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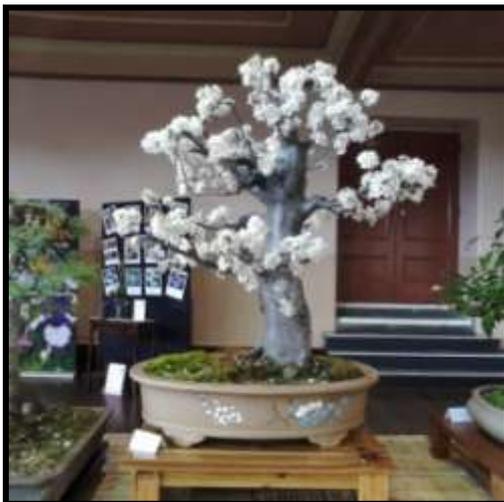
The Bonsai Society meets at the Bellerive Community Art Centre,  
17 Cambridge Rd, Bellerive at 7:30 pm on the third Tuesday of the month  
(February – November)

**Website: [www.bonsai-southern-tasmania.org.au](http://www.bonsai-southern-tasmania.org.au)**

## Newsletter No 255 October 2014

President Ambrose Canning opened the meeting at 7.35 pm, welcoming 19 members, and visitor Andrew Bradbury, whose nursery stock was slightly depleted during a visit by several members in April. Stuart sent his apologies, and Sue Cerutti and Ruth Rees are both on “extended leave”. Member Shane Boyce, who lives up in Launceston, managed to pay us a visit too.

Ambrose thanked members who had assisted with raffle and plant sales, bonsai display and setting up & dismantling at the Daffodil & Camellia show on the 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, it was a little disappointing, clashing with other events at Salamanca, City Hall not being as well known as the Town Hall, so visitor numbers were down. One consolation is that the Maple donated by Chris for the raffle was won by Cameron – so at least it “stays in the family” and we can watch its progress! The bonsai display drew a lot of interest with some beautiful trees on display.



Workshops are being run by Bonsai Launceston on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> November – places are limited, so if any members wish to find out more information, please contact Ambrose who, with Chris, Tony and Cameron, will be attending.

Mention was made of the 2016 Convention and the committee’s desire to assess trees which might be appropriate, Ambrose pointing out that it’s an opportunity to really show our bonsai. More information on the assessment process can be read on page 4.

The new committee for 2014/15 held their first meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September, during which matters relating to the proposed November Bonsai & Garden Sale (Treasurer’s information attached for those who did not receive it electronically); requests from Rob and Evelyn for articles and photos from members for inclusion on web site and newsletters; negotiations underway for guest presenters; assessing suitable trees for the 2016 Convention; planning next year’s calendar; and an update on presenter, Bjorn Bjorholm, whose visit is now expected to occur in September 2015. The committee will seek members’ interest whether they would prefer to participate or observe should the visit go ahead. And Tony and Chris reported that they have been asked to do a bonsai presentation to residents at two care facilities during Seniors Week.

**Raffle:** Jan won the Chamaecyparis; Herbert chose the garden ties and Rose won the pot.

**Display Table:** Native pencil pines, acacia, callistemon, azaleas, crab apple and Wisteria

### Following closure of business

For his Pencil Pine presentation at last Tuesday's general meeting Will mostly showed pictures, and talked about them in the semi dark, which made photos difficult. Will had three Pencil Pine bonsai he had created on show. These tried to capture features he has observed on real trees.



(Botanical name for Tasmanian Pencil Pines is *Athrotaxis cupressoides*)

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.

### Events & Diary Dates:

**October Meeting:** Tuesday 21st at 7.30pm - Companion planting is Tony Hewer's topic for ideas on suitable plant species, or have one or two you've established, bring them for the display table.

**November Meeting:** Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> at 7.30pm – described as “Revisiting trees from November 2013”, I'm wondering how many of us actually recall what we took! Members were asked to bring one tree only, which had to be in training as a bonsai. There was a good response, and I can remember Noel introducing them, assisted by Stuart. So, if those little gray cells don't want to play ball, bring something you've worked on at an earlier workshop, or may have been languishing in its pot since Andrew's first visit and needs some attention.

### Workshops:

As these play a very important role for members to seek advice and assistance on all facets of bonsai, it has been decided to include two more in this year's calendar. One will be held on **Saturday, 25th October** from 1pm – 4pm at the Bellerive Community Arts Centre. The second will be held on **Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November** commencing at 12 noon and finishing at 5pm. So perhaps on this occasion our usual plates of goodies can reflect the pre-Christmas get-together!

Our September workshop was quite well attended – 13 members, and Chris's two sons, Spiro and Taki (I hope the spelling is correct!), who helped members move bonsai and tools between cars and the Centre, and assisted with cleaning up afterwards. Thank you very much. Chris and Tony were again on hand, giving advice and a helping hand where needed. And, of course, some tasty and lovely, refreshments – including Herbert's famous sponge cake!

**Rose, Iris & Floral Art Show** – November 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> at the Town Hall and as always we invite members to display bonsai.



Tony Brown worked on both trees at the September workshop.

Left: Huon Pine & below Japanese Maple



**January BBQ – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2015** – the Waterworks Reserve, Site I has been booked for this function from 11am-4pm.



As can be seen by these photos, Chris has certainly been busy since he and his family moved to Dysart.

***Heritage Bonsai Tasmania*** -  
*Open by appointment.*  
**Tel.: 0439 383 365**  
Email: [cxepapas@gmail.com](mailto:cxepapas@gmail.com)

## Tasmanian 2016 Convention Exhibition Bonsai

The 2016 Convention subcommittee will be starting to look for and list potential exhibition trees for the May 2016 exhibition. Members with bonsai that they would like to offer for the exhibition can either let us know and we will come and take a look and a photo, or you can send us a photo or two. Remember that your bonsai does not have to look perfect right now, but it has to be on track to be presentable and of a good standard in May 2016. Also, we are not only looking for larger bonsai, we want a range from large to medium to small. With an appropriate stand small bonsai can be presented in a group.

Remember our theme, Southern Bonsai – Island Style. What makes your bonsai a southern bonsai, or what gives it an island style? This is a Tasmanian bonsai exhibition, not an international bonsai exhibition. No doubt we will have a few usual pines, junipers, maples, etc., but we want to present uniquely Tasmanian bonsai. This is not necessarily Tasmanian natives but bonsai with a Tasmanian style, a southern style, an island style.

As an example, I have had an initial look through my bonsai and listed about 15 potentials I could exhibit. They are either already presentable or I can see that by May 2016 they should be presentable. I expect that I will reduce this list myself as time goes by because some trees may not develop in time, or ultimately may not please me. Also, the organising committee may short-list my trees further to fit in with others they have selected and to fit in with the theme. I hope to have a few trees in the exhibition but my number could be 5 or 10 by the time the exhibition actually happens.

We are planning a day touring around southern people's bonsai, on Sunday September 28<sup>th</sup>. In October and November we will have other days looking for exhibition bonsai including a trip up to Launceston.

This will achieve two things. It will give the organising committee an initial long-list of potential exhibition trees. This initial list may have as many as 100 bonsai on it and during the following 18 months this can be progressively short-listed down to around 60 or 70 bonsai for the exhibition. Secondly, it will give the bonsai owners focus on which bonsai they need to concentrate on and plan for their preparation for the May 2016 exhibition.

What you need to do. Get in contact with us to flag your interest in having your bonsai in the exhibition, by email to organising committee secretary Ambrose Canning at [ambrose.canning@internode.on.net](mailto:ambrose.canning@internode.on.net) or 0409 165 446. We can then organise a visit to your bonsai. You can send us photos of your proposed bonsai as soon as you like. If we cannot coordinate a visit to your bonsai then we will initially rely on your supplied photos. There are some people we know have potential bonsai who we may contact directly.

Ambrose.

### SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER 2014-15

*Membership subscriptions were due 1<sup>st</sup> 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, and a reminder that Rob would like more input from members – articles or photos.

## 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.

As we are getting close to the end of the year, a reminder to anyone who has books out on loan, that they are to be returned to the Society by the November meeting.

## Invitation:

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:

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Leptospermum petersonii

Trees from the  
Gold Coast  
Convention  
(courtesy of  
Ambrose)



Melaleuca ex WA



## **Bonsai and Garden Sale - Late November 2014**

The finances of the Society are quite healthy but, in each of the last two years, our income has matched almost exactly our outlays and we have not built up our reserves. The Committee is keen to support a number of new initiatives to benefit members and has agreed that a sale should be a useful means of raising some additional funds.

Initially we thought just to have a bonsai sale but widening it to a bonsai AND garden sale increases the amount of material we can offer for sale and the number of people who might attend.

The support I am asking for comes in three forms.

Firstly I would like you to offer items for sale and this may involve you making a start now on preparing material.

Secondly, a sale will not be a success without customers and it will be necessary to publicize it as widely as possible.

Thirdly we will need help on the day of the sale. At this stage we are looking at holding it on 21 or 28 November 2014.

I will communicate with you nearer the date to lock in help with the publicity and at the sale. At this stage I am hoping you will think about what you might be able to offer for sale and, as will be necessary in many cases, start preparing material.

I suspect you are already wondering how the Society will make money here. Well the Society will take commission on all items offered for sale. This will be at the minimum level of 20%, the level that we use for our sales at our Rosny Barn shows and for items sold at our meetings and workshops. Of course, any commission above 20% would be very welcome and it is hoped that members may be able to donate some items for which the entire sale price goes to the Society.

Clearly, if you are selling an established bonsai, the 20% commission will be about right. But if you are just disposing of some excess bulbs that you have just thinned out from the garden or a few unwanted terracotta plant pots, you might feel comfortable giving the Society a 100% commission on whatever they go for.

So, some ideas of what you might be able to offer for sale, in no particular order. These are my immediate ideas and I am sure that you will have more; please let me know them so they can be shared with other members.

1. Established bonsai
2. Bonsai in training
3. Bonsai starters – established seedlings and rooted cuttings.
4. Bonsai pots – I know I have a few small ones that I will no longer have a use for having moved on to larger trees.
5. Bonsai tools – you may have some duplicates that are in good condition.
6. Herbs – I have some herb cuttings that have just been potted up. Yesterday I bought a pot of parsley seedlings. I needed 9 for the pots on my balcony and had 18 left that I have put into individual pots for the sale. I'll be doing the same with basil seedlings in a few weeks time.

7. Ground covers – these plants can spread and root very easily. I have a very attractive one (must find out its name) that grows very vigorously but Chandlers Nursery still manage to charge \$7.95 for one plant. I've already potted up a number for the sale, at less than \$7.95!.
8. Flower seedlings – you can buy a punnet of 8-10 flower seedlings for between \$3 to \$5. Transfer these to individual pots with good potting compost and 4-6 weeks later you have individual "bloomers" which shops sell for \$3 to \$5 each. Clearly, we wouldn't charge that but one punnet could translate into 8 "bloomers" selling at \$1.50 each, turning \$4 into \$12. I'm thinking we could do the same for tomato or capsicum seedlings – late November is still a good time to plant out advanced plants. If have particular green fingers and maybe a greenhouse or conservatory, you might even be able to start off with seeds if you started immediately.
9. Bulbs – most spring bulbs need lifting from time-to-time and thinned out to maintain flowering vigour. For the early flowering ones like grape hyacinths, jonquil and some daffodils, it should be possible to lift some and bag them up for sale by the end of November.
10. Splitting established plants – like bulbs, some herbaceous plants benefit from lifting and being divided. If you do this, you could pot up the surplus material rather than consigning it to the compost heap or garbage bin.
11. Succulents – same as above.
12. Pot plants – you may have some pot plants in the house or garden that you might like to sell. I know from garage sales I have held when moving house that these can be very popular.
13. Plant pots – many of us have these sitting around in the garage or shed – pottery ones and terracotta ones, once cleaned up, are very saleable.
14. Garden tools – people are always on the look out for cheap secondhand garden tools in reasonable condition.
15. Wire and pots – the Society stocks wire and growing pots for its members – we could have these at the Sale. People might like to buy a metre or two of wire or some of the nice shallow plastic pots we have. It is quick and easy to restock these for members. Obviously, sorting out some pots or tools can be done a few days before the sale but preparing plants needs planning and time and people should be thinking about it very soon.

So, please provide me with some feedback on the concept of the sale, let me know what material you think you could provide and definitely do send me ideas for material and items that I may not have identified above.

The Sale can only succeed if we have enough material to make it viable so, in the next week or so, I will be contacting directly those members that I have not heard back from.