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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 206 – April 2010

Meeting Commenced: at 7.45pm by President, Noel Kemp who welcomed everyone. Sixteen members joined us and, hopefully a new member – Chris Sowden who has come to Tasmania from South Africa. Unfortunately Chris had to leave his bonsai behind!

Noel mentioned a meeting he and Evelyn attended at the Botanical Gardens. Gardens management is interested in closer engagement with plant/floral societies and groups like ourselves, and may look at ways to help raise our profile and provide some support. Possibilities for us, include having a bonsai display in the gardens (short or long term) with provision for our newsletters to be available to visitors; may be possible to run a workshop; displays at functions the Gardens organize. It's early days, but they are keen to have a further meeting. What is important is that they recognize there are people in the community who have expertise and knowledge which is not being utilized.

A committee meeting was held on 13th April, most of which dealt with issues surrounding the October exhibition. The Committee is asking the following:-

1. Members interested in displaying plants at the exhibition should start preparing them now.
2. The Committee would like to know who those members are, how many plants they would like to display, and which species. There will be the opportunity to sell plants, pots, tools etc. so if you have any items in these categories, they should also be prepared. Please note that 20% of sales goes to our Society.
3. The Committee would also like to hear from members who are willing to help over the two days of the exhibition. There are various areas where we will need assistance such as:-

Setting up/Dismantling; helping with tea/coffee; door entry; demonstrations; assisting with sales; observing during the exhibition (we don't want to lose any plants!) A roster will be put together so that members can opt for morning/afternoon etc. We envisage the exhibition will be open between 10am and 4pm both days. Friday will be spent setting up and hopefully, there won't be too much left to dismantle on the Sunday afternoon.

Following the committee report, a brief discussion ensued with regard to promotion of the exhibition, and the following suggestions made:

- Tony Brown suggested we contact Gardening Australia (ABC)
FM Radio station 92.1
- ABC Radio - Chris Wisby - Noel will contact him.
- The Mercury – their support is questionable
- Our website – Evelyn to discuss with the web supervisor

Raffle: Tony Brown won the Macracarpa and Elena Marinoni has some extra copper wire.

Display Table: Noel introduced the plants on display which included the following:- Cotoneaster, Camellia, Tropicarpa – pink flowers and a member of the heath family; Nothofagus gunnii changing into its Autumn colours; Smoke bush also complete with autumn colours; and Noel showed us several including a Cotoneaster with very small leaves, a Cypress grown from seed and a Mugo pine.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 18th, 2010 at 7.30pm, during which Noel will be working on raft style bonsai, and one or two established bonsai which require some attention. No doubt he will regale us with his experiences at Agfest this year.

Meeting Closed at: 8.30pm

Presentation: Will Fletcher showed us how to create a rock landscape, inspired from the natural landscape on Mt. Wellington. His materials consisted of a shallow tray, rocks (he'd picked up from the roadside), plants (a combination of Alpine cushion plants, mountain celery and pineapple grass) a little soil and two sizes of gravel.

The first part of the landscape required placing the four rocks (which he had ground of a little in order for them to stand) as they will be the main feature. He used some liquid nail to adhere the rocks to the tray. Three of the rocks were placed standing close together – the fourth sat on its own.

Plants were then placed in location from the rocks and Will then used the gravel to finish the effect.

We don't have a photo of Will's rock landscape, however during our first workshop, Herbert was inspired to create one using Mondo grass (photo courtesy of Ambrose)



Workshops:

Our first workshop for the year was held at Island Bonsai on April 24th. Despite the very windy conditions outside, 11 members (including Will Fletcher) began the annual tasks of repotting, wiring, pruning their bonsai. It was a very pleasant afternoon with much camaraderie and interaction, perhaps the different environment inspiring us to better things, and it was lovely to see one or two members who, for various reasons, are not always able to join our meetings. I, for one am looking forward to **the next workshop which is on 23rd May at Island Bonsai**. Hope to see you all there! Don't forget to check your list of things to bring. (Some photographs from the workshop – courtesy of Ambrose – appear below)



From this.....



.....to this!

Report on the trip to Mt. Field on 1st May (courtesy of Will Fletcher)

"We caught Mt Field on a glorious day..... mild, sunny and no march-flies or mozzies! We stopped by the creek below Lake Fenton and enjoyed the *Nothofagus gunnii* turning yellow, highlighted by the greens of the surrounding foliage. A collection of berries was assembled (all picked up from the ground) which made an astoundingly colourful picture! The nine members and two spouses then enjoyed a picnic by the burbling stream below Lake Dobson, adjacent a stand of Tasmanian Pencil Pines (some with extensive jinning and beautifully bleached) and with the aromatic Lemon Scented Boronia and *Baeckea gunniana* nearby. We then strolled around the lake, enjoying the huge diversity of local flora on display.

Highlights were the sculptural Pencil Pines on the lake's edge, the majestic groves of Pandanus and the intricate foliage patterns in the dappled forest. There was conjecture that Noel had been up the day before jinning the pines, but we suspect he doesn't have a ladder long enough! Herbert was well behaved. I believe the day was enjoyed by all, and I was reminded, and inspired once again by the amazing flora we have on this island!"
(Ambrose provided some lovely photographs of the occasion – some of which appear below.)



The Chrysanthemum & Floral Art Show April 30th – May 2nd, gave members the opportunity of displaying their plants.

Eight members participated, with plants ranging from: maples flaunting their fiery red foliage; miniature fuchsia, their tiny pink flowers contrasting with dark green leaves; white camellia; Chinese elms in their autumnal gold and some interesting natives.

Trees displayed included:- Chinese Elm (*Ulmus Parvifolia*), Corky Bark Elm (*Ulmus Davidiana*), Cotoneaster *Horizontalis* from David.

Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*), Smoke Bush (*Cotinus coggygia purpureus*), Persian Witchhazel (*Parrotia persica*), Alpine Baeckea (*Baeckea gunniana*) (Tasmanian native), Hairy Bristlewort (*Centrolepis strigosa*) (Tasmanian native), Rubber Tree (*Ficus elastica*), Mother Shieldfern (*Polystichum proliferum*) (Tasmanian native) from Ambrose.

Macracarpa forest; Maples, Red Fuchsia, cascade from Noel.

Pink fuchsia; Japanese Maples displaying their red foliage; accent plants; 20yr old Cotoneaster from Gillian.

White Camellia from Diana

Hinoki cypress from Hans

Herbert's rock planting.

Sunshine Wattle (*Acacia terminalis*); Sorbus (Rowan); Porcelain Berry (*Ampelopsis*) from Evelyn.

A big thank you to Diana who looked after our display, as well as selling raffle tickets and plants over the weekend.

The raffle was a bonsai cotoneaster which was won by Joan Westerway. Joan has been contacted and her prize delivered.

The next opportunity to display bonsai will be at the Daffodil, Camellia & Floral Art Show held on the 10th – 11th September. The Society would like to see more members displaying their bonsai.