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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 199 – September 2008

Meeting Commenced at: 7:50pm . President Noel Kemp welcomed everyone
There were 15 members present and 3 apologies.

August Meeting: The Committee had their first meeting for the new financial year, during which various issues were discussed. President Noel suggested that “executive” be removed, and those appointed are members of the “Committee”. It was agreed unanimously.

Noel has had contact with the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria, and for \$138 plus annual affiliation fee of \$25 we can be covered by their public liability insurance. Correspondence and information from the RHSV has been received and there will be further discussion.

Fund raising was also raised at the meeting, during which it was agreed that membership should not be increased, nor was it considered worthwhile to include a “one of joining fee”. There are other possibilities which will be discussed in the future. However a suggestion was made that the Society hold an event during which bonsai would displayed, demonstrations held, sale of plants, tools, pots, a raffle and so on. Autumn might be a good time, perhaps a Saturday or Sunday between the hours of 10am and 4pm. This might also be a good way to attract more members to our Society. We would like to hear what members think of the idea and their willingness to participate.

Christmas get together: One or two suggestions have been made and your Committee would like to hear from members what their views are:-

- Lunch/dinner at a hotel or restaurant early in December (e.g. venue could be Botanical Gardens restaurant).
- Barbecue/picnic at Will Fletcher’s nursery prior to Christmas (providing Will is agreeable!).
- Barbecue/picnic at another venue – e.g. Tolosa Park or Risdon Brook Dam.

If we wish to have it **prior** to Christmas, a decision would have to be made very soon.

As members are aware, we regularly receive newsletters from other Societies in Australia, some of which contain useful information relating to our mutual interest – Bonsai. Our librarian, David Budd, is gradually sorting these into files, and they will be available to members via our library collection.

Inwards Correspondence: Newsletter (Bonsai Society of Western Australia
Bonsai News (Bonsai Society of Victoria)
Wirrabara (Canberra Bonsai Society Inc.)
Hobart Horticultural Society Journal
Postcard from Helene Browne.

Helene Browne has also been traipsing to far flung climes. Part of her recent trip to Russia included a visit to Lake Baikal, the world's most voluminous lake, containing more water than all the North American Great Lakes combined, a total of 20 percent of the world's surface fresh water. It is located in southern Siberia, near the city of Irkutsk, and is known as the "Blue Eye of Siberia". The lake is more than 25 million years old, and 1,642 meters deep. It is home to more than 1700 species of plant and animals, two thirds of which are found nowhere else.

Reminders: Dig on Saturday 19th September. See end of newsletter for directions/meeting arrangements.

A reminder to members who have not yet done so - annual subscriptions are due.

September 11th & 12th – 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 of Thursday, 10th September. They can be collected from 4.00pm onwards on Saturday, 12th September.

Plants should be well watered prior to being placed in the display. Light spraying will be carried out during the show. Please ensure information is available about each plant.

Royal Hobart Show: Wednesday 21st to Saturday 24th October: We would really appreciate if members could help with a few hours assistance on our stand. A roster is included with the newsletter which hopefully, will have a few names added to it by next meeting.

Hobart Horticultural Society:

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

Display Table: An array of plants displayed (perhaps to welcome Noel's return!) including Juniper, miniature fuchsia, Huon Pine, Smoke bush, Azaleas, a beautiful Camellia displaying small white blooms with just a hint of pink, Chinese Elms, native olive and native heath.

Tip from the President: Roots don't grow much once they are exposed to the air. Better to let them develop underground for a little longer.

Raffle: Ambrose Canning donated the plant for our raffle. A book on bonsai was also won. The raffle raised \$16.

We gave President Noel the opportunity to regale us with some of his experiences during a 65 hour trip on a Greyhound bus through the United States. He certainly met some interesting people along the way! He flew into Canada, before continuing south to St. Louis, where he caught up with his daughter for a few days. The long trip began from St. Louis, taking him across the state of Missouri, across Kansas, on to Denver and Fort Collins in the state of Colorado, where he would have enjoyed his week catching up with a friend, and no doubt some much-needed sleep in preparation for the next section. This covered northern Colorado, the state of Wyoming and arrival into Great Falls, Montana. Friends came from Lethbridge, Alberta to pick him up and again he had a few days, devoid of Greyhound coaches, to unwind. But it seems our president hadn't quite had enough of "ridin' the Greyhound". Five days later, saw him aboard once more, this time to Banff and the Canadian Rockies (minus most of their snow). He also noted the rapidly retreating glaciers and ice fields, no doubt victims of climate change. Banff is a resort town known for its mountainous surroundings and hot springs. It is 126kms west of Calgary, the first Canadian city to host the Winter Olympics in 1988. On to Vancouver where he caught up with cousins, and several friends. At least there was time for some mountain-climbing, walking and wandering. Noel doesn't let the grass grow under his feet – that's for sure!

Whistler formed part of the wandering. It is an extremely popular ski and mountain biking resort, and will be home to the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 15th September – the focus of the discussion will be on problem trees – which bonsai style to choose; which branches to remove/keep; how much of the trunk to remove; should it be left to develop further before turning it into a bonsai; is it suitable for bonsai; trees in trouble; and so on. Please bring along your problem trees. And don't forget the display table.

Workshop: Our last for this year was held on Sunday 23rd August, and was well attended with up to 10 members involved. Eva's Mugo Pine kept Noel and David busy for a while. Herbert and Gillian were busy pruning, wiring and re-potting, Tony worked on several including a new azalea and a buxus, Helene was playing catch-up after her holidays and, in between advising, Noel plucked and trimmed one of his pines. Rose was also busy, while I took the opportunity of watching, asking questions and lending a little assistance here and there. We hope those who were unable to make the workshops this year will take advantage of them next year.

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.

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

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

We will meet at 10am. Directions (coming from Hobart):

Follow Tasman Highway (A3) to the Airport roundabout and continue straight on. Turn right into Pittwater Road after passing Barilla Bay Oyster farm.

(Note that Pittwater Road is the first road on the right after the roundabout, and is opposite the Tasmania Golf Club.)

It is suggested members meet as a group a short way down Pittwater Road to avoid interfering with traffic. Our location is Centre Road where I understand there is a car park before the boom gate leading into the forest area.

Don't forget necessary tools, trays/boxes/bags to put your collected specimens in, perhaps a flask of coffee/tea and a nibble – you might get a little peckish from your efforts!