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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. 270 March 2016

President Ambrose opened our first meeting for this year at 7.35, with a welcome to 21 members and visitor, Hieu Nguyen. There were also apologies from Noel, Lesley and Mal and Madeleine Lovell.

The Horticultural Society thanked us for the bonsai displays throughout 2015 and look forward to our participation this year.

Members were reminded that our first workshop will be held on Saturday 27th, and during our March 15th meeting, we will have the opportunity of seeing our three Convention teams create landscapes in three different environments – coastal, forest and alpine.

We have been invited to display trees during the Japanese Association's Summer Festival being held on Saturday, 5th March, and the Dahlia & Gladioli Show at the Town Hall will be held on 11th & 12th March, so please members, let's have a bit more support from those of you who don't show trees very often!

Our Spring Exhibition will be held over the weekend of 15th -16th October, and November 19th has been set aside for our annual Garden & Bonsai sale.

Secretary Anita has received a copy of the RHVS Gazette which contains information relating to the upcoming Convention.

With regard to the Convention, in particular the Monday workshops, there are still 11 participation places for Quentin Valentine & Grant Bowie. It's not often we have demonstrators of their calibre here, and members are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity. And a reminder to members who have been told their trees may be selected for the Convention display, please bring them along to the next workshop.

Raffle: Barbara & Herbert chose plants, Koula opted for the stand and Hans won the scissors.

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".

Rob's Pt. Jackson Fig was heavily wired at Bjorn's workshop, and is reproducing foliage after heavy defoliation a few weeks ago. Rob reported it has foliage where there had been none before.

Rose asked for advice on pruning her azalea – cut back to last 2 leaves, with best time to prune immediately after flowering. And she has a lovely 15 year-old maple (styled by Chris) -bends were put in at a very young age.

Ambrose's native laurel is doing well – a seedling he collected from the west coast around 1992.

Anita has an interesting Juniper *shimpaku* (which Chris told us is the variety most favoured in Japan) and a coastal tea tree (retrieved from their shack on Bruny Island).

Tony Brown brought in his fig; Diana's *Luma apiculata* is going well; Barbara has a lovely non-flowering azalea in a root-over-rock style; Tony Hewer brought in a display of native ferns on rock; Scott has a lovely golden-tip Juniper (his classes with Chris are paying off); and Chris showed his raft styled Cotoneaster which has two fronts – there was some discussion as to which one looked best, but there didn't seem to be a consensus.

Presentation:

Chris provided us with an enthusiastic discussion on propagation methods, including a selection of seeds and cones which were passed round for inspection.

Besides planting seed, cuttings and layering are two alternative methods of raising stock and Chris talked about the advantages and disadvantages of all three.

Seed needs to be viable, and in horticulture it may be necessary to **scarify** or **stratify** the seeds in order to bring them to germination:

- Scarifying is the process by which seed species impervious to water or temperature change require scratching, breaking or altering of the seed coating through chemical or thermal methods to enable them to germinate. A good example of thermal scarification is our native Hakea which has an extremely hard seed coat, and can often be found growing in abundance in an area following bushfires.
- Stratification is the process by which seeds are stored to simulate natural winter (i.e. cold and moist) conditions, as some seeds go through an embryonic dormancy cycle and will not germinate until the cycle is broken. The time taken varies depending on the particular seed, although for most species 2-3 months is sufficient. Some examples are the Grey Bark Elm, Trident Maple, many perennials, tulip bulbs.

To overcome losses one needs to plant a number of seeds from the same species; many plants grown from seed will not resemble the parent; they may take years to produce fruit/flowers and, once the seedling has appeared, it can take several years before it becomes bonsai material. However, there is some satisfaction in planting a seed and watching it evolve into something much bigger!

The advantage of cuttings is that they reproduce the exact same characteristics of the plant selected; the material is usually adult, which means they will flower or fruit almost immediately. Cuttings are taken from vigorous material. Generally, conifers may best be propagated from hard cuttings, and deciduous species from soft cuttings. They should be kept frost free during their first winter.

Layering is a means of plant propagation in which a portion of an aerial stem grows roots while still attached to the parent plant, and then detaches independently from it.

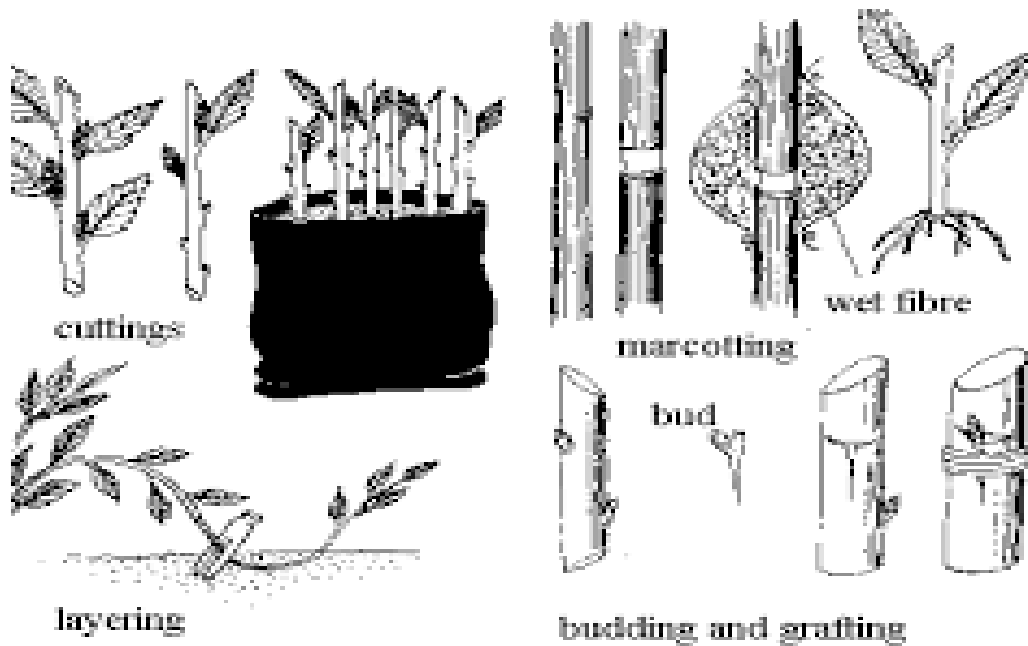
Natural layering occurs when a branch touches the ground and produces adventitious roots. At a later stage the connection can be severed and a new plant is produced.

In ground layering the stem is bent down and the target area covered with soil.

Aerial layering (or marcotting), is a method sometimes used to reduce the height of a tree by shortening its trunk, perhaps due to lack of branch material lower down, or improving the trunk by increasing its girth. The process involves cutting two rings surrounding the trunk through to the heartwood – the cuts may girdle the trunk entirely, or leave a narrow bridge. The peeled area is dusted with rooting powder and wrapped in damp spagnum moss and covered with polythene, then secured with twine or raffia. Check regularly to ensure the layering does not dry out. Time can vary from a few weeks to one or more growing seasons before sufficient new roots appear.

Grafting may be used to add a branch where none exists, or where one has been badly damaged and is no longer viable. This method can also be used to obtain the best features of two plants i.e. one selected for its roots (called stock or rootstock) the other for its stems, leaves, flowers or fruits. Some advantages include the ability to induce fruitfulness by avoiding the complete juvenile phase; to induce dwarfing or cold tolerance; it can reduce the time to flowering and shorten breeding programs; and allows production of disease/pest resistant plants.

9.93.2 Vegetative Reproduction



These were taken at the Japanese Summer Street Festival on Saturday. It was a very busy afternoon, talking to the many visitors, who also took information about the Society.

There were a lot of questions about bonsai, and both the trees and our new display stands received many compliments.



Bonsai Events & Diary Dates:

Next meeting: Tuesday, 15th March at Bellerive Community Arts Centre, commencing at 7.30pm and our topic will take the form of a trial run leading up to the Convention, during which a team will create a 3 tree landscape. Look forward to catching up with everyone!

Next workshop: Sunday, 20th March 2016 at **Island Bonsai, 37 Hall Street, Ridgeway** from 1pm - 4pm. Even if you don't have a tree to bring along, it's worth attending these afternoons, with experienced bonsai artists available for advice and assistance. **Reminder to members whose trees are being considered for the Convention display, please bring them to this workshop.** 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! Our February workshop was busy with 17 members attending – most of whom worked on trees, some of which will be displayed during the Convention.

April Meeting: Tuesday, 19th at Bellerive Community Arts Centre, commencing at 7.30pm. The discussion will be: Preparation of trees for display at the Convention.

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. The sub-committee is refining the master plan and members will be able to nominate where they can help and for how long. Don't forget friends or relatives you've asked to help. Information will be available for them too. If you have questions about the convention, speak to a committee member. Remember, it's the first time the National Convention has been held in Tasmania and we would like our visitors to take back positive memories of the occasion. Let's show that "big island to our north" what a small Society like our own can do when it comes to organising a convention.

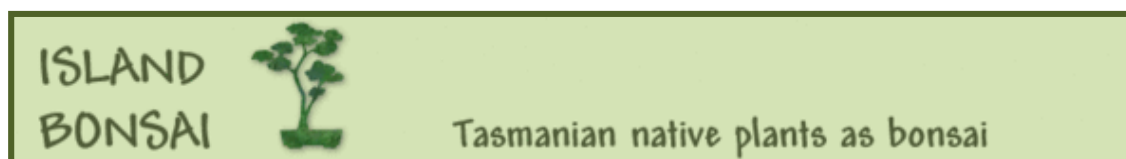
Bonsai Society Exhibition 15th & 16th October 2016 at The Barn. Despite a busy year, the Committee decided to continue our alternative season exhibitions with a spring show. Another good reason to attend workshops!

Our Annual Garden & Bonsai Sale – Saturday, November 19th

Other Diary Dates

Dahlia, Gladiolus & Floral Art Show – Town Hall on 11th & 12th March 2016 – trees to be delivered on Thursday 10th March after 4pm, and picked up after 4pm on Saturday. If you're unable to pick up your tree someone may be able to do so and return it to you at Tuesday evening's meeting.

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



Open 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 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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Editor: Evelyn Black:	Tel. 6229-5741	Email: e.black@bigpond.com.au

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

The following has been reproduced with a request from the Convention committee that display trees must fulfill the guidelines as stated.

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 very 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 mid-day.
9. Bonsai are to be collected on Sunday at 5pm at convention close.