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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. 268 December 2015



Windy weather has been rather chaotic – hopefully your bonsai are not being thrown around too much. The main problem with these conditions of course, is ensuring pots are secure wherever they are – may even be necessary to tie them down – and preventing them drying out. Especially those trees in shallow bonsai pots, which can dry out quickly, so please ensure they are watered regularly. In the event any have dried out, immerse them in a container of water and leave for about 10 minutes (or until the bubbles have ceased!), then place in a shaded area to allow the tree to recover.

If you couldn't make it to Dysart on Sunday, you missed a lovely (albeit windy) afternoon. Not only did we enjoy a splendid bbq with a mouth-watering selection of salads, and yummy sweet things afterwards, but we had an opportunity of checking out Chris's bonsai nursery – plenty of inspiration there! And lots of interesting bonsai. And, of course, some of us took along trees to work on – which proved a little difficult in the windy conditions. One member was noted for leaving his azalea to its own devices while he enjoyed a movie! No names mentioned! Thank you so much Chris, Koula, Spiro and Taki for your warm hospitality.

The following report from Treasurer Rob on the Society's Annual Bonsai & Garden Sale held on 28th November :



I am pleased to report that the Society's Annual Bonsai & Garden Sale was highly successful.

I'm sure we had fewer people through the gate than last year but those who did come liked what was on offer and spent up big.

Total turnover was a bit over \$1650. We distributed about \$750 to members and the final profit to the Society was \$902.10 (including \$29.50 for sales of pots already purchased by the Society). Last year we cleared about \$725 for the Society, so we have done better this year.

Many thanks to all of you who provided material, helped to lay out things and tidied up so well at the end - and especially for your camaraderie during the sale - it was a fun day!

Again, thanks to you all for your support!

Rob

President Ambrose opened our November meeting at 7.40 pm welcome to 18 members, with apologies from Herbert and Rob. Numbers also included two visitors, Madeleine and Malcolm Lovell, both of whom are interested in bonsai and we hope to see more of them in 2016.

President Ambrose thanked members who displayed bonsai at the recent Rose & Iris Show and those who spent time talking with visitors.

Reminders on the following:

- Committee is inviting members to provide ideas for next year's meetings. Please give some thought to what you would like to have included and talk to a committee member;
- Convention – a separate newsletter is being produced and will be sent to all members. We need everyone to support this venture in whatever way they can;
- trees for the Convention – must be available to Chris, Tony Hewer, Ambrose or Will by 1st February, and only the best of the best trees will be displayed. All trees to be displayed on stands according to set criteria, with space available for accent planting;
- Harmony Garden Centre – 9th December from 5pm-7pm. We've been invited by the nursery to organise a bonsai display, perhaps a brief demonstration for the occasion. It's an opportunity to promote our Society and we may entice a few new members as well.



Vice President Chris reported that our bonsai display at the Australian Japanese Society's 45th Anniversary dinner was very well received, with the governor showing a particular interest in the variety of species. He and wife, Koula attended the dinner, and Tony Hewer answered questions from the invited guests. It appears the AJS is keen for our two organisations to have more contact with one another.

Raffle: Visitor Madeleine won the Correa; Heather chose the chocolates; Rose won the pliers and Evelyn chose the blue bonsai pot.

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". Our display table consisted of a number of trees which members had brought for the 2014 critique, and it was interesting to note change and further development in the twelve months. So instead of a presentation, a brief critique on some of those trees followed.

Bonsai Events & Diary Dates:

Next meeting Tuesday, 16th February at 7.30pm which, at going to print, suggests our topic will be "Propagation Techniques" with Chris. (Our bonsai calendar is being worked on and will be sent with the February 2016 newsletter.

First workshop: Saturday 27th February 2016 at Bellerive from 1pm - 4pm. At our last two or three workshops last year, Chris has provided us with a short comment and demonstration on bonsai topics relevant to the time of year e.g. wiring, defoliation, which have proved extremely useful for members to get some first hand knowledge and guidance. Even if you don't have a tree to bring along, it's worth attending these afternoons. Cost will be \$3 per workshop and members are asked to bring a plate of something to share at afternoon tea – there's always something yummy to whet the appetite!

March Meeting: Tuesday, 15th March, 2016 at Bellerive Community Arts Centre, commencing at 7.30pm.

29th AABC National Convention 20th to 23rd 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. Information will be available for everyone to nominate where they will be able to assist, and members are invited to ask friends or relatives who would also be willing to help. Remember, this is the very first time the National 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 have questions about the convention, speak to a committee member. An updated Convention newsletter is attached to this month's newsletter.

Other Diary Dates

Harmony Garden Centre – 9th December from 5pm-7pm display of bonsai which went very well with the nursery keen to offer support where they can.

Dahlia, Gladiolus & Floral Art Show – Town Hall on 11th & 12th March 2016

Daffodil, Camellia & Floral Art Show – Town Hall on 26th & 27th August 2016



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:

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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

President Ambrose's Christmas Message

Best wishes to all Society members, family and friends for Christmas 2016 and the New Year. It has been a successful year with meetings, workshops, exhibitions and even a visit from international bonsai master Bjorn Bjorholm. Our Society is in a healthy position offering plenty of activities for members and financially sound. I want to thank all those members who have participated in and helped with various activities during the year, thanks also to your hard working executive and committee members.

Next year 2017 will be a huge one for our Society with our organisation and running of the first AABC Australian Bonsai Convention to be held in Tasmania. We will depend on input over the weekend by volunteers from our members, their families and friends. It will be hard work but there will be great rewards from seeing the convention and exhibition presented in Hobart, our international guest Robert Stevens from Indonesia, and our mainland guests. The bonsai exhibition will be bigger and better than we have ever seen before in Tasmania, I will claim of international class and which will really raise the bar in terms of quality.

I have just spent a couple of hours this evening at Harmony Garden Centre where we gave a small informal exhibition and demonstrations of bonsai during their loyalty shopping night. Andrew from the Centre is keen to help the Society and collaborate with us for future events and so I see this as the start of a mutually beneficial relationship.

Once again my best wishes for your Christmas and the New Year and I look forward to our bonsai activities in 2017.

Ambrose.



And something to put a smile on your dial

Two Irishmen were walking along the road, when one was knocked down by a car. His concerned friend rings triple zero telling the operator his friend is lying on the road, bleeding from his nose and ears, and has two broken legs. In order to direct the ambulance, the operator asks for his current location, to which he replies "Number 28 Eucalyptus Street".

Operator: *Can you spell that for me, please?*

Silence – bit of shuffling and some heavy breathing.

The operator repeats the question.

Silence – more shuffling, more heavy breathing.

Operator: *Sir, can you hear me?*

Still silence – except for shuffling and heavy breathing.

In frustration the operator asks: "Sir, can you hear me! Are you there?"

Finally, struggling for breath, the man replies: *You asked me to spell "eucalyptus", which I can't. So I dragged him round to Number 3 Oak Street instead!*

(Ed. Note: Thank you Herbert – I'm sure it raised some laughs at your recent reunion.)

