

TURNOUT

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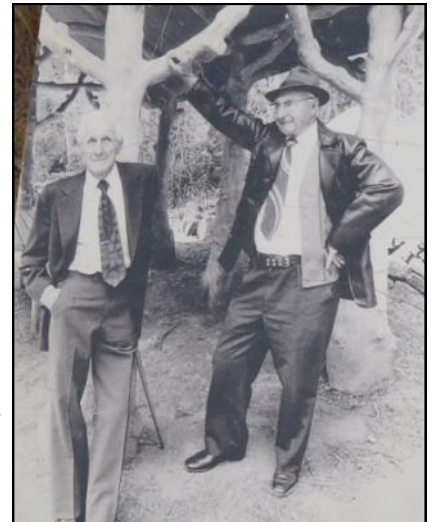
FROM THE EDITOR

My wife and I are currently caravanning in Tasmania and will be for a further 3 weeks. I have attached a couple of items I hope you find interesting.

WHEN IS A TREE NOT A TREE. Part 2



While walking around the Cataract Gorge we came upon a shelter which at first site looked like it was held up by tree trunks. From a distance, I marvelled at the ability of the erectors that found tree limbs all the right shape and configuration. Upon close examination, the tree trunks were made of concrete. Further down the path, a



sign explained the shelter construction.

Cyril Shaw and Leslie Dent built this shelter with their bare hands, shaping bird wire and concrete into a structure as magnificent as the trees around it.

The technique is called Faux Bois, meaning false wood and dates back to the European Renaissance of the 14th to the 17th centuries.

Cyril worked here from 1925 to 1943, only leaving when called up for the civil construction corps. His brother in law Leslie, worked from 1925 to 1937 when he moved to Melbourne

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Clarendon's Elm Avenue

Clarendon's Elm Avenue is the largest existing example in the Southern Hemisphere. While the onset of Dutch Elm Disease has devastated native Elm populations around the world, fortunately our trees remain unaffected. The National Trust Tasmania is in the process of developing a conservation program to protect the Elm Avenue and secure the future health of these magnificent 150-year-old trees.



OHS&W 17 century style

Walking around the Clarendon estate and behind the blacksmith shop I found the attached saw reportedly used for crossing cutting logs for the fire.

You will notice all the safety features—half covered saw with a back stop. The saw was originally located behind the shearing shed and driven by a belt from inside the shearing shed. You can see drum for the belt located on the right side of the bench.



The following article on trees was copied from the May 2007 edition of the Woodgroup Newsletter

The Editor

Trees 'n' Timber

Peppercorn, *Schinus molle*

Writing these articles has always provided me with an interesting challenge. By and large I have avoided writing about commercial timbers, as there are generally plenty of resources describing them. The difficulty with non-commercial timbers is that there is often plenty of resource material about the botanical information but little about the timber. Thus with Peppercorn. There are many references in gardening books, but none in any of the timber books that I have. I turned to the net and 'Googled' Peppercorn to come up with about one hundred references, but not a mention of the qualities of the timber. Therefore the detail about the timber is only based on my experiences.



Derivation of names

Schinus, - the Greek name for Pepper Tree.

molle - comes from the Quechua (South American Indian) word for their name for the tree (*molli*).

Other common names

Pepper Tree, Californian or Peruvian or Mexican or Brazilian Pepper Tree, Peruvian Mastic, molle de Peru and many other Indian names.

The Tree.

A large spreading tree growing to 12 metres high, with a trunk of up to 1 metre in diameter. The crown is spreading and has drooping fern like



foliage which is soft to the touch.

The trunk is often twisted and gnarled with a myriad of burl like appendages.

The bark is initially smooth grey-brown but becomes irregularly furrowed and scaly as it ages.

The leaves are compound, up to 350 mm long and having up to 40 leaflets arranged pinnately, ie in pairs. Each leaflet is narrow and lance shaped, 25 to 75 mm long

The flowers are small and white and grow in many branched hanging clusters. The



fruit are in large clusters of pink to red round berries having a peppery fragrance.

Habitat

It would be easy to think of Peppercorn as an Australian native. Almost every country town north of Adelaide will have Peppercorns growing in their main streets. However it is native to Peru but has become naturalised over many of the drier parts of the world. In Queensland it is regarded as a weed of some importance.



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Timber.

Because it is not a commercial timber, little detail is available about the characteristics of the timber. The colour is interesting, ranging from light greyish brown to a dark brown with all of the shades between. It is a medium weight timber with a close grain. It turns sands and finishes very well. The greatest challenge is being able to dry it without m a s s i v e degrade. It is a 'smiley' timber - as soon as you dry it, smiles or cracks appear. Over recent years the Woodgroup has obtained quite a bit of it, but most has been disappointing because of the splitting. During one of our timber collecting exercises at the Mount Barker Freeway site, we slabbed quite a bit of it. I put some away in ideal drying conditions but was only able to salvage part of it. The burl like trunks, however do provide some interesting turning timber. When it dries the timber produces a series of elongated holes, usually associated with varying colours, which provides interest.

Main Uses

I was told by a local in a mid northern town that it was planted in main streets to keep the flies away from horses. Maybe giving credence to this theory is the fact that the berries are somewhat toxic and if eaten can cause vomiting and diarrhoea and that the flowers can cause respiratory irritation. One of the web pages (9 pages) lists a number of human complaints that Peppercorn may be used to heal (homoeopathic medicine).

Ron Allen

In case you forgot, the Northern Turners calendar is found at
<https://teamup.com/kscfeefc5dc14d24cf>



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