

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

TUTOR: Clive Wilson 027 491 3868  
[cdwilson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:cdwilson@xtra.co.nz)

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**Hamilton  
Woodturners  
Club**

### Tutor's comment

Today is Matariki Day: a special occasion in the NZ calendar which marks the start of the Māori New Year.

Signified by the Matariki cluster of stars reappearing in our night sky, this is a time to reflect on the past year, celebrate the present, and plan for the year ahead.

The words linked to Matariki, that are highlighted in yellow above, have strong links to you as a woodturner. Knowing where you are at, where you want to be and what you need to do to arrive at your planned destination are important aspects for your continued growth and development in wood turning?

The next course starting next week for all sessions is an ideal time for you to reflect, celebrate and plan.

Will it be hollow forms? Mastery of the skew? Resin inclusion? Pepper mills? Pyrography? Gaining a better understanding of tool sharpening? Clock making? Pots and lidded pots? Bowls with enhancements? Platters? Natural edge turnings? Segmented turnings? Discovering the right finishes? Toy making? Discovering new tools?

,,,,,wow the list goes on.

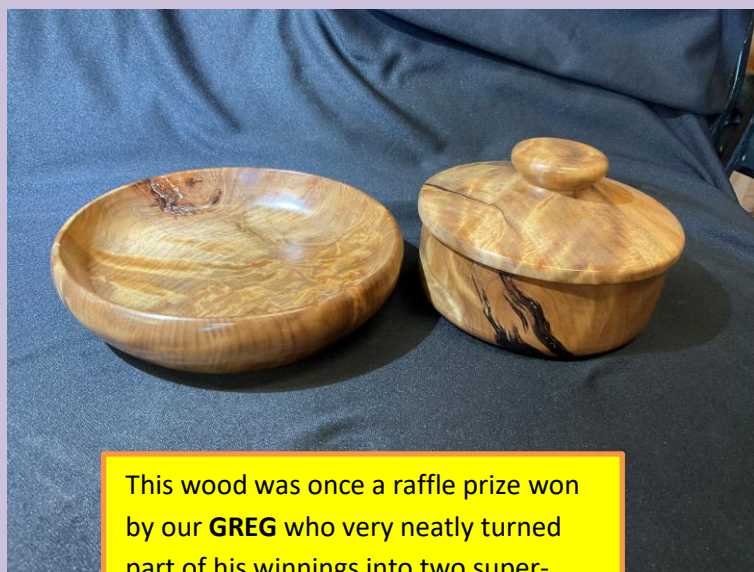
## OPEN WORKSHOP

25<sup>th</sup> June

Saturday morning

9.00am - 12 noon.

Duty Officer - ANDRE



This wood was once a raffle prize won by our **GREG** who very neatly turned part of his winnings into two super-smart treasures.



As good as it gets! Simply stunning successful turning outcome. Plum wood at its best and proudly made by our **WAYNE**. A top job here.

# Pink Ivory wood

**Pink ivory** (*Berchemia zeyheri*), is an [African](#) hardwood used to make a variety of products (for example: [billiard cues](#) and [knife handles](#)). The pink ivory tree grows predominantly in [Zimbabwe](#), [Mozambique](#), Northern Botswana and [South Africa](#).

The tree is protected and sustainably maintained in South Africa, only felled by very limited permit. The wood is extremely hard, with a [density](#) of 990 g/dm<sup>3</sup>.

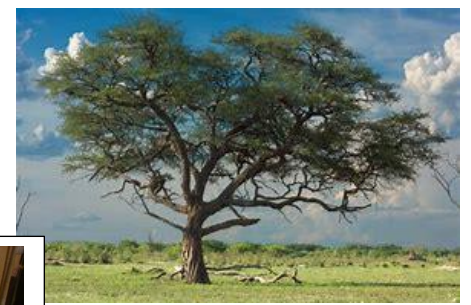
Pink ivory was the royal tree of the [Zulu people](#) and only members of the royal family were allowed to possess it until the [Anglo-Zulu War](#) of 1879. Before the Anglo-Zulu War, the Zulu king (and prior to 1818, Zulu chiefs) would possess a pink ivory [knob kerry](#), a stick with one end a knob, and wear jewelry that were also made from pink ivory.

According to rumour, non-royals who possessed the wood would summarily be put to death. After [Zululand](#) fell to the British and was separated into 13 separate "kinglets" in 1883, all vying to retake control of what was once theirs precedent to the onset of apartheid, the pink ivory wood became much less important a sign of control than genuine control could be.

The pink ivory tree produces a yellow, brownish, reddish, or purplish [drupe fruit](#) that is delicious to taste. Other parts of the tree have been used traditionally as remedies and medicines.



Pink Ivory



**Colour/Appearance:** Pink Ivory ranges in colour from a pale brownish pink, to a bright, almost neon pink, to a deep red. Typically the most valuable pieces of Pink Ivory are a vibrant pink. Pink Ivory can commonly be seen with a curly or fiddleback grain pattern, further enhancing its visual impact. Sapwood of Pink Ivory tends to be pale yellow to light brown, with a somewhat gradual demarcation from heartwood. Colour changes in Pink Ivory (becoming faded or dull over time) can be problematic and are not fully understood.

**Grain/Texture:** Grain is straight to interlocked; fine, even texture with good natural luster.

**Endgrain:** Diffuse-porous; medium pores in no specific arrangement, numerous; commonly in radial multiples of 2-4; gum/heartwood deposits common, though not easily seen with lens; growth rings may be distinct due to increased pore frequency in earlywood; narrow to medium rays visible without lens; parenchyma not visible with lens.

**Rot Resistance:** Rated as durable to very durable regarding decay resistance, Pink Ivory is said to have excellent weathering characteristics: though it is seldom used in applications where this would be an issue.

**Workability:** Pink Ivory has a pronounced blunting effect on cutting edges, and it's fairly difficult to work in board form. Tearout can occur on figured or quartersawn sections during planing. Pink Ivory is much more common in applications involving carving or turning, and it turns and finishes well.

**Odour:** Pink Ivory has a distinct and somewhat unpleasant odour when being worked.

**Allergies/Toxicity:** Besides the standard health risks associated with any type of wood dust, no further health reactions have been associated with Pink Ivory.

**Pricing/Availability:** Reputed to be a scarce commodity, Pink Ivory is typically very expensive, usually on par with [Gaboon Ebony](#): another pricey African import.

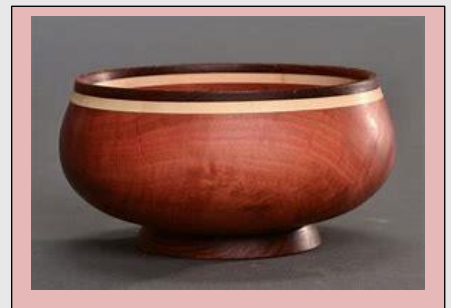
**Sustainability:** This wood species is not listed in the CITES Appendices or on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

**Common Uses:** Carving, veneers, inlay, knife handles, billiard cues, chessmen, and other turned objects.

**Comments:** Pink Ivory trees are said to be both rare and valuable, and have been rumored to be "rarer than diamonds." Other reports state that the tree is relatively common in some areas of South Africa—though large trees with straight, defect-free trunks are much more scarce. According to folklore, the tree is considered sacred to the Zulus in South Africa and is reserved for royalty.



A selection of turned goodies using pink ivory wood.





MALCOLM VAILE and his trio of slinky-shaped candle holders. To avoid tipping over lead shot has been poured into a deep, sealed cavity in the base heavily weighting for stability.

Consistent flowing lines in his team of three.



MALCOLM Porteous used Australian hardwood for his well-made spherical shape



MICHAEL transformed a square block of ash wood into a uniformly round shape



BILL's soaring confidence with a bowl gauge in his hands enables him to whip out quality turnings in a very quick time.



TONY's rapid progress is strongly linked to his high level of enthusiasm and adherence to our NEAGE philosophy. This Tassie blackwood turning is a fine example of careful tool skill.



Our **JAMES** produced this “Cocktail Cup” using his own design including the method for fitting a suitable base.

A clever thin-walled turning featuring a fine finish.

Goodonya James.



New turner **EBBIE** achieved a fine finish to his redwood bowl. In a short while Ebbie is off to Spain where all that lovely olive wood can be found. Bon voyage Ebbie, see you on your safe return.



A super-special black maire platter made by our **STEPHEN HAWLEY**. It doesn't get much better than this. A top job!



**DAVID COWLEY's** lineup of varied and skillful creations.

**1.** A humming top that's bigger and works better than most.

**2.** A wig stand to go with the other four he has made (*great effort there*).

**3.** A set of spherical shapes using **a)** African Rosewood **b)** Ebony **c)** NZ swamp Kauri featuring a resin ring inlay.

Having a go, tool skill and loads of enthusiasm are the main drivers of **DAVID's** successes.

Goodonya gongs for all three. See you all at the start of the next courses. (i.e. next week) Cheers, **Clive**