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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. 260 April 2015

President Ambrose opened the March meeting at 7.35pm pm with a welcome to 20 members. There were five apologies. New members, Tim Warpole and Elizabeth Cabrera also joined us – welcome to you both, and we look forward to catching up at meetings and workshops during the year.

Ambrose reminded everyone of dates for workshops (26th April), and our next meeting which will be held on 21st April. Members were also reminded of our Exhibition on 30th & 31st May. **Please** let a committee member know how you can assist (raffles, admission, sales, observing etc.) as it's a very important weekend for our Society, giving us the chance to publicly display our bonsai. And, of course, this year's event is also a practice run for the 2016 Convention in 12 months time!

To All Members: An invitation is being extended to bring potential trees for the 2016 Convention, and our 2015 Exhibition, to either our meeting on April 21st, the workshop on April 26th, or the meeting on 19th May. This will allow feedback and suggestions on what work needs to be done during the period leading up to both exhibitions.

Dates for Bjorn Bjornholm's visit have now been finalised from the 10th – 14th September and obviously, the committee would like Society members to have the first opportunity of participating and/or observing at workshops. It is proposed these be run over Saturday, 12th & Sunday, 13th of September with opportunities for either full or half-day attendance.



In order to work out costs more accurately, it would help if we knew members' intentions in attending. A full day participation fee is estimated at \$100, and the observation fee about half to one-third of that. Obviously, the more members participating, the more flexible the Committee can be. A list will be available at our April meeting for those wishing to add their names either as participants or observers.

(Please note: Mindful that some members may feel uncertain either due to lack of experience or choice of tree, Chris has expressed his willingness to assist these members to choose, and prepare, their tree in the event they would like to participate with Bjorn. These can be brought to the next meeting or workshop, alternatively a meeting with Chris can be arranged privately. This is a wonderful opportunity for **all** members, especially those of us less experienced, to have someone of Bjorn's calibre visit our Society, and thus enhance our own knowledge as we progress through our bonsai journey.)

If there is anyone who doesn't have their new name tag, could you please let the editor know.



Several members displayed a range of trees at the recent Dahlia, Gladioli & Floral Art Show held at the Town Hall. This is a lovely venue, and an opportunity for the Society to promote itself at no cost!

I also heard that Bonsai Society member David Budd, had won a special trophy for his Dahlias. Congratulations David! Below are two of David's prize winners from the Show!



Raffle: John won the pot and Rose will be busy feeding Maxi-crop to her plants!

Display table:

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. And one can always be sure of some advice if they bring along something "untouched". On the table at the March meeting:-

Will had a "cute" little Banksia with nicely shaped trunk; a *Callistemon viridiflorus* which produces greenish lemon brushes in summer complete with native bluebells and toadstools; and a high alpine Baeckea also produces small foliage.

Rose – brought in a Satinwood for advice (Will suggested it could be pruned into a nice round shape).

Shayne is still developing a large Chinese Elm. (His notes on micro-climate are attached).

Cameron's large Chinese Elm is also a work in progress & Happy Birthday!

Rob's *Pyracantha* was covered in a mass of red berries, and he pointed out that it had taken a long time for the trunk to show signs of real development.

Evelyn brought her "Tazziberry" (*Myrtus ugni*) for feedback – at March workshop branches were wired down, requiring slight adjustment every so often, to provide more shape.

Our Bonsai Exhibition will be held on 30th – 31st May at the Rosny Barn (please keep those dates free). Let a Committee Member know (Chris is co-ordinating) how you can help during the two days. It might only be for an hour or two, but will relieve someone else. Set up will be on Friday 29th from around 10.30am. Perhaps you could sell raffle tickets or help with admission, be at the sales table, observing, something else? A roster will be available at the April meeting.

Bonsai Events & Diary Dates:

This month's meeting Tuesday, April 21st at 7.30pm – Will Fletcher will be discussing his recent attendance at the Native Species Symposium



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

Next workshop Saturday, 26th April 2015 Bellerive Community Arts Centre from 1pm - 4pm.

14 members participated in the second March workshop, including Tony & Chris who made their rounds providing valuable assistance and advice. Wiring and pruning were the main activities.

Right: Heather working on a Pinus

Below Left: Herbert with his re-styled *Pinus mugo*

Below Right: Diana could have done with a stool for a little extra height while working on her tree!



May Meeting: Tuesday, 19th at Bellerive Community Arts Centre, commencing at 7.30pm, at which Chris's topic will be "Pine refinement and Pad Development".

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:

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Open by appointment
Tel.: 0439 383 365
Email: cxepapas@gmail.com

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!



The following is reproduced from *Bonsai Today* Issue 16, 1991-96 (Pages 14-17) and provides information on how to get flower buds and fruit on Apple & Crab-apple. (Of course, we know how successful a certain gentleman is, but there's always the opportunity to learn a little more along the way.)

The apple, belonging to the large family, Rosaceae, has numerous strains and varieties – numbering in the thousands! Most of today's edible apples descend from *Malus pumila* while crab apples descend mainly from *Malus baccata*.

Depending on the variety, the blooming and fruit bearing seasons vary greatly, with varieties existing that bear fruit which ripen late in autumn.

Another of its advantages is the rapidity of growth which makes it possible to create a bonsai in just a few years with no problem.

(Ed. Note: *The article was produced for the northern hemisphere, but the months shown are for our part of the world.*)

How to Get Flower Buds:

As with all fruit bearing trees, the most important consideration is making sure that flower buds form. These will be located at the tips of the short branches of the past year's growth. Sometimes it may have a blossom at the base of a branch that grew a great deal in the previous year, but that is not frequent. The flower buds are formed in summer from the middle of December to the middle of January.

Those branches that stay short, forming a cluster of leaves at the tip, will be the flower buds of the following year. So that if you want to have flowers, you must make sure that many branches are short.

How to Obtain Short Branches:

Consider first the case of young trees. Young trees grow very rapidly and you will need to prune heavily to develop the basic shape. If you prune without paying any attention to the season in which it is done, you will probably not have flowers in the following year.

In order to be able to train the bonsai and also to have flowering, there is a very simple, but effective method: when the branches have reached 15-20cm in length (the middle of November), wire and shape them, bending them downward, thus curbing the growth.

The treatment of an established apple bonsai is a little different. Although apples are vigorous, with completed bonsai long branches do not usually grow. In some cases, if any branch grows too long, it can be used as a sacrificial branch.

In the first or middle part of November, prune the branches, except for the sacrificial branches. Thus, all the strength of the tree will be directed toward the sacrificial branches, while on the rest of the branches short lateral shoots, floral shoots, will emerge. Once the flower buds have formed (end of January), prune off the sacrificial branches.

In Order to Have Fruit:

Although fruit will develop with a single tree, you will always have a better crop if you place apple trees of different varieties together: for example, *Malus pumila* and *M. halliana*.

You can also pollinate them artificially if, in the morning, you rub the blossoms with a Q-tip. Why in the morning? Because the higher the sun, the more pollen there is.

How to Create an Apple Bonsai

Pruning:

Finding apple trees in nurseries that carry fruit trees is very easy so that most bonsai start with a drastic pruning, leaving a base of roots and a short trunk.

The best time is the same as for transplanting, in the early spring from the middle of August to beginning of September. You can prune fine branches in the autumn, but if you are going to prune a thick branch, it is better to do it in spring, hoping that flowers will emerge on the short

branches. Always prune very short those branches that have long internodes. Cut off all the unnecessary branches immediately at the base; after cutting them off, paint the wounds with sealing paste.

Also take the precaution of pruning the upper part of the tree more and (be careful about this) the last bud that you leave must always point downward.

Wiring:

Apple trees must be wired when the branches are still flexible, in November to December. They will then generally be 15-20cm in length.

When wiring a young branch, remember the base is weak, so let it grow pointing upward a little, without bending it, and then (on the second node) bend it down.

In about two months the wire will be almost ingrown, so remove the wire and, if the branch does not remain in position, wire it again.

Location:

Like all fruit bearing trees, it needs a lot of sun in order to bloom and for the fruit to mature. If it is on a balcony, keep turning it so that all the fruit will have the same colour.

Watering:

Apple trees like a lot of water and, especially after flowering when forming fruit, they must not be allowed to dry out. During flowering, do not wet the blossoms.

Fertilizing:

Like all fruit trees, it needs the main macro-elements, but a small quantity of nitrogen. Do not fertilize after the flowers appear until the fruit has set.

Transplanting:

The apple is vigorous and the roots grow very quickly. Transplant young trees every year, established bonsai every two years and old specimens every three.

The best times are spring and autumn. If you want to have fruit in the coming year, transplant in the autumn, just after the leaves have dropped off. If you transplant in spring (August, before budding) there will be no fruit that year.