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Issue No **20** Friday 17th June 2022



**Hamilton
Woodturners
Club**

Tutor's comment

1. On Tuesday last team of seven "Have-a-goers" succeeded in the challenge of turning a spherical shape.

This bunch of enthusiasts responded well to the guidance and leadership of **JOHN BAKER**.

The process started with the making of small jam chucks which would be needed later in the turning sequence.

Morning tea and camaraderie was generously punctuated with deep and meaningful advice to the All Black selectors for the mistakes they have apparently made for the series against Ireland.

Many thanks to **JOHN** for his special part in the day's activities.

A happy and productive time all round.

2. The small band saw has had some much-needed repairs thanks to **DAVID COWLEY**. A new small round table plate has been hand-made and fitted. This will prevent short off-cuts from falling down into the guide roller wheels potentially causing a blade jam.

OPEN WORKSHOP

18th June

Saturday morning

9.00am - 12 noon.

Duty Officer ?



Bill responded enthusiastically to **JOHN's** advice and guidance with the process for turning a sphere.

A large block of quality elm wood has been transformed into a work of art. A top job **ROBERT**

This week's feature wood is Brazilian ROSEWOOD

Brazilian rosewood is endemic to the coastal Brazilian Atlantic Forest, one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world. Of the over 8,000 plants species that grow there, Brazilian rosewood is one of the largest, growing to a height of 40m. It can also be recognised by its dark branches that grow in zigzag patterns and by its feathery leaflets.

The tree is able to withstand a broad range of climatic conditions from tropical lowland forest to sub-montane forest. Nitrogen fixing bacteria and fungi in its roots allows the species to survive in nutrient deficient soils. Throughout a short period between November and December its flowers are pollinated by insects, mainly bees and it produces fruit from January until September.

Like all rosewoods, the species has a strong sweet smell reminiscent of the fragrance of roses. The high oil content of the wood also makes it desirable for use as an essential oil for fragrance cosmetics and for use in medicines.

Its timber is heavy and strong, making it highly resistant to insect attack and decay. It is therefore much sought after in local markets as a building material for use in flooring, structural beams and wall panelling/lining. Worldwide, its timber, being highly resonant, is also used to make musical instruments.

Brazilian rosewood is threatened by illegal logging and habitat loss. Today, the Brazilian Atlantic Forest retains just 7% of its original cover and the Brazilian rosewood now only occurs in fragmented, small populations with low genetic variability in the Brazilian states of Bahia, Minas Gerais, Espirito Santo, Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. Furthermore, the regeneration of this species may be limited, possibly as a result of high seed predation by rodents.

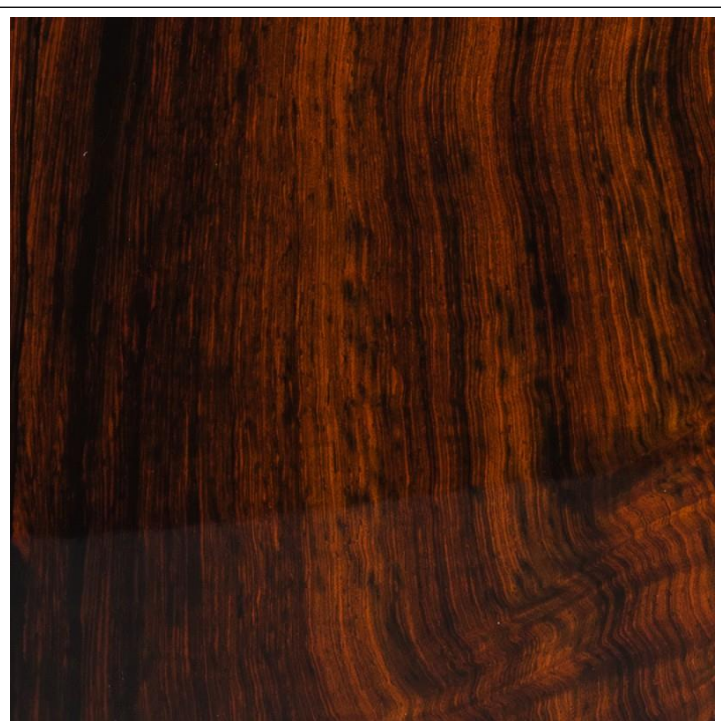
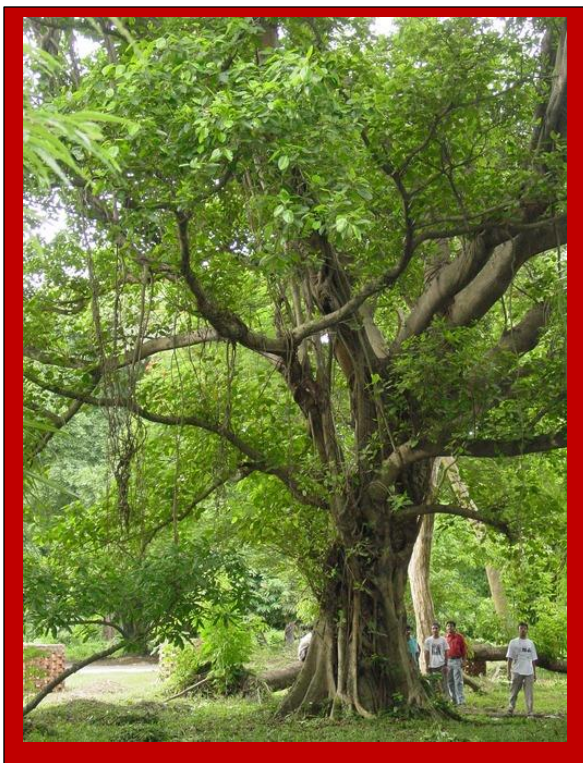
In 1992, in response to the threat of logging, Brazilian rosewood became one of the first ever tree species to be listed on Appendix 1 of CITES, prohibiting international trade in the timber or other products from this species. Despite its inclusion the species continues to be illegally logged and traded internationally. For example, in 2009, 249 sheets of Brazilian rosewood timber were seized by TRAFFIC police in Rotterdam.

Conservation of small populations of this species is already taking place in protected areas such as the Serra do Mar State Park, an area covering over 315,000 ha that helps to connect smaller fragmented areas of forest.

An organisation in Brazil known as [Dalbergia Preservation](#) is creating small plantations of the species for reforestation. They also aim to protect remaining trees to assure that the seed stocks needed for future plantations are genetically diverse.

Their longer term aim is to create sustainable plantations of this species to meet future demand. To address this aim they offer seeds or seedlings to small communities to grow on their own land, which both enhances the representation of Brazilian rosewood trees in the agricultural landscape and also provides communities with some extra income.

The need for protection of the remaining Brazilian Atlantic Forest has been recognised, and 35.9% now has some form of protected status. Despite the high rate of deforestation, the Atlantic Forest is still considered one of the world's top five biodiversity hotspots. This status justifies sustained efforts to conserve the forest community and iconic species such as the Brazilian rosewood.



Committee members please note: **MONDAY 20th June**

A committee meeting will be held at the workshop on Monday evening starting at 7.00 pm



ROBERT spent several hours getting his 3-sided pepper mill just right.



Another super-smart creation from **ROBERT's** lathe.

WOODTURNING COURSES

Next week all courses close and **NEW COURSES** commence in the week immediately following.

- A) This means that we will be having our traditional course-ending celebrations with a shared supper next Wednesday and Thursday nights.
- B) It also means that the club treasurer will be collating your attendance over the past ten weeks and sending you an account accordingly.
- C) It can mean that a bunch of newbie club members could put pressure on demands for lathes. Thus, you should reserve your place for continuation in your preferred weekly session. (do let me know a.s.a.p.)
- D) A particular focus for the next course of 10 weeks will be an emphasis on club members taking lead roles with demonstrations in turning projects.



Newbie turner **MONIKA** has made a cluster of off-centre candle holder balls. The main challenge was drilling the holes in "wrong" places. Success!



Holey Moley! Our GARY has completed a very neat mahogany lid fitted to a stained oak base. Carved underside completes the job.



GRAEME watched the NAW demonstration of turning acorns last weekend then had a shot at it too. Evidence of careful observations eh.



Here's a couple of high-quality turnings made by **STEPHEN HAWLEY**.

Picture left is a platter fashioned from a block of liquid amber. Note the cavity caused by bark inclusion has been filled with a "ceramic" putty (Milliput) then sanded after curing time. The beautiful bowl on the right shows off a really superb finish, **STEPHEN** can't remember the name of the wood he used. Can you help with the identification?



ROSS used a length of redwood to make his rolling pin. He was determined to have "bloke-sized" handles.

Does his mean that **ROSS** does all the baking at his place?

I know he makes brilliant Lemonade scones!