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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. 269 February 2016

Well everyone – I guess one could say “it never rains but it pours”, but don’t think I’m complaining. It was wonderful to wake to the sound of rain on the roof and to look out to a drenched garden. As of the morning of 29th January we had received 25.5 mms over the last few days, but on the morning of the 30th the gauge was showing 24.5mm and more is predicted! Our rainwater tanks are now overflowing too. While the weather bureau reports that most of this will mainly benefit the east coast, I do hope it reaches other parts of Tasmania as well – particularly to farmers and those in desperate need of water. Hopefully your bonsai are receiving a welcome drink wherever you are.

So it’s the start of a new year – a very busy and exciting one for our Society with the National Convention only FOUR months away, and a lot for us to do. Heard on the grapevine that our organising committee had a marathon six hour meeting recently, during which a lot of matters were finalised. And included on page 4 of this newsletter is a set of guidelines to help you prepare your bonsai for the convention display. If you have any questions about the guidelines please check with members of the selection committee.

Chris sent this photo of a Picea he has been busy working on (unsure of variety but a rare one). It is from advanced old nursery stock and is approximately 15-20 years old.

No doubt we will see more of it in the near future.



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”.

Bonsai Events & Diary Dates:

Our bonsai calendar is included with this newsletter. It has been necessary to change a few of our workshop dates (usually held the weekend following our monthly meeting) to the following weekend.

This has occurred due to the Arts Centre requiring the facility for visiting artists and, as we sub-let, they have first choice. Note the workshop on 20th March will be held at Island Bonsai.

First meeting Tuesday, 16th February at 7.30pm and our topic will be “Propagation Techniques” with Chris. Look forward to catching up with everyone!

First workshop: Saturday, 27th February 2016 at Bellerive from 1pm - 4pm. At our last two or three workshops last year, Chris provided us with short comments &/or demonstrations on bonsai topics relevant to the time of year e.g. wiring, defoliation, which have proved extremely useful to members. Even if you don't have a tree to bring along, it's worth attending these afternoons. And there's sure to be much “tweaking and finalising” of trees for the Convention display. Cost is \$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. The presentation will take the form of a trial run leading up to the Convention, during which a team will create a 3 tree landscape.

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 positive memories of the occasion. If you have questions about the convention, speak to a committee member.

Bonsai Society Exhibition 15th & 16th October 2016 at The Barn. Despite a busy year, the Committee decided to continue our alternative season exhibitions with a spring show. Another good reason to attend workshops!

Other Diary Dates

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!).

The following is from Heather Wiggers in which she gives an insight into her own bonsai journey:

I gained my love of trees when I was very young. My Mother was very sick and spent a lot of time in hospital. As well as caring for my Mother, my Father had a high-powered, high-pressure job. So, to escape the stressful life we lived, my Father would take us every school holiday and long weekends caravanning in every different direction all around Australia.

We spent many hours in the car, and I loved watching the trees whiz by. At the camps, and during bush walks, I studied the way the trunks forked, branches grew off each other and, at the ends, pads were formed. I especially loved the gum trees. I noticed how differently the trees grew in various climates: on the coast, inland, mountain, high country and in the snow. I was fascinated by the weather's impact on trees atop cliff faces, windswept trees in paddocks and those managing to thrive in very dry environments. I loved identifying the varied types and colours of bark and colourful caterpillars that chomped on the leaves. As we drove home at the end of our trips, I would make a game of counting the koalas as we drove by the eucalypts.

These days, our home is not big enough to have beautiful large trees, but we have a small Japanese garden, so it made sense to explore and practise the art of bonsai. Through bonsai I can create in miniature the amazing trees from my childhood to look at and touch.

Now, whenever I look at the trees, I have a comforting feeling of escaping the daily stresses of life. I often think of my Mother and the suffering she endured and hope that, in her own way she, too, took comfort from the trees.

Heather Wiggers

(Ed. Thank you Heather for sharing your heartfelt story.)

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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

Guidelines for displaying bonsai at the 2016 AABC National Convention

Here are a set of guidelines to ensure your bonsai are in pristine condition for the convention.

1. Clean pots thoroughly including their feet and lips. Unglazed pots can be burnished with a little vegetable oil and lint free cloth.
2. No weeds please. Clear any debris from soil, and plant new moss or, alternatively, you can use gravel.

Tip: when mossing, cover the entire surface in small mounds and try using several different mosses.

Tip: try to avoid bright shiny gravel such as aquarium gravel. Nice dark brown gravel is best.

3. Remove wire that is no longer in use. Any wire that must remain in place should be as unobtrusive as possible. So basically just fine wire amongst foliage is okay. If guide wires are required, use real thin copper.
4. Clean the trunk and branches of your trees with a tooth brush and water thoroughly. Try to avoid damaging lichen.
5. Please make sure your tree is trimmed and tidy in the foliage.
6. Stands, mats, rock slabs and wooden slabs are required for your bonsai display and will need to be approved by Chris and the selection committee. Please remember that bonsai is like a picture and if a picture is framed incorrectly it ruins the effect.

7. Accent plants must also be of high quality and approved by Chris and the selection committee. There may not be much available space for accent plants so only exceptional ones will be chosen.
8. Bonsai are to be delivered to Wrest Point Boardwalk Gallery on Friday by midday
9. Bonsai are to be collected on Sunday at 5pm at convention close.