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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 No 241 – July 2013

The June meeting was opened at 7 45pm by Vice President Ambrose Canning, welcoming 15 members who braved the chilly night. Besides apologies from President Noel (who is now, hopefully, enjoying Caribbean hospitality!) Will Fletcher, Diana, Jan Fleming, Yvonne Rush, Rob White and Trish Hosking were also unable to join us.

A reminder that membership fees (unchanged at \$30) fall due as from 1st July, and election nominations are being accepted for your new committee. The AGM will be held on 20th August.

A “thank you” to Phil Dilger for the entertaining evening on pot making. Phil brought along our fired pots for collection. Anyone who has not yet take theirs can do so at the next meeting or workshop, as they have been stored at the Arts Centre. And if you wish to age your pot quickly – brush it with yoghurt and leave it outside in a damp, shady spot for a couple of weeks.

Alex and Sue Cerutti have also offered to assist with the roster for library collection.

Ambrose confirmed our selection as hosts for the 2016 Convention, and provided a brief explanation of how our partnership with the AABC will work. A request for members interested in being part of the sub-committee for the 2016 Convention resulted in offers from Alex Sutherland, who has offered to assist with the booklet, and Tony Hewer.

On the subject of the 2016 Convention, while we know it is still some time away, obviously it does take time to develop and refine specimens into good bonsai trees. For each one of us, our bonsai journey has begun at a certain time in our lives, and for quite a few in our Society has come later. While this may seem a disadvantage, it is not necessarily so – it is still possible to achieve very nice bonsai which are less than 30 years old! Take heart fellow enthusiasts - the aim of our Society is to foster and encourage the art of bonsai, and we hope, by embracing some of the following ideas you will be inspired to greater success:-

- at designated meetings members are asked to bring along one tree which may have potential for the convention, talk about it, diagnose problems (if any), member can take notes, then work on and refine it at workshops, as we only have 3 years before the convention. We will not have a demonstration, instead discuss each tree and encourage members to continue to show trees at the meetings;
- not everyone has large bonsai, so suggestion that we have a display of small trees (Mame) less than 7cms in height, or (Shohin) up to 20cms in height;
- organise master classes which follow through for the next 3 years to prepare specific trees;
- team up with an experienced member (your “bonsai buddy”) who can help and advise on techniques for development of your tree;

Feedback is welcome as we would like to begin in November. Comments can be emailed, posted or phoned to Evelyn (details above).

This Month's Meeting: Tuesday, 16th July, commencing at 7.30pm. Tony Brown's topic is on "Thread Grafting" so, if you have a tree on which you would like to add an extra branch, Tony's demonstration will be very interesting. Perhaps bring your tree along for some first-hand advice.

Workshops: Next workshop will be held on Sunday 21st July at Bellerive Community Arts Centre, commencing at 12 noon. Cost is \$3 and a plate of something to share is always welcome. Preparation of plants for our October exhibition should be in full swing, so if you need advice about those you plan to exhibit (or any others for that matter) bring them along. These workshops are worth attending – even if you don't have something to work on – talk to others about what they are doing, ask questions, observe and learn.

Tony Hewer has been making spatula tools used for tamping down soil when repotting – these are available for \$10 each. Evelyn still has sets of plastic waterers for \$2.50 a set of 3, as well as fine and medium Klingspor Sandflex cleaning/polishing blocks for \$7 each.

Launceston Bonsai Demonstration and Workshop with Tony Bebb

The Launceston Bonsai Workshop will be holding a demonstration and workshop day on Saturday August 31st this year at Lynne Farrell's Bonsai nursery in Riverside, Launceston. They have visiting AABC tutor Tony Bebb from Brisbane. Tony began bonsai when he was 13 years old and learned the art of bonsai while working for 16 years with his father Lindsay at the family bonsai nursery in Brisbane.

Tony is a nationally accredited Level 1 Tutor who has travelled extensively within Australia and New Zealand conducting demonstrations and workshops, including at national conventions in both countries. He also has the honour of demonstrating at the World Bonsai Convention in China this year.

Tony works with all levels of bonsai enthusiasts and all styles and types of trees with his favourite species being junipers, pines and azaleas. He also has a particular interest in cascade, windswept and literati styles of bonsai.

Tony will perform a demonstration on a provided tree in the morning, then work with participants on their trees during a workshop in the afternoon. Morning and afternoon tea as well as a light lunch will be provided. The cost for non-Launceston Bonsai Workshop Group members is \$80 all inclusive. I do not know the exact times yet but typically it would start at about 9 or 9:30am and finish at about 4 or 4:30pm.

Both Cam and I attended one of these days last year at Lynne's in Launceston with a tutor from Melbourne and it was well worth it.

For anyone interested I have information and registration sheets that I can email or post to you. I can be contacted on ambrose.canning@internode.on.net or by phone or text to 0409 165 446.

Ambrose Canning.

Other Events: September 6th & 7th – Daffodil, Camellia & Floral Art Show at the Town Hall
October 19th & 20th our Exhibition at Rosny Barn, so get working on those bonsai!

August Meeting: Tuesday 20th Our AGM, including election of new committee, after which Tony Hewer will be discussing various issues relevant to Bonsai – including correct wiring, pruning methods, display stands – simple designs to make, importance of caring for your bonsai tools etc.

Raffle: Ruth chose the plant food and the book and wire was won by Robyn. (And there will be a Cedrus deodora being raffled at the July meeting!)

Display Table: Herbert's "Democrat" apple approx. 50 years old holding two lovely ripe apples; Gill brought two display plantings – violets, and a fern in tiny pots; Heather's cascade juniper is taking shape; Ambrose brought in his "moss garden" – containing 11 different mosses, a Richea and a couple of tiny natives; and Evelyn brought her cascade styled "Chameacyperus" (which Tony Hewer believes is a Juniper procumbens "Nana") for feedback on its Convention display potential. Some further development (tip pruning) to be done at the workshop.

Meeting closed around 8.30pm after which Gill showed us how easy it is to create a group planting on her sandstone slab. Having created a 50/50 mix of clay and cow manure, she made an edging within which to plant her selection of five cotoneasters in potting mix, then added moss which would help to stabilise the group.

The National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia

I visited the NBPCA in Canberra on the Friday before the last AABC convention, in May this year. The NBPCA was previously housed in a venue in one of the Canberra lake side parks, the one where they hold their huge annual flower show Floriade. But now it has been moved to a purpose built pavilion adjoining the new arboretum visitors centre at the northern end of Lake Burley Griffin. There is I believe three or four times as much bonsai display space as before as well as a large back-of-house maintenance and preparation area. They also have a frost-free area for housing frost-tender or tropical bonsai. The NBPCA is very successful with, they claimed, about 600 visitors through every day, and it was said that on the Sunday of the AABC bonsai convention they had over 1000 visitors to the bonsai pavilion.



Some of the bonsai in the collection have been donated and some are on loan and the collection is always looking for new bonsai to be donated or loaned for a year or two. There are a couple of bonsai on display donated by our club member Will Fletcher, as well as some donated by Lynne Farrell from Launceston. One of the photos I took was of Will's Huon Pine which had just survived the scorching Canberra summer with only a minor amount of dry foliage.



Will had also donated a Tasmanian native deciduous beech but it had not survived the hot summer. This made me wonder whether they should have a cool area (a heat-free area) as well for cooler climate bonsai. A room with an air conditioner and partial shade, in particular to keep the pots, soil and roots cool.

There has been a full time curator employed and a part time assistant curator. The interim curator was Grant Bowie retired from the position, and Leigh Taafe who had been his assistant, has been recently appointed as the new curator for the collection. They are helped with the day to day work of maintaining the bonsai and manning the collection by volunteers from the Canberra region.



I had assumed that the collection was funded by the Commonwealth Government but the NBPCA and the Arboretum are actually funded by the local ACT Government. It is free to enter and so, if you are anywhere near Canberra, there should be no excuse not to visit this collection of world class bonsai that includes many classic bonsai species as well as a representation of Australian native species. What about going to Canberra timed to visit both Floriade and the NBPCA?

Ambrose Canning.



BONSAI ACRONYMS

This is a listing of some bonsai acronyms that crop up from time to time. It is not an exhaustive listing and I am sure there are plenty of other acronyms out there to confuse us!

WBFF - World Bonsai Friendship Federation

In 1989 in Japan 1200 people from 32 countries participated in the first World Bonsai Friendship Federation meeting. The initial meeting was held with financial support from the Japanese government. It appears to be an initiative of the Japan Bonsai Association to create a world-wide bonsai organisation and now has nine regions representing different areas of the world.

The WBFF World Bonsai Convention for 2013 is being held in Jintan, China from 25th to 27th September. Around 40 demonstrators from all nine Regions of WBFF will conduct simultaneous demonstrations in a huge event. The Australia-New Zealand Region has three demonstrators performing.

The World Bonsai Friendship Federation Photo Contest 2013 has now closed and the entries are currently being judged by an international panel. Photos of the Top 200 bonsai will be displayed at the World Bonsai Convention 2013 in Jintan, China and be published in the book "Bonsai of The World IV".

BCI - Bonsai Clubs International

The Bonsai Clubs International (BCI) is a non-profit educational organization that advances the ancient and living art of bonsai and related arts through the global sharing of knowledge.

The Bonsai Clubs International held their convention in Yangzhou, China in April 2013.

The BCI are also conducting a photo contest this year, to select the top 50 bonsai and the top 50 suiseki (viewing stones) to be published in a book celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the organisation.

AABC – Australian Associated Bonsai Clubs

This is the major umbrella organisation for bonsai clubs throughout Australia and NZ. The AABC Ltd was formed in Sydney in 1980 and currently has 57 Member Clubs from all Australian States, both Territories and four New Zealand clubs. The AABC aims to promote bonsai and support its Member Clubs. The Association offers:

- an annual Convention usually held in May, in a different State each year, and which features at least one international guest demonstrator;
- a Visiting Tutor Program which allows Member Clubs to use the Program once each financial year;
- an insurance policy that covers all physical loss or damage to all bonsai trees, suiseki and equipment during travel to and from and whilst at Club exhibitions in Australia.

The Association is a member of World Bonsai Friendship Federation and Bonsai Clubs International.

BFA – Bonsai Federation of Australia

The BFA is the other national bonsai association and is split into two chapters, North (including NSW, ACT, Qld, NT) and South (including Vic, SA, WA, Tas). Its aims are to promote the education of bonsai, provide cohesion and co-operation between bonsai clubs, assist with the establishment of new clubs, promote bonsai speakers, and increase public awareness and interest in Bonsai.

ASPAC - Asia Pacific Bonsai & Suiseki Convention and Exhibition

This one is self-explanatory.

ASGAP - Australian Plants as Bonsai

Australian Plants as Bonsai Study Group was formed in mid 2001. Its main aims are to determine which species are grown as bonsai, determine the horticultural characteristics of each species, determine the horticultural requirements of each species, explore the artistic and aesthetic qualities of species, and publish information to help people grow and enjoy Australian plants as bonsai. The Group operates by gathering and sharing information amongst members. Everyone, who grows has grown or wants to grow Australian plants as bonsai, can contribute.

NBPCA - National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia

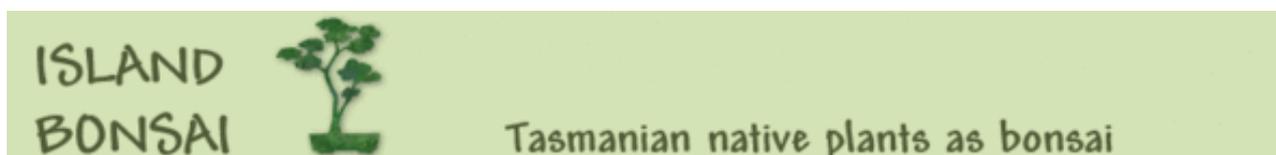
The NBPCA is the national collection of bonsai located in Canberra and provides a place for bonsai artists from across the country to demonstrate and display their highest achievements in the art of bonsai and penjing using a variety of species and styles.

Butterscotch Biscuits:

250g butter; 1 cup brown sugar (firmly packed); 2 tbsps. Golden syrup; 2 tspns. Vanilla essence; 2½ cups SR flour.

Cream butter, sugar, golden syrup and essence in a small bowl with electric mixer until light and fluffy. Transfer mixture to large bowl, stir in sifted flour until combined. Roll into 2 cm balls and place on lightly greased oven trays (or on baking paper), flatten slightly with a fork. Bake in a SLOW oven for about 20 minutes, or until golden brown and cooked through. Cool on wire racks. (These can be frozen for up to 2 months. Recipe unsuitable to microwave.) Thanks to a Mrs. C. Talbot, Warragul, Vic. via a magazine!

(Ed. Note: And thank you Gill for passing it on!)



Presidential Report 2012-13

At the AGM in August – a month later than usual, as a number of the office-bearers were away for the normal time of July – admirably conducted by the Vice-President, the new office-bearers were elected: President, Noel Kemp, Vice-President, Ambrose Canning, Treasurer, Stuart Clutterbuck, Secretary, Evelyn Black with Tony Brown, Will Fletcher, Gill Roberts and Heather Wiggers making up the Committee; Heather has also taken on the task of Librarian. We are also finding that Heather is a match for Gill in the baking (supper) department! Many thanks to David Budd for his many years of service as Librarian.

A good sign for a bonsai group is when the growth of the membership is inversely proportional to that of our trees! Our membership has been steadily growing for a number of years – not anything comparable to some of the larger mainland groups, but it is very satisfying to see an ever-increasing bustling crowd in our small venue each month.

Ambrose and Will are to be congratulated on their efforts of putting together a significant proposal recently – a sterling effort, and thanks from all of us ('nuff said).

And the rest of the year ticked over very well with the usual parade of events: the four shows at the Town Hall, plus an additional one for the Huon Valley Garden Club, where we had a couple of tables showing our trees; our monthly workshops, mostly at Will's "Island Bonsai", thank you Will for allowing us the use of your showroom, a very cosy atmosphere, especially sitting over a scrumptious afternoon tea in the old State Theatre seats! A demonstration by a number of members at a well known local hardware store (almost more chiefs than braves – but the "braves" asked many a question, and enthusiastically, so the "chiefs" felt that their time was well spent), a dig down the Huon, yielding many trees; and at the monthly meetings we were entertained and educated on topics covering aerial layering, soil-mixtures, wiring, novel plantings of natives (including Stuart's Myrtle group, Will's Pond Experience), as well as the highs and lows of travelling in the –stans! A more recent meeting was enjoyed by all as Phil Dilger supplied clay and everyone made one, or in most cases, two smallish pots. Phil has kindly offered to fire them and return them to the (mostly highly inexperienced) potters. Thanks Phil for a memorable night. And as this report is being "penned" before the end of the year, I am sure the Society will be pleased with the demonstration to be given at the June meeting by Gill and Tony. Demonstrators not mentioned so far included Evelyn, yours truly, Ambrose, Diana Jones (apologies for anyone whose name I have left out).

Needless to say everyone had a good time at the (premature, in November) Christmas barbeque at Risdon Brook Dam and the January barbeque at Will's "Island Bonsai". (Will, can't you just live in a small shed somewhere instead of converting your showroom into a house?!)

Many thanks to all those members for their participation and help in making our Society the success that it is.

I wish the incoming committee every success for the coming year.

Noel R Kemp