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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. 277 - October 2016

Constrained by house moving issues, I'll tender my apologies for the brevity of our latest newsletter. The past week or so has been somewhat chaotic and more challenging than I had anticipated, before some semblance of order was restored but, with the necessity of additional storage space, converting to gas and accommodating an extra loo there's a way to go yet! Suffice to say, my bonsai are having to survive without the usual TLC, and I will be missing from the Society for a little while - hopefully I'll make the November meeting.

Through the generous efforts of Secretary Anita, September's meeting, was opened by President Ambrose opened at 7.30pm, with a welcome to 20 members and apologies from Jarryd Bailey, Lesley Gillie, Hannah MacFarlane, Heather Wiggers and yours truly. Two visitors, Andrew Bradbury and Tony Clifford also attended. Andrew, who hosted Society members at his nursery at Forcett, has now become a member, and Tony, who has been interested in bonsai for some time, attended the AABC convention in May and came along to see what we have to offer.

Special announcement

President Ambrose and Treasurer Rob wish to invite all current financial members to a special soirée. We intend to hold a "Thank You" dinner on Saturday 15th October to celebrate all the hard work done by members during the convention. This will be a free event for members, paid from our share of Convention proceeds. Partners of members are welcome to attend but will be expected to pay for their meal. Rob White will be sending out email and "snail mail" with the details to all members soon.

I also understand that Rob has provided members with relevant information for our Spring Exhibition, which I do hope will be a success.



**Bonsai Society of
Southern Tasmania**

SPRING EXHIBITION & SALE
Rosny Barn, Eastlands, Rosny
10.00 am to 4.00 pm, Sat 15 & Sun 16 October 2016

Raffle: There were 4 items on offer. Stuart chose the small Flowering Quince in a pot. Robin selected a small glazed Bonsai pot. Rose won the ball of twine with dispenser. David accepted the plant tags and pencil.

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".

Our flowering trees were putting on their best spring finery at the club meeting. Blossoms in shades of white, peach, pink, red and yellow were all there to be enjoyed. Many azaleas were on show but other spring flowering trees were also present

Herbert brought along 2 trees; an azalea with peach coloured single blossoms in a blue glazed pot and a little Japanese maple in a white pot.

Andrew Bradbury surprised us with a forest grouping of wild Cherry Plums. He needs advice on shaping of them and will bring these trees to one of our workshops for help with their development.

Gill brought an assortment of trees. Amongst them were 2 azaleas, one with white flowers and one with purple flowers. She also brought along a cut leaf maple with nicely developed nebari in a blue glazed pot, and the Crab-apple that she had worked on at Bjorn Bjorholm's workshop in 2015, which was in full bloom. Gill also had on display a tiny spiky violet bush and a group of Himalayan ground orchids. Many members commented on the beautiful blue purple colour of the orchids.

Rose also had brought along an azalea, one with white flowers. She was concerned about the yellow discoloration of its leaves. Discussion of possible causes led to the suggestion that she repot it as soon as flowering was finished, as the club members felt that this might help the tree recover.

Diana showed us her African Olive, it had a well-developed nebari. Diana commented that this olive had a much slower growth rate than most other olives and she was hoping to do more shaping and some wiring to its foliage over time.

Two native species a Derwent Wattle (*Acacia derwentiana*) and a female Native Pepper tree were Will's contribution to the evening's display. The delicate yellow flowers of the wattle provided an interesting contrast to the bold colours of the azaleas.

Another native on display was Tony's Huon pine. He has been developing this tree since 1980.

Ambrose showed us an Amelanchier (Juneberry) covered in tiny white flowers. Moss and lichen growing from its branches added to the elegant appearance of this bonsai

John brought along two Chinese Elms. The smaller one he told us was an offshoot of the larger one. He had put the offshoot into a pot, not expecting it to survive but it thrived and was well on its way to becoming a fine bonsai specimen.

There was a quick break for a cuppa after which Will Fletcher gave the first in what we hope will be recurring talks on the subject of "Bonsai Masters".

Will feels his style of bonsai has been influenced by one particular bonsai expert Kyuzo Murata of Japan. 1902-1991

Mr Kyuzo Murata was considered to be one of the leading exponents of the art of bonsai in the 20th century. He was appointed the official bonsai gardener to the Japanese Imperial Household, and was involved with several important bonsai associations throughout Japan. He owned a personal collection of fine trees and had a nursery at which he taught his skills to both local and international students. He published several books on the subject.

Will credits one book in particular the 'Four Seasons of Bonsai' as inspiring him to pursue his own style of bonsai using native Tasmanian and Australian trees

Bonsai Events & Diary Dates

Next meeting: October, Tuesday 18th

Next workshop: Sunday, 30th October 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! And opportunities to exchange ideas with other members.

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

November meeting on Tuesday 15th - Tree Critique

Annual Garden & Bonsai Sale - Saturday, November 19th 2016 with Treasurer Rob hosting it in the carpark. Hopefully everyone has plants (including bonsai) and other items for sale on this occasion.



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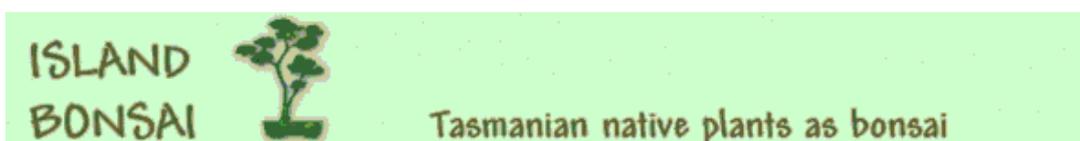
The Society's selection of books and journals is available for members to borrow for a month at a time, without charge. It's regarded as a further source of gaining information and improving our bonsai skills. New members in particular might find copies of "Bonsai Today" especially helpful on re-potting,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

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