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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. 274 - July 2016

Vice President Chris opened the June meeting at 7.30pm, with a welcome to 24 members, including new members, Raymond D and Danielle McC. Apologies for the evening from Tony B, Ambrose, Evelyn, Noel (somewhere in the Indian Ocean) and Rob (sojourning in sunny Italy), and Raymond's wife Sally D, Kevin B and Hannah Mac, all newly enrolled members. A warm welcome to our new members!!!!

The atmosphere was bubbly and excited as members seemed to be looking forward to our special event: "the sale and swap meet".

First, on behalf of the committee, Chris thanked all members for their help and support in making the 2016 AABC National Convention such a success. Well done all!

This was followed by couple of surprise presentations which Chris handed out to two members. Firstly to Cameron, a medal and letter of recognition from Aus Bonsai, who chose his dwarf Japanese Red Pine as their favourite bonsai tree at this year's AABC convention. Cameron was surprised and delighted to receive the award.

Then a special certificate to Herbert from persons unknown (Will and co-conspirators), in recognition of his four hour stroll around Lake Dove during the post-convention trip to Cradle Mountain. Herbert also received an "Official Letter of Warning" (purported to be from Parks and Wild Life Department) ordering him not to feed the Currawongs in the national park anymore, on pain of being made to walk the overland track if caught doing so! There was a lot of good natured banter exchanged between Herbert and members as a result.

Raffle: There were four items on offer. Jan chose the small black display table and Anita the set of gardening tools. Scott selected a bottle of fish fertiliser and Stephanie received a pair of 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".

Only a few trees were on display tonight:

Stephanie showed us her urban yamadori fuchsia with a wonderfully developed main trunk and a smaller secondary trunk reminiscent of "the mother and child style" of bonsai. The fuchsia was growing in a pale glazed oval pot which complemented the trunk nicely.

Cameron brought a bunjingi style Japanese Black pine in a plain, unglazed Marg Finn pot, it had a skillfully executed jin towards the top and a main branch that showed good movement as it bowed downwards

Dianna's Huon Pine in a weeping style, is a work in progress. She plans to bring it to a workshop as she is not happy with the two forking branches at its apex, and wishes to remove one and thin out the lower branches over time.

Chris had a nice Picea in a training pot. He is working on its root development at present

Alex brought the two Tasmanian myrtles (*Nothofagus Cunninghamii*) bonsai which she had worked on at the convention with Grant Bowie. One is a grouping of 5 trees in a plain oval pot, the other is a single tree growing in a rocky landscape. This tree was planted on a rock slab instead of a pot and has developed a nice cover of moss.

A quick break for a cuppa and then.....

there being no demonstration or talk at the meeting, members chatted amongst themselves until Chris called for order. Three Marg Finn handmade pots were auctioned, with the money going to the Society. Interested persons were quick to place their bids while others offered their encouragement to those bidding. When bidding ended, Scott was the pleased owner of two of the pots and Koula claimed the third.

After the auction, the "swap and sale" got into full swing. While there weren't a huge number of items present, there was still enough variety in what was available for most to find something of interest including books, display tables, pots, rocks, bags of manure or gravel and, of course, trees in various stages of development.

REMINDER - Just in time for re-potting our bonsai

Harmony Garden Centre is offering our Society 10 litre bags of Debco potting mix at \$6 per bag (same price as last year). Offer is open to Society members from 1st July to 31st August 2016. Orders can be given to Gill (6247 9719) or members can visit Harmony at 450 South Arm Rd. Lauderdale. Don't forget to let staff know you are a Bonsai Society member to get this special price.

Subscriptions Now Due

Subscriptions for 2016-17 remain unchanged at \$35 for a single and \$45 for a couple at the same address. Payment options for membership can be made as follows:

1. By electronic fund transfer (EFT) to the Society's Commonwealth Bank of Australia Account

Account name: *BSST Account*

BSB No.: *067000*

Account #: *28039262*

Reference: *Your surname*

2. Payment through a bank branch using the details above.

3. By cheque, made payable to "BSST Account" and sent to

Treasurer,

Bonsai Society of Southern Tasmania Inc.

3/54 Quayle Street

Sandy Bay, TAS 7005

4. By cheque or cash paid at a monthly meeting or workshop of the Society.

Please note: cash or cheque payments can be paid to Stuart Clutterbuck who is acting treasurer in Rob's absence.

Bonsai Events & Diary Dates:

Next meeting: Tuesday, 19th July at Bellerive Community Arts Centre, commencing at 7.30pm the topic is "Re-potting Fundamentals" - appropriate as we'll be busy doing just that!

Next workshop: Sunday, 23rd July 2016 at Bellerive Community Arts Centre from 1 - 4pm.

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!

August meeting on Tuesday, 16th - besides holding our AGM and election of the committee for next year, Ambrose will be our presenter.

Victorian Native Bonsai Club Sale Day - Saturday, 20th August. Email: secnativeclub@gmail.com

Daffodil, Camellia & Floral Art Show will be held on Aug. 26th & 27th at the Town Hall.

Bonsai Society Exhibition 15th & 16th October 2016 at The Barn - our Spring Show, and another good reason to attend workshops!

Annual Garden & Bonsai Sale - Saturday, November 19th 2016



Open by appointment

Tel.: 0439 383 365

Email: cxepapas@gmail.com

Library Collection:

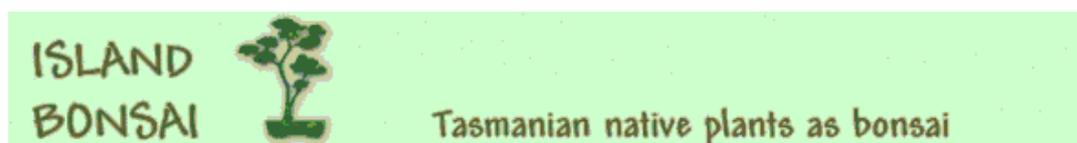
The Society's selection of books and journals is available for members to borrow for a month at a time, without charge. It's regarded as a further source of gaining information and improving our bonsai skills. New members in particular might find copies of "*Bonsai Today*" especially helpful on re-potting, 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:

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Open by appointment: Tel. 6239 1920

Special Report

There have been various reports over time of bonsai being stolen. Some of our own members have lost trees to thieves, and on several occasions emails have arrived from interstate clubs or members asking for other bonsai enthusiasts and clubs to be on the lookout for stolen bonsai. Alas, it also occurs across the Tasman. We are all vulnerable but the problem is, what can we do to about it?

Of course, one can build reasonably secure areas to house their bonsai but, as our trees need sun, rain and outdoor nurturing, moving large numbers of trees can be prohibitive - especially if some are also large trees! And locks can be picked! It's also important to keep records and up-to-date photographs of trees - but I wonder how many of us do this in practice!

Another idea is to microchip our trees. Now I can hear you saying that micro-chipping won't mean they can be tracked down any easier than they are now. And in some ways that's true. Nor will it prevent the thief from selling them off cheaply to buy a fix! That's also true. What it will do, is provide the opportunity of identifying stolen bonsai if the thief does try to sell on to another bonsai enthusiast. I recognize it's not a foolproof system, but it might be worth considering for those trees we consider extra special. I looked into what is available, what costs are involved and how it would need to be set up and, I have to admit, that it could be an expensive exercise initially.

Microchips Australia has been involved in many diverse projects based on microchip implants in animals, birds and a range of industrial applications. Some of these projects do involve microchip implants in larger trees (e.g. in one local shire in Victoria, and in palm trees along the foreshore of a major capital city). Bonsai trees are considered perfect for this application as they are small, more individual, expensive, easier to steal and difficult to replicate. Over the years they have had a number of enquiries about it, and have offered possible solutions using microchip identification and provided products to trial, but no-one is yet to use the technology on a large scale.

For microchip identification in bonsai trees to be an effective deterrent of theft, it would be critical for all three of the following to be instituted:

1. A high quality and reliable microchip/transponder to be used as an implant in the trees;
2. Effective hand-held readers and an effective reader network to detect the microchips;
3. An impartial, reputable, secure and private bonsai tree microchip registry to hold the tree identification data.

Transponders/Microchips:

It is quite feasible to safely implant a standard Trovan Unique FDXA ID100 or Trovan ISO FDXB ID162 glass transponder into a tree after pre-drilling the hole and this has been done successfully in other larger tree applications. After sealing the implant site, it will later become difficult to find it in a bonsai tree once the tree bark has grown over the site. The Trovan Unique FDXA product is strongly recommended, because the ISO FDXB technology used in dogs and cats can, technically, be copied and that is the last thing you need in a legal case trying to prove ownership. As the name suggests, the Trovan Unique FDXA microchip is globally unique and, when **linked to a recognized database**, can be proof of ownership and authenticity and the number can be verified by scanning the tree with a reader. Implantable microchips are very small (11mm long and 2.2mm diam.) with typical read ranges from 5 to 25 cms depending on the reader used. There is also a small version, which is 8mm long and 1.4mm diam. that could be used in younger or smaller plants. Prices vary from about \$5 - \$9 per microchip.

Hand-held readers:

There are 5 readers available, however the two "entry-level", while being the cheapest, do not have computer connectivity - they are read-only instruments.

The LID573 has a USB computer connection for transferring stored data, with a read range of 45-50mm. Cost \$569 inc. GST.

The LID575 has a bigger antenna therefore a better read range of 70-80 mm and also has USB computer connectivity and data storage. Cost \$695 inc. GST.

The most expensive AREH5 is a lightweight high performance reader, capable of reading all commonly used chips. Cost \$1497.50 inc. GST

Software for the computer connection readers is free and allows you to download the tree identification/day/date and time data onto a laptop or other computer in Excel spreadsheet format.

The software of the LID573 & LID575 readers also allows you to use a **Custom Coding** function. You can assign custom codes for each transponder so that when the reader scans the transponder it will display a code that allows you to better identify the tree without going to a computer. **It does nothing to the code of the transponder** and that code will be displayed in the normal format if scanned by another reader. The custom coding is limited to a 30 alphanumeric code. So, instead of 000876D6G it could display a code like: AP612PMFBN2009ROJMWilson130914

1. *Acer Palmatum* (Japanese Maple)
2. No.612
3. Producer Mount Fuji Bonsai Nursery, planted 2009
4. Sold to Registered Owner - J M Wilson on 13th September 2014

You just change the codes with the PC attached to the reader and then go into the field and read each tree to verify its identity, origin, age, history, health status etc. depending on the custom code you use. Alternatively, you could use a code that fits best with your own system of identification and management to further make life easier.

So, the choice of reader basically comes down to:

- What types of chips do you need to read..... Trovan ID100 or ID103 FDXA only vs all types including ISO FDXB ID162 chips?
- Do you need to store a number of reads in the reader for downloading later or just want a read-only reader? If the former, then eliminate the LID560 and LID540 readers.
- Is read range below 60mm useless if using the standard-sized transponders, then eliminate the LID560 and LID573.
- Is Custom Coding useful to you? If so, then consider the LID573 or LID575 readers.
- Budget?

Registry

The critical thing is to link the tree identification data (description, +/- photo image, age, date of implant, microchip number etc.) with the owner details, and this information is listed on a secure and irrefutable database. If required, this database could be managed by Central Animal Records (CAR), on behalf of a State bonsai society or national body. Central Animal Records Aust. Pty Ltd is a national registry, licensed by Victoria and Queensland under their respective companion animal legislations and accepted by the Tasmanian, Western Australian, Australian Capital Territory, South Australian and Northern Territory governments, departments or municipalities. Central Animal Records also continues to successfully provide Registry Services for a number of other Government and non-Government Agencies including some very sensitive and important animal-based registries for a number of states in Australia. In each case, ownership of the data does not reside with CAR. CAR merely act as a service provider and are subject to very specific guidelines including external audit to ensure privacy, data integrity and appropriate and timely service delivery.

In the event that microchipping the trees becomes widely publicised throughout the "Bonsai community", would-be thieves will seriously re-consider their actions knowing that ownership can be proven. Other measures such as the scanning of trees to verify ownership as a standard procedure at all meetings and shows, and the publicising of a Stolen Tree microchip hotline list would also act as a theft deterrent. Just like in animals, the use of the microchip can, if needed, also help in verifying data such as tree age, point of origin, history etc.

Something for members to think about, as it does have possibilities.