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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.chooseit.org.au/bonsai](http://www.chooseit.org.au/bonsai)**

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## **Newsletter No 210 – August 2010**

**Next meeting will be held on September 21<sup>st</sup>** commencing at 7.30pm. David Budd will be demonstrating how to fix trees to rocks in the traditional way.

The August meeting commenced at 7.45pm, President Noel welcoming 14 members, with apologies from Helene Browne and Will Fletcher.

**Committee Meeting:** The committee met on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August. Several items were raised, including finalisation of the Constitution. During the July meeting, members were asked to read and submit any comments on the amendments. One member submitted comments, which the Committee feels have been taken into consideration with some minor alterations. Treasurer Stuart Clutterbuck explained the necessity for appointing a public officer whose duty would be to lodge audit exemptions each year, unless members voted for the books of the society to be audited. Evelyn Black moved that Stuart be nominated as Public officer for the current year, and Gill Roberts seconded the motion. Members present voted in favour. President Noel thanked Stuart and Ambrose for their efforts in amending the Constitution.

Other items included our exhibition with a proposed visit to Rosny Barn set down for the 31<sup>st</sup> August, to iron out any problems prior to setting up the display. It was confirmed that we will be able to set up on Friday (15<sup>th</sup> October), and a roster was provided for members to nominate their availability. Other issues discussed by the Committee included advertising/promoting the event – Will Fletcher is working on a flyer which will be distributed.

All members are invited to participate at the exhibition and, to that end, they are asked to provide a list of bonsai they wish to display. It can be emailed to Noel at [noelrkemp@yahoo.com.au](mailto:noelrkemp@yahoo.com.au); posted to the Secretary (address above) or, at the latest, provided at our meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Please bear in mind the following information format, which will be put into the computer to create a display list -

common name, botanical name (if possible), a brief description which can include whether it was a nursery specimen or collected on a dig, foliage, flowers, colour etc. and approximate age.

Plans are well under way and your committee hopes preparation of your plants for display has already begun. A reminder that space will be set aside for novices, as we would like everyone to participate by displaying at least one plant. An updated roster is included with this newsletter – if your name isn't on it, and you can offer your time either with setting up/dismantling or during the exhibition – it would be most appreciated. Members are reminded that any items they wish to sell during the exhibition should be clean and in good condition, and 20% of sales go to our Society. Setting up of the venue will take place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October, with display plants delivered on the day, so that the list can be finalised. If you wish to sell any of your displayed bonsai, please let Noel/Stuart know as this can be indicated on the flyer.

### **Show reminders:**

Daffodil, Camellia and Floral Art Show held 10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> September at the Town Hall. Bonsai plants for display to be brought there between 5.00pm – 6.30pm on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September. Please ensure there is a small card identifying your bonsai – common name, botanical name (if possible) brief description e.g foliage, flowers, colour etc. and approximate age. A reminder that plants should be well watered prior to display. Light spraying will be carried out during the show.

Royal Hobart Show: 20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Assistance on the stand is always appreciated, and an updated roster has been included with the newsletter.

**Christmas Barbecue:** Will be on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December at Island Bonsai. The committee was hoping to book a sheltered area at The Waterworks or Tolosa Park for this year's event. However, it appears sites at both places need to be booked some time ahead.

**January Barbecue:** Will be on Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> January at the home of Gill and Glen Roberts.

**Dig at Seven Mile Beach 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> September:** Two members have provided the Secretary with their contact details so far. If anyone else is interested, can they please return their completed forms or email to [e.black@bigpond.com](mailto:e.black@bigpond.com) as quickly as possible. (Refer to July's newsletter for forms and mailing address.) Anyone who is unsure of the location can meet Gill Roberts in the Barilla Bay car-park at 10am on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September. For those unable to make it that weekend, Parks & Wildlife have renewed our permit for two years.

While on the subject of digs, we are hoping to organise one around March 2011 and contact has been made with Forestry Tasmania. Noel will have further discussions with them in regard to locations – so watch your newsletter for further information.

**Please Note:** we have a new website address: [www.chooseit.org.au/bonsai](http://www.chooseit.org.au/bonsai) (appears above).

**Raffle:** Banksia Rose plus pot which was won by Hans Faltermeier, and some copper wire which was won by Lesley Gillie.

**Display Table: Heather** brought in a Tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), wanting advice on its possibilities as a bonsai. She will bring it to Saturday's workshop. **Ambrose** had a group of four very healthy looking *Eucalypt* varieties of Peppermint Gums, but is unsure which is which. They were collected in January 2010, on the east coast of Tasmania in hard, gravelly ground. He was able to dig them up complete with lignotubers and taproots and seem to be doing well. **Diana** showed us her *Nothofagus antarctica* – tree in a rock style. **Noel** had done a lot of work on his Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica Glauca*) which looks particularly striking; and he also displayed a Chinese Elm (root cutting from 1999) which he has transferred into a slightly larger pot giving a better ratio between pot and plant. **Gill** displayed two low wooden stands suitable for displaying bonsai. (Hopefully Glen has some free time available for his golf!)

**Special News:** Stuart and Nicole Clutterbuck's garden will be open to the public on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September from 10am – 4.30pm, as part of Australia's Open Garden Scheme. "Sojourn" is described as a "sensitively designed garden and relaxed family space". The location is: 173 Redwood Road, Kingston.

**Noel Kemp's Presentation:** Showed us a NZ Mirror Bush "*Coprosma repens*" which he had cut back hard, and is now looking quite good.

His European Larch "*Larix europaea*" presented a problem – it has started sprouting, but has 3 dead branches on one side. As Noel is fond of "jinning" this was suggested as a possible solution, alternatively could try creating a raft. However, it was decided to leave it for now.

A Japanese maple in a cascade style is not quite so often seen. Another Japanese maple with a twin trunk, one of which it was decided to remove – the greener of the two, while the remaining trunk was cut substantially to encourage future development. A third maple required a lot of branch removal from the trunk.

His "*piece de resistance*" came in the form of a Sycamore, still in a plastic pot (rather cracked), and Noel admitted he had to use his tomahawk to cut the root which had grown through the pot deep into the ground! He decided to remove the heaviest branch and proceeded to hard prune.

His last task was a batch of Cypress seedlings – a large tray of 2 year old seedlings was presented, from which Noel removed 9. These he divided into three groups, each of which he plaited, before plaiting the whole lot together for the purpose of developing one thick trunk. The roots were loosened and his plaited Cypresses were placed in a pot to allow further development.

How many of us have noticed changes taking place among our bonsai plants? I was surprised the other day to see tiny specks of green foliage showing among the still-clinging autumnal colour of my Chinese Elm. Already too life, in the form of pink blossom and leaf bud, is returning to a peach tree awaiting further work! On another (species unknown) fresh green leaves are slowly opening. Having lost a few weeks during which I was unable to attend to them, Nature has caught up with me!

It was nice to record 54mms of rain over two days in the second week of August. One could almost see plants, trees and shrubs reaching out to receive this welcome drenching, having gone without for some time.

### **News from the Clubs:**

Bonsai Society of Victoria Annual Exhibition October 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>  
Box Hill Town Hall, Whitehorse Road, Box Hill. 3128

South Australian Bonsai Society Exhibition October 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>  
Goodwood Community Centre, (behind the library), Goodwood.

Geelong Bonsai Show October 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>  
Geelong Masonic Centre, Regent Street, Belmont.

AABC Bonsai Convention in Perth WA. May 2011. Early bird closes 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. [www.aabcltd.org](http://www.aabcltd.org)

Our last workshop for the year was held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August (hope everyone remembered to vote!). By the time I arrived it was almost a full house, members busy with repotting, wiring and pruning. The following photos (courtesy of Ambrose) give an insight into their activity. (Comments are purely hypothetical – of course!)



Deep in concentration!



"I'm happy with that!"



"Would you mind if I adjust this wiring for you?"

Busy beavers

