



President: Noel Kemp
☎ (03) 6243 6296

Secretary: Anita Shanahan
6 Claude Street
New Town, TAS 7008
☎ (03) 6228 1281
E-mail: anita_shanahan@yahoo.com.au

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 254 September 2014

Outgoing President, Noel Kemp opened the August meeting at 7.40 pm, commencing with the AGM at which 19 members were present. Apologies from Stuart and Sue Cerutti.

During business, reports from Noel, and Treasurer, Rob White were accepted, and a new committee elected as follows:

President, Ambrose Canning; Vice President, Chris Xepapas; Treasurer, Rob White; Secretary, Anita Shanahan; Editor, Evelyn Black; and Tony Hewer, Will Fletcher and Cameron Wadley.

Two motions were passed – one requesting an audit exemption, and one re an amendment to the Constitution that the committee consists of a total of 8, including officers of the Association. New President Ambrose, proposed a motion of thanks to Noel for all his work and leadership, during his long tenure as president. Noel was present at the inaugural meeting in April 1984, when the Bonsai Society of Southern Tasmania was formed and, at that time, was elected vice-president.

Following closure of the AGM at 8.15pm, Noel handed over to Ambrose, who reminded members of the Daffodil, Camellia & Floral Art Show, which will be held on **Friday 12th & Saturday 13th September** at City Hall. Members were asked to indicate assistance for an hour or two on either day. The Show is open to the public on Friday between 1pm & 6pm, and on Saturday from 10am – 4.30pm. Bonsai demonstrations will be held on both days, as well as the raffle and sales table are proposed. Raffle tickets \$2 each, or 3 for \$5. Any kind of plants, bulbs, pots, bonsai stock etc. for the sales table. And, as always, members are invited to display a bonsai. Please ensure it has been well watered (misting will be done during the Show), it is free of weeds and debris, the pot is clean and, most importantly, your bonsai is looking its best! Sales items and bonsai to be delivered on Thursday between 4 – 7pm to set up. Please ensure a named list and sale prices is available with your items. The committee regards this as a fundraising exercise and is asking for 20% on all sales.

Members were also informed that Tony Hewer had provided a table (our Society's donation to the AABC Convention raffle).

And Chris Xepapas is now a national tutor for the AABC – congratulations Chris!

SQUAT PLASTIC GROWING POTS – Gill still has some for sale – prices are: Small: 18.7 cm diameter \$1.40; medium: 22.0 cm diam. \$2.30 and large: \$2.80.

Following closure of business: Chris Xepapas provided us with an informative DVD on the Japanese Bonsai Scene – preparation of bonsai through the four seasons, including for displays at major Japanese bonsai exhibitions, as well as trees prepared for sales at and auctions.

Events & Diary Dates:

Daffodil, Camellia and Floral Art Show 12th-13th September to be held at City Hall.

September Meeting: Tuesday 16th at 7.30pm - Will's Pencil Pine presentation & don't forget the display table! Our bonsai are well and truly bursting forth with new spring growth.

September Workshop: Saturday, 20th commencing at 1pm at the Bellerive Community Arts Centre.

October Meeting: Tuesday, 21st at 7.30pm – Companion planting with Tony Hewer

January BBQ – Sunday 18th January 2015 – a booking has been made to hold this function at the Waterworks Reserve, Site 1 from 11am-4pm.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2014-15

Membership subscriptions for 2014-15 were due 1st July. The rate is \$35.00 per person (\$45.00 for couples at the same address). Members with an e-mail address registered with the Society have been sent an e-mail by Treasurer Rob White on how to pay their subscriptions by fund transfer directly into the Society's bank account.

Website: Don't forget to check it out for the latest updates.

Library Collection:

The Society's selection of books and journals is available for members to 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.

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.

Committee Members & contact details:

President: Ambrose Canning – Tel. (H)6225-4002	Email: ambrose.canning@internode.on.net
Vice President: Chris Xepapas – Tel.	Email: cxepapas@gmail.com
Secretary: Anita Shanahan – (See top of newsletter)	
Treasurer: Rob White – Tel.(H)6223-2069	Email: rob.white@utas.edu.au
Will Fletcher- Tel. 6239-1473	Email: will@islandbonsai.com.au
Tony Hewer – Tel. 6239-0096	Email: anthony.hewer3@bigpond.com
Cameron Wadley: Tel. 04389 23539	Email: crazywadley@gmail.com
Editor: Evelyn Black: Tel. 6229-5741	Email: e.black@bigpond.com.au

BCI and AABC Convention 2014

This year the annual Australian AABC convention was combined with the international Bonsai Clubs International convention, and was held on the Gold Coast from 21st – 24th August. I had been to AABC conventions before but this larger international event exceeded my expectations. As well as many Australians attending there were delegates from China, Taiwan, Indonesia, India, USA, Canada, New Zealand, Japan, Philippines, and one each from Russia and Oman. Over 400 registered attendees, but only two from Tasmania, myself and Shane from Launceston. This year the BCI convention was over three days instead of the usual two day AABC convention.

There seemed to be an almost never ending supply of international demonstrators. It started on the Friday with Nikunj and Jyoti Parekh from Mumbai, India, who are most prominent in the Indian tropical bonsai scene and who are proponents of saikei which is the arrangement of scenes with trees and stones. Both Nikunj and Jyoti with an assistant produced examples of saikei. At the same time Budi Sulistyono from Indonesia demonstrated on a large Ficus. Budi started bonsai in

1976 and is one of Indonesia's bonsai pioneers. Budi tamed and potted the wild Ficus and gave his views on the limited number of aerial roots to be retained.

Also on the Friday Chinese bonsai professional Ms Chen Wenjuan demonstrated with a Juniper entwining a large stone. Ms Chen is the bonsai curator for Mr Xin Changbao's bonsai park in Changzhou, China, where she maintains and creates bonsai or penjing. At the same time, Hidemi, a Japanese Tokoname potter quietly worked hard making a bonsai pot, he produced a beautifully finished dark brown ceramic pot. The end of his pot making demonstration was the highlight of the weekend. He quietly stood up, unbuttoned and took off his Japanese style tunic to reveal a white T-shirt with pine-like bonsai foliage printed over his left shoulder. He then dusted his left arm with white talcum and then with brown clay painted curving lines on his left arm. He turned his pot upright, put his left hand into the top with fingers splayed like roots or nebari. His arm suddenly became an inclined trunk and the green foliage was there on his T-shirt. He got a standing ovation for his finale.

On the Friday afternoon three Australian's took the stage, all drawn from the AABC visiting tutor program's demonstrators. Tony Bebb from Queensland, Chris Di Nola from New South Wales, and Joe Morgan-Payler from Victoria. All three have in the past visited Tasmania and given demonstrations and workshops at the Launceston Bonsai Workshop. They individually worked to style a pine and two junipers.

Saturday started with Mr Zhao Qingquan from China. He is the author of the book "Chinese Penjing (Penjing: The Chinese Art of Bonsai)" published in 2012. Mr Zhao worked with three assistants and a translator to produce a large group tray planting of Australian paperbarks plus rocks he had brought with him, as a tree and water Chinese style landscape planting on a white marble tray. In the afternoon Mr. Zhao styled and potted a juniper. At the convention dinner the paperbarks penjing sold at auction for \$2700.

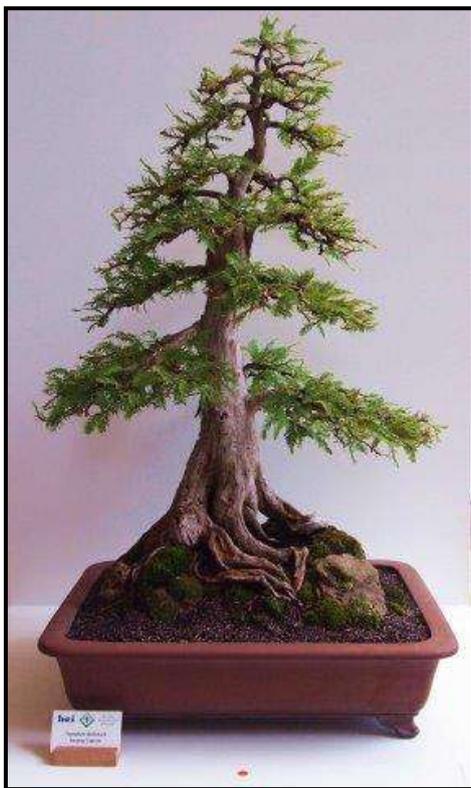
Also on Saturday afternoon was a bonsai styling contest with three teams each of three people and a mix of Internationals and Australians. Each team started with almost identical trees and worked one at a time from each team for 20 minute shifts to style and pot their bonsai. At the end the audience chose their favourite, although actually all three were winners.

Sunday was the final day and started with Shinichi Nakajima from Japan working on a group of three Cork-Bark Elms planted on a sandstone slab collected from Central Australia. Mr Shinichi is a second generation bonsai master and operates a nursery in Tokyo. He also worked on and potted a juniper.



Part of the convention was a bonsai exhibition with many fine trees from Queensland and NSW. My favourite was a *Bougainvillea glabra* in a clump style. Its focal point, or area of greatest visual value, was its multitude of twisted stems. It was shown defoliated so its trunks and ramification were clearly visible.

Also standouts for me were Grant Bowie's *Banksia integrifolia* (below left), and an intriguing weeping *Acacia howitii* or Sticky Wattle (below right). Other trees from that southern Queensland sub-tropical climate included Figs, Swamp Cypress, Jade, Black Pines and Junipers.



Swamp Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)

Canary Island Pine (*Pinus canariensis*)

I was taking notes all weekend, and taking photos, of the way the convention was organised and run as an aid to our Tasmanian 2016 convention planning. On the Friday evening I met with Dianne and Glenys from the AABC concerning our progress towards our 2016 convention. Next year the normal AABC convention is being held in Adelaide from the 15th till 18th May. Their key-note international demonstrator is Koji Hiramatsu from Japan who is a fourth generation nursery owner and promoter and instructor for small size or shohin bonsai.

Ambrose.

