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The Bonsai Society meets at the Bellerive Community Art Centre,
17 Cambridge Rd, Bellerive at 7:30 pm on the third Tuesday of the month
(February – November)

Website: www.key.org.au/bonsai

Newsletter No 197 – July 2009

June Meeting: This was chaired by Herbert Harding, due to the absence of President Noel Kemp who is at present wandering to far-flung places on our wonderful planet. Our meeting was a fairly quiet affair (perhaps we're missing Noel), with some fourteen members braving the cold. We received two apologies – Will Fletcher and Jenny Allford, and received a visit from Sean Bradley and Jack Knight. The display table was a little bereft of plants, but at this time of year, many have succumbed to dormancy and don't always look their best. Still, it can be worthwhile, particularly if needing advice on pruning or wiring, to bring them along. Herbert's azalea was certainly a sharp green contrast, and Gill's fuchsia wasn't put off by winter, displaying an array of tiny pink blooms.

David Budd gave us an update on Noel's adventures thus far – I think it's about time he started his memoir, he certainly has enough material! (An email arrived on Sunday evening telling me he was in Trondheim, Norway about to catch the midnight train north to Bodo, where he would board a ferry north to Hammerfest, which is well and truly inside the Arctic Circle. The day temperature there, on the longest day, was forecast for 8 degrees!)

Will Fletcher again donated a plant for our raffle, and Eva Effenberger supplied the runner-up prize which had everyone curious as to its content! No doubt it will be a lot of fun.

Business Arising: We received an update from Treasurer Stuart Clutterbuck, with regard to our public liability insurance cover, which has been the focus of various discussions over the last few meetings. During a recent visit to Canberra he discussed our situation with the AABC. They are unable to help, but suggested that Garden Clubs of Australia would be our best option. No doubt we will receive further information in the near future.

With the AGM imminent, members are asked to pass on their nominations. At present, we have six nominees.

Eva Effenberger asked if it was possible for all members to receive a current members' list, which was agreed to. One of the reasons put by Eva was for members to consider the possibility of car pooling on meeting nights, which could certainly help reduce petrol and running costs. An updated list will be provided with this newsletter.

Questions: From time to time your Executive Committee may make decisions which some members feel dissatisfied or unhappy about. It is your Society and, in such circumstances, you are entitled to ask questions regarding those decisions. For example, the issue of increasing our fees was not taken lightly, as we were faced with the very real problem of not having necessary public liability insurance. Basically the increase covers the cost of insurance, nothing more. As referred to in business arising, further enquiries are being made and members will be advised of the outcome for next year. In the meantime, please feel free to ask questions of your Committee.

Next Meeting: Our Society's AGM will be held on Tuesday 21st July chaired by Herbert Harding. Reports from the President and Treasurer will be presented. We would like to see as many members as possible attending.

As usual, members are invited to bring along trees for the display table and, if they wish, to seek advice from our experienced members who are always willing to be of assistance. No demonstration has been organised, however discussions on bonsai generally will be conducted.

June Workshop: Eight members turned up to what was described as a good afternoon. Tony Brown brought in a huge Liquid Amber which kept him busy, and Herbert repotted the Azalea he displayed at our last meeting. Others busied themselves repotting, wiring and generally preparing their plants for the year ahead.

Next Workshop: Saturday 25th July. Cost will be \$2.00. Don't forget to check your reminder list (May newsletter) for items to bring along.

Future Workshops: Sunday 23rd August.

Handy Hint: A cotton bud dipped in vinegar and applied to liverwort will kill it off. It is suggested to leave the pot in the sun for a few hours after the application. Note that liverwort contains spores which are released when plants are watered – either by immersion, or watering with the hose. Spores may also be present in the water, so it's important to look out for this pest.

At this time of year, plants should receive as much sun as possible.

Outing on Saturday 19th September: Dig at Seven Mile Beach. A series of emails has gone back and forth with regard to the provision of a 12 month permit, in return for full address and vehicle registration numbers of members. Parks & Wildlife suggested that if I provide them with a membership list they will do a "bulk authority for the lot." The other option is to provide them with complete details of just those members who will be participating, a week prior to the event. Which makes it a little awkward if someone decides to join at the last minute! It was suggested a members list be provided, and that members sign off before it's sent. Feed back would be appreciated – particularly those who have objections!

Suggested future outing:

- Viewing mature trees as inspiration for Bonsai. For example - Natives on Mt Wellington, Lake Dobson/Mt Field. European trees at our Hobart Botanical Gardens.
- Your comments and volunteers to lead/co-ordinate these or other outings please.

Hobart Horticultural Society Inc Shows:

11 & 12 September – Daffodil, Camellia & Floral Art Show (Town Hall, Hobart)

6 & 7 November – Rose, Iris & Floral Art Show (Hobart Town Hall)

Royal Hobart Show

22 to 24 October 2009

Tasmanian Bonsai Society, Secretary Neil Hardstaff, PO Box 1031, Launceston, Tas. 7250 Tel. 63445263

Interstate Bonsai Society/Club Websites

WA – www.bonsaisocietywa.com

Vic – www.bonsaisocietyvictoria.org

Vic – www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au

ACT – www.cbs.org.au

Aust – (Assoc of Austn Bonsai Clubs Ltd) www.aabcltd.org

Qld – www.Bonsiasocietyqld.asn.au

Those members who might be considering a trip to that "big island to our north", may be interested to visit the Bonsai Society of Victoria's annual bonsai exhibition to be held on the 2nd and 3rd of October at the Box Hill Town Hall. For those with internet facility more information may be obtained on their website (see above). Those without, let me know.

The Yarra Valley Bonsai Society now has its own website, (listed above) including newsletters. It is worthwhile visiting these sites if only to read about some of their activities and methods of fund raising. I notice that some clubs charge members a small fee for borrowing books from the society's library. Yarra Valley is planning a workshop involving children (aged 7-12), something perhaps our own club could think about. Others charge a small percentage on plants/pots/bonsai tools etc. sold at meetings.

Members Note:

We do receive newsletters from interstate clubs. These are available at our meetings, but if anyone would like to borrow them to peruse further, please let me know.

Presidential Report 2008-09

As pen is put to paper the sun is shining brightly, following a frosty start to the day. Did anyone (else) notice the correlation between the sudden, and unexpected, brief cold snap in late April/early May, and the subsequent profusion of autumnal colouring even in trees which do not normally colour up? It gives credence to the advice about putting your prize deciduous trees in the fridge prior to a show, for maximum autumnal colours.

On a more mundane note the Society continues to thrive, with its normal run of shows at the Town Hall and City Hall (as part of our membership of the Hobart Horticultural Society) and the Royal Agricultural Show. Our monthly meetings continue to be well attended with interesting talks being given by members: Herbert Harding, Aaron Wierzbicki, Gill Roberts, Diana Jones and Will Fletcher, covering a range of topics, from natives in general, to more conventional species, from uprights to root-over-rock specimens. Workshop numbers dropped off a bit during the winter sessions but if the first one for this season is any indication we can look forward to a good roll up each month. In the words of one of our members "I only called in to drop something off and I could hardly get in the door, it was so crowded".

The January gathering – a barbecue at Will Fletcher's Island Bonsai Nursery – was a highlight, with everyone admiring Will's new retirement venture of well laid out stands, trees, and the building itself. Our outing to Lynne Farrell's Tasmanian Bonsai Centre, "Etosha", in Launceston was a worthwhile trip: the visual delights of all Lynne's trees and a very interesting demonstration of a Juniper as a raft on a large slab of cork bark.

We again thank Herbert Harding and Gill Roberts for organizing the Christmas party. Numbers were down a little, which was a bit disappointing, but those who did attend enjoyed themselves.

I thank the outgoing Secretary Helene Browne, for her term in office, organizing things in general, and producing the Newsletter, in particular. Evelyn Black has kindly stepped in to fill the role of Newsletter Editor, and Secretary too, more or less, since Helene recently went on Long Service Leave.

The devoted Committee of Herbert Harding, Vice-President, Stuart Clutterbuck, Treasurer, David Budd, Librarian, Gill Roberts, tea lady, Aaron Wierzbicki and Diana Jones are to be thanked too for their services which helps make the Society function so well.

I wish the incoming Committee every success for the coming year.

Noel R Kemp

26th May, 2009