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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 257 December 2014

**Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year
To
Bonsai Members & Their Families**



President Ambrose opened the November meeting at 7.40 pm, welcoming 22 members, with apologies from Herbert, Sue Cerutti and Ruth Rees.

Evelyn showed members 2 navy polo shirts, and one which had been made for the Kingston Men's Shed, and informed members the Society is keen to have something similar with our own logo. Cost of shirt \$22 and cap is \$11. Cost to have your own shirt embroidered with Society logo is \$6.

The Garden & Bonsai Sale held in November was deemed a success – judging by our Treasurer's enthusiastic email shortly after the event, with gross takings an amazing \$1655.70 which, after returns to those who sold on commission basis, left \$722.20 of pure profit! Rob also reported that one member renewed his membership and we gained a new member, both of whom we look forward to welcoming in 2015. A big thank you to Rob and wife Jane for hosting the event, and to those members who provided items for sale and helped out on the day. There have already been suggestions we should consider making this an annual fund raising event.

Members also took advantage of the sale of bonsai by a former member, who offered us first choice of her trees. I visited Trish in the afternoon, and she seemed happy with the response and sales.

Your committee met on 25th November and was updated on arrangements for the 2016 Convention; also confirmed workshops will commence on Sunday, 1st March 2015, continuing throughout the year, with the last on 28th November; further work on next year's calendar with an invitation to any member who might like to do a presentation during the year. If you are interested, please let Secretary, Anita, know. In late news, confirmation has been received that we have secured the Barn for our 2015 exhibition – so get those trees growing!

Raffle: Jan chose the tree; Will chose the pot and Leslie won the bonsai calendar.

Following closure of business at 8.20pm a critique ensued, with comment on the varied specimens arrayed on the display table. Hopefully, the following is a full record so that come next November, we can produce the list to remind everyone what they brought on the night!

Stuart's Scott's Pine (*Pinus sylvestri*): Chris has helped style at a workshop, which included a bend in the trunk and removal of large part of tree. New growth is beginning to appear on all parts of the tree, and dormant buds are observed. Power feed it – fish emulsion, osmocote. Chris advised the need to remove needles to increase sap flow; also check wiring and remove during December. Pines can be worked on in Feb-March.

*Note: all trees should be fed at ½ strength fortnightly now – except azaleas.

Heather's seedling Elm: nothing has been done to it, and she has been advised to decide how high it should be eventually, before any cutting is done.

Evelyn's Viburnum: removed from garden 2002, placed in bonsai pot around 2007. Taken to Sunday's workshop, apex re-cut, could wire branches, and suggested it could go into a small shallow pot – over next 2 years.

Rob's Pyracantha: Creamy white flowers, red berries. Suggested it should go into an oval, shallow, glazed pot. Alternatively leave in present deeper pot to thicken trunk.

Diana's Green Bottlebrush: semi-cascade, but upright branch has partly died off – suggest more appropriate pot for style.

Tony's pot of Rhodohypoxis included green hood orchids and violets. Satsuike azalea “Koma” (pale pink flowers) in free form style. (Note: Cut back after flowering and azaleas will shoot all along the branches. As growth is dominant in lower branches of azaleas, they need to be pruned more than the upper branches.)

Gill's Tea Tree: Need to prune top. Chinese Elm in root-over-rock style kept covered with soil to allow roots to thicken; sacrificial branch left to grown on.

Ambrose's lovely orange/pink azalea.

Noel: 2 maples in mame styles. Sycamore collected in 1980's; raft cotoneaster white flowering around 1984 – placement of branches.

Cameron's Chinese Elm: (Bunnings special) keep as a small tree – emphasised importance of having a plan for future development; and (photo right) his semi-cascade azalea in deep blue pot (removed flowers last year to keep energy in tree, wants to change angle



Gill's Maple: - defoliated at October workshop now showing new growth. Defoliation once every 3 years is probably enough, its main purpose is to encourage back-budding, but also reduce leaf size. It's important to time it correctly, because if it's too late the leaves will be just as big.

Chris's *Pinus contorta* (Lodgepole Pine) – raw stock about 12 years ago. Sacrificial branch left which he hopes will assist in thickening both top section and lower section of trunk.

POTS –

Gill still has some of the black plastic training pots for sale. Mika pots at \$6 & \$10 each are also available. These are quite durable and shaped like bonsai pots, and would be useful when transferring your tree from a training pot for the first time. However, they are not for use in place of bonsai pots.

The Society has also purchased a range of ceramic bonsai pots in various colours, sizes and shapes, glazed and unglazed, and a batch of terracotta pots in various sizes which would be suitable for training. Anyone interested, contact Rob White. (Photos courtesy of Cameron).

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

Bonsai Etiquette:

We all have different tastes, and what looks repulsive to you may be the epitome of beauty to the owner. Besides, the owner may overhear you and be hurt by your remarks.

Events & Diary Dates:

January BBQ – Sunday 18th January 2015 –Waterworks Reserve, Site No.1 has been booked from 11am-4pm (see separate invitation). Look forward to catching up with as many as possible on the day!,

February 2015 Meeting: Tuesday, 17th at 7.30pm – presentation on Cedars by Chris & Tony.

Sunday, 1st March 2015 our first workshop for the year, at Bellerive Community Arts Centre from 1pm - 4pm.

Our November workshop was attended by 14 members. Being the last for this year, we began earlier with a substantial amount being done as members worked on their trees, Chris and Tony standing by to assist, and whose enthusiasm is infectious – as always! A lovely lunch/afternoon tea added to a most enjoyable afternoon. At this point, on behalf of members, I would like to thank both Chris & Tony for their efforts throughout the year, I'm sure we have all learnt a lot and, hopefully, our capabilities have improved as a result.

March Meeting: Tuesday, 17th March at Bellerive Community Arts Centre, commencing at 7.30pm. Presenter, Shane Boyce will be discussing Micro-climate bonsai.

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.

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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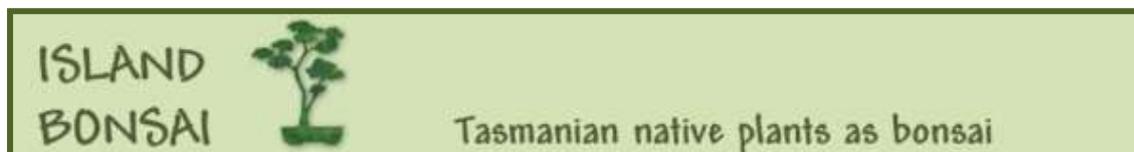
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International Bonsai Biennale

In mid October I slipped over to Java in Indonesia to attend the four day International Bonsai and Culture Biennale, where “Where Art and Culture Meet Through Bonsai” to quote their catch phrase. And true it was.

This was an event organised in part by Robert Steven from Indonesia and held in the smaller city of Yogyakarta in central Java. It is a typical Asian city, tiled rooves, generally low-rise buildings, with lots of traffic and people on the streets. It was hot, even the locals were complaining. Around 270 people were attending representing 19 countries.

The venue was the Vredeburg Fortress Museum which was full of old colonial architecture. There was a large outdoors bonsai display. On the first Saturday morning I spend an hour or two looking around the displays and literally cooking in the heat and sunshine.

The bonsai were all medium to large and very-large in size and ranged from more conventional styles that we all would recognise through to more rugged or extreme styles that may show a Chinese influence.

I was saved from the heat by discovering that the majority of the exhibition was indoors. The trees they use in Indonesia are all tropical and many I was not familiar with. But there were tropical variations of trees we know in Australia, such as Acacia (*A. arabica*) with typical “Wattle” type leaves, Casuarina (*C. equisetifolia*) closely related to our Sheoaks, and of course Ficus or figs.



Every lunch and dinner was provided over the four days with the participants being bussed off each day to somewhere local serving Indonesian food and providing entertainment. The first dinner was outside with the opening ceremony, traditional music and dancing, and speeches. Sunday evening was at the Sultan’s palace with more traditional music and dances. Monday afternoon had us at the Taman Sari Water Palace then all taken out of the City to the ancient Buddhist temple of Borobudur for sunset. Monday evening was the closing ceremony and dinner overlooking the ancient Hindu Prambanan Temple, then into the nearby open theatre for Ramayana Cabaret Show.



There was much promotion before the event for the unusual bonsai displays and much talk afterwards about it as well. For those of you with an internet connection there is a great video of all the best bits at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sB7k0mjoSoo>.

There were many more conventional bonsai and display arrangements on show as well. During the mornings of three of the days demonstrations were held on stage in a theatre at the venue. Each day there were four international demonstrators working at one time, each on their own tree.

There was Bill Valavanis (USA), Professor Amy Liang (Taiwan), Mauro Stemberger (Italy) and Chong Yong Yap (Malaysia) on the first day. Then Cheng Cheng Kung (Taiwan), Sulistyanto Soejoso (Indonesia), Zheng Zhi Lin (China) and Manoj Kumar plus Shrikrishna Gadgil (India) on the second day. Finally there was Isao Omachi (Japan), Pedro Morales (Puerto Rico), Robert Steven (Indonesia) and Jun Ilaga (Philippines). So a real feast of demonstrators with many different styles and working on many different trees both big (huge) and small.



Looking at the indoors exhibition I was struck by the shadows and it made me think of Indonesian shadow puppets. The white walls and spot lights really cast great bonsai shadows. I went chasing bonsai shadow photos and ended up with quite a collection.

This led me to compose a three line poem, what the Japanese call Haiku:

Light throws
through bonsai
shadows

So in conclusion, it was not simply a bonsai exhibition, or even a bonsai convention as we experience here in Australia, but a more inclusive and ongoing event. I am still enjoying thinking about it. It challenged convention and broadened the horizons of what can be achieved with bonsai and how they can be displayed. An artistic but playful element was added to the exhibition which was more akin to an art exhibition.

It also emphasised cultural differences and the beauty that can come from them. Looking back at my little note book I had written; culture, cultural differences in Java and between those visiting were obvious. Even back in Tasmania we can see cultural differences and personal differences showing up in our bonsai desires and appreciations.

Ambrose.

The chart below appeared in the November newsletter but, due to a slight error, December was omitted, so it has been reproduced in its entirety. Chris stressed these are guidelines only, based on his experience with bonsai, and a reminder that times do vary between south and north of the state, and the mainland. It has been set up on a separate page so that members can put it in a place where it will serve them best.

	Deciduous	Conifers	Native	Specific
January	12	236	12368	Deciduous varieties can still be pinched and pruned back. Junipers and cypress can be wired. Safe to do major work on all conifers . Keep eye on wire. Good time to defoliate ficus.
February	12	12356	1236	As above. Pine needle plucking, then wiring and styling if needles have hardened off. Cedars can be wired and styled.
March	16	256	1236	As above but last pinching for deciduous trees, natives and ficus. Avoid heavy pruning on deciduous. Can start wiring deciduous trees late March.
April	6	56	16	Finish needle plucking and wiring remaining pines. Still okay to wire deciduous and natives.
May	6	6	6	Only light wiring for all trees if needed. Check wires on previously wired trees
June				Let trees rest
July				Let trees rest
August	4	4	4	Re potting except ficus. V cuts on healthy elms & zelkova. Concentrate on nebari development.
September	1267			Can start pinching; pruning deciduous but remove any old wire before growth becomes too dense. Can wire deciduous but must keep checking wire.
October	12368	19	1	As above and you can defoliate or partial defoliate maples. Major work can be done on deciduous. Keep beech new growth pinched back. Can start pinching natives, cedar and cypress or juniper varieties. Candle breaking commences on pines, and thin out masses of buds/candles.
November	12368	179	1267	As above. Re pot ficus. Remove old wire on conifers and native varieties if needed. Good time to prune back and partial defoliate Oaks.
December	1268	1236	1236	Safe to do most maintenance on trees.

KEY

- 1 pinching
- 2 pruning
- 3 major work- large branch bending, branch removal, re styling
- 4 re potting
- 5 needle plucking
- 6 wiring
- 7 remove wire
- 8 defoliate
- 9 candle breaking on pines