

WALNUT OIL AN OTHER THINGS

Many of you use walnut oil when finishing off your turned articles, and I thought you might like



to know a little about the farm and processing plant, where the oil that Ian Dawkins has for sale is produced. We visited there when we were in Christchurch attending the NZ Campervan Association's Easter Rally. Malcolm and Jenny Lawrence the owners, grow several varieties of walnuts on their farm, and also process walnuts for a large number of other farmers. We were fortunate in that, as it was the start of the walnut harvesting season we were able to see the whole process from picking the walnuts up off the

ground, washing, drying, cracking them open, and grading the cracked nuts. The nuts are left to fall off the trees, and then picked up using a special implement that is pushed along by hand, it only picks up solid objects, not fallen leaves or other soft material. Push it forward and it picks up the nuts, rotate it backwards and the nuts fall out into your container. (One of these would be useful for the golfers in the club). They are then washed, and dried before cracking. If you want perfect half shells, stand the nut on its bottom, and give it a sharp tap on the pointed end and you should be able to get two perfect halves. As well as walnuts for eating raw, baking and stock food, they also produce walnut oil first grade for the food industry, and the second grade for furniture makers and wood turners, walnut paste (a bit like peanut butter), walnut flour (for those who need gluten free food),. They also crush the walnut shell into different grades, the 400 micron grade for woodturners to make "woodturners putty". They also had walnut chutney for sale but it was not made on the premises.



In my capacity as the secretary of the NAW, I had arranged to visit two South Island clubs while we were in their areas. The first was the East Otago Club based in Palmerston,. Club president Barney Barton picked us up from the Dunback Domain where we were staying, and took us to their club rooms a short distance away. Dunback is a bit over 15 km from Palmerston. They rent an old church hall. Their club has 19 members, and owns 17 lathes. It wasn't a normal club day, but a group of members were there to meet us, and we spent

a pleasant afternoon together. The next day we traveled to Oamaru where the Waitaki Club was having their weekly "hands-on" day. They rent rooms from the Racing club as their clubrooms. Here they have 39 members and 23 lathes. Two very big lathes that had belonged

to John Lister. One member was working on a log end (2 foot across and about 18 inches deep) on the smaller one. By running turning courses for the Aoraki Polytechnic based in Christchurch, both these clubs have been able to afford to buy their lathes. The courses are held on their "hands-on" days every week. Waitaki start at 1.00pm, and go straight through until 9.00-9.30pm. to cater for both retired and working people wanting to attend. As all of the others were working on their Aoraki modules, Don Robbie their sole scrollsawer, took us home to see his workshop and his new Excaliber scrollsaw, and the many things he has made. He just does scroll-work, no intarsia or marquetry. Next morning we visited Bill Owen at his woodworking supply shop based at his home, before driving to Christchurch to attend the rally.

Sent in by Laureen Tubby

Circle-Cutting Jig



Creating round circles with a bandsaw can be difficult even for the steadiest of hands. But, if you need a project component such as a toy wheel with a hole in its center, this circle-cutting jig will suit your needs admirably.

To use our handy jig to cut discs to near-perfect shape, position the jig on your bandsaw table so the center of the hole being used in the jig is directly across from the center of the bandsaw blade (we recommend a 1/4" blade). Without moving the jig, clamp a stop in the miter gauge groove directly behind the jig.

Use a compass to mark a radius on the piece of stock you need bandsawed to shape. Drill a hole in the center of the marked circle. Fit the square blank onto the dowel in the jig (the dowel size must be the same as the hole in the blank). Start the saw, and push the jig until it comes in contact with the stop. When doing this, you'll have cut into the square blank. Now rotate the blank as shown in the photo. Turn the bandsaw off, and remove the disc from the jig. Continue the process to cut as many similar-sized discs as you need.

