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The TT Newsletter Issue No 16

Friday 20th May 2022



TUTOR'S COMMENT

The workshop is open tomorrow morning for a free turning session. DUTY OFFICER: Don McNaughton

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

The committee has relaxed vax rules for course attendance and now the wearing of masks is optional.

However, the pandemic seems to be far from over. In the past fortnight several of our members have been affected with the dreaded COVID and have not been able to attend turning sessions.

Please take care in every way and above all DO NOT attend sessions if you are not well.



Tassie blackwood "Wave" bowl,
Perseverance, plotting and planning
by **DENIS** during the creation of
this excellent project.

*(Oh for a set of super-sharp
Forstner bits)*

Design, turning, sanding and finish
all combined in this winner!

**Yes, the workshop will be open on Saturday
morning for a free turning session.**

DUTY OFFICER: Don McNaughton



(above) **JOHN** used claret ash and Taz blackwood to turn his lidded bowl. A very smart outcome of a well-applied set of turning skills.



Waste not want not. This small piece of magnolia wood was once destined to be a wave bowl. However, thinness in the wall caused a change of plans. **MICHAEL** simply added a round mirror to the middle of what was salvaged and “voila” the wave bowl became something else.



(above) A real stunner of well-finished Tassie blackwood. **LEIGH** excelled in achieving a smooth, stria-free finish with this turning project.

Experimenting with a new type of friction polish (Aussie Oil) has extended another woodturner’s learning curve.



Baby rattles are flying off **MALCOLM VAILE’S** lathe.

Other turners are keen to learn the process for this project and our Malcolm has been supporting colleagues in having a go.

PRECIOUS and EXPENSIVE WOODS OF THE WORLD

This week it's a chat about COCOBOLO wood. Precious woods are found from the tropical jungles of South America to the wilds of Africa, each with unique properties which increase their scarcity and value.

These valuable woods are prized not only for their rarity but also for incredible healing qualities and unique aromas, and are used to make everything from finely-crafted ornaments to the most expensive instruments in the world.

Detailed information about the trees mentioned in this list will be presented in our TT newsletter during the next 10 weeks. These are just ten of the very expensive woods of the world, and the info will cover an exploration of their properties and uses, as well as the history which makes them a prized possession.

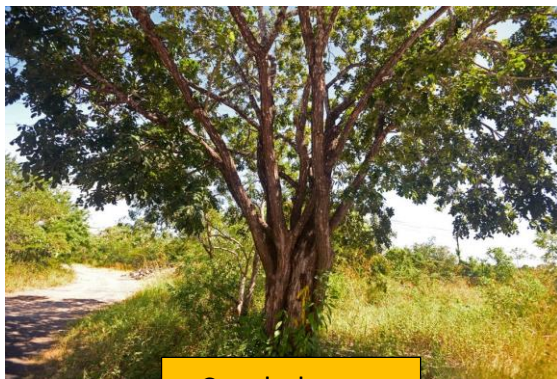
Here's a list of just 10 of the world's hugely expensive woods:

1. African blackwood – \$100 per board foot
2. Sandalwood – \$20,000 per kilogram
3. Ebony – \$10,000 per kilogram
4. Agar wood – \$10,000 per kilogram
5. Pink ivory – \$80 per board foot
6. Brazilian rosewood – \$70 per board foot
7. Macassar ebony – \$65 per board foot
8. Koa – \$62 per board foot
9. Ziricote – \$60 per board foot
10. Cocobolo – \$55 per board foot

WEEK ONE info starts with No 10 in the list

COCOBOLO

Next week the TT will feature No 9 then 8 and so on finishing with No 1



Cocobolo tree



Cocobolo wood

INFORMATION about COCOBOLO wood.

Color/Appearance: Cocobolo can be seen in a kaleidoscope of different colours, ranging from yellow, orange, red, and shades of brown with streaks of black or purple. Sapwood is typically a very pale yellow. Colours are lighter when freshly sanded/cut, and darken with age.

Grain/Texture: Grain is straight to interlocked, with a fine, even texture. Good natural lustre.

Rot Resistance: Rated as very durable, and also resistant to insect attack. Its natural oils are reported to give it good resistance to degrade from wet/dry cycles.

Workability: Due to the high oil content found in this wood, it can occasionally cause problems with [gluing](#). Also, the wood's color can bleed into surrounding wood when applying a finish, so care must be taken on the initial seal coats not to smear the wood's colour/oils into surrounding areas. Tear-out can occur during planing if interlocked grain is present; the wood also has a moderate blunting effect on cutting edges/tools due to its high density. **Cocobolo has excellent turning properties.**

Odor: Cocobolo has a distinct spice-like scent when being worked, which some find unpleasant: though it has been used in at least one women's perfume.

Allergies/Toxicity: Notoriously allergenic. Reported as a sensitizer; can cause skin, eye, and respiratory irritation, as well as nausea, pink-eye, and asthma-like symptoms.

Pricing/Availability: Cocobolo is in limited supply, and is also in relatively high demand, (for ornamental purposes), and is likely to be quite expensive. Prices should compare similarly to other [rosewoods](#) in the [Dalbergia genus](#).

Sustainability: Cocobolo is listed on CITES appendix II under the [genus-wide restriction on all Dalbergia species](#)—which also includes finished products made of the wood (though finished items under 10 kilograms are exempted). It is also listed on the IUCN Red List as vulnerable due to a population reduction of over 20% in the past three generations, caused by a decline in its natural range, and exploitation.

Common Uses: Fine furniture, musical instruments, turnings, and other small specialty objects.

Comments: One of today's most prized lumbers for its outstanding colour and figure—yet also one of the most infamous for its difficulty in [gluing](#), and its tendency to cause [allergic reactions](#) in woodworkers.



Can you turn a sphere?

MICHAEL can.



So too can **JOHN**. This one is matai wood.



BILL applies our **NEAGE** philosophy when focusing on the best finish.



The black centre piece in this turning project actually revolves slowly clockwise. How? (easy) **RICHARD** has attached it to a sweep hand of a clock mechanism A novel idea eh.



Hey **SPENCER!** This turning project is as good as it gets. Your wig stand is of outstanding quality, a real winner showing skillful turning techniques.



Our new club member **EBBIE** has completed his first bowl using a block of poplar wood. This project turned out so well that there's now heaps of enthusiasm to make a much bigger bowl.



WHITE BAIT SANDWICHES

I'm not sure how whitebait is connected to wood turning but what does that matter.

BILL treated all the Tuesday attendees to a scrumptious feed of on-the-spot, well cooked, hot whitebait sandwiches.

MAGNIFICENT!

Heaps big thanks Bill



Our **COLIN** just loves a turning challenge no matter what the complexity of the task. How about this super-special handled tray made from a lamination of purple-heart and white maire woods. One from the upper echelon of quality.



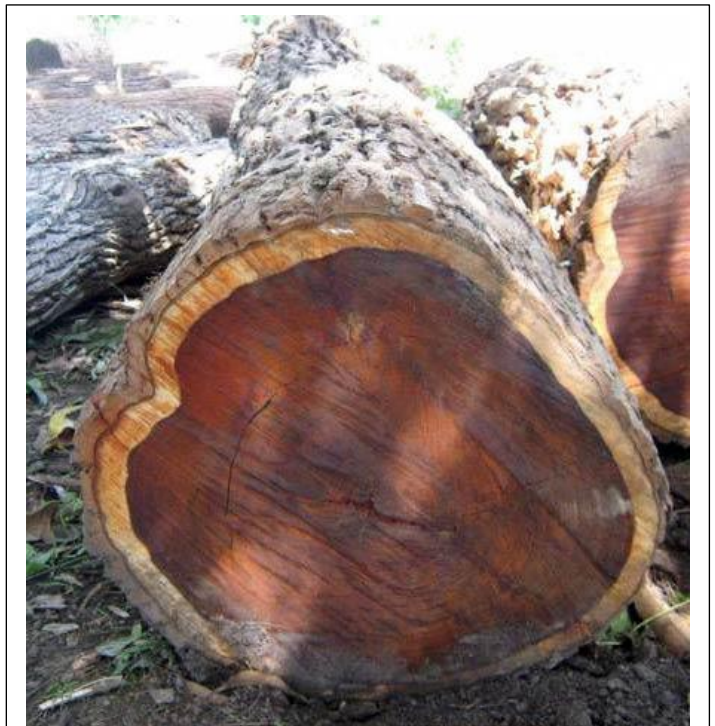
How big is big?

The small white spot at the base of this tree is a person that shows a size comparison.

Do you know what type of tree this is?



The magnificent grain swirls of the beautiful cocobolo tree



A cocobolo tree has been felled and now ready for milling



Last week they played like a team of dummies and still managed to win.

What will they do this week playing WESTERN FORCE at Rugby Park, Hamilton? See you there!