



President: Noel Kemp
☎ (03) 6243 6296

Secretary: Evelyn Black
12 Clearwater Court
Blackmans Bay, TAS 7052
☎ (03) 6229 5741
E-mail: e.black@bigpond.com

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 222 – October 2011

This month's meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th October, 2011, the focus will be on pinching out new spring growth. So bring in your Maples and any other newly leafed trees, as well as something for our display table.

Our September meeting, opened at 7.45pm by (hopefully refreshed after his holiday) President Noel, was well attended with 17 members including new member, Trish Hosking – Welcome Trish! Visitors included Cameron Wadley, Fred Herbert and Marion Mifsud, and a friend of our member at large, Aaron Wierzbicki who was also in attendance. Get well wishes to Lesley Gillie, who we hope continues to make good progress in her recovery.

Next Meeting: our last for this year, will be held on Tuesday, 15th November, with Will Fletcher providing some highlights of his visit to “that big island to our north!”

Workshop: Saturday, 24th September saw 12 members (including Will) at Island Bonsai for the final workshop of the year. While the focus was on conifers, some opted to work on other species, either re-potting, wiring or getting advice. As usual, afternoon tea was most enjoyable, members having worked up a thirst and an appetite! Photos on page 4 are courtesy of Ambrose.

Reminders: Rose, Iris & Floral Art Show, Hobart Town Hall, 4th & 5th November 2011.
Christmas barbecue on Sunday, December 4th, at Risdon Brook Dam between 11am and 4pm. A site has been reserved for us which has a colorbond hut, gas bbq, and includes 2 tables with bench seats.

January barbecue – 14th or 15th, venue 12 Clearwater Court, Blackmans Bay.

Bonsai Exhibition – 14th-15th April, 2012 at The Barn.

25th National Bonsai Convention in Melbourne, 18-21 May, 2012.

Visiting Tutor – May 2012 (details to be confirmed)

Birthday Greetings to members celebrating in October – your birthstones are Opal or Pink Tourmaline. Happy Birthday.

Raffle: Rose won a bottle of Seasol Fertiliser – what happy bonsai you will have Rose!

Display Table: Was literally groaning under the weight and numbers of the display, as well as having to bring another table along for Ambrose's Wisteria, which has not been root pruned this year. It was grown from a seed in 1985.

Herbert's azalea displayed an array of peach coloured flowers;

Diana's group included a white azalea, 12 yr old Laburnum and a natural raft of *Melaleuca ericifolia*;

Gill's Crab Apple still displaying its delicate pink-white blossom, beside 2 azaleas – a Deep red and a delicate lavender-pink;

Despite his long absence, Noel brought in several bonsai including an azalea trained in an informal upright style, a Chinese Elm needing to be pinched out, a pink azalea, a Crab apple grown from a root cutting off Gill's Crab Apple, fuchsia in a windswept style, macrocarpa from Seven Mile Beach and a Maple displaying a massive amount of growth which needs to be pruned immediately, and a raft;

Tony Hewer produced a Port Jackson fig with a very large trunk, which had been sitting in a very small pot for a number of years, which he had recently re-potted to a slightly larger one;

Rob White showed his Maple, and Aaron brought an *Ulmus parvifolia* which has been in training for 3 years.

Will brought in a *Baekia* (4-7yrs old) grown from a cutting and a 4yr old *Olearia*.

Meeting Closed: approx. 8.30pm after which Stuart commenced work on a King Billy Pine destined for life in a Raft style.

Having decided on the front, he proceeded to remove unwanted branches from the "back" which will become the "raft trunk". He also removed some of the needle foliage on the remaining branches close to where they join the trunk. A piece of wire was tied in line to the trunk, to which he attached wires to shape the remaining branches, which will become the new "forest". After wiring, the trunk was bent upward at its apex as well as curved along its length to re-shape – and fit in the box!

To encourage roots, it is necessary to make a series of cuts into and under the bark of the "raft trunk" which are then smeared with hormone powder to encourage root growth. (Spray cuts with water prior to applying.) Stuart used 2 products – a liquid and a powder to see which will act faster. From the base of the trunk up – 1st & 3rd cuts powder was applied, on the 2nd & 4th he used the liquid.

The prepared tree was placed in a polystyrene box ensuring the original roots are well covered, the remainder covered enough that only the buried trunk will develop new roots from the cuts. It is important to keep the specimen moist and warm during its re-development phase, which could take about 1 to 1½ years. No doubt we will expect an update during that time!

Bonsai Fertilising Notes for the Seasons (courtesy of Tony Hewer)

Make sure your bonsai are well watered before applying fertiliser.

Do not apply fertiliser to sick trees – let them rest to recover, then try *Seasol* in a very diluted amount - ¼ strength.

Spring: Start to fertilise in September with a high nitrogen fertiliser such as *Seasol* with *Powerfeed 12%*, or *Nitrosol 10.5%*. Only mix at half strength of the recommended strength on the container.

Summer: Do not fertilise your trees from mid-December, let them rest until late February.

Autumn: Start fertilising again in late February and March, at this time of year use a fertiliser low in Nitrogen (2.5%) such as *Miracle Grow Seafeed 3 in 1* with some *Seasol* as it helps the plants store nutrients and energy for the rapid growth of flowers and leaves in Spring. It also helps to thicken the trunks and branches. Don't forget to stop fertilising your trees once they have dropped their leaves, and all other trees at the end of May.

You can use **Blood and Bone** sprinkled around the soil and then watered in.

Winter: Let your trees rest from May to August.

Other Fertilisers to try:	Charlie Carp	Nitrogen	9%	Spring
	Maxicrop	“	4.6%	Autumn
	Thrive	“	27%	Spring

Note: **Seasol** is not a fertiliser – it’s only a plant conditioner.



There’s a lot to be done here!

Gee! These trees have grown a lot while I’ve been away.
Our President has a lot of catching up to do!



Stuart
contemplating
the right twist!



Tony gives
some advice



Gill & Diana discuss
the next move, while
Rose works on.
Meanwhile,
what happened
to the cakes?

Tony gives
full attention to
the job in hand



This comes from Margaret Wong via Noel, who received her email. Any members interested in attending one of the workshops can contact Margaret via her email address included in the information below.

Arthur Robinson -Workshops

Arthur Robinson, a highly experienced bonsai demonstrator with a passion for Satsuki, will be visiting the Waverley Bonsai Group for a demonstration on Satsuki Azalea, on Tues 15th Nov 2011.

He will also be running workshops on azaleas and rhododendrons, preferably Satsuki azaleas on Saturday 12th Nov and Sunday 13th Nov 2011. Cost \$40, Observers; cost \$10. Satsuki Society members pay half price.

The Saturday workshops will be held in the Waverley Bonsai Groups club rooms and the Sunday workshops will be held at the Yarra Valley Bonsai Club's rooms (see below).

Please register your intention to attend a workshop. There will be 90 minute lunch break between the morning and afternoon workshops. Please indicate your preferred times and preferences 1, 2, 3 etc, whether you want to be a workshop participant or an observer and then return the form to Margaret Wong, preferably by email to marg.g.wong@gmail.com or to Waverley Bonsai Club, P O Box 926 Mt Waverley, Vic, 3149 or phone 0413 607 738. **Please wait for a reply confirming your workshop time and date before paying.** Payment details below.

Saturday 9-12 AM
Name and preferences

Saturday 1:30 – 4:30 PM
Name and preferences

Sunday 9-12 AM
Name and preferences

Sunday 1:30 – 4:30 PM
Name and preferences

Another workshop to be scheduled if enough interest. Please give proposed time(s) in days around his demonstration.

Name and preferences

Waverley Club location
St John's Uniting Church Hall,
Virginia St,
Mount Waverley, Vic. 3149
Melways Ref : 70 C1

Yarra Valley Bonsai Club location
Morrisons on Old Hereford Road
Mount Evelyn
Melways Ref: 118 B8
(<http://www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au/map.htm>)

Payments: Money to be paid, by 7th November 2011

Either by cheque:

The Treasurer,
Waverley Bonsai Club
P O Box 926 Mt Waverley, Vic, 3149

Or by BSB: please put your full name on the deposit and if possible email Nikki Cameron, bardinac@bigpond.net.au

Banking Details: Account – Waverley Bonsai Group
BSB 063 151 (CBA - Mount Waverley)
Account Number: 1008 4248