

Hamilton Woodturners Club

Website: www.hwoodturners.org

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This week's woodturning news

Last week's shop sales idea was a huge success in every respect. Several club members entered items and have been rewarded with an envelope containing cash.

It is highly likely that another sales week will be held in one of the pre-Christmas weeks.

If you are keen to raise some lucre for the upcoming holiday season then consider making items for the next shop sales.

DISPLAY PICTURE BELOW: Some of the items that were on show in the pop-up shop.

Has one of yours been sold?



This week's STANDOUT



STEPHEN HAWLEY used some small pieces of pohutukawa wood to turn these two little wonders. The embellishments are a special feature



DAVID COWLEY's very smart lidded pot (*Eucalyptus* and *flowering cherry*)



GARY was tickled pink about his green coloured kauri. This wood is hard to come by these days.



RICHARD'S intrigue. A lump of red beech burr when turned, can yield an amazing array of swirly grain lines and rich colours. BEAUTIFUL!



Here's a clever turning project. TRAVIS has been busy experimenting with turning a small ball flute. This gadget works by gently blowing across the hole. OK Travis how many different sounds can it make?



The current turning challenge.

To date four club members have accepted the challenge of turning a small, round-hinged pot. If you would like to participate then see me and I will supply the hinges. **Clive**

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



Another new recruit. **LARISSA** proudly displays her first-ever turning and what a great job she made of it too.

A great start Larissa.

Matai (*Prumnopitys taxifolia*)

History

In the Wanganui region, where totara was not common, the Maori used the wood of matai for carving. Its other uses were for canoes, canoe bailers, small agricultural implements and handles. The Maori also drank the liquid (matai beer) obtained from the cracks in heart matai to treat consumption and as an antiseptic. The advent of the European found matai attaining an exaggerated reputation for durability and its unwise use for house blocks and fence posts; matai is **not durable**, being similar in that regard to kauri. **It is however a superb above ground timber with excellent machining qualities, stability and hardness. It is especially suited to heavy duty floors and wooden door and window joinery.** Bushmen used to drill into hollow matai to tap the "matai beer" and they too used it to check consumption and as an antiseptic.

Distribution

Matai is found throughout New Zealand and very rarely on Stewart Island. It is most common in the Central Plateau in the North Island with other important areas being the West Coast, SE Nelson, the Seaward Kaikouras and western Southland in the South Island. In the North Island it grows from sea level to 760 metres and in the South Island to 300 metres. It appears to favour warmer areas with moist but well drained alluvial soils of the type usually found on river terraces.

Tree size and growth

Matai grows to 25 metres (rarely 30m) in height with diameters up to 1.3 metres. The largest recorded tree, at Lake Lanthe south of Hokitika, is 23 metres tall and 2.35 metres in diameter and is reputed to be over 1000 years old. Growth rates of naturally grown trees are very slow with the fastest recorded growth rate being about 1mm annually. Planted matai is likewise slow with height growth of saplings and poles averaging 20 cm annually. Diameter growth ranges from 2 to 5 mm annually.



All made
with MATAI
wood

Have a go
with
matai wood.



Hey MIKE! You could do this.



A matai tractor.
Easy-peasy to make



WAYNE used a choice block of Colville Kauri to turn this super-special bowl. Good sanding techniques produce a silky-smooth finish.



MITCHELL spotted a discarded block of Tassie blackwood in the off-cuts bin, put it on the lathe and gave it new life. Well done Mitchell.



Well how about that! Newbie turner **TREVOR SAVAGE** poses with his first-ever turning project – a knockout bar. Goodonya TREV. - Methinks there's more good stuff to come.

SATURDAY MORNING - 17th July

OPEN WORKSHOP 9.00am - 12 noon.

Duty Officer: MICHAEL DOYLE