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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 202 – December 2009

Meeting Commenced: at 7.48pm. President Noel welcomed 17 members present including new members, Jordyn Long and Japheth Thomson, who we hope have a long and happy association with us. Jan and Amelia Mullyooly were our visitors in attendance.

General Business: Noel informed members that the Committee had unanimously agreed to our Society being incorporated in the next calendar year, pointing out the advantages.

Christmas get together: While the weather remained cool, it didn't dampen the enthusiasm of those who attended the barbecue at Island Bonsai on Saturday 5th December. Sausages and hamburgers were the order of the day and there were some tasty salads and a lovely arrangement of "sweet things" to finish off. Compliments to Gabrielle Canning for the cooking of the barbecue. And something tells me that most members came away with some special "Christmas" purchases. We also observed the plants which Will had so "delicately" attended to during his October demonstration. They have survived their ordeal, and seem to be thriving! As usual it was delightful to wander through the nursery and observe our bonsai native trees and shrubs

January Summer Barbecue: A BYO barbecue will be held on Sunday 17th January 2010, at the home of Ambrose Canning whose address is "Lanesend", 33 Lipscombe Avenue, Sandy Bay. (Ambrose describes it as "the old weatherboard farm house, behind the long hedge, beside the huge Deodar or Himalayan Cedar.") Ambrose assures us he has a good size barbecue to cater for hearty appetites! Commencing at 12 noon. (Tel.: 6225 4002 – in case anyone gets lost.)

Outings: Mt. Wellington and Mt Field. More information will be provided in the new year.

Reminder: The Summer Flower Show 9 – 10 January, Claremont Memorial Hall (cnr. of Main Rd and Bilton St.) Bonsai can be displayed too.

Inwards Correspondence: Various newsletters from Interstate Clubs

February Meeting: Tuesday, 16th February 2010 at 7.30pm

March Meeting: Tuesday, 16th March 2010 at 7.30pm

Display Table: Quite a selection from Copper Beech, Azaleas, Juniper, Callistemon, Maple, Nothofagus gunnii, Euphorbia and Cotoneaster

Raffle: Was won by Tegwen Carey.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm, after which Ambrose Canning gave us some ideas on aerial layering.

Aerial Layering

Ambrose had four trees to show what can be achieved by use of aerial layering – Viburnum, Variegated Maple, Yew and Persian Witch Hazel. His focus this evening was to improve the root system on the Viburnum, and create a new root system on the Maple which has an ugly scar and kink about two-thirds down the trunk. Both trees are still quite young.

Using a Stanley knife he cut through the bark to the green wood in a circular movement (ring-barking the tree) but being careful not to damage the green wood. Then using fine pliers, he peeled off the outer bark, before applying some root strike (described by Will as Viagra!). Having placed a band of mesh round each tree, he filled the space between with a thick mixture of sharp sand and sphagnum moss, which will be kept damp while new roots develop and begin to push through. The plants will be placed out of direct sun until such times as this occurs.

No doubt members will be looking forward to seeing the results in January.

Bonsai Material: For those members interested in lilac, there is an interesting article in the “Bonsai Focus”, number 122 4/2009, July/August (our library collection). Titled “Lazy Lilac”, the article discusses the use of lilac in several styles and sizes of bonsai, with explanation and photographs on removing a plant from the garden and training it over a three year period.

Editors note: Hooray! We are now in the Mercury’s Community Diary, the week prior to our meetings.

Don’t forget our BYO barbecue on Sunday January 17th. Our next proper meeting will be Tuesday, 16th February 2010. A brief newsletter will be produced prior to the February meeting.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and a very Healthy, Happy New Year.

