



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 226 – March 2012

This month's meeting will be held on Tuesday 20th March with a focus on trees intended for exhibition display – their general maintenance, and showing.

Display table: Members might like to include trees they intend working on at one of Andrew Ward's workshops.

President Noel Kemp opened the February meeting at 7.45pm, welcoming 11 members and visitor, Chris Spratt, who we hope will become a regular at our monthly meetings. There were also 3 apologies.

Your Committee held a meeting on the 28th February, to confirm several issues re the Exhibition and visiting tutor. Concerning the Exhibition, we invite and encourage members to participate in displaying their bonsai. Some would argue theirs are not good enough to show which, to the eyes of a real bonsai expert, is probably true. However, many of the visitors to our first exhibition were not experts and the old saying "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder" still holds. So, come on members, there must be at least one bonsai you can display with pride. Besides displaying your bonsai, if anyone is free to assist with setting up and/or dismantling, or helping during the Exhibition, could they nominate on the two roster forms also attached to this newsletter, or email to the secretary. We have divided the two exhibition days into three 2 hourly periods which seemed to fly by last time! And plenty of parking is available nearby (unlike the Show).

With regard to visiting tutor workshops, the Committee would like to remind everyone that, in order to organise the number of workshops, members will soon be required to confirm their involvement. This is an opportunity to observe and work at close proximity with someone other than our own experienced members, and who is likely to have different ideas as well. In an effort to encourage participation the Society is subsidising the cost to members who will pay \$10 for workshop participation, and observers \$5. An up-to-date list is attached to this newsletter. Should you wish to change your original preference, the list will also be available at the March meeting. As to what to bring – the same as a normal workshop, the only consideration will be (depending on your choice of tree) whether it can be re-potted at that particular time of year. For example, deciduous would be okay, conifers would have to wait till Spring.

On the Bonsai Calendar:	Apr 14 th -15 th	Bonsai Exhibition, The Barn, Rosny
	Apr 21 st (Sat)	1 st workshop – Island Bonsai
	May 12 th	World Bonsai Day
	May 15 th	Meeting
	May 20 th	2 nd Workshop – at Bellerive
	May 18 th -21 st	Melb. Bonsai convention
	May 26 th -27 th	Visiting tutor workshops & demonstration

Coming Events:

March 17th -18th the Canberra Bonsai Society is hosting the 9th National Exhibition and Symposium of Australian Native Plants as Bonsai, at the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra. The theme of the symposium will be —Developing and Shaping Native Species as Bonsai

April 7th -9th Bendigo Bonsai Club Easter Exhibition, Forrest St, Bendigo,

May 4th-6th Chrysanthemum & Floral Art Show at Town Hall

Next Meeting: will be held on Tuesday 17th April, the committee having decided we are open to feedback about the Exhibition.

Raffle Prize: Fig courtesy of Jenny Alford, won by Rob White

Display Table: Gill brought along a Correa in flower, and an Elm that wasn't dead after all! Diana's concern was that her Chinese Elms were at a standstill. Also a bottlebrush which had scale and a problem with ants, so to get rid of the ants she sprayed surface spray round the outside of the pot, removed the scale and neither have returned.

Noel reported he has also used fly spray on aphids and scale. He also brought in quite a few Macrocarpa, including the "plaited" trunk as demonstrated, and a mame with wire embedded in the trunk.

Rob showed us a magnificent Port Jackson fig.

Rose had a nicely shaped azalea.

Will brought along the Tea Tree he'd potted up from last workshop – the one he almost got lost in! He will be attending the Native Bonsai Show in Melbourne in March, so will take photos to bring to one of our meetings.

And Stuart displayed his now "jinned" Myrtle.

Birthday Greetings to members celebrating birthdays in March. Your birthstones are Aquamarine or Bloodstone. Pisces is a water sign. These signs are artistic, emotional and perceptive.

Meeting closed at: 8.40pm after which Diana discussed Azaleas and Camellias. Following are some useful hints:-

1. The best time to buy a new plant is towards the end of the season, when all the nurseries are throwing out their old, unsold stock. They are at their cheapest, and still have a few flowers, so you can choose the colour you like.

2. They grow best when the soil has a pH of about 5.5. This is much more acid than most plants. Lime or cement will kill them. You can buy small bags of compost for acid loving plants, and just add the appropriate gravel etc. to make it into a Bonsai mix. (I use an azalea potting mix, add Wetta soil and road gravel, and keep plants in the shade.)

3. December or January is the ideal time to reshape, wire and pot up.

4. Shape either as a normal tree or in a fan shape. The latter shape is best for azaleas as you tend to get more flowers.

5. The main problem is the leaves go yellow. This is usually due to the soil having too high a pH. In the garden use sulphate of ammonia, an acid fertilizer and an iron fertilizer, but in a bonsai pot the azalea osmocote is fine. If the yellowing persists it may need an urgent re-pot.

6. The main pests are aphids, usually farmed by ants. Spray the sides of the pot with surface spray to stop the ants and just squash the aphids. The spray will stop the ants reinfesting the plant.

Gill brought in Japanese maples to discuss the long growth which had been left on some, suggesting that it's better to leave most pruning until leaves have gone, so you can see the branches. One branch had been left long to allow it to thicken up.

Andrew Ward Workshops at Bellerive Community Arts Centre

In order to cater for the number of workshops, we would like to confirm members' intentions, either as participants or observers. Cost for participation by Society members will be \$10 per workshop, Non Society members \$20. All observers \$5 per workshop

Below is an up-dated list. It would be appreciated if members could make changes where and if necessary to book their spot!

No payment to be made until confirmation of workshop date & time.

Saturday 9-12noon

Saturday 1:30-4:30pm

Name & preference (participant or observer)

Name:	P or O	Name	P or O
Gill Roberts	P ?	Gill Roberts	O
Evelyn Black	O	Evelyn Black	P
		Will Fletcher	O
		Heather Wiggers	O
Irene Chau	O	Tony Hewer	P?
Trish Hosking	O	Trish Hosking	O
Ambrose Canning	P	Ambrose Canning	P
Rob White	P?	Rob White	P?
Aaron Wierzbicki	P	Aaron Wierzbicki	O
Stuart	P	R Osborne	O
Noel Kemp	P	Stuart	P
D Budd	O	N Kemp	P
Phil Dilger	O?	D Budd	P
		Phil Dilger	O?

Sunday 9-12noon

Sunday 1:30-4:30pm

Name & preference (participant or observer)

Name	P or O	Name	P or O
Heather Wiggers	P?	Noel Kemp	P
Diana Jones	P	Tony Brown	P
Jon Bouffard	O	Herbert Harding	O
Noel Kemp	P	Evelyn Black	P
Helene Browne	O	Will Fletcher	O
Phil Dilger	O?	Tony Hewer	P
		Helene Browne	P?
		Phil Dilger	O?

Bonsai Exhibition Roster 14th - 15th April 2012

	Saturday			Sunday		
	10am - 12pm	12pm - 2pm	2pm - 4pm	10am - 12pm	12pm - 2pm	2pm - 4pm
Door & Raffle						
Observing						
Sales						
Demonstrations						

