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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. 263 July 2015

President Ambrose opened the June meeting at 7.35pm with a welcome to 14 members and 4 visitors. Apologies from Jan who was unable to attend and who will also be an apology for our July meeting – they are en route to the Kimberley region, Treasurer Rob White (sojourning in Spain enjoying 40° temperatures!) and Noel, who is trekking somewhere in South America.

Ambrose thanked members for their assistance at our May Exhibition, regarded as much better than our previous one. Members were reminded of Bjorn Bjorholm's visit, and a brochure is available for workshops run by him on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th, in which members can indicate their preferences re days and times. Location will be at the University of Tasmania, details of which will be supplied in due course. The demonstration planned for Friday 11th September will be free to Society members, and those who have paid for workshop sessions will also be invited to attend. It is expected the demonstration will be held in one of the lecture theatres at the University's southern campus.

(Note: Dates, costs and payment information for Bjorn's workshops appear in an abbreviated version on –page 5 of this newsletter.)

Anita has received a book of \$5 raffle tickets with the first prize being full Convention registration.

Will provided some further information on activities being considered for the AABC 2016 Hobart Convention. He is heading to Lake St Clair (with some diversions along the way), and is happy for any of the conventioners (and members) with cars to join him for the 3 day trip, which includes two nights' accommodation at the lake, in their very comfortable cabins. Please check with Will for more information.

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

Raffle: Koula chose the pot, Evelyn opted for the maple, Stuart chose the book and Heather won the Seasol fertilizer.

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". There weren't a large number of trees, but some interesting ones in the display:-

Anita brought a Serissa (sometimes called "tree of a thousand stars") which are favoured by bonsai enthusiasts for their small foliage and flowers, and a Banyan fig in a root-over-rock style; Evelyn had a re-styled Juniper *procumbens* "Nana" with help from Chris; Will showed his multi-trunk *Apacris* displaying white flowers, age estimated 15-20 years old (also known as River Heath this species is endemic to Tasmania); Chris brought a Zelkova on which he had performed a v-cut best done from Sept-November, good for Zelkova and elms, but should not be done on oaks which will respond well to back budding. Chris also showed us a Cedar deodar grown from raw stock which has short needles, and pointed out that pruning scars recover well on this species.

News: Cameron and wife, Elisia have an addition to their family with the safe arrival of daughter, Lara. Congratulations and best wishes to you all!

Presentation: Ambrose was our presenter for the evening with a re-visit to his Cornus (Red Stemmed Dogwood) which he has worked on (see newsletters July 2010 & July 2011). Members may recall Ambrose took a group of cuttings which he placed in a metal plate through which holes had been drilled. This was planted and allowed to develop, the idea being the formation of a big solid base from the group planting. Obviously, the concept has been successful, and having done some quite severe pruning, he will allow his multi-trunk to grow on through spring & summer.

The following information on the Debco bonsai mix is from Andrew Clark:

I am happy to offer the 10Litre Bonsai mix at the special price of \$6.95 for the Bonsai Society, would you be comfortable for us to offer this special price from July 1st- August 31st 2015 (this will allow me time to stock up). We can either offer to all members with presentation of your newsletter article or happy to take a bulk order on pending your preference.



The address is 450 South Arm Rd., Lauderdale.

(Gill Roberts has been taking orders from those who are interested in a bulk order, so if you haven't already contacted Gill, it might be worthwhile to do so (Tel. 6247 9719). If you intend visiting the nursery, please ensure you have this newsletter with you so staff will know you are from the Bonsai Society of Southern Tasmania!)

Bonsai Events & Diary Dates:

This month's meeting: Tuesday, 21st July at 7.30pm – at which Ambrose will discuss making bonsai stands. Don't forget something for the display table and, if you would like to have your tree critiqued, please let a committee member know.

Next workshop: Saturday, 25th July 2015 Bellerive Community Arts Centre from 1pm - 4pm.

Our last workshop was attended by some 13 members, with good advice and assistance from Chris and Tony. Chris is now in Japan and, according to a recent email, is "blown away" by the bonsai he has so far seen, is already re-thinking his own and considering reducing his collection! It will be interesting to hear about his Japanese bonsai experience!

August Meeting: Tuesday, 18th at Bellerive Community Arts Centre, commencing at 7.30pm. This will be our AGM which will include election of the 2015/16 committee, and will be followed by Cameron's presentation on azaleas.

Don't forget election of the committee for 2015-16 –voting slip and m/ship renewal are attached.

Membership fees are now due: – Cheques made payable to: Bonsai Society of Southern Tasmania Inc. Those wishing to make a direct deposit, our bank account details are as follows: BSB 067-000, Account 28039262, please provide first initial and surname as your reference so Rob can track payments.

29th AABC National Convention 2016: Plenty of notice so PLEASE keep these dates free – **20th to 23rd May 2016.** We will need EVERYONE to pitch in and give as much help as you can in whatever way you can.

Other Diary Dates

Sept. 11 th	Bjorn Bjorholm demonstration venue to be decided
Sept. 12-13 th	Bjorn Bjorholm workshops at UTAS
Sept. 11 th & 12 th	Daffodil, Camellia & Floral Art Show at the Town Hall
Nov. 6 th & 7 th	Rose, Iris & Floral Art Show – Town Hall



Open on the 2nd 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:

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
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Cameron Wadley: Tel. 04389 23539	Email: camjwadley@gmail.com
Editor: Evelyn Black: Tel. 6229-5741	Email: e.black@bigpond.com.au

The following information is for members still interested in polo/rugby shirts, or having your own shirt embroidered with the Society's logo:

- 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!

RE-POTTING AND NEBARI DEVELOPMENT FOR BONSAI

In this article we will address the most over-looked topic: Root Development.

The key to a good bonsai is a healthy root system, which allows you to do more daring techniques to your tree which, in turn, allows your tree to cope with the stress. It is also important to have a visually good looking surface root structure which will enhance the appearance of your bonsai.

Developing a good root system:

Whether growing a tree from seed or cutting, you need to develop a good root structure from the beginning. A coarse aggregate should be used in the soil mix to promote duplication of the root system, thus creating more fibrous roots rather than long thick roots. The soil mix also has to be well drained but retain enough moisture to keep the plant healthy.

When re-potting your bonsai or developing a tree, remove all thick heavy roots making sure you have left enough finer roots to compensate. Some heavily pot-bound trees will take several root prunes over a number of years before all larger roots can be removed.

Quite frequently you will come across root spiralling on a tree, with masses of roots wrapped around the root ball. This mess must be cut off to proceed. It may seem quite savage, but if the tree looks healthy above ground, then it should survive the process.

How much of the roots to cut off?

On a developing tree you would generally take off 50% of the root structure keeping in mind that if it is the first root prune, you may have to take off 60% to 70% to get rid of the root spiralling. On an established bonsai you would generally remove 30% of the root ball.

How often do I re-pot a bonsai?

The rule of thumb is that the older a bonsai the less frequently you re-pot. A bonsai that is 10 years old may need re potting every 3 years, whereas a bonsai that is 25 years old will be re-potted every 5-6 years and a bonsai of 50+ years will be re potted every 8 years.

Soil mix.

Soil mix depends on the species of tree and their requirements. The general mix used is 40% organic (decomposed pine bark is usually what's used), 30% peat and 30% coarse aggregate such as sifted propagation sand. If potting a pine which needs drier conditions, I would use 70% coarse aggregate, 10% peat and 20% organic. So depending on your species' requirements will depend on your mix. Please try to keep the particle size down to a small size, no large pieces of bark or rock. In Japan and other parts of the world, they use a specially prepared clay called akadama. This is used with no other additives, only the particle size will vary for different size trees. Because of quarantine laws, it is very hard to import this product and also not very cost effective.

On a finishing note, please make sure that a large size mesh is used in your bonsai pot to cover the holes, not fly screen. Remember that drainage is extremely important, so don't forget to have a layer of larger rock at the bottom of your pot.

Chris Xepapas
Heritage Bonsai Tasmania



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

Below is the information for Bjorn Bjorholm's workshops – just in case you have mislaid your brochure:

Dates	Times
Saturday 12 September	9 am till 12 pm
Saturday 12 September	1 pm till 4 pm
Sunday 13 September	9 am till 12 pm
Sunday 13 September	1 pm till 4 pm

Fees, per workshop

Bonsai Society of Southern Tasmania members: Non-members:

Workshop participant \$50

Workshop participant \$65

Workshop observer \$15

Workshop observer \$25

Cheques made payable to: Bonsai Society of Southern Tasmania Inc.

Direct Deposit: BSB 067-000, Account 28039262, please use your first initial and surname as your reference

Cash payments to Treasurer: Rob White

BSST Member? Yes / No

Email: ambrose.canning@internode.on.net

Phone: 0409 165 446

Post: C/- A. Canning, 33 Lipscombe Ave, Sandy Bay, TAS 7005

Workshop Participants

Workshop participants are asked to be at the venue and setting up at a work area at least 20 minutes prior to the workshop commencement. You will need to bring:

- Suitable bonsai stock to work on (typically styling 1 tree per workshop)
- Your bonsai should be cleaned, remove dead leaves, weeds, and wire
- Bring tools, turntable, wire (the Society will have a selection of wire for sale)
- Pots, soil, mesh, etc. (if you may be repotting)
- Water spray, gloves (if you use them), raffia if you may be bending, etc.
- Pen or pencil and paper, camera
- A bucket or bag for rubbish, a plastic sheet for under your bonsai

A typical workshop program is that participants set up and after an introduction Bjorn moves to each participant in turn and individually discusses with the owner the design of their bonsai and styling tasks for the participant to then undertake. He then moves to the next participant until he has seen all participants. Bjorn will then revisit each participant to see progress and further discuss styling options.

Observers

Observers are requested to be at the venue at least 10 minutes prior to the workshop commencement. We ask that observers do not disturb or distract Bjorn and participants during the workshop.