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**Hamilton
Woodturners
Club**

Tutor's comment

The Covid thingy just won't go away and our weekly session numbers have been affected accordingly. However, health and safety are of the highest priority so if you are not feeling well or are showing signs of developing symptoms then please do not come to the workshop. Many thanks for messaging me if you are unable to attend.

Special thanks to James and Barbara for their donation of a drop saw. This machine will be fully serviced before general use. Until a training programme has been completed only tutor-supervised operation is permitted.

Sunday 24th July Club members get together from 12noon onwards Whatawhata café.

Hope to see you there.

OPEN WORKSHOP
Saturday morning
(tomorrow)

9.00am - 12 noon.

**Duty Officer: STEPHEN
O'CONNOR**



MICHAEL made a top job of his deep chestnut wood bowl. A flawless outcome featuring a fine finish.



JOHN BAKER finished the session with a brace of cleverly turned ultra-thin rimu platters. These were once the headboard of a solid wooden bed.



BILL had some fun with “mushroom” turning using wet lancewood



Is this one of Dr. Who's Daleks? No, It's one of RIC's hollow-form turnings with a colour experiment. (some great tool work inside)



STEVE CARLISLE, who is our latest newbie club member, proudly presents his completed project. What a superb start he has made to the club's induction programme. Steve completed his first project picking up ideas and successfully applying basic turning skills in a very short timeframe.

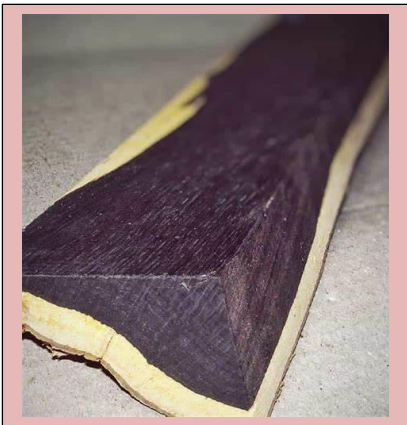
Some WOW potential highly evident already.

This week's feature wood (final in the series)

AFRICAN BLACKWOOD

Dalbergia melanoxylon (African blackwood, grenadilla, or mpingo) is a [flowering plant](#) in the family [Fabaceae](#), native to seasonally dry regions of [Africa](#) from [Senegal](#) east to [Eritrea](#) and south to the north-eastern parts of [South Africa](#). The tree is an important [timber](#) species in its native areas;

It is a small [tree](#), reaching 4–15 m tall, with grey [bark](#) and [spiny](#) shoots. The [leaves](#) are [deciduous](#) in the [dry season](#), alternate, 6–22 cm long, pinnately compound, with 6–9 alternately arranged leaflets. The [flowers](#) are white and produced in dense clusters. The [fruit](#) is a [pod](#) 3–7 cm long, containing one to two [seeds](#).



Pictures of
African
Blackwood



General information about AFRICAN BLACKWOOD

Colour/Appearance: Often completely black, with little or no discernible grain. Occasionally slightly lighter, with a dark brown or purplish hue. The pale-yellow sapwood is usually very thin, and is clearly demarcated from the darker heartwood.

Grain/Texture: Grain is typically straight; fine, even texture and good natural lustre.

Rot Resistance: Heartwood is rated as very durable in regards to decay resistance, though only moderately resistant to insects/borers. The lighter coloured sapwood is commonly attacked by powder-post beetles and other borers.

Workability: Very difficult to work with hand or machine tools, with an extreme blunting effect on cutters. African blackwood is most often used in turned objects, where it is considered to be among the very finest of all turning woods—capable of holding threads and other intricate details well. When made into clarinet or oboe bodies, the wood is typically processed on metal-working equipment, giving it a reputation as being metal-like in some of its working properties.

Odour: African blackwood has a mild—though distinctive—scent while being worked.

Allergies/Toxicity: Although severe reactions are quite uncommon, African blackwood has been reported as a *sensitizer*. Usually most common reactions simply include eye, skin, and respiratory irritation.

Pricing/Availability: African blackwood is very expensive, on par with true ebonies such as *Gaboon Ebony* in the *Diospyros* genus. Since the tree grows so slowly, and is generally small and gnarly, available boards tend to be narrow—though large clear sections have occasionally been harvested from older trees that yield bookmatched guitar backs (~8" wide).

Sustainability: African blackwood is listed on CITES appendix II under the *genus-wide restriction on all Dalbergia species*—which also includes finished products made of the wood. It's also reported by the IUCN as being near threatened. Technically it doesn't meet the Red List criteria of a vulnerable or endangered species, but is close to qualifying and/or may qualify in the near future.

Common Uses: Musical instruments (guitars, clarinets, oboes, etc.), inlay, carving, tool handles, and other turned objects.

Comments: To be considered the original ebony, African Blackwood was imported and used in Ancient Egypt thousands of years ago.

African blackwood is considered to be among the hardest and densest of woods in the world.



STEPHEN HAWLEY was on a roll when he set out to make a banded resin ball. He finished with seven beauties.



KAWHARU made a great job of his first-ever bowl. Redwood was a good choice of wood too.