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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. 272 – May 2016**

It's amazing how quickly things can change! Of course, I'm referring to our weather which I'm sure we had all been enjoying – lovely sunny, mild days. Suddenly, the rain has come – and not before time. Now as I look into the garden, foliage is drooping with the weight of water – not because it's desperately seeking it! Our rainwater tanks are full, but our reservoirs, rivers and dams have a long way to go.

President Ambrose opened the April meeting at 7.35pm, with a welcome to 26 members and 3 visitors, including Ingrid Tebb, Andrew Bradbury & Danielle McCarthy, with apologies from Rob who is somewhere in the world.

It was confirmed we have a new gmail address for enquiries – it is [enquirieBSSt@gmail.com](mailto:enquirieBSSt@gmail.com)  
An information package is being put together which, it is hoped, will ensure new members feel welcomed by our Society. Input from older members is welcome.

Vice President Chris reported on a meeting he had with John Dados, new president of the Launceston Bonsai Workshop. John is keen to foster closer ties between our two organisations – something the committee considers worthwhile for the future of bonsai in Tasmania.

There was a reminder for members to ensure their contact information is up to date. When changing a telephone number or email address it's easy to overlook, so please let us know of any alterations.

### **29<sup>th</sup> AABC National Convention to be held at Wrest Point from 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2016:**

- An update was provided – registrations are higher than expected, with a reminder that the closing date is May 1<sup>st</sup>;
- Volunteer register was again available for members to add their names & ensure contact info is correct;
- It's a good time to email friends & family re bonsai exhibition (I've included a few flyers which might help), entry is \$5 per person, \$15 for families, \$2 for children;
- Lanyards will be available for all volunteers;
- Get your flu shots – we don't want anyone on the sick list!
- **And don't forget to tell as many people as possible about this truly special event**

### **Promoting the Exhibition:**

Most of you would have received Rob's email of the 5<sup>th</sup> May requesting you to share the event on Facebook if you have it. The address he gave is <https://www.facebook.com/events/193523074356120/>

Rob suggests it would be good to get the information into garden nurseries, cafes, shops, workplaces or any other public places.

### **Ed. Note:**

For those without electronic communication, I've included a few flyers for distribution to family and friends. If you need any more, I can bring some along to our meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> – it may be short notice, but who knows. If you have someone I could email them to, I can do that too.

When your committee put up its collective hand for selection as the host for this convention, I don't think any of us thought we'd be successful. At our October 2012 meeting, the committee discussed

the logistics of hosting an AABC convention in either 2016 or 2017. And here we are – at time of publication it's less than two weeks away! A very exciting time for members, and a milestone in the history of our Society. And your Committee has been working very hard to ensure the event is a success. For those of you attending your first convention, I do hope you enjoy the experience and take the opportunity of making friends with bonsai enthusiasts from that big island to our north, and other climes. Don't forget to check out the exhibition – it will be the biggest display of bonsai ever seen in our beautiful state – and the best! There are some excellent presenters from whom you have the opportunity to learn more about the art of bonsai – be receptive to different ideas.

I'd like to say, on behalf of the Committee, that we really appreciate your support. Out of our 34 members, we have around 28-29 who are volunteering in some way. That's about 85% of our membership. Thank you all very much!

#### **REMINDERS:**

- **Could everyone please ensure they have their latest name badge. If you've lost yours, please contact Evelyn, either by email or phone, so that a name badge can be created for you and brought to our May meeting. Also advise if you need a badge holder.**
- **A request for members to save, and bring in, as many plastic bags as they can – we will need them for buyers to pop their purchases into. They can be brought along to our next meeting, alternatively remember to bring them with you when you volunteer during the Convention!**
- **Hopefully everyone has remembered the Society's sales table during the convention, and have items to sell – plants, pots, etc. it doesn't have to be bonsai, but if you do have something you want to sell please bring it along. All sales items must be delivered on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> May to the Board Walk Gallery. Each item needs to be fully labelled, including seller's name & price, and please remember 20% commission will go to the Society on all sales.**
- **Lastly, those of you who will have trees on display during the exhibition, must have them (together with stands) delivered to the Board Walk Gallery by 12 noon. Setting up must be completed in plenty of time for the official opening.**

**Raffle:** Rose chose the chopsticks, Alex opted for the pruners, Taki took the pot and David won the *Luma apiculata*.

**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 was a small collection on display at our April meeting – perhaps everyone has "convention" on their mind!

**Presentation:** Ambrose and Chris took us through various points in preparing trees for the exhibition:

- Calcium deposits that form on trunks can be cleaned off with a soft toothbrush and clean water;
- Clear all dead or yellowing foliage from the tree;
- Ensure tree is free of insects – including ants;
- Remove anything hanging downwards – i.e. branchlets, foliage;
- Ambrose prefers a sharp, clean edge on pots – moss can discolour pots and needs to be cleaned off;
- White oil and water is good for cleaning pots;
- CLR product is available to clean calcium build-up on pots;
- If wiring is required – use very fine wire and wire amongst the foliage to conceal it; no wiring on trunks or branches;
- Use mosses around trees – try to place small clumps rather than lawn-like;
- Best to moss &/or gravel around tree a week before the convention; do not use white gravel, dark brown is better as it doesn't distract the eye from the tree;
- Attention to detail is very important;
- Broadleaf trees – could remove around 10% of larger foliage;
- Stands can be very simple, and those who don't have stands please let Chris or Will know in advance – need to network as a group;

It is important for members to be encouraged to bring trees to “show and tell” – these are helpful occasions during which advice can be sought and opinions received from experienced members. Remember – the tree belongs to you – therefore the final decision on which style to adopt rests with yourself.

We would also like more members to be involved in displaying their trees at other events – the Town Hall flower shows, and our own exhibitions. If you find it difficult to deliver/pick up your tree for flower shows, it’s quite possible someone can help out. And our own exhibitions at the Barn are a good place to learn about displaying trees, and picking up a few hints along the way. Owners’ names are not displayed at these events, something to keep in mind if you feel shy or unsure.

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

**Next meeting: Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> May** at Bellerive Community Arts Centre, commencing at 7.30pm Fine tuning for the Convention, and all about volunteering – how, where and what you will be doing. We will have some extra visitors – those non-members who have offered to help us out. Look forward to catching up with everyone! And don’t forget something for the display table.

**June Meeting:** Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> June at Bellerive Community Arts Centre, commencing at 7.30pm. With the convention behind us, we would like everyone to relax and have fun at our Bonsai Swap & Sale Meet. Here’s an opportunity to pick up a bargain or swap one of your own for something else. On this occasion, no commission will be taken, but if you wish to make a donation to the Society, obviously it will be appreciated.

**Next workshop: Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2016** at Bellerive Community Arts Centre from 1 – 4pm. **(Members please note** – due to the Convention, it was decided to cancel the 29<sup>th</sup> May workshop which appears on your Bonsai Calendar as a possible.)

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! April’s workshop was well attended with members putting finishing touches to trees for the exhibition display during the Convention.

Our July meeting’s topic is “Re-potting Fundamentals” – appropriate as we’ll be busy doing just that!

**Bonsai Society Exhibition 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> 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!

**Annual Garden & Bonsai Sale** – Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>



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

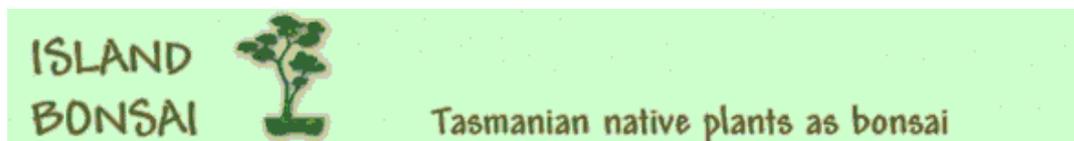
### Committee Members & Contact details:

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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. 6239 1920