



President: Ambrose Canning
☎ (03) 6225 4002

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. 259 March 2015

President Ambrose opened the February meeting shortly after 7.30pm with a welcome to 19 members who brought along a variety of trees, including cedars which were the topic of a joint presentation by Chris Xepapas and Tony Hewer.

Members were reminded of the **Dahlia, Gladioli & Floral Art Show** to be held at the Town Hall on the **13th & 14th March** (i.e. this weekend). Trees should be delivered to the Town Hall on Thursday, 12th March between 4 & 6pm. Please ensure plants and pots are looking their best.

New name tags were distributed to members present, and will be available at our March meeting and our next workshop. Those who receive their newsletter by post, will find theirs included.

Don't forget our monthly display table. No matter what time of year, our bonsai (be they bereft of foliage, or covered in blossom) have their beauty. Besides, one can always be sure of some advice if they bring something "untouched" along.

Raffle: Rose won a very attractive bonsai tool roll, and Alex won a plant.

Display table: A variety of trees in various bonsai styles graced the table, with some members getting advice from our experienced members. If you would like your tree to be critiqued during one of our meeting nights, talk to a committee member.

Our Bonsai Exhibition will be held on 30th – 31st May at the Rosny Barn (please keep those dates free). There is much to do in preparation for the occasion, just as there is much to be done this year as we move ever closer to the **2016 Convention!**

Bonsai Events & Diary Dates:

This month's meeting Tuesday, March 17th at 7.30pm – "Microclimate and Your Bonsai" presented by Shane Boyce, who will be giving a presentation on Microclimate during which he will explain what it is, how it affects your Bonsai growing environment and how to make it work for you.

He will show how to become more aware of the microclimate conditions around your Bonsai as well as explaining how to use the many different microclimates within your garden to your advantage. This is how Production Nurseries operate all year round and so can you, to a certain degree!

(Ed. Note: Shane is unable to attend meetings regularly, but has provided some information about himself and his "bonsai journey". See page 5)

Next workshop Saturday, 28th March 2015 Bellerive Community Arts Centre from 1pm - 4pm. Our first workshop was held on Sunday (1st March in case you missed it). 14 members participated, including Tony & Chris who made their rounds providing valuable assistance and advice. Everyone partook of a lovely afternoon tea, including Herbert's popular sponge cake of which I don't think even a crumb was left behind! (A few photos on page 4)

April Meeting: Tuesday, 21st at Bellerive Community Arts Centre, commencing at 7.30pm. A slight change to the calendar, as Chris was to have done the presentation. However due to a change of date for his visit to Victoria, Will Fletcher will be telling us about the “Native Species Symposium” in Melbourne he is attending the week before.

AABC Convention 2015: May 15th – 18th in Adelaide

Bonsai Society Exhibition: Saturday 30th & Sunday 31st May 2015 at Rosny Barn.

Other Diary Dates

Sept. 11th & 12th Daffodil, Camellia & Floral Art Show at the Town Hall
Nov. 6th & 7th Rose, Iris & Floral Art Show – Town Hall

Library Collection:

The Society’s selection of books and journals is available for members to borrow for a month at a time, without 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 your own “bonsai journey”, 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. 0439 383 365 Email: cxepapas@gmail.com
Secretary: Anita Shanahan – Tel. 6228-1281 Email: anita_shanahan@yahoo.com.au
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

Members might like to have the following information re the polo & rugby shirts, purchased from:

- TAS Workwear Group, 50D Browns Rd. Kingston. Tel.62292881 – contact Peter.
- Polo Shirt – short sleeve, cotton stretch, navy, size Small \$21.20 (Item No.PS55)
- Rugby Shirt – long sleeve, 100% cotton, navy, size Medium \$60.50 (Item No. Lakeport)

Prices include \$5 per item for embroidered logo. You can also have your own shirt embroidered with the logo for \$6. I’m happy to deliver shirts for embroidering and return orders on behalf of members, but it is wise to try for size if you’re intending to buy one!

ISLAND
BONSAI  Tasmanian native plants as bonsai

Open on the 2nd weekend of the month, or by
appointment . Tel. 6239 1920

Benefits of extending spring growth by Chris Xepapas

After observing at a recent workshop that quite a number of Japanese and trident maple trees of good age were lacking in branch development, it dawned on me the reason why.

These trees had some age behind them and had developed trunks and nebari but very little branch structure. So I took it upon myself to confirm why.

I questioned club members about their techniques in controlling the spring flush on their trees. 99% of the members responded with the same answer, "I pinch the new tips out". Bingo I thought. So in the next few paragraphs I will try and explain the way to obtain really well-developed pads for your maples. This reasoning also applies for most varieties of trees including pines.

Question: Bonsai has always been thought of as a process of restrictive growing practices, but is it? We water, weed, fertilize etc. our trees every year so why don't our bonsai grow out of control?

Answer: Because we prune or pinch them yearly. So we have established that bonsai is not restricted because of the growing practices, it's because of pruning!

Question: How then can we develop branch ramification?

Answer: By careful pruning practices and timing.

Question: Have you ever noticed that after pinching back your maples you seldom have a second flush?

Answer: This is because the sap in the tree is not flowing at a fast pace - no matter how much fertilizer is applied. But this can be manipulated to our advantage.

Question: What would happen if we were able to increase the sap flow?

Answer: We would get more growth happening, more flushes and extensions, with which we could develop branch ramification in as little as two years!

Question: how do we achieve this ramification?

Answer: Simply let your bonsai grow! When the new growth comes in spring let it grow out to at least 4 sets of leaves. But why, you may ask? Because by letting the new growth extend out you are accelerating the sap flow in the tree. When you prune back at the right time to the first set of leaves, the increase in sap flow will easily make the tree push out new buds and extensions. You also duplicate each branch at the cut point. You can repeat this process 2 to 3 times in a growing season.

Some points to remember:

1. Keep your bonsai well watered for the extended growth
2. Fertilize your tree to help the development of extending growth. This process can be quite demanding on your tree if it is not healthy
3. Let the spring growth extend to at least 4 sets of leaves
4. Prune back to the first set of leaves and if your tree is still crowded with leaves then cut every second leaf of as well to allow light in for back budding.
5. After 3 growth flushes by around Christmas your tree will be growing possibly too fast. Then you can start pinching out the new tips and reduce watering and fertilizer to slow the sap flow in the warmest months of summer. If you choose to continue the entire process your tree will become too vigorous and uncontrollable.
6. After a number of years your bonsai will possibly become too ramified and the branches will need structural pruning to reduce the mass. This is okay, and will not cause a problem because, by then, you will have created lots of back budding and plenty of branches to cut back to without even noticing the pad has been reduced en masse.

7. Last tip. In autumn, place your maples in the open in the evenings so the autumn dew and frost can hit the leaves. This will give you the most beautiful autumn display.

Note: Please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss this technique if you are unsure.



Heritage Bonsai Tasmania

Open by appointment

Tel.: 0439 383 365

Email: cxepapas@gmail.com



Stuart & Chris discuss style/development strategy for a small pine



Gill & Chris at work on an oak



Herbert all smiles with his Cedar



Tony provides some advice to Alex

A Little About Shane...

I have been qualified in Horticulture since 1984 and worked hard at establishing a successful Horticulture business in Perth, Western Australia. In 2007 I relocated to Launceston, Tasmania where I continue to work in maintaining large, heritage style gardens. My clients include The Stone House (Perth, Tas.), Entally Estate (Hadspen) as well as a few select private clients.

Since 2013 I have taught certificate level Horticulture through 'GlobalNet Academy' in conjunction with the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens.

In the 1980's I developed an interest and passion for Bonsai. From 1998 – 2001 I attended courses with the Bonsai Art Academy - Bonsai (Koreshoff) Nursery in New South Wales and attained the following Certification from the acclaimed Nippon Bonsai Saikei Art Institute, Tokyo, Japan:

- 1998 Intermediate Bonsai - Saikei
- 1999 Advanced Level 1 Bonsai – Penjing
- 2001 Advanced Level 2 Saikei - Penjing

For many years as an active member of the Bonsai Society of Western Australia I co-ordinated and participated in numerous State and National Bonsai Exhibitions and Demonstrations. I also successfully managed my own studio - The Perth Bonsai Studio - where my entertaining demonstrations and workshops were popular with club members. In 2008 I became a member of the Launceston Bonsai Workshop and am currently their Secretary/Treasurer. My ambitions continue to flourish with the opening of my school 'The Bonsai School of Tasmania' where I hold public demonstrations, classes and workshops. I also continue to hold demonstrations and conduct workshops through various Garden and Bonsai Clubs as invited.

In 2015 I became a member of the Association of Australian Bonsai Clubs Ltd (AABC) Visiting Tutor Programme (VTP). This means that Bonsai Clubs throughout Australia and New Zealand who are registered with the AABC can book my services to visit their club/s and hold demonstrations, workshops and tutorials.

My lifelong ambition has always been to pass on my years of knowledge and experience, to educate and enlighten a new generation of Bonsai enthusiasts and I am now well on my way to achieving this dream.

Oh and I also love Classical Music, Opera and Barramundi fishing in Far North Queensland, sometimes all at once – what a combination!!

