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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. 265 September 2015**

President Ambrose opened the August meeting (our AGM) at 7.35pm with a welcome to 22 members and 4 apologies, including Noel (who should be home any time!), John (sick list), Rose and Tony Brown.

Minutes of last year's AGM were read, and accepted, as was the President's report which had appeared in our last newsletter. Rob presented the treasurer's report showing the Society had made a tidy profit for the 2014/15 year of over \$2000. His report was also accepted.

Election of the Committee for 2015-16 followed, with Ambrose re-elected as President, Chris, Vice President, Anita as Secretary, Rob will continue as Treasurer, Tony Hewer, Will and Evelyn as committee with Evelyn continuing as editor. On behalf of the Committee I take this opportunity of thanking everyone for their continued support, which will be invaluable during the next twelve months.

The recommendation that the Society does not require auditing of its books was put to the meeting and accepted.

The formalities of the AGM closed at 8.00pm, which was followed by our normal monthly meeting, with the following reminders:

- Membership fees are now due, so if you haven't done so, these can be paid either direct to the Society's bank account (BSB 067-000, Account 28039262) or direct to Treasurer Rob;
- Reminder of the Camellia and Daffodil Show on the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> September at the Town Hall. We invite members to display a bonsai, and there may be an opportunity for it to be critiqued by our visitor, Bjorn Bjorholm, in agreement with the owner, of course. Obviously, plants need to be looking their best, free of weeds & debris, pots clean. Plants to be delivered on Thursday after 4pm, can be picked up after 4pm on Saturday. However, if anyone is unable to pick up their tree, could they let Evelyn know. Also if there are any members not attending both sessions of the workshops, and could spend an hour or so at the display, it would be appreciated. Email or contact Evelyn or Anita.
- President Ambrose mentioned there were a few members who had not yet paid their fees for Bjorn Bjorholm's workshops, and that places for both participants and observers were still available.
- **Free Presentation:** Bjorn's presentation to members will be held on **Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> September**, at the Bellerive Community Arts Centre, commencing at 7pm sharp. This is an ideal opportunity to see Bjorn in action, especially if you are unable to attend any of his workshops. A plate of nibbles such as we organise for our monthly meetings, would be appreciated.
- Bjorn's workshops will be held at the University of Tasmania – an information sheet from Rob White, complete with directions, map and his mobile phone number if you get lost, appear on a separate page at the end of this newsletter. The following reminders for the workshops:
- Most importantly, don't forget your tree, worksheet, turntable, bonsai tools, wire (the Society's supply will be available), water for tree, bucket for rubbish and camera for "before and after" shots. Please remember to wear your name badge, so that Bjorn knows to whom he is speaking.

- Coffee and tea will be available (please bring a mug) and something for morning/afternoon tea would be most appreciated. Due to catering problems, we would ask that everyone organise their own lunch.

**Raffle:** Heather won the large pot; Ambrose chose the “dust’n’scoop”; Herbert chose a pot and Gill won the plant.

**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 with the topic being azaleas, several members brought theirs along:- Heather showed us a healthy small leafed azalea of the non-flowering variety; Gill created some discussion with her semi-cascade azalea, and she also has a lovely informal upright red flowering one. Gill’s flowering quince now belongs to Cameron (keep it in the bonsai family, I suppose!); Ambrose brought his small azalea; Diana has found the best time to prune native Correa is the end of September; Chris brought his *Pinus mugo* ‘Amber Gold’; and Evelyn brought her azalea for some advice on further training.

**Presentation:** Cameron presented a discussion on azaleas, with a selection of plants which are in various stages of development. He found that if not pruned, they are inclined to become leggy, but there is also a fear by enthusiasts of trimming back too hard. Pruning is best done once spring growth has stopped, between Oct – Dec. They also don’t like being bent/wired and Cameron suggested the “clip and grow” method is a good way to train azaleas. If wiring, use finer gauge wire and check that it isn’t biting in. If you want to put growth back into the plant, remove all flower buds. Cameron uses an azalea/rhododendron fertilizer mix. Diana has successfully used azalea potting mix for her bonsai azaleas.



450 South Arm Rd., Lauderdale



Gill Roberts has checked on orders for the above, and it seems the mix won’t be here in time for Bjorn’s workshops. Should anyone need some for that weekend, contact Gill on 6247 9719.

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

**Special FREE Presentation:** Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> September commencing at 7pm, in the Bellerive Community Arts Centre.

**Bjorn Bjorholm workshops:** Saturday & Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> September 9am -12pm & 1pm – 4pm (see last page of this newsletter for venue details.)

**Daffodil, Camellia & Floral Art Show** at the Town Hall September 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>.

**September meeting** Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm Our presenter for the evening is Noel Kemp (our “travelling man”) back from his foray into the wilds of South America. Noel has advised his topic will be “Monterey Cypress - a species for (nearly) all styles”, and a species he regards as most suitable for our conditions. Noel will bring along some of his specimens, with a warning that they haven’t been “touched by human hands” for some four months or so! It could prove an interesting evening – both for Noel, and members.

**Next workshop** Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2015 Bellerive Community Arts Centre from 1pm - 4pm. Our last workshop was attended by some 9 or 10 members, with apologies from Chris who was on the sick list – his entire family caught a version of a flu’ which has been doing the rounds, and he didn’t want to pass it on. Hopefully everyone was busy working on their bonsai.

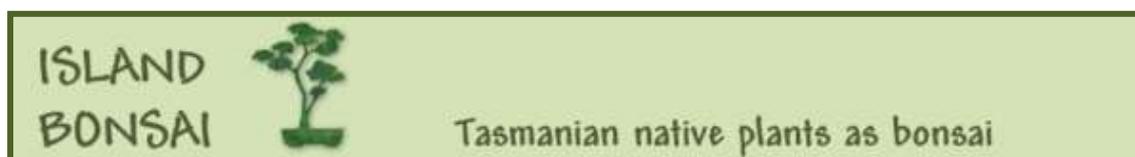
**October Meeting:** Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> at Bellerive Community Arts Centre, commencing at 7.30pm. Topic for discussion is “Bonsai Hardware”.

**29<sup>th</sup> AABC National Convention 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2016:** Plenty of notice so PLEASE keep those dates free. We need you all to pitch in and give as much help as you can in whatever way you can. There will be some information available for everyone to nominate where they will be able to assist. Remember, this is the very first time this convention has been held anywhere in Tasmania. It is a real boost for our Society, and we would like all our visitors to take back fond memories of the occasion. If you need to ask questions about the convention, speak to a committee member.

#### **Other Diary Dates**

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:**

President: Ambrose Canning – Tel. (H)6225-4002 Email: [ambrose.canning@internode.on.net](mailto:ambrose.canning@internode.on.net)

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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!



*Open by appointment*  
**Tel.: 0439 383 365**  
 Email: [cxepapas@gmail.com](mailto:cxepapas@gmail.com)

The following is re-produced from the Victorian Native Bonsai Club's July 2015 Newsletter, "The Dirt", courtesy of their member, Ian, who highlights the confusion that can arise when asking for information about plants, and the importance of knowing the correct species. Ian had been asked for advice on growing oaks as bonsai, and assumed they were deciduous species, botanically known as *Quercus*, from the northern hemisphere. Eventually he found the question related to Australian oaks – called Sheoaks, or sometimes Australian Pine – and botanically known as *Casuarina* or *Allocasuarina*. Of course, the two species are treated very differently! But the caller's information had been very general.

### **A Brief History of the Naming of Plants**

Since the beginning of spoken language, people have attached names to things important to them. Plants were important to early peoples for food, fibre, timber and other products. As long as the number of objects in one's surroundings is relatively limited, there is little trouble in mastering knowledge of them. As one's range increases, the need to group items becomes necessary. As names for plants changed between people of different geographical areas and languages, being able to accurately communicate plant names between different cultures became more important as commerce increased.

Plato (427-347 B.C.) and his student Aristotle (384-322 B.C.) developed the first known procedure for systematically naming plants and animals. Their system was based on visual characteristics such as leaf shape and plant form. Other systems developed for naming plants, relying on long, detailed descriptions. These descriptive names, generally in Latin, were too long for practical use. Early botanists contributed to the base level of knowledge but failed to develop a system for naming plants that worked well. Nevertheless, these systems remained functional until the late 1600s when European explorers began to discover large numbers of new plants that defied classification with European specimens.

The study and classification of plants remained in a confused state until **Carl von Linné** (1707-1778). It was the custom at that time for all scholars to write in Latin. Linné was so intrigued by Latinised names that he modified his own name to **Carolus Linnaeus**.



*Carolus Linnaeus (1707–1778), a Swedish botanist, invented the modern system of binomial nomenclature.*

Linnaeus was born in southern Sweden and educated as a medical doctor. As there were no pharmacies in those days, physicians had to be able to recognise plants with medicinal value. Linnaeus became more interested in the botanical side of medicine and specifically in the distribution of plants.

The system that Linnaeus developed used floral characteristics to put plants into groups. While the system has been modified greatly, it is the basis of the **binomial** (two name) system used for naming all living organisms.

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The study of identification, nomenclature (naming) and classification of objects is called **taxonomy**. When it deals with plants it is often called **systematic botany** and is considered to be the mother of all biological sciences.

In the nineteenth century it became increasingly clear that there was a need for rules to govern scientific nomenclature, and initiatives were taken to produce a body of laws. These were published in successively more sophisticated editions. For plants the key dates are 1867 (Lois de la nomenclature botanique), 1906 (International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature, the “Vienna Rules”) and 1952 (International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, the “Stockholm Code”). The most recent is the International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants (ICN), the “Melbourne Code”, adopted in 2011.

The system of classification is hierarchical. The largest unit, called the **Kingdom**, is divided and subdivided into successively smaller units. These units and some examples follow:

Unit	Example
Kingdom	Plant
Division	Tracheophyta (vascular plants)
Sub-division	Pteropsida (Ferns & seed bearing plants)
Class	Angiosperms (flowering plants)
Sub-class	Dicotyledoneae
Order	Rosales
Family	Rosaceae
Genus	Rosa
Species	rugosa
Variety/cultivar	‘Alba’
Form	---
Clone	---

In this hierarchy it is rare to make reference to **Orders** of plants or the units above.

The next major division is called a **Family**. It is at this point that we really begin to see distinct differences in plant habitat and appearance. Almost all family names end in **-aceae**.

At the simplest level of scientific classification, each plant has a name made up of two parts, a **generic** name (or **genus**) and a **specific** name (or **species**).

A generic name is a “collective name” for a group of plants. It indicates a grouping of organisms that all share a suite of similar characteristics. Ideally these should all have evolved from one common ancestor. The specific name, allows us to distinguish between different organisms within a genus.

Together, these two names are referred to as a **binomial**. Scientific names are in **Latin** (or Latinised words from other languages, particularly Greek). It is these two scientific or Latinised names that distinguish a plant from all others. The genus is always capitalized and the species is always in lower case letters. Both of these words are either italicised or underlined (eg, *Grevillea victoriae* or *Grevillea victoriae*). Italicisation is preferred. The genus is always singular, has gender (masculine, feminine, or neuter) and acts like a noun. The species generally reflects the gender of the genus and acts like an adjective to describe “which one”. In Latin all nouns have gender. The gender of a noun does not reflect any attribute of a plant but is just a characteristic of the language.

To be complete, the scientific name should include the **authority** or name of the person who described the species. (Note that the word “species” is both singular and plural; “specie” is a coin). Example: *Grevillea victoriae* F.Muell (Ferdinand von Mueller published the original description for this species in 1855). The author's name is never italicised or underlined.

When several species of one genus are given in sequence, the name of the genus can be abbreviated to its first letter. Always start a sentence by spelling out the full generic name, ie, don't start with an abbreviation. The authority can be abbreviated to save space, especially for authors who described a large number of species. There may be joint authors, such as Torrey & Gray, Fernald and Schubert, Britton and Rose, and these may also be abbreviated, as T. & G., Fern. & Schub., Britt. & Rose.

There are a number of levels of classification below that of species, with the most commonly used being **subspecies** and **variety**, abbreviated to **subsp.** (or less usefully **ssp.**) and **var.** respectively. This allows further subdivision of plant groups to reflect the variation in form and distribution we see in nature.

For example, three subspecies are recognised within *Grevillea victoriae*:

*Grevillea victoriae* subsp. *victoriae* – the one closest to the original description of the species.

*Grevillea victoriae* subsp. *nivalis* – a subspecies described in 2000.

*Grevillea victoriae* subsp. *brindabella* – a subspecies described in 2010.

Whenever a subspecies, variety or other subdivision below the rank of species is published, an additional name, called an **autonym**, is automatically generated. In the case of *Grevillea victoriae* above, the publication of *Grevillea victoriae* subsp. *nivalis* in 2000 created the autonym *Grevillea victoriae* subsp. *victoriae*. In other words, in 2000 the author chose to recognise a subdivision within the species which differs from what are considered to be “typical” *Grevillea victoriae*, and named it *Grevillea victoriae* subsp. *nivalis*. Plants regarded to represent typical *Grevillea victoriae* then assume the name *Grevillea victoriae* subsp. *victoriae*.

When referring to a plant in a genus when we do not know which species it is, we use the generic name followed by **sp.** eg: *Grevillea* sp. When referring collectively to some or all of the species in a genus we use the generic name followed by **spp.** eg: *Grevillea* spp. Abbreviations are not italicised.

Through breeding, interspecific hybridisation, and direct genetic manipulation, humans have produced an amazing array of different plants for use as food, ornament, etc. These plants are called cultivated varieties and their rank is **Cultivar**. The word cultivar results from the combination of two words, **cultivated** and **variety**. Varieties are always naturally occurring while cultivars are propagated and grown by horticulturists for their unique traits. There are rules for how to designate them. Cultivar names cannot be in Latin and may not be the same as the botanical or common name of a genus. A cultivar name is added after a valid scientific name, is

always capitalised and enclosed in single quotation marks or preceded by the word **Cultivar** or the abbreviation **Cv**, and is not italicised.

A red maple cultivar called 'October Glory' may be written in any of the following ways (in order of preference):

Acer rubrum 'October Glory'

Acer rubrum Cv. October Glory

Acer rubrum Cultivar October Glory

**Forms** are naturally occurring groups of plants that differ from other members of the same species. We often are not able to see these differences. Examples are winter hardiness, tolerance to different soils or other environmental adaptations.

Plants that are genetically identical are called **clones**. Many plants such as spring bulbs naturally reproduce asexually forming clumps of plants that are all the same clone.

There is no international convention governing the way **common names** can be written or used. However, the following is generally recommended:

For a name used in a general sense covering a group or genus (eg, bottlebrush, conifer, oak) start with a lower case letter; this also applies to botanical names used in a general sense (eg, banksias, camellias and acacias).

If one particular species or plant is referred to then use capitals for the first letter of all words, except when there is a hyphen between two words (eg, River Red Gum; Lemon-scented Gum).

Do not put English or vernacular names in either single or double quotation marks, as these may be confused with the single quotation marks used to designate a cultivar name. Of course, double quotation marks should never be used for cultivar names.