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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. 271 April 2016

Well everyone, to say it's been dry, is an understatement. As I walk the dog I'm constantly reminded of the lack of rain – drooping trees and shrubs, shrivelled foliage, dried out grasses – gardens and bushland alike are suffering, as well as our native fauna, which are moving into suburbia attracted by some still green lawns, roses and vegetable plants. Many of Tasmania's topsoils are shallow, and we need good soaking rain over long periods for water to penetrate deep down. So no need to remind you to keep an eye on your bonsai but, if any do dry out, remember to immerse them in a basin/bucket of water for about 10 minutes or until the bubbles have stopped, then place them in a shady spot to help them recover. And let's hope it rains soon.

Vice President Chris opened the March meeting at 7.40, with a welcome to 21 members including new member, Matt Wood who took time out from his honeymoon to attend, and visitor, Ingrid Tebb. There were apologies from Noel, Herbert, Rose and Ambrose.

Chris reported that the AJS festival had been very successful, with many visitors interested in our bonsai display, and compliments on our new stands. And a sincere "Thank you" to Treasurer, Rob for organising them.

David Budd had won special awards for his dahlias at the recent Horticultural Society's show at the Town Hall – Congratulations, David. And our bonsai display received a brief viewing and mention on WIN News.

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. Keep these dates in mind – perhaps you might be thinking of reducing your bonsai collection, there may be potted plants you don't want, an abundance of seedlings from some of your garden specimens, garden tools or pots you no longer require, gardening or bonsai literature – they are all suitable for either event.

Convention information: See also the attached Convention Newsletter update.

Important: Members whose trees are being considered for the convention display, are asked to bring them to our April workshop together with the stands they intend using. As you know from the information published in our last newsletter, there are protocols relevant to correct display of bonsai. And please see Will Fletcher's request at the end of this newsletter (pages 4-5) regarding information required to create the exhibition catalogue for the display trees.

Members have been asked to indicate how much time they can volunteer during the convention on a simple register to include everyone's name and best contact information. We appreciate those with work commitments may not be able to do so until closer to the event, and we understand there are members who have registered for the convention and may not wish to commit until later too. However, in order to estimate the number of non-member volunteers we require, any information provided will be extremely helpful. If you can spare an hour or two, please let either Evelyn (tel. 62295741) or Gill Roberts (tel. 62479719) know as soon as possible. We will be contacting members shortly. Don't forget friends or relatives you've asked to help. Information will be available for them too.

Don't forget the Monday workshops with 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. If you don't have a suitable tree, Will and Chris are offering to "rent-a-tree" to

convention visitors who would like to participate at the workshops, and this offer is also open to members. Cost is \$10. If you decide to keep the tree after the workshop this will be deducted from the original price of the tree.

Raffle: Koula chose the *Luma apiculata* and John won the gardening gloves.

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".

Anita has a *Chamaecyparis obtusa* which she may turn into a raft style;

Will showed us a Spikey Violet bush (*Hymenanthera dentata*) displaying pretty mauve flowers – beware of the spikes! And he also had a Huon Pine displayed 4 ways – large and small stands and pot all made from Huon pine, with a Huon pine planted in the pot!

Gill has a *Myrtus ugni* (known as Chilean guava or Tazziberry and native to South America) – has pretty white flowers, and red-purple fruits (which can be eaten from the bush or used in muffins and cakes);

Stuart brought along his yamadori Myrtle – not sure where he got this one;

Chris showed us a dwarf *Picea abies* at least 30 years old; John is creating a bonsai from the cutting of a Chinese Elm; and Scott produced his *Picea abies* in a broom style.

Presentation:

This consisted of a trial run for those participating in the "three team" presentation during the convention. Each team chose a selection of plant material and growing medium appropriate to a particular topography. The teams will have an hour in which to complete their arrangements, which will be sold/auctioned off afterwards. While things didn't go quite according to plan on this occasion, it was a lot of fun. A few minor problems arose which, no doubt, will be sorted out in plenty of time.

The following is a brief report from Chris who, together with Scott George, travelled to Richmond on the 21st March for a bonsai presentation to the Coal River Valley Garden Club.



There were around 50 people present and the interest was really good. I gave a detailed talk on bonsai basics and principles, while Scott wired up a Picea which, at the end of the presentation, I manipulated into a bonsai.

It was a lovely evening with lovely people, and I made sure our Society and the Convention were given good promotion.

(Photos courtesy of Chris Xepapas)

Bonsai Events & Diary Dates:

Next meeting: Tuesday, 19th April at Bellerive Community Arts Centre, commencing at 7.30pm and our topic will be on preparation of bonsai for the Convention. Look forward to catching up with everyone! Don't forget something for the display table.

Next workshop: Saturday, 23rd April 2016 at Bellerive Community Arts Centre from 1 – 4pm.
Reminder to bring trees being considered for the Convention display, together with the stands you intend using.

Even if you don't have a tree to bring, it's worth attending these afternoons, with experienced bonsai artists available for advice and assistance. 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! The March workshop at Island Bonsai saw 10 members attending – most of whom worked on trees for display at the Convention, some taking advantage of Will's nursery to add to their growing collection.

May Meeting: Tuesday, 19th at Bellerive Community Arts Centre, commencing at 7.30pm. The discussion will be: Fine tuning for 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. 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!

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

Other Diary Dates

Daffodil, Camellia & Floral Art Show – Town Hall on 26th & 27th August 2016
Rose, Iris & Floral Art Show – Town Hall – November (dates to be confirmed)



Open by appointment

Tel.: 0439 383 365

Email: cxepapas@gmail.com

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:

President: Ambrose Canning –	Tel. (H)6225-4002	Email: ambrose.canning@internode.on.net
Vice Pres.: Chris Xepapas –	Tel. 0439 383 365	Email: cxepapas@gmail.com
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Will Fletcher-	Tel. 6239-1473	Email: will@islandbonsai.com.au
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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

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!

Convention Exhibition Catalogue:

Will Fletcher is preparing the exhibition catalogue, and the following are guidelines for members to provide the required information about their trees. He would appreciate receiving it by the end of April – earlier if possible. (Note: Will’s contact information appears in the committee member list above.)

If you have had bonsai selected to be displayed at our upcoming exhibition at Wrest Point during the national convention, here are the details of what information we would like from you to put into the exhibition catalogue.

Viewers of the exhibition can collect a catalogue at the door, and find out information about each bonsai as they view them.

We would like (if possible): Common name, botanical name, age of tree, method of propagation, style of design (**optional**, e.g. formal upright), your personal name for your tree (**optional**, e.g. ‘Southern dragon’), then either a brief description of your tree, which could mention how you styled it, or another attribute of the tree, e.g. brilliant red autumn foliage, or where it came from e.g. China, or if it’s in a special pot etc. We also welcome Haiku* poetry or some form of lyrical prose if you wish (see examples below) which could enhance the viewing experience. Please keep your description to less than 40 words.

We may have to do some editing (e.g. spelling of botanical names etc.) and I will get back in touch if we need to clarify anything.

Examples of your tree information could be similar to these:

1. HUON PINE *Lagarostrobos franklinii*
Age 6 yrs. Tasmanian endemic. Grown from a cutting

This young tree, featuring curve of branch and cascading foliage, is planted in a Huon Pine bowl and displayed on two Huon Pine stands. In the wild, Huon Pine grows along rivers on Tasmania’s west coast.

2. HUON PINE *Lagarostrobos franklinii*
'Green Cascade'
Age 24 yrs. Tasmanian endemic. Grown from a cutting.

*Just hanging out
on the river bank
tannin waters flow*

3. SILVER BANKSIA *Banksia marginata* (small leaf/small flowered form)
Age 14 yrs. Tasmanian native. Cutting grown from a shrub on the east coast. Pot by Pat Kennedy.

*I flower
in the autumn
honey-eaters come*

4. SILVER BANKSIA *Banksia marginata*
Age 18 yrs. Tasmanian native. Grown from seed. This group planting has been together for 14 years.

The Silver Banksia occurs in Tasmania in a wide range of habitats, from coastal foreshore to mountain heights. They commonly flower in the autumn, attracting honey-eaters.

Please send me your tree's details by the end of this month (April), even earlier would be better.

Trees and their stands need to be delivered to the boardwalk gallery at Wrest Point on **Friday morning** 20th May, before 12 noon, so we have time to set up the display before opening for the delegates that evening.

Will Fletcher
Bonsai Society of Southern Tasmania



Open by appointment: Tel. 6239 1920

**Haiku is a traditional form of Japanese poetry, consisting of 3 lines, in which the first and last line have 5 syllables and the middle line has 7. The lines very rarely rhyme. A haiku in English is a very short poem in the English language, following to a greater or lesser extent the form and style of the Japanese Haiku. A typical haiku is a 3-line observation about a fleeting moment involving nature.*

(Information courtesy of Wikipedia.)