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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 212 – October 2010

Next meeting will be held on 16th November commencing at 7.30pm. Will Fletcher will give a presentation on his very recent trip to Japan.

The October Meeting was opened by President, Noel Kemp at 7.48pm who welcomed everyone, including new member Irene Chau, and former member Tony Hewer. There were two visitors - Marcus Ragus (who is manager for Learning and Community Engagement at the Botanical Gardens), but also has a keen interest in bonsai; and Renato Delfatti (who has a keen interest in both bonsai and photography). There were apologies from Ambrose Canning (in Canberra), Will Fletcher (in Japan) and Helene Browne (whereabouts unknown!).

The Committee Meeting was held on 11th October at Island Bonsai to finalise details for our Exhibition.

Report on Bonsai exhibition October 16th-17th

For those members who were unable to attend, you missed a wonderful array of Society members' bonsai displayed in a delightful setting which enhanced their artistic beauty, spring foliage and colourful blossom. At a conservative estimate some 500 visitors came to our inaugural Exhibition, bought raffle tickets, participated in the "People's Choice" and took away a large number of pots, plants and other items which were on sale. The Mayor of Clarence, Mr. Jock Campbell, officially opened the Exhibition on Saturday afternoon, and proceeded to tell us that he considered ours the best exhibition he had the pleasure of attending at The Barn. He and his wife returned on Sunday, during which he drew the raffle. Many visitors took photographs, and spent a long time studying the exhibits. Noel and David provided demonstrations which were well-attended, both men kept busy answering questions during and afterwards. An article appeared in Friday's newspaper, complete with photograph of President Noel Kemp, who was interviewed by Chris Wisbey on ABC Radio on Saturday morning. WIN News paid us a visit on Sunday afternoon, and a short segment was shown at the end of their evening news service.

Special mention should go to Diana Jones who took on the task of looking after the "For Sale" table - she was extremely busy throughout the exhibition, selling plants, pots and other items. Another stalwart who stuck to his post, Herbert Harding served coffee, tea and biscuits. Gill Roberts and Rose Osborne did their bit at the door, accepting entry fees and selling raffle tickets while, at the same time, making an effort to ask visitors how they found out about the exhibition, something which may prove useful for future exhibitions.

Will Fletcher supplied the magnificent Banksia at the entrance, some of the raffle items, lots of plants for the sales table (besides displayed bonsai) and his "piece de resistance" – The Box – to hold the votes in the "People's Choice" award, which proved so popular with everyone. (At time of this going to print, counting is still being conducted by David Budd who might yet have to enlist the assistance of the Electoral Commission!)

Over the two days committee members were available to talk to, and answer questions, from visitors and friends alike.

Prior to the event, committee members organised promotional material which was distributed to shops, nurseries, letterboxes, posted/emailed to past members and friends. It was a real team effort, and one we can all be very proud of. As a result we have three new members, and a former member who has re-joined our Society. And of course it has brought the Society to the attention of other bonsai enthusiasts.

Mention should also be made of the assistance we received from the staff at The Barn - nothing was too much trouble. It was most appreciated. To Tracey, Sarah and the team we would like to say "Thank You" for your contribution to the success of our event.

Several photos appear on the last page of the newsletter, courtesy of Renato Delfatti, who visited the Exhibition and spent a few hours with his camera, as well as making a few purchases!

Treasurer, Stuart Clutterbuck informed the meeting that takings over the two day event came to \$1750.60. Obviously, the Committee will need to give serious consideration to making this either an annual or bi-annual event.

Royal Hobart Show – again members put together a collection of bonsai for this annual event, and the organisers had asked if we would include demonstrations this year. Unfortunately, while President Noel was in the middle of a demonstration on Thursday, someone decided to steal one of his displayed bonsai. It was extremely disappointing when one considers the time and effort members, such as Noel, spend on development of their bonsai, and the number of years the Society has been displaying at the Show. Certainly it was not totally negative, as there were visitors who commented favourably on the display as well as those who have an interest in bonsai. Thank you to those members who displayed, and to those who gave their time – it certainly was appreciated.

Community Fair: this has been organised by the Rotary Club of Kangaroo Bay in conjunction with the Clarence Council, again part of the Council's sesquicentenary celebrations. It is located at Kangaroo Bay Park on Sunday 31st October from 11am to 4pm. We have a covered stall and intend providing information (perhaps a few bonsai for display) together with a laptop computer which will show archival photographs from our workshops, digs etc. Anyone with a little free time on Sunday is welcome to come along. Some 50-odd stalls will be on site providing a variety of entertainment and fun. If you would like to help at our stand please contact the Secretary on the number shown at the top of the newsletter.

Christmas Barbecue: Will be on Sunday 5th December at Island Bonsai. Pre-lunch drinks from 12.00 noon. Sausages and hamburgers will be supplied, members are asked to contribute a salad and/or dessert. BYO drinks – beer, wine or soft drinks. Coffee/tea will be available. There will be a lucky door prize, and don't forget your decorated bonsai for a chance to win a prize! (Island Bonsai is at 37 Hall St. Ridgeway.)

January Barbecue: is at the home of Gill and Glen Roberts, commencing at 12 noon. (Tel.: 6247 9719 – in case anyone gets lost!)

Raffle: having run out of tickets (and prizes) at the Exhibition, there was no raffle.

Display Table: Rose brought in plum seedlings and a Chinese pistachio; Diana presented two variegated ivy, a bottlebrush (4 yrs old) and a Melaleuca. Heather showed her Chamaecyperus being trained in a cascade style. Stuart had a Norwegian spruce, his oak complete with new foliage and a lovely maple. Noel showed us a Radiata and a Macrocarpa – both from the dig at Seven Mile Beach,

a Hawthorn and asked what he should do with his Maple – he has a mind to remove all the branches and start again! A bit drastic one might say, but – who knows.

Noel gave a brief demonstration using a variety of root cuttings which included Chinese Elm, Washington Thorn, Chinese quince, Crab apple (courtesy of Gill) and a grafted apple. He suggested that winter root pruning cuttings from a Chinese Elm, which have been potted up, should come up by January the following year.

He also showed several small *Macrocarpa* seedlings which he had planted in a variety of soil types as an experiment. The largest of the group was planted in kitty litter which had been soaked in Seasol.

Meeting closed: approximately 8.30pm

The Newsletter and ideas for your comments:

Although there are a few weeks to go before the end of the year, my thoughts (as editor) have already turned to ideas for next year's newsletters and what members would like to read. With a view to keeping them interesting, the following come to mind:-

- Articles from members on a particular bonsai topic – style; plants they found very adaptable to bonsai or not; plants they prefer more than others and why; tips/advice/questions they would like to share/receive/have answered; a book, DVD or website they have found particularly useful etc. This could include specific items from some of our more experienced members. (This idea could also apply to meeting nights.)
- A birthday notation – this could be in the form of a general “Happy Birthday” greeting each month or, if anyone would like to provide the date (not the year!) a more personal greeting can be placed in the newsletter. (Can also include special anniversaries!)
- Introducing Members – meetings don't leave much time for getting to know one another, so members who are willing to provide a little information about themselves, and how their interest in bonsai came about etc. Or other interests/hobbies they enjoy (I think of Herbert and his beautiful tapestries, for example).
- Anyone with something they would like to have published in the newsletters is most welcome to submit an article – e.g. somewhere they have been (Tasmania, that big island to our north!, or overseas – like our travelling president!). It might be something relating to bonsai. Should your article be too big for a particular issue, it may be serialised or used in the next issue.

Photographs on pages 4 & 5 are courtesy of Ambrose Canning. We have quite a collection from the Exhibition, so more will be included in future newsletters.



Mayor Jock Campbell officially opens the Exhibition



Bonsai on display



Noel's demonstration



Part of the display

The following photographs (courtesy of Renato Delfatti) are just a few from a large number he has kindly provided to the Society for our records.

