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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 227 – April 2012–**

Our March meeting was opened by President Noel Kemp at 7.50pm. There were 15 members present, including new member Chris Spratt – Welcome Chris. There were also 2 apologies.

Rosters were available for members to indicate their ability to assist with set up/dismantling, and during the Exhibition. There are still opportunities for members to assist even for an hour or so. Confirmation was requested for those wishing to participate at the workshops with Andrew Ward. It has also been confirmed that the Premier, Lara Giddings, will officially open the Exhibition on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm.

You will all have received your invitations to participate in displaying at least one bonsai, and we do hope members will take this opportunity to do so. If you didn't manage to visit the exhibition in 2010, you should make an effort to do so this time. It is a unique opportunity to see a display of members' bonsai in such a lovely setting. And Will Fletcher assures me that his big Banksia is in flower and should look quite spectacular at the entrance!

**Next Meeting:** Our next meeting is Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> April and we will be looking for feedback from members on the exhibition.

**Raffle:** Prize was a bonsai figurine, which was won by Trish Hosking.

**On the Bonsai Calendar:** **Apr 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>** Bonsai Exhibition, The Barn, Rosny  
**Apr 21<sup>st</sup> (Sat)** **1<sup>st</sup> workshop – Island Bonsai** (see list of what to bring on page 3)

**May 12<sup>th</sup>** World Bonsai Day  
**May 15<sup>th</sup>** Meeting  
**May 20<sup>th</sup>** 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop – at Bellerive  
**May 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>** Melb. Bonsai convention  
**May 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>** Visiting tutor workshops & demonstration

**Coming Events:** **May 4th-6th** Chrysanthemum & Floral Art Show at Town Hall

**Birthday Greetings** to members celebrating in April – your birthstone is the fabulous diamond. Aries is a cardinal sign – these signs are enterprising instigators and, traditionally, Aries is the first sign of the zodiac, its symbol being the ram.

**Meeting closed** at 8.40pm after which Noel talked us through the selection of bonsai which members had brought for the display table, some of which will be displayed at the exhibition, and a few will be used in Andrew Ward's workshops.

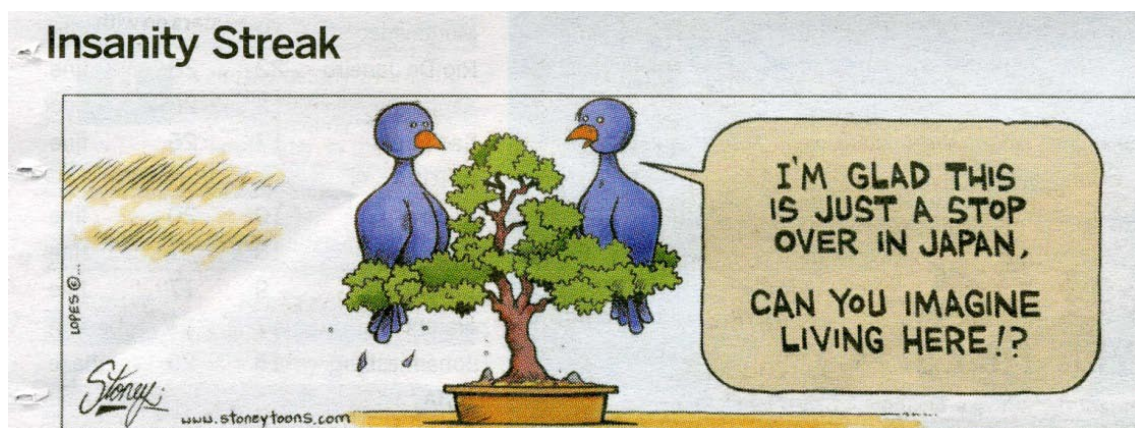
Herbert had a most interesting fern arrangement which included rocks he had collected several years ago.

Diana brought an *Acer palmatum*, an azalea and variegated ivy, also a pink camellia, a *microcachrys* (Creeping strawberry) and an *elaecarpus* (Blueberry Ash).

Gill showed us her pink *Correa*, an azalea, and a Cedar (trimmed in the “African” style – flat topped). She also expressed concern for a cotoneaster which has been on a tray for a number of years. As it was looking rather dry, she had let it sit in some water, but forgot to remove it when it rained. It’s looking rather sick at the moment, but Gill will leave it to its own devices for a while.

Evelyn found to her frustration that a plant she had bought as a pomegranate is instead a *cotoneaster horizontalis*. It was suggested she remove the new low growth on a *Ficus retusa* and trim off what foliage she doesn’t want to keep.

When displaying bonsai ensure all weeds have been removed; also dead needles and leaves. Remove moss from trunks of trees. Add more moss and gravel if needed, give a light “haircut” to maintain shape, and clean pots.



(Courtesy of 'The Mercury' - 22/3/2012)

## Things to Bring to Workshops

Workshops are probably the best way to learn more about Bonsai, and while everyone works on their own trees, the advantage is that plenty of advice is always available from those with more experience, as well as an extra pair of hands if needed. Following is a list of items to bring to each workshop:

1. \$3.00 per member, which covers the cost of hiring the hall.
2. A plastic cover for the tables, alternatively a large plastic bag will do.
3. The most important thing – a tree or trees to work on. You can observe, but it is much more rewarding working on your own tree. If you have nothing else, try a cotoneaster from the garden if it is your first time.
4. Potting mix.
5. Gravel, preferably in with your potting mix.
6. Any tools you will need. Most of our tools are very simple, but if you do need to buy something, Noel may be able to arrange a purchase.
7. A rubbish bin or bag to remove your waste soil and trimmings. This material must not be placed in the dustbins.
8. Mesh to cover drainage holes. Old flyscreen from windows or doors is adequate for this.
9. A turntable makes it much easier to see all sides of a tree, but is not absolutely essential. An upturned plastic pot will help.
10. Moss – if you can find some. It helps improve the look of certain trees.
11. Pots and wire if you have them. Both items are available for purchase at the workshops, but remember to bring some extra money to pay for them. Wire varies in price per meter, depending on its thickness. Noel has a large collection of pots for sale, as does Will Fletcher at Island Bonsai. (Having your tree on hand when you select a pot does help!)
12. A plastic spray bottle filled with water – soil mixes can be a little dry and it helps to settle your plant into its new home!
13. A plate of something to share for afternoon tea – adds to the pleasure of the afternoon.

Perhaps the list can be placed somewhere handy (bonsai toolbox for example) as a reminder of what to bring.

**Please note that the first workshop for this year is on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April, and will be held at Island Bonsai, 37 Hall Street, Ridgeway.**