

The Parkinson's Tulip Project

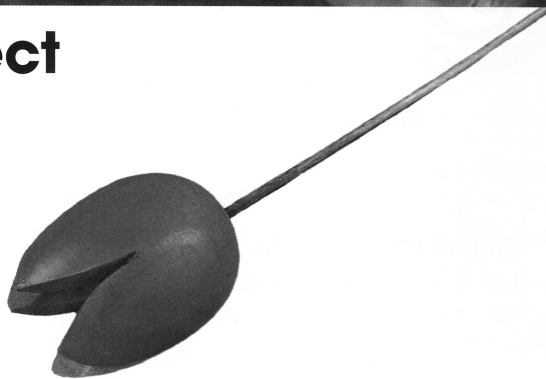
Greg Taylor

Parkinson's is the fastest growing neurological condition in the world. In New Zealand we have approximately 12,000 people with the condition and 1,000 people diagnosed last year.

In 2005 the tulip was adopted as the official symbol of Parkinson's at the 9th World Parkinson's Disease Day Conference in Luxembourg. However, the flower had been informally associated with the disease for more than 20 years prior to that. Back in 1980, a Dutch horticulturalist named J.W.S. Van der Wereld, who was living with Parkinson's, developed a new red and white variant of the tulip. He named his newly cultivated flower the *Dr James Parkinson* tulip in honour of the person who first documented the features of Parkinson's disease in his 1817 publication, *An Essay on the Shaking Palsy*. Today wearing the red tulip raises awareness and shows support for people living with Parkinson's and their families globally.

One of our Tauranga Woodcrafters Guild members is living with Parkinson's, as are others in our families nationally. So, it is quite appropriate for us to support our local Parkinson's Action Group (BOP) with their fundraising through the efforts of our Guild making wooden tulips for them to sell.

Now the NAW is also backing the Parkinson's Tulip Project to support any of the 16 Parkinson's branches nationwide with their fundraiser. This year it will be in November 2022. You can also assist in your local area if you wish. This article describes the process we have

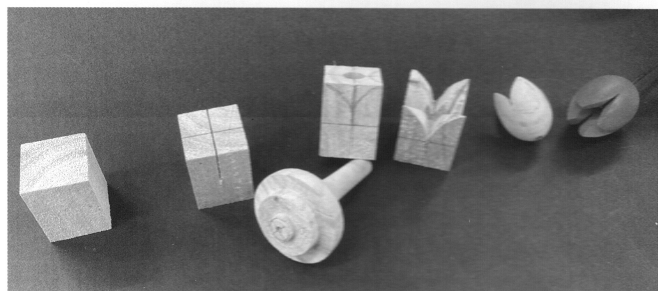


used. If you don't know the contact details for your local branch of Parkinson's NZ please drop me a line and I will put you in touch.

Our Tulip Making Process for Woodturners

We begin with organised working bees for our turners to cut out and prepare a stockpile of pine timber blanks for later turning. Our members typically then take a bag of these blanks home to turn in their own time.

The procedure we use is quite simple but I am sure every woodturner will see opportunities to optimise it for themselves.



Preparation

1. Turn a mandrel to fit a 20 x 40 mm deep hole you will later cut in each blank.
2. Make a cardboard pattern for marking flower petals on each blank.
3. Source some pine timber offcuts to make blanks for the tulips, builders and roofers can help here.

Procedure

1. Cut a stockpile of blanks each measuring 40 x 40 x 60 – 65 mm from the pine offcuts.
2. Mark the centres at each end of a blank.
3. Drill a 20 mm diameter hole about 40 mm deep at one end of a blank.
4. Drill a hole at the other end to later attach a flower stem.
5. Use your cardboard pattern to mark the petal curves along 2 sides of the block and then cut along the curves with a bandsaw (Fig. 1 & 2).

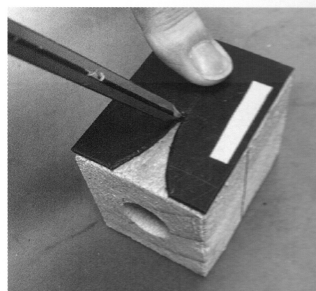


Fig. 1.

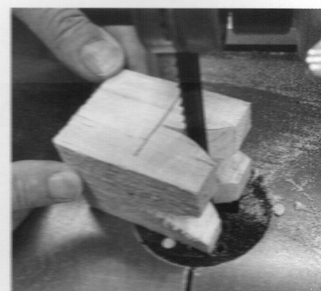


Fig. 2.

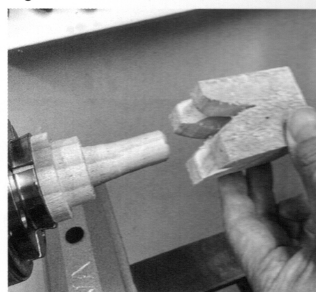


Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.