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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.bonsai-southern-tasmania.org.au

Newsletter No 25 | June 2014

President, Noel Kemp opened the May meeting with a welcome to 18 members. There were apologies from Anita, Alison, Stuart, Sue (who we presume is still sailing), Yvonne Rush (has temporarily returned to Sydney), and Ruth Rees to whom we send condolences as her family recently lost a loved one. Both Yvonne and Ruth hope to return to the Society but, due to their present commitments, this will probably be sometime next year.

During general business, mention was made of the up-coming Australian visit in 2015 by international bonsai tutor, Bjorn Bjorholm (see report page 8). Rob pointed out the importance of the Society having sufficient funds to be able to have visits by overseas tutors, and suggested ways to raise funds for the purpose.

Don't know what happened to all the trees members worked on during Andrew's workshops, there seemed to be so few on the display table. However, it gave us an opportunity to look more closely at those which were brought in.

Noel working on his Macracarpa (windswept).
Right: Evelyn's oak after styling by Andrew.



Committee Report:

Your Committee held a meeting in May, during which Treasurer, Rob White updated our financial position, and reported that our website continues to receive many "hits" and "likes", and a new "members only" section should come on line soon. VP Ambrose provided an update on planning for the 2016 Convention, and the need to foster support from Society members for our 2015 Exhibition, and the Convention itself. Agreement reached with the Horticultural Society that, besides bonsai demonstrations, we can run a raffle and sales table at the Daffodil, Camellia and Floral Art Show in September.

Visit by Bjorn Bjorholm to be followed up.

A barbecue is proposed for the third weekend in January 2015 – information will be made available later.

Due to printing costs, we are seeking agreement from Clubs and Societies with whom we exchange newsletters, to put theirs up on our website, in lieu of printing them for our library. They, in turn, would do the same with ours. As editor, I will endeavour to include articles of interest from interstate newsletters where possible, for those without internet access. Alternatively, if you see something of interest to members, please let me know.

Mindful that members enjoy some socialising after meetings, we'd like to ensure a start time of 7.30pm which allows for business matters to be raised prior to the evening's presentation. Part of our agreement re use of the premises includes leaving them clean and tidy with tables returned to their normal configuration, as well as our library collection being stored. Members' assistance is most appreciated so it's not left to the same ones to do it all the time.

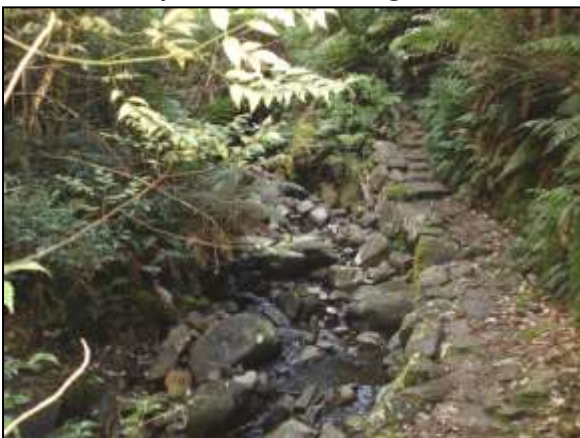
Other News:

Two of our committee members have taken off for distant shores. Noel has opted for Bhutan, then on to “darkest Africa” where, we hear, he is planning to spend two months travelling about via public transport. It's understood he's been training for several weeks now – hiking over hill and dale his well-travelled backpack, weighed down with tools from his old combi, strapped to his back! In expressing some concern for his safety during this adventure, he assured me both Kenya and Zimbabwe are off the itinerary! But, due to his fitness regime, I'm wondering whether Mt. Kilimanjaro and Mt. Kenya are included! *(Brief email from Noel in Bhutan suggests that after five days they are “Dzonged” out - they have seen umpteen Dzongs (fortified Buddhist temple) since their arrival. Only two more days - and a few more Dzongs - to go!*

On the other hand Rob and wife, Jane, have opted for a more leisurely trip, which includes a two-week visit to Cyprus for beach and sun (they hope), before flying to Rome for five weeks travelling through Italy ending in Milan, then on to Sorrento, the Amalfi Coast, Tuscany and Lake Como (hope Rob has experience in sharing the road with Italian drivers – no offence to anyone intended!). Following this, a two week visit with friends and relatives in England before heading home. Just wonder if there will be any weight gain after enjoying all that Italian food and wine!

Our intrepid travellers are due back in time for the AGM in August – we think!

Raffle: Evelyn won the Ginkgo, which she has decided will not be a bonsai!



Myrtle forest walk near Collinsvale



Lovely natural nebari on the right.

Events:

June Meeting: Tuesday 17th at 7.30pm. A forum on bonsai potting mixes prior to re-potting our trees couldn't be more appropriate! Bring along a sample of **your** mix and tell us

how you think it benefits your trees. The main function of a potting mix is to hold sufficient nutrients, water and air to provide a regular supply of these three vital components to the roots of your trees. Too much water can result in roots decaying, while a free draining mix allows the root system to breathe. For those of you with only one or two trees, Tony Hewer is working towards making up 5kg bags of mix which he's prepared to sell to members for \$7.50/bag. **And don't forget something for our display table!**

June Workshop: Sunday, 22nd June commencing at 1pm at the Bellerive Community Arts Centre. These workshops provide opportunities to get assistance, advice, exchange ideas and talk bonsai! Experienced members are on hand to discuss your tree's potential. Wire is also available for sale. And let's not forget the camaraderie – or our afternoon teas!

July meeting: Tuesday, 15th July – Ambrose will provide us with a presentation on Wisteria, which he does know something about – as those of you who saw his tree at one of the Hort. Shows would be agree!

Bonsai Convention International, Gold Coast, Qld. August 21st – 24th, 2014. Details at the following websites: www.goldcoast2014.bonsai-bci.com or www.abcltd.org

Daffodil, Camellia and Floral Art Show 12th-13th September to be held at City Hall. We will be holding bonsai demonstrations, running a raffle and, with member support, a sales table. So get your plants going (remember they don't have to be bonsai), maybe you have some you considered might be and changed your mind. Perhaps seedlings, cuttings, ferns, pots, gardening &/or bonsai books or other items.

Society Matters

Election of Committee for 2014-2015 – all positions are declared vacant, so it's time to think about who you would like to nominate for next year. Perhaps you would be interested in being part of the committee, and help guide our Society over the next 12 months, which will become very busy as the year proceeds.

Our program for the next two years is as follows:

- our Autumn Exhibition is set down for 23rd & 24th May 2015 at The Barn;
- preparations for the May 2016 Convention will intensify;
- it has been decided to hold our Spring Exhibition in October 2016 as normal.

Planning and organising of these three events must be done well to ensure their success, and for that, the committee will definitely need **YOUR** support.

Membership fees will increase to \$35/member and \$45/couple from 1st July 2014.

Special Mention: The South Australian Bonsai Society Inc. is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year with a special dinner to be held on the 14th August, the date of the first ever meeting of the Society back in 1964. I'm sure members will agree it's a milestone worth celebrating. Congratulations and Best Wishes for your continued success!

And speaking of anniversaries, our Society turned 30 in March of this year – apologies to everyone for the oversight! Perhaps we can celebrate the occasion at our January barbecue in some way! Thinking caps on – get those little grey cells working.

The two photos below are from Andrew's presentation when he worked on a *Pyracantha* belonging to Chris.



Website: Don't forget to check out our website.

Library Collection

The Society's selection of books and journals is available to members, who can borrow for a month at a time, at no charge. It's regarded as a further source of gaining information and improving our bonsai skills.

New members in particular might find copies of "*Bonsai Today*" especially helpful on re-potting, shaping and pruning, see numbers 50 – 52, 57 -60, 63, 65 and 66. The first 49 copies also include some useful information, with bonsai enthusiasts such as Peter Adams looking at optional designs for particular trees. And IA has some excellent guidelines/photos on wiring.

If you have something interesting you would like to share with other members, or a request for information, let's hear from you. And if you'd like to tell us about yourself and how you became interested in bonsai, it gives everyone an opportunity of getting to know you better.

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If like me, you need fresh moss for your bonsai – there's plenty available at the moment, with traffic islands and footpaths just two likely sources. Don't be put off by the strange looks from some drivers – obviously they don't like or need it! And did you know that honey is a good striking agent for cuttings.



Tony admiring some mosses on this forest giant, while below Andrew enjoying a break from bonsai!



Presidential Report 2013-14

As it is now public knowledge, but not to be widely advertised for a while still, I extend to Ambrose and Will the Society's members' thanks for putting together an impressive – and successful - proposal for our Society to host the National Convention in 2016. It sounds a long way off, but no, already 12 months have passed and the Sub-committee has been hard at work attending to the many facets of making such a convention “work”. More and more members we hope will become involved as the date draws nearer, thus ensuring the event will be as rewarding as we all anticipate.

Meanwhile back at the ranch: once more we contributed to the Hobart Horticultural Society's three Shows during the year, the Dahlia, Gladioli and Floral Art, the Daffodil, Camellia and Floral Art, and the Rose, Iris and Floral Art (can anyone explain to this pedant why the gladdies are plural, but none of the other flower types?).

Evelyn and Ambrose kindly gave a talk, with some of their bonsai to illustrate points, to the Huon Garden Group, who appreciated learning about – to them – a new aspect of horti/silviculture. Our monthly meetings were well attended, with speakers from our own ranks including Tony Brown, on thread grafting, Tony Hewer discussing many aspects of bonsai in general, Chris Xepapas on conifers, Anita Shanahan on the Jade “tree”; group discussions on Mame and Shohin bonsai, and a Show and Tell evening (with everyone bringing along one tree) produced enjoyable, informative and entertaining results. Sabatino Cesile, representing Quarantine Tasmania brought us up to date with the (nowadays) even stricter laws regarding the importation of anything botanical into the State. Sabatino's easy, amusing, and informative style taught us how things are getting more and more difficult to keep the State free of pests and diseases which are prevalent on the mainland, the latest example of which is Myrtle rust. Not here yet, but ...

A dig down the Huon (with requisite permits) resulted in a number of our members now being owners of some nice Myrtles/Southern Beech, *Nothofagus cunninghamensis* (amongst other native species), especially, including some which will be used as demonstration material for the 2016 National Convention. A visit to a local nursery in April was also rewarding for many members.

Our monthly workshops, mostly at Will's Island Bonsai premises, ran from early Autumn to late Spring; more experienced members assisted the newer members, with many pleasing

results being produced, some perhaps not immediately, but certainly in the future. The culinary skills of our members also came to the fore, making these afternoons even more worthwhile attending. A January barbecue, also at Will's, was an enjoyable start to the (calendar) year's activities.

A highlight of the year was the return visit of Andrew Ward (SA Bon. Soc.) in April. Andrew ran four workshops over the weekend, being well attended by both participants and observers. The supply of soup and crusty bread (thanks Rob and Gill) rounded off a successful weekend. At our April general meeting Andrew gave a demonstration on Chris's big *Pyracantha*/Firethorn, creating visual movement in the trunk with some judicious *shari*, and with some dramatic work being done on branches, and wiring. Participants' trees were viewed and discussed at the May meeting, some with "before" photos for comparison; most members had a sketch, by Andrew, of the future design on their tree.

The highlight was our sesqui-annual Exhibition in the Rosny Barn. Held in October this time, the public was able to see a fine showing of spring, with unfurling leaves and also a few trees in flower. Although the number of visitors was down a little from our last Exhibition, overall the show was a (financial, also) success. Thanks to all those who pitched in to make everything go so smoothly.

Thanks to the Office-bearers: Ambrose Canning, Vice-President, (our new) Treasurer, Rob White (thanks especially to Stuart Clutterbuck for managing the finances of the Society for many years up until 2013), our past-Secretary (what's that about horses mid-stream?), Evelyn Black (who continues as Newsletter Editor), and our new Secretary, since January, Anita Shanahan, who is being slowly eased into the job with Evelyn's help. Heather had to step down from the position of Librarian due to personal reasons, thanks Heather for your work, and to a number of members who have assisted at the monthly meetings with the library. The Committee members, Cameron Wadley, Tony Hower, Tony Brown and Heather Wiggers I also thank for their continued work and support. Unfortunately Tony (and Heather) resigned from the Committee for personal reasons; they remain active members still. Gill too stood down from the Committee following the sad loss of her husband, Glenn. Although not a member, Glenn was well known to us all, being present at many of the Society's functions, for his cheerfulness and readiness to hop in and help whenever he could; our condolences to Gill and her family.

A couple of special mentions must be made:

Ambrose's regular illustrated contributions to the Newsletter, be it reporting on conferences, visits to various functions and places e.g. Tony Bebb's workshop at Lynne Farrell's bonsai nursery, Riverside, Launceston, or some of his particular bonsai projects – thanks Ambrose;

Rob's significant contribution of setting up our new website (<http://www.bonsai-southern-tasmania.org.au/>), and not only setting it up and keeping it current, but also expanding it constantly (and adding regular photos and comments on our Facebook page too – just put in Bonsai Society of Southern Tasmania) to produce a site well worth looking at – and often! Thank you Rob.

Many thanks too, 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

Bonsai Notes for June

All trees need as much sun as possible in the cooler months of the year.

Moss which is growing very thickly on pots should be completely or partially removed. If the moss is of good quality and free of liverwort, it can be dried and stored for use in spring.

Water thoroughly but less often during cold weather. At this time of year very little watering may be necessary, but one should check the needs of trees regularly.

Inspect drain holes and remove any build-up of soil. Remove weeds and dead leaves from pots, benches and beneath benches. If the benches are dirty, brush them clean.

Remove berries and fruits (e.g. crab apples) from trees.

A spray with fungicide is helpful in keeping disease at a minimum. During June or July spray apples, pears and plums with red oil in the same way as fruit trees in the garden. But do not do both sprays together.

Deciduous trees should not be pruned or potted before their leaves have dropped.

During June, while trees are dormant, they are easier to wire but by July, when sap begins to rise, they become brittle and more difficult to handle. To overcome this, the trees should not be watered for a day or two before wiring (but do not let them get too dry and kill them!).

Deciduous trees can be bare-rooted for a short period while dormant without harm, and some are sold in nurseries in this way. When the buds begin to swell, deciduous trees can have extensive root-pruning without any harm. Trees at this stage are about to put out new root growth as well as top growth.

There are several ways to tackle the pruning and potting of deciduous flowering trees:

- a. pot the trees and leave the pruning until the flowering has finished;
- b. prune the trees as soon as the flower buds can be clearly seen, e.g. wisterias have fat fluffy flower buds and smooth thin growth buds; prunus have flower buds grouped in threes, arranged close together; after pruning, pot the trees;
- c. potting and pruning are left until after flowering. However, some trees such as Prunus mume and some varieties of wisteria, etc. develop leaves before flowering is completed and so may have to be repotted in the middle of flowering or miss being repotted.

Maple buds grow in pairs. Look for double tip buds; remove the larger one on each tip and allow the other one to grow. The arrangement along the stalk or branch is also of double buds separated by the stalk on which they develop, then above (or below) the same arrangement, but at 90° to the first pair. When pruning such a branch, select a bud that is pointing in the direction in which you want new growth and prune to it. Because buds are in pairs there will be many more buds than needed. Remove opposite buds to prevent bar branching and also to conserve plant food for the required growth. Whenever maples develop shoots with very long internodes, remove the whole of each shoot and allow others to grow. Sequoias, alnus and liquidambar all develop a great many buds and it is easy to select what you want to keep and rub the rest off.

(Ed. Comment: These notes most likely came from an issue of Bonsai News)

Visit to Tasmania by Bjorn Bjorholm

Report by Ambrose Canning

A visit to Australia by Bjorn is being planned and co-ordinated by the Melbourne club Bonsai Northwest Inc. Although not finalised yet, they are hoping for Bjorn to visit every State of Australia and our club has been invited to organise him providing workshops here in March 2015.

Bjorn is a well-established American bonsai artist working in Japan. Bjorn has been studying under contemporary Japanese bonsai master, Keiichi Fujikawa, in Osaka since 2008, and he is also the co-founder and co-instructor of the Fujikawa International School of Bonsai.

Currently based in Osaka, Bjorn frequently travels the globe, teaching bonsai art to various related organizations and working with private clients and collections. Bjorn's work is also regularly featured in exhibitions and publications around the world. Bjorn is the creator, producer, and editor of the Bonsai Art of Japan online video series, <https://www.youtube.com/user/bjorvalabonsai> . His preference is coniferous material to work on (pines, junipers etc.).

Bjorn's fee structure is relatively on par with most other international artists, and will be relatively expensive compared to what we have paid recently for subsidised workshops with mainland AABC demonstrators, but Bjorn is a world class professional bonsai practitioner and his fee reflects that.

We would invite Society members to participate and also bonsai enthusiasts from outside the Society, from other parts of Tasmania. Ambrose is co-ordinating the potential visit by Bjorn with Bonsai Northwest Inc. and as soon as we have more information we will communicate it with members via the newsletter and our general meetings. ...