

# Hamilton Woodturners Club

Website: [www.hwoodturners.org](http://www.hwoodturners.org)

Tutor: Clive Wilson 027 491 3868

ISSUE No 15 Friday 21st May 2021

## This week's woodturning news

Busy, busy, busy. It's all go at each of the weekly sessions.

The club members who are involved in the asymmetric vase project continue to make good progress under the guidance of **COLIN MCKENZIE**.

**DAVE FREW** and **STEPHEN O'CONNOR** have launched into some complicated segmented turning. **MITCHELL** is having fun with his natural edge project. **LYNDAL** has discovered the wonders of Aussie Oil applied to her most excellent bowl. **JAMES** is discovering a new way to turn a bowl. **MELISSA** continues her practical project turning with a superb spade handle. **ALAN** has made a start on his first pepper mill project and meeting the challenge of long-hole drilling. **MALCOLM DOWNEY** finished his resin work project. **MURRAY** is doing some amazing etching with his Dremel tool. **ROBERT** has super-thinned the wall of his green coloured kauri vase. **LEIGH** has discovered the benefits of jam chucks.

.....and that's just a very thin slice of what's happening at the Hamilton Wood Turners' Club.

and.....last week the **CHIEFS** thrashed one of the AUSSIE teams - the Western Force

## This week's STANDOUT



Outside in or inside out?

A lump of laminated rimu has been carefully transformed into a work of art. Well done **DAVID ROSE**. A great idea featuring an interesting shape and a fine finish..



New club member **GREG'S** first-ever shot at turning a vase.

Flowing lines and a smooth finish.

Goodonya Greg.

[www.timberlywoodturning.co.nz](http://www.timberlywoodturning.co.nz)



**TERRY SCOTT**  
NZ Agent for  
**BURNMASTER®**  
Also



See website for more

Contact: [timberly@xtra.co.nz](mailto:timberly@xtra.co.nz) for an info sheet or ph: (09) 297 7051

Remember, if I cannot break it, no-one can!



Have you any old totara wood fence posts that could be turned into practical art forms?

If so, then have a shot at turning a vase like the ones shown in the picture on the left.



**“Old and Rugged”**: This platter is full of evidence where little critters have been feeding themselves on the tasty wood over a long time. Undeterred, our **RICHARD** threw the huckery old lump of wood onto his trusty lathe and **‘Voila!’** look what emerged.

*Another silk purse from the sow’s ear.*

This kind of turning achievement is often found in many of Richard’s projects. Woo Hoo!

OLD WHITE (or pastel shades) TOWELS make great polishing cloths for wood turners.

Our club is now out of stock and would very much appreciate donations of any towels you might be throwing into the bin.

**SATURDAY MORNING - 22nd May - OPEN WORKSHOP**

**9.00am to 12 noon**

**Duty officer: Robert Wiseley**

## A special wood - *Lignum Vitae*

Lignum vitae is Latin for "wood of life".



It is also the national tree of the Bahamas, and the Jamaican national flower.

**Lignum vitae**, also known as **guayacan**, is one of the world's special woods.

The trees are indigenous to the Caribbean and the northern coast of South America (e.g: Venezuela) and have been an important export crop to Europe since the beginning of the 16th century.

The wood was once very important for applications requiring a material with its extraordinary combination of strength, toughness, and density.

All species of lignum vitae are now listed as potentially endangered species.

Demand for the wood has been reduced by modern materials science, which has led to polymer, alloys and composite materials that can take lignum vitae's place.

☑ The plant derives its name from its medicinal uses; lignum vitae resin has been used to treat a variety of medical conditions from coughs to arthritis, and chips of the wood can also be used to brew a tea.

Lignum vitae is also one of the numerous hard, dense woods loosely referred to as "ironwood".

The tree is slow-growing and relatively small in stature, even when mature and old. It bears small, purplish-blue flowers which result in paired orange dehiscent fruits. The bark is mottled.



Ancient lawn bowls made of lignum vitae wood.

Due to the density of the wood, cricket bails, in particular "heavy bails" used in windy conditions, are sometimes made of lignum vitae. It is also sometimes used to make lawn bowls, croquet mallets, and skittles balls. The wood also has seen widespread historical usage in mortars and pestles and for wood carvers' mallets.

It was the traditional wood used for the British police truncheon until recently, due to its density (and strength), combined with the relative softness of wood compared to metal, thereby tending to bruise or stun rather than simply cut the skin.



Lawn bowls of yesteryear were made of a hard, heavy, and very dense wood called ***lignum vitae***.

Today's bowls are manufactured from man-made products.

Lignum vitae is a superb wood used by \*lucky wood turners.

\*lucky if you can find some



**Left:** Lignum vitae is the national tree of the Bahamas, and the Jamaican national flower. **(right)**

Try a search on TRADE ME as ***lignum vitae lawn bowls*** are occasionally offered for sale.



Two fine examples of some very smart turning by **GRAEME SURGENOR**.  
Kauri wood has been used for both projects but finished with different

**DAVID COWLEY's** first shot at a wave bowl using **ASH** wood.  
  
An impressive start to experimenting with new challenges in turning.



Persimmon cake!  
Wow! Delicious!  
  
Teasing and tantalizing the taste buds of the **THURSDAY** session crew.  
  
Thanks **DOROTHY**.



1. Who is this bloke that's holding the ball?
2. What super-brilliant team does he play for?
3. Will he score a try this weekend?
4. What other quite well-known team does he play for?