

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

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Issue No **18** Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022



**Hamilton  
Woodturners  
Club**

### Tutor's comment

It's a working bee time again to be held on Saturday morning. (i.e. tomorrow 4<sup>th</sup> June)

**A chainsaw and engraving tool would be useful if someone could provide.**

1. No 8 lathe needs a repair job
2. Turning wood blocks have to be priced
3. Timber storage shelves to be tidied
4. All chucks need servicing.
5. Banjos, tool rests and locking levers to be serviced.
6. Unblock the dust extraction flues
7. Remove DVR lathe backplates and blow away accumulated dust
8. Bandsaws need a clean out and check
9. ANY other task as determined by officer in charge - STEPHEN O'Connor

Cheers, hope to see you there.

**Clive**

## CLOSED WORKSHOP

4<sup>th</sup> June

Saturday morning

9.00am - 12 noon.

## SCHEDULED WORKING BEE



**DON** turned out a very smart medium sized bowl. The under-side of the same bowl shows the outcome of the skillful use of a mini texturing tool. Next possible step: have a go at using the texturing tool on the *inside* of a bowl.

## This week's feature wood is KOA



A large KOA tree on the Hawaiian island of Maui. Koa is endemic - found growing naturally only in Hawaii



**KOA** has many and wildly variable, beautiful grain swirls, shapes, streaks and rich reddish/brown colours.

### General information about KOA wood

**Colour/Appearance:** Colour can be highly variable, but tends to be medium golden or reddish brown, similar to [Mahogany](#). There are usually contrasting bands of colour in the growth rings, and it is not uncommon to see boards with ribbon-like streaks of colour. Boards figured with wavy and/or curly grain are also not uncommon.

**Grain/Texture:** Grain is usually slightly interlocked, and sometimes wavy. Uniform medium to coarse texture.

**Rot Resistance:** Rated as non-durable to perishable regarding decay resistance, Koa is also susceptible to termite attack.

**Workability:** In most circumstances, Koa is easy to work, and sands well. However, figured wood, or pieces with heavily interlocked grain can be difficult to plane or machine without tearing or chipping of the grain; also, Koa can occasionally give problems in [gluing](#), though this is somewhat uncommon. Koa turns, stains, and finishes well.

**Odour:** No characteristic odour.

**Allergies/Toxicity:** Besides the standard health risks associated with any type of wood dust, no further health reactions have been associated with Koa. However, several species of [Acacia](#), including the closely related [Australian Blackwood](#), have been reported to cause eye, skin, and respiratory irritation.

**Pricing/Availability:** With the tree endemic to Hawaii only, and with supplies dwindling, Koa is likely to be rather expensive. Also, boards of highly figured and/or curly Koa can command fantastic prices.

**Sustainability:** This wood species is not listed in the CITES Appendices, and is reported by the IUCN as being a species of least concern.

**Common Uses:** Veneer, furniture, cabinetry, musical instruments (especially guitars and ukuleles), canoes, gunstocks, carvings, bowls, and other turned/specialty wood objects.

**Comments:** Although Koa is naturally quite abundant on the islands of Hawaii, most Koa forests have been cleared for grazing pastures; and since young Koa seedlings are edible for grazing animals, most new trees are prevented from growing to lumber-harvestable size. As a result, mature Koa trees are either scarce, or in hard-to-access mountainous locations, and the price of Koa is likely to only increase further in the future.

[Australian Blackwood \(Acacia melanoxylon\)](#) is considered to be a more sustainable, and visually/mechanically similar substitute.

Koa is widely considered to be the most beautiful and useful of Hawaii's native hardwoods, and along with [Monkey Pod](#) and [Mango](#), it is the most common Hawaiian species to be imported into the lower 48 United States.

Visually, Koa has been compared to [Mahogany](#), while in terms of working and mechanical properties, it has been compared to [Walnut](#).

Koa tends to be quite stable regarding environmental changes in humidity.



KOA wood jewellery is in big demand





WOW!

This one-piece turning appears to be quite complicated but if you have the right tools (and patience) the project is an achievable challenge.

Superb work from **GRAEME SURGENOR**.

A big “Goodonya” gong for this one.

Here’s a super top job from Mitchell



**MITCHELL** looks very pleased with the outcome of his marathon effort in turning this revolving platform. It took several weeks to complete as Mitchell is a keen follower of the club’s NEAGE philosophy.



WOW!



**GRAEME** is a keen reader of the NAW magazine.

Recent editions have contained detailed plans for turning projects. Always ready to have a go at new ideas, our Graeme set to work producing these two projects.

*(Methinks Graeme likes the red colour eh)*

Next Thursday the team will be treated to Graeme's demonstration of how to make tulip flowers.

Suitable sized wood has already been distributed to Thursday team members for the making of a **special jam chuck** which will be required for the tulip project.

All club members welcome to attend this fun learning opportunity.

6.30pm start. See you there!



**TONY** has achieved a fine finish to his nifty little lidded pot.

**DEMONSTRATION:** How to make a wooden tulip

THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> June

6.30pm start

Are you ready to buy your first lathe?

If yes, then please contact Clive a.s.a.p.