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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)**

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## Newsletter No. 262 June 2015

President Ambrose opened the May meeting at 7.35pm with a welcome to members, including , Barbara Von Bertouch, who attended after a long absence. Apologies from Evelyn who was returning from Adelaide

There were reminders to members that trees for exhibition display be delivered by 4.30pm on Friday, and Rob requested tree ID labels for each tree in order to compile a list for visitors. Members were reminded the Society expected to receive 20% from the sale price of items sold during the event. Diana would be supervising at the plant sales table and requested all stock be clearly marked with prices and seller's name. A request for assistance was made and members asked to volunteer. (see pages 2 & 3 for report and photos)

A brochure is now available promoting the September visit and workshops by Bjorn Bjorholm, which will be run on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>. Members were also asked to indicate their interest in attending. The possibility of a "members only" demonstration on the Friday evening seemed to be favoured by members, if the committee is able to organise a suitable venue and time.

Ambrose gave a report on the Society's presentation in Adelaide for the AABC 2016 Hobart Convention, and that the unveiling of the booklet and proposed ideas were very well received, with a lot of attendees expressing interest in heading south next year. It seems Will has something in the pipeline to entertain those who attend the dinner on the Saturday evening – but he's keeping it under wraps for the time being!

Any member who doesn't have their new name tag, could you please let the editor know.

**Raffle:** (Ed. Note: I believe a raffle draw was conducted on the night but don't have any details at time of going to print.)

**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 May meeting:-

**Tony** introduced us to "Little Jim", a miniature Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*); **Gill** brought along a windswept *Corokia cotoneaster* (sometimes called "wire netting bush), 2 miniature fuchsia, Correa "Dusky Bell" in flower, and a European Larch (*Larix decidua*) in an upright style;

**Cameron** brought a windswept cascading Japanese Black Pine (*Pinus thunbergii*) and a Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*) in mame style; **Ambrose** has been working on a miniature mame forest consisting of seven Larches; **Diana** brought a few of her trees including an informal upright African Olive, a weeping style Tasmanian native Creeping or Strawberry Pine (*Microcachrys tetragona*), and a companion plant *Zygocactus* bearing red flowers which complemented the red berries from her pine; and in keeping with the theme for next year's convention, **Will** brought two deciduous beech (*Nothofagus gunnii*) both holding some of the autumn leaf colour they are famous for.

**Presentation:** Chris provided members with some information on refinement of trees – specifically pruning and needle plucking to assist in the formation of pads, and the appropriate placement of wire to improve structure and styling of bonsai. He applied these techniques to a Scot's Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), and showed members a Mountain Pine (*Pinus mugo*) “Amber Gold” on which the same techniques were employed to create a bunjingi style bonsai. (Some tips from Chris below these photos)



1. The process of renewal is extremely important with pine bonsai.
2. Long leggy branches should be removed.
3. Leaving jins is more desirable than a scar and tend to suit pines.
4. Wire right to the tips so all movement can be controlled when styling.
5. Needle plucking is a must to allow more light in and help promote back budding. Also makes wiring easier.
6. First branch, the movement of the tree and the apex should go the same direction.
7. The apex should bow forward
8. Back branches must not be too long. They are there only to create depth of field.



Exhibition display

Left: David's Oak complete with acorns and autumn leaves.

Right: Selection of members' trees



Our Bonsai Exhibition was held on 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> May at Rosny Barn and, as most of you will have read (via email) our Treasurer has gone off to Spain in a good mood! Money raised from the event was a bit more than he'd budgeted for – across the board. For those who were unable to attend, you missed the opportunity of seeing a wonderful display of



members' bonsai which included a broad selection of exotic and native species in a variety of styles.



Left: Group of members' trees



Right: King Billy Pine (*Athrotaxis selaginoides*)



Despite the inclement weather – very windy Saturday and rather cold conditions on Sunday - visitors seemed undeterred, including Kevin Collins and Lyn Farrell who travelled from Launceston for the day. And we may have enticed a few new members to the art of bonsai.

Chris, Tony, Will and Cameron participated in demonstrating their bonsai skills to very interested groups, answering questions both during and after presentations.

Diana and a group of eager assistants including Lesley, Koula, Taki, Rose and John were kept busy with plant sales; David, Tony Brown, Stuart, Will, Jan, Heather, Gill, Alex and Anita fitted in with entry, raffle tickets and other sales items. In between they kept an eye on a few “itchy fingered” visitors who felt inclined to check that the pods on Ambrose’s wisteria were real!



The Australian Japanese Association organised a food stall on the Saturday for a few hours, which seemed to do quite well judging by the number of members tucking into the delicious sushi! We thank them for their support and look forward to working more closely in the future.

A survey of visitors produced a variety of responses when asked where they had heard about the Exhibition, and there was some real competition between Chris and Will on who won! Will’s radio interview with Peter Cundell proved popular, with the newspaper also mentioned, and quite a number had seen our new banner (fighting against Saturday’s strong winds, Will lashed it to the overpass just before the turn into Eastlands).

Somehow Channel 7 heard about the Exhibition, and I hope members got a chance to see the segment on their Sunday news broadcast, which included a brief interview with Chris and the camera capturing some good footage of our bonsai. I believe Chris has managed to get a copy.





Clarence Council Mayor, Doug Chipman accepted our invitation to officially open the Exhibition on Saturday, expressing his interest in the display and congratulating us on its presentation. Indeed he opted for a second visit, bringing his wife along on the Sunday.

I'd like to mention two young fellows who proved extremely helpful over the weekend – thank you Taki and Spiro for lending a hand. Very much appreciated!

### **Bonsai Events & Diary Dates:**

**This month's meeting** Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm – report on our Society's 2016 Convention presentation given in Adelaide

**Next workshop Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2015** Bellerive Community Arts Centre from 1pm - 4pm. Natives & conifers can still be pruned, light wiring can be done and it's a good time to think about selecting appropriate bonsai pots for trees ready to pot up. Bring them along – get some advice, and don't forget a little something for afternoon tea – somehow we all get peckish!!!

**AABC Convention 2015:** May 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. A contingent of the committee (Ambrose, Chris, Will, Rob, Stuart and yours truly) travelled to Adelaide for the event in order to present our Society's credentials as host of the 2016 AABC Convention. (We also had the opportunity of observing any problems.)

Having lived in Adelaide for many years, it was interesting to be there as a visitor and note some of the changes to the area where the Convention was held. I had worked in that part of the city from 1963-1973, so the first thing I noticed was the building in which I'd spent much of those ten years had been replaced with a much higher edifice! And the side street was full of cafés and restaurants! We could pick up our registration bags on Friday morning, and I'd decided not to participate in the day's activities, preferring to catch up with my daughter and grandsons instead.

AABC President Lindsay Bebb noted there were 185 registrations including two from NZ and one from Japan, and the SA Bonsai Society is the oldest in the country.

Saturday and Sunday were full on bonsai. Koji Hiramatsu, being the main presenter, began with a Black Pine about 30-35 years old, which he chose to style as a literati. He passed on a few tips during each presentation:



If needles are too long - cut in half. Removal of old needles should be done before spring – leaving 5 pair.

If you don't remove needles the interior needles become less and branches will grow longer and longer which you don't want, so it's important and done every year

Do not remove candles at repotting, as the tree is not strong enough. Jins should be made in winter.

When wiring back to the left – you should start from the top

When wiring back to the right – start from below.

Wiring is on-going, and done every 3-4 years.

Having wired, spread the fine branches out like a hand

When wiring the tree view from the front to check level of branches  
(Left: the tree after designing)

Koji used a few varying techniques during his second session.

The small pine (below) had the bend in its trunk emphasised by use of a block of wood carved to fit snugly against the trunk, which was then bent and forced down with use of a tightened guy wire.

The overgrown black pine (right) required removal of all branches except one, and some additional encouragement from Koji who, several times climbed onto the table to force the trunk or thick branch into place until his assistants secured it!



The main branch/trunk was eventually curved back over the base of the tree using a combination of raffia, a length of reinforcing rod as a lever, a length of wood, 3 strands of wire and 4 guy wires, plus Koji and 2 assistants! Asked how long the wire would remain, he told the audience the wire applied to prevent the tree from breaking during the process could be removed within a few days as the guy wires would keep the bends in place! Jins were worked on while Koji and Luke wired remaining branches and styled. (Photos of both trees as above above.)

Despite a few language problems, he was friendly and entertaining, inviting questions from the audience during each demonstration. His nursery contains about 1000 trees and wiring takes about 8-9 months of the year. He talked of the bonsai scene in Japan and how trees are prepared for exhibitions. Around two weeks prior, they are removed from the ground or training pots, placed into bonsai pots and sent to the exhibition. If they are not sold, the whole exercise is reversed once they return to the nursery!

At one point, when asked by someone what he thought we could do here in Australia to encourage our young people to take up bonsai, he thought for a few moments then replied with a good sense of humour: "I think you should ask your Government to allow importation of trees from Japan!" And he admitted it was proving difficult to interest the younger generation in his own country in the ancient art of bonsai.

Someone asked if he was married. "Yes", he replied, "but I only take my wife once on tour!"

Next month's newsletter will contain a little more on the activities at the Convention which included Tony Bebb and Joe Morgan-Payler. Below are photos of a few of the trees which were on display both in the hotel foyer and the viewing room. (The one top right is a Jade!)



**July Meeting:** Tuesday, 21st at Bellerive Community Arts Centre, commencing at 7.30pm, at which Ambrose will discuss making bonsai stands.  
 Don't forget election of the committee for 2015-16 and membership fees will be due shortly – I think Rob will be providing information on direct payment for those who prefer that method.

**Other Diary Dates**

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| Sept. 11 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> | Bjorn Bjorholm workshops & demonstration              |
| Sept. 11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> | Daffodil, Camellia & Floral Art Show at the Town Hall |
| Nov. 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>    | Rose, Iris & Floral Art Show – Town Hall              |



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

**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. Photos are also accepted – whether they are your own or something from the internet (don't forget to include your source!).

## Committee Members & contact details:

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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. Alternatively, you can 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 from them!



*Open by appointment*  
**Tel.: 0439 383 365**  
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