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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

Newsletter No 211 – September 2010

Next meeting will be held on October 19th commencing at 7.30pm. Some committee members may be delayed as they will be setting up our display for the Royal Hobart Show. The October meeting will give members the opportunity of discussing the results of our exhibition, whether it met our expectations and, if so, do we repeat it next year. In the hope that we attract some new members (and perhaps encourage some past members to join) it is intended to be more of a social, relaxed evening during which the winner of our “Popular Choice” will be announced, and might like to introduce their plant. Heather Wiggers has offered to supply a bottle of wine to the lucky winner!

September meeting commenced at 7.50pm with a rather unwell President, Noel Kemp welcoming fifteen members, as well as Jenny Allford (who hopefully will renew her membership) and visitors, Marlene & Peter Kelly, who also brought along some of their own bonsai. Apologies from Helene Browne who is busy travelling and probably won't be able to join us until November.

The Committee met on 14th September without President Noel who was on the sick list. Most of the discussions referred to the exhibition, organising volunteer rosters, use of media for promotion, finalising promotional leaflets with David, Will and Stuart involved. As of the 1st September, our Society is officially “Incorporated”. It has taken time, with a lot of reading, correcting etc. and we appreciate the efforts of Stuart Clutterbuck and Ambrose Canning.

Bonsai Exhibition – moves ever closer! President Noel reminded everyone exhibiting, of the need for consistency with labels providing information on their specific trees. Will Fletcher has organised “coloured dots” which members can use for sales items. A reminder to members that they wear their name badges during the exhibition, and if anyone else would like to volunteer, please contact Evelyn (6229 5741).

Show Reminder: Royal Hobart Show 20th – 23rd October. Plants for display to be brought to the exhibition hall between 5pm and 6.30pm. We are located in the Show Pavilion, where we were last year. The pavilion is a large blue building to the left of the main gate, which is entered from Howard Road. All members are encouraged to display plants, with a particular emphasis on new members participating. Assistance on the stand is always appreciated, so if you can spare an hour or so, particularly on Wednesday 20th October it would be help. Don't forget free entry tickets are provided for those volunteering.

Community Fair: Sunday, October 31st - this event is part of the Clarence Council's 150 year celebration and is being organised in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Kangaroo Bay. Our Society will have a covered stall, the idea being to provide information about ourselves and, of course, bonsai. We will have a computer screen on hand showing photos taken at our workshops, outings and exhibitions, and probably one or two plants for display only. Anyone interested in dropping in for an hour or so will be most welcome. Please contact Evelyn if you would like to participate.

Hobart Horticultural Show: Rose, Iris & Floral Art Show on 5th & 6th November at the Hobart Town Hall. Plants need to be delivered on Thursday between 4.30 and 6.00pm. Please ensure plants are well watered prior to delivery. They will be sprayed during the show to keep them fresh.

Raffle: Our visitors won the rooting gel, and Stuart won the Mondo grass.

Display Table: Members were asked to bring trees they intend displaying at the exhibition, and there was quite a selection.

Stuart's group consisted of a Juniper in full cascade style (perhaps not true orthodox – according to Noel) but very interesting! Also a Pseudotsuga and a Sergeant's Juniper.

Tony brought in a Pulchella, a Maple, a Fuchsia in informal upright, a windswept Cypress, a Juniperus procumbens Nana and Huon pine. A discussion ensued as to wiring Huon pines, with Diana recommending they should only be wired on brown wood. However, Will mentioned that he had not found any difficulties wiring on green wood. No doubt the discussion will be continued.

Ambrose had an Azalea around 20 years old, and a Mother Shield which he estimated to be about 10 years old.

Gill showed off two lovely Azaleas in flower – a white in semi-cascade style and a pink, and she also brought in her Trident Maple group planting, which had been transferred into its new pot, and a flowering Crab Apple.

Azaleas are popular with Diana and visitor Marlene both displaying theirs. Marlene brought along an apple tree which, so far, has not produced any fruit.

Rose presented us with a dwarf Cypress, a cotoneaster, a Podocarpus in informal upright and a Callistemon.

And Leslie showed a twin trunk Cypress, and a Hawthorn.

Noel reminded those with maples to start pinching out the new spring foliage now.

Azaleas can also be pruned back after flowering is finished.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm after which David Budd gave a lively presentation on the traditional method of creating a clinging rock style, a full report of which appears on page 3.



Special Announcement

Sincere Congratulations to Herbert & Margaret Harding on the occasion of their 60th Wedding Anniversary, which they will celebrate on the 30th September.

David Budd's presentation

Traditional method for creating "Clinging to the rock style"

When choosing a rock to attach a plant for a future "Clinging to the Rock Style" bonsai try to find one with interesting features.

The plant should be of a suitable size and ratio to the rock.

The next step is to select a position on the rock that will suit the expected final look of the planting

This position should be away from the most interesting section of the rock but can be in the vicinity of the interesting section to enhance the planting.

If the rock is not stable when placed in the required position, a section should be flattened or removed, or by building up and adding some "feet" will ensure stability.

The equipment and tools required to complete this type of planting are, a suitable piece of rock, a plant or plants that are of a size and ratio to suit the rock, a masonry drill bit (same size as lead sinkers) an electric hammer drill, a piece of steel rod which is the same size as the lead sinkers, a small hammer, some "muck" (muck is clay and cow manure mixed together) moss (enough to cover the root ball when the planting is completed) and for each tree 2 small ball type lead sinkers (same size as masonry drill bit), 2 pieces of copper wire approx 200mm (8 ins) long.

When the desired location for the plant /s is selected drill 2 holes with the masonry drill on either side of where the root ball will be placed. The hole needs to be approx 40 mm (1 1/2 inches) deep, the wires are threaded through the sinkers, the sinkers are then pushed into the bottom of the drilled holes, then the rod is pushed into the hole to touch the sinkers, the rod is then struck with the hammer to crush and expand the sinker and hold the wire in place.

The area where the plant is to be placed should be moistened before covering with a layer of "muck" (muck is clay and cow manure mixed together)

The root- ball of the plant should be sprayed to moisten - do not saturate.

Once the wires are fixed into the rock the plant is put into place and the wires are pulled over the root ball. A piece of fly wire can be placed over the root ball to assist in retaining the soil and to stop the wires cutting into the roots.

The wires are now twisted together to tighten and hold the plant against the rock.

Any excess wire can be cut off and the remaining ends are pushed down flat into the root ball.

This above process is required for each plant.

When the plants are held in place the outside of the root-ball is covered with more muck and when the covering in muck is complete the moss can be added.

To assist the moss adhering to the muck it should be lightly sprayed with water as well as pushing a premade copper staple through it to hold the moss in place.

With the moss in place the whole root ball should be sprayed with water.

Some may say the planting is now finished, however, I consider this to be the wrong comment as I would say the planting has just begun.

These are very attractive plantings, however, they do need a little bit more attention (especially with watering) than the average bonsai.

This type of planting requires the same type of "repotting" as a group planting which is by way of removing small sections of the soil and by replacing them with fresh soil.

Other information and reference:

Bonsai Its Art, Science, History and Philosophy by Deborah Koreshoff, Pages 223-225

Seven Mile Beach Dig (report courtesy of Noel Kemp)

Saturday 4th September found six (fool-)hardy people at Seven Mile Beach well covered against the persistent rain. Four members, Gill, Noel, Heather (and husband Bert) and Tony (and friend, and potential member, Des) well equipped with shovels, secateurs, bags and pots were soon digging and cutting, extracting specimens of Radiata Pine (*Pinus radiata*) and Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) relatively easily from the pure sand in which they and the parent plantation trees are growing.



Gill showed remarkable restraint in digging up no trees – what willpower I say! I didn't need any, so restricted myself to four Radiatas and one Cypress. Everyone else got as many as they wanted including a few already-jinned-specimens, groups, formal- and informal-uprights.

Weather conditions were perfect – from the trees' point of view, but we all began to feel a little soggy after an hour or so. Filling in our "divots" we headed for home ready to pot up our prize trees more carefully, and looking forward to starting to work on them in a few months, after they settle down.

Members might like to show off some of their new specimens at the next meeting.

NRK

(Editor's comment: Judging by the smiles there were some happy diggers – in spite of the rain!)

Events for the diary:

BSV Annual Exhibition

OCT 9th & 10th
Box Hill Town Hall
Whitehorse Rd,
Box Hill 3128

South Australian Bonsai Society Exhibition

Oct Sat 9th & Sun 10th
Goodwood Community Centre, (behind the library),
Goodwood SA 5034

Geelong Bonsai Show

Oct. Sat 30th Sun 31st
Geelong Masonic Centre Regent Street
Belmont 3126

Ballarat Bonsai Exhibition

Nov. Sat 6th Sun 7th
Robert Clarke Centre
Ballarat Botanical Gardens
ballaratbonsaisociety@hotmail.com

Goldfields Bonsai Exhibition

Melbourne Cup Weekend
October 30th and 31st

24th AABC Bonsai Convention in Perth May 20th-23rd 2011

Esplanade Hotel Fremantle
International demonstrators from Taiwan, Japan and several Australian demonstrators.
akadraft@primus.com.au
Early bird closes 1st Nov.
www.aabcltd.org