)
3. How to get rid of pesky STRIA (Brian/David)
4. Fitting a ferrule to a tenon/spigot (Jan)
5. The advantages of using **EASY WOOD** tools (Ron)
6. Use of spigot jaws oi drill pen blanks (Mike)
7. Use of a square-tip Easy Wood tool (Paul)
8. Use of a specific pen maker's tool (Mike)
9. The benefits of using a scraper tool (Christine)
10. How to sharpen a scraper to create a top edge burr (Paul)

**Well that's it for this week
HAPPY TURNING**

Clive