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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 220 – August 2011**

**This month's meeting will be 16<sup>th</sup> August 2011**, commencing at 7.30pm after which there will be a discussion on "How not to strangle your bonsai!" Please bring along any trees which bear evidence of this disastrous act – a panel will decide theirs and your fate on the night!!!! (See page 3 for some alternative shaping methods – courtesy of David Budd.

Our AGM was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> July, presided over by VP Herbert Harding in the absence of President Noel (who is somewhere on the other side of the world!). Thirteen members were in attendance, with four apologies. Aaron Wierzbicki ("member at large" due to attendance at Launceston College) arrived during the course of our ordinary meeting.

Noel was re-elected as President, Ambrose Canning has been appointed Vice President, Stuart and Evelyn continue as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. Committee members include Herbert, Gill Roberts and Will Fletcher, and David Budd has agreed to continue as the Society's librarian.

Stuart handed out copies of his financial report, and drew attention to a much improved bank balance – due mainly to the success of our exhibition last October. Membership fees remain the same.

Prior to closing the AGM, Diana asked that a special thank you be made to Will Fletcher for the use of Island Bonsai for our workshops, and offering discount to members on their purchases. So, Thank you Will! I'm sure I can speak for everyone and say how inspiring it is to be there.

The AGM closed at 7.55 pm after which newly elected VP Ambrose opened our monthly meeting.

The Secretary read a letter from the AABC which was written on behalf of the Nippon Bonsai Association, asking clubs to participate in a fund raising program for re-building after the earthquake and ensuing tsunami which so devastated parts of Japan. Cut off date is 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011. Members agreed that a donation of \$100 from our Society be sent. If anyone wishes to make a personal donation, details are at the end of this newsletter.

Stuart asked when we might be able to access guest speakers from the AABC. This will be discussed at our next Committee meeting on August 9<sup>th</sup>.

Members were also informed of the Committee's decision not to participate at the Hobart Show this year, but to focus our attention on our own exhibition next April, as well as our continued involvement with the Horticultural Society's floral events.

**Next Meeting:** will be held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011 during which Stuart will be discussing Raft Style bonsai.

**Workshop:** Our last workshop for this year will be held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August at Bellerive between 1-4pm. July's workshop was a very productive affair, and thank you to Tony Hewer for providing some assistance on the day. A lovely afternoon tea (including

chocolate sponge cake) was also enjoyed by the nine or so members who participated. On the subject of what to be doing in August - deciduous trees can still be branch and root pruned, re-potted and wired.

**Reminders:** Daffodil, Camellia & Floral Art Show – Sept. 9-10 at the Town Hall. Plants can brought in on Thursday from 5pm. A reminder to ensure your plants are well-watered prior to delivery.

**Birthday Greetings:** if you are celebrating this month – your birthstones are peridot or sardonyx. Have a lovely day.

**Raffle:** A plant won by Tony Brown.

**Display Table:** Diana brought in her “Sweet Jane” camellia  
Gill had a few azaleas in flower  
Ambrose showed a selection of mosses and semi alpine plants on a tray, together with a small companion pot.

Meeting Closed at 8.20pm. after which Ambrose presented a brief report on the WA AABC convention, complete with some lovely photographs (some of which appear below):

The 2011 Australian Associated Bonsai Clubs (AABC) convention was held in Fremantle, Perth, in May this year. The convention ran on the Saturday and Sunday for all of both days. A welcome reception was held on the Friday evening, and the convention dinner was held on the Saturday evening. A concurrent bonsai display was held in an adjacent room, and there was also a sales area selling bonsai things. The exhibition was interesting in that about half of all bonsai were Western Australian natives.

The international guest was Mr Min Hsuan Lo from Taiwan. His father had built their family nursery in 1947 and so Mr Lo had been around bonsai for all his life. Mr Lo explained that Taiwan was influenced by both Chinese and Japanese styles. He had developed "Lo's style" with long low bending branches and multiple apexes. Mr Lo gave a talk on the Saturday followed by a juniper demonstration in the afternoon, and on the Sunday gave a presentation with a large Western Australian Sheoak.

Other Australian demonstrators at the convention included Mrs Megumi Bennett from Sydney who conveyed the Japanese style of bonsai, Arthur Robinson from Perth who is an expert with Satsuki Azaleas, and CJ Leo from Perth who is an expert with Tea Trees.

A group of local Perth demonstrators put together two tea tree groups. The first was in a large hand made pot about one metre long and used many medium and small sized trees, and represented trees in a more arid Australian interior. The second was a group of three larger tea tree bonsai ("swamp paperbark") that represented a denser group in more swampy ground, possibly near a windy coast.



Bonsai on display



Twiggy Heath



Big Olive



Tea Tree Group



Twin Trees



Melaleuca



Small Olive



Melaleuca

(Above photos produced by Ambrose Canning)

The following observations are courtesy of David Budd.

Other methods of shaping are :

- using wire or strings tied to the branch then attached to the pot to hold the branches down or up;
- tying weights to the branch – the thing with both of these methods are that the branch will probably have a circular curve;
- pieces of dense foam, polystyrene or wooden wedges can also be used the separate branches;
- 2 smaller gauge wires wrapped parallel around the branch is another method - Wires around the branch enable the bending of the branch in all directions;
- The pinch and prune method can also be used to shape a tree or a branch.

As most of you are aware, President Noel is once again on his travels and, as is his usual custom, has been providing David Budd with “annals” of his adventures along the way. The following excerpt provides an idea of what Noel described as “Meteorologically challenged!

“I pitched the tent last night, in a camping ground, had a lovely long, hot shower, washed the dirty clothes, and went to bed. The tent I hired is supposedly a "two-person" one. Not a chance, as by myself I keep touching the "ceiling" (which takes me back to Gilwell Park, especially at the annual Easter camp, and the loud cries of "Don't touch the tent!", as, with the contact between tent and fly, etc, the waterproofness of canvas is seriously compromised!).

A few hours after turning off my head torch I heard the pitter patter of rain on the fly. Soon it became a heavy SPLAT SPLAT, and soon afterwards it was loud enough to preclude any sleep. Eventually I dozed off, but was rudely awoken (in safer circumstances this time!) by my

foot being engulfed in water. It woke me as quickly, and as effectively, as a face full of water! The rain had not stopped, for at least seven hours, and the - slightly - lower end of the tent presented a big puddle. I evidently had rolled over, and off the slightly higher than the ground, sleeping mat, into the puddle. Of course the sleeping bag acted like a big sponge. And there went any chance of further sleep. I waited for the rain to stop, and after half an hour, I thought it just perhaps might not. And I was right. Donning clothes, and rain coat I struck camp putting soaking tent, fly, sleeping mat, sleeping bag and sleeping sheet in the back of the vehicle, and drove off into the leaden fog/rain/day!”

*(Editor: There are a few other anecdotes to tell, which should provide interesting reading in the next newsletter!)*



An impressive iceberg arrived in Newfoundland’s Goose Cove in mid-July. “Icebergs float in from Greenland,” said the photographer, Gene Patey. This one briefly blocked the town’s harbour before breaking apart and melting, “but the fishermen took their chances”. (Via email from Noel – who was unlucky that a heavy blanket of fog blocked prevented him taking his own photo.)

For those wishing to make a personal donation to the Japanese Tsunami Appeal, details are as follows:

Donation: Japan Tsunami Appeal

Cheques/Money Orders payable to: Association of Australian Bonsai Clubs Ltd.,

Addressed to: NBA Tsunami Donation, PO Box 513, Ascot Vale, Vic. 3032