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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 198 – August 2009

Meeting Commenced: 8:10pm chaired by Herbert Harding, in the absence of Noel Kemp. There were 13 members present, 4 apologies and we welcomed visitor Sean Bradley.

Your Executive: President: Noel Kemp, Vice President: Herbert Harding, Secretary: Evelyn Black, Treasurer: Stuart Clutterbuck. Committee members include Will Fletcher, Eva Effenberger, Gill Roberts and Ambrose Canning. Both Executive and Committee nominees were elected unopposed. Executive meetings will commence at 18:30. The general meetings will commence at the normal time of 7:30pm.

July Meeting: Our AGM was a little late in starting, hence the later start time for the general meeting. We wish the incoming Executive and Committee members a fruitful year. During the presentation of the Treasurer's report, attention was drawn to the need to find ways to build up our bank balance, and no doubt this will be one of the topics for discussion at the first meeting of our new board. The other issue was, of course, the public liability insurance cover for which it was necessary to call on members for assistance, by increasing fees. Stuart informed us that if we joined the Garden Club Group, cost of the insurance would be about \$200. There are some other considerations which need to be taken into account before this can be decided and, more importantly, whether it would work out cheaper in the long term. Further information will follow. On a lighter note, David Budd updated us on our President's travels and minor tribulations! I'm sure he will have a lot to tell us when he returns in August. Perhaps we should ask him to give us a talk on his "experiences" over the last 8 or so weeks he has been away.

Inwards Correspondence: 23rd National Bonsai Convention information booklet and invitation to participate
Bonsai News (Bonsai Society of Victoria Inc.)
Newsletter (Bonsai Society of Western Australia)
Newsletter (Bendigo Bonsai Club Inc.)
Wirrabara (Canberra Bonsai Society Inc.)

There was no outgoing correspondence.

General Business: Members were reminded that their annual subscriptions are now due. Those whose subscriptions have not been received by the August meeting, will not receive the subsequent newsletter.

Diana Jones and Gill Roberts have a meeting relating to our stand at the Royal Hobart Show. Further information will be available at our next meeting.

Reminders: Your Secretary would like to know how many will be attending the dig in September. A form for completion appears at the end of this newsletter, and it would be appreciated if it could be brought along to the next meeting or, alternatively, mailed to the address at the top of the newsletter.

Plants for display at Shows:

We would like to see more members displaying their bonsai plants at the various shows. It doesn't matter if it's your first attempt – remember that it could encourage others, who might otherwise think it's too difficult when looking at a “Herbert Harding” or a “Diana Jones”, for example! These shows provide free advertising for our Society, and may encourage a few new members.

Another important aspect of the Royal Hobart Show in particular, is some help on the stand. Two at any one time is sufficient and, if you are a novice, there will be someone experienced with you. As a newcomer to bonsai, it can be a worthwhile experience – a few extra tips – one on one with an expert! Tea, coffee and chairs are provided – just bring along something to eat in case you get peckish. Two or three hours' help will be really appreciated. Keep in mind that day passes for volunteers are provided. So why not offer some help and enjoy a free day at the show as well!

Hobart Horticultural Society Inc. Shows:

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

Note: Those wishing to display plants, need to have them at the Town Hall between 5:00pm and 7:30pm on the evening before – that is on Thursday, 10th September and they can be collected from 4.00pm onwards on the 12th September (Saturday).

Plants should be well watered prior to being placed in the display. Light spraying will be carried out during the time they are on show.

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

Display Table: Not a lot of plants on display – Will Fletcher brought in a “congested forest” (in training), Herbert and Gillian showed what can be done with azaleas, and there were one or two others. A lot of our plants are beginning to show signs of new growth – lots of fresh buds appearing – and it's much easier to see their shape while they are bereft of foliage. But we should have a wonderful collection come September/October.

Raffle: An Azalea, and an arrangement of succulents which was donated by Helene Brown.

Talk: Ambrose Canning provided us with a brief, but very interesting visit to India – in particular the Lodhi Gardens in Delhi. Having an opportunity for some free time during a recent business trip, Ambrose found out that these gardens have a Bonsai display. So, armed with a compulsory map and his camera, he set off in search of their location. It wasn't easy – not all streets are named in Delhi, and the walk took him about two hours!

The Lodhi Gardens is actually a park, spread over 36 hectares (90 acres), which contains the tomb of Mohammed Shah (built in 1444) and that of Sikander Lodhi (built in 1517). The architecture is of the 15th and 16th Century and the site is now protected, as there is little remaining of the architecture from those two periods. There are about five or six tombs or mausoleums altogether within the Gardens. Two villages grew up round the tombs in the centuries following the Sayyid and Lodhi dynasties. However, in 1932 the people of the villages were relocated to create the gardens, which were landscaped by Lady Willington during the British Raj, and named after her. After independence in 1947, they were renamed “Lodhi”. In 1968 they were re-landscaped by J A Stein. There are numerous trees within the gardens, and a special Rose Garden containing some 250 varieties, as well as 60 varieties of Bougainvillea. Bird watchers can observe parakeets, mynahs and kingfishers to name a few. The Gardens are popular with picnic groups, joggers and yoga groups who hold regular sessions each morning.

The Bonsai Park was added in the seventies, and the collection is considered to be one of the finest in India. It was interesting to observe the size of the plants in relation to the pots and what appeared to be clay soil they were growing in. Members expressed some concern for the plants, which appeared not to have been cared for very well. Ambrose told us he was unable to identify any of the plants, or to know how old they were because there was no information available.

Ambrose also had time to visit the famously beautiful Taj Mahal, built for the third wife of emperor Shah Jahan. The domed mausoleum is constructed of white marble in the Mughal architectural style. It is said that as she lay dying she asked her husband to build for her “something more beautiful than the world had seen before”. And obviously, he did.

We were brought back to Tasmania, with some beautiful scenes of Mt. Field National Park during autumn and winter. Ambrose managed to capture the autumn beauty of Nothofagus in its full golden glory, and the sight of tall eucalypts reaching for the sky were another reminder of Nature’s beauty – which I don’t think we had forgotten!

Thank you Ambrose, for your efforts in adding some additional enjoyment to our meeting.

Workshop: The workshop on the 25th of July was quite well attended with 8 members taking the opportunity of working on their bonsai. There is a lot of camaraderie at these workshops, as well as the opportunity to observe, seek advice and get some ideas. My only complaint being that I was so busy attending to my plant, I didn’t have time to see what others were doing! Everyone enjoyed the nibbles and coffee/tea after their hard work.

Make a note in your diaries that the next workshop will be on Sunday 23rd August. And don’t forget your list of things to bring!

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 18th August – our President will be taking the chair after his long sojourn, so we may be in for a few surprises!

Don’t forget to bring along something for the display table – our bonsai are still beautiful without foliage or blossom.

Suggested future outing:

Viewing mature trees as an inspiration for Bonsai -

- Natives on Mt Wellington
- Natives at Lake Dobson/Mt Field
- European trees at our Hobart Botanical Gardens.

Your comments and volunteers to lead/co-ordinate these or other outings please.

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

For those who will be participating: Please complete the following and bring to the meeting on the 18th of August.

Outing on Saturday 19th September: A dig for Conifers at Seven Mile Beach.

Name:

Address:

Tel. Number:

Car Reg. No:

(The above information will be provided to Parks & Wildlife only, for which they will provide a permit.)