

# TURNOUT

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Digital Show and Tell Issue 8

## Keith Lane

Hi Tim, I am a new member with little experience and am missing the regular meetings as I find I learn best if I can see someone turning, I feel I have been able to produce some things that are OK but from my perspective not up to the club standard as yet.

Both these pieces are from a piece of ironbark I came across while walking our dog, the tree had died months earlier and as you can see had borers etc. so not perfect in any way, so I purchased some resin which I have found to be a bit tricky to use also.

The round platter was a piece I had discarded as not suitable to use but thought it was a good piece to experiment with the resin, I should have spent more time with the finish as it turned out much better than expected. It's polished with Shellawax .



The other one has been oiled (couldn't think how to use Shellawax because didn't want to try spinning while polishing it) and the photo doesn't do the colour justice.

The main issue I am having is I am getting a wave effect on the surface and can't find a way to smooth it out I use a 3/8 bowl gouge with fingernail chamfer for the main work, I have tried using a scrapper but it always grabs - not sure I have the correct chamfer angle (currently using 60 deg)

Any advice would be appreciated.

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## Send all articles to

[turnout@woodgroupsa.org.au](mailto:turnout@woodgroupsa.org.au)

## Your Northern Turners

- *Seeking Excellence*
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## Graham Vawser

The Red Gum & Jarrah bowl (180mm diameter, 150mm high) is a piece I'm most proud of. The Jarrah pedestal became necessary when I turned through the base of the Red Gum bowl! I'd succeeded in making the wall of the bowl nicely 5mm thick, but was holding the bowl with the chuck in a mortise so the 5mm wall became as thin as air at the base!!! Happily, the Jarrah pedestal fitted in well.



There's not much to say about the Silky Oak natural edged bowl (140mm diameter, 110mm high) apart from the usual comments about medullary rays and interesting figure in the wood.



The Camphor Laurel lidded jar (180mm high, 140mm diameter) is an exercise in end-grain turning. The picture shows the colourful figure of the heartwood; the opposite side has much plainer sapwood. The Camphor Laurel blank did not allow enough wood for a knob without upsetting the proportions; the choice of Red Gum for the knob was a good decision, seeing how well the colour complements the Camphor Laurel.



An offcut of African Mahogany provided the blank for the small bowl (80mm diameter, 50mm high). But even such a small piece highlights the lovely colours and figure in the timber.



## Tim Smeaton

One of our members demonstrated how to make spoons several years ago (I am not sure who it was) so I had a go. I glued two pieces of (a) lemon-scented gum and (b) mulga together with hot melt glue and turned the outside of the spoons. Then I made a crude jam chuck with a slot in it and glued the bowl of the spoon on to it, hoping I had it central (nearly!). Then I hollowed out the spoons. The good old microwave oven allowed me to separate spoons, and get them out of the chuck. At least they are useful items!

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**David Hough**

I have some things I have been working on for the Show and Tell



A Bandsaw Jewellery Box made from CYPRESS with six drawers (left)

A Bandsaw Jewellery Box made from BROUGHTON WILLOW with five drawers (right)



A Keepsake Box made from RED GUM - it has two Eagles Embroidered on Leather on the top

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And last I have two 1932 Buicks, the body I cut on the Bandsaw and the only things I turned were the Wheels, the Steering Wheel, and the Head Lights



Hi Members

Here are some great offerings, and I think the “Halo” could be shared by Graham and Dave (maybe I should enter politics!). Seriously, I am continually amazed by the skills shown by our members.

Keep it up

Tim Smeaton

## KNICKS AND KNACKS

### MEASURING DEPTH OF A BOWL OR VASE ON THE LATHE

There are many ways to help with the depth of a bowl, hollow form, pot pourri bowl or vase.

Drill a hole into the opening of the piece on the lathe at the desired depth. This is a common practice but remember that you will need to cut slightly deeper to remove the drill point impression. It also helps to turn out the waste as there is a hole to turn to. But if you not drill then you can.....

put a ruler or piece of dowel into the piece and gauge by sight the edge of your piece against your measuring stick/ruler. This is can be a bit hit and miss depending on your ability to line up the two edges against your measuring stick/ruler.

buy a depth gauge.

I made my own. Simply find a piece of 40mm x 19mm 350mm long. A dowel 300 mm long.

The only tricky part is drilling a hole the same size as the dowel where the dowel moves stiffly through the hole.



Happy turning

George Pastuch

NOTE. The following article was first published in the Woodgroup Newsletter in May 2007.

## 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.

#### 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 massive 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