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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. 278 - November 2016**

In spite of my lack of attendance, I've had occasion to notice our rather windy weather - which seems to wax and wane at will. I hope you haven't lost any trees or pots as a result. Chris's article on caring for trees which have been blown over was timely. It was particularly brought to my attention last Sunday (30<sup>th</sup> Oct) for, on returning home, we found my brand new storage shed lying face down on the concrete! It hadn't been "tied down" at that stage - needless to say, we decided, for safety, to leave it where it was. It has now been firmly secured, although I haven't had time to do anything within its four walls! And, despite not having rainwater tanks, I've decided to invest in a rain gauge - at least I'll know if my bonsai are receiving their minimum 5mms. Despite lack of attention, they are surviving, but I know I'll have a lot of catching up to do. With luck, the most pressing alterations will be completed by the end of this month - HURRAH!!!!

Again, with Secretary Anita's kind assistance, I'm producing our latest newsletter. And I'd like to add Congratulations to Anita and her family on the safe arrival of their youngest grandson.

President Ambrose opened the meeting at 7.40pm welcoming 26 members. Apologies were received from Evelyn Black, Noel Kemp, Heather Wiggers, Chris and Taki Xepapas. New members Jan and Trevor Dicker were given a warm welcome. Visitors, Izzy Vonlichtan and Arman Mirkazemi, whom we believe will be joining, were also made welcome.

On behalf of the committee, Ambrose thanked all members who helped with the Bonsai Exhibition at Rosny Barn. It was a great success. Treasurer Rob White informed the Society that income from the exhibition was down compared to our 2015 exhibition, however we covered our expenses and made a modest profit. Rob then led a lively discussion about how he scored 'the best in show' from the People's vote. He lamented the fact that no matter how he graded the votes he couldn't "tweak" them to make his tree the winner!

Of the 80 trees on display, 71 received a vote. According to Rob the two most popular were Ambrose's Wisteria (No.2) and Robin's Mountain Pine on a Rock (No. 1).

The dinner held on Saturday night was also a great social success, and several members have expressed an interest in a similar social outing in the New Year.

**Raffle:** Three items were on offer: a Black Japanese style Tool Roll which was won by David, a set of Gardening tools which Jan Fleming was pleased to accept, and a Bonsai Book, which one of our new members, Jan Dicker, was delighted to win.

**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".

A wide variety of trees were on display, from Will's tree fern to Rob's dwarf Pomegranate we had quite an eclectic mix.

As well as his tree fern, Will brought along a 25 year old Banksia. He had cut this banksia back severely last year, due to it being infected with sooty mould. He had not expected it to recover as well as it did. The tree was showing off some fine new growth and no sign of sooty mould could be seen.

Rob's dwarf Pomegranate was also showing off a lovely display of tiny new leaves. When asked by one of the club members, Rob confirmed that his pomegranate would indeed set fruit. The fruit

however was not dwarfed; it was the same size as that of a normal tree.

We had 3 bonsai from Diana - the first a variegated Jade, which she keeps as an indoor bonsai; also a small Wisteria, 5 years old but strong enough to produce its first very small blossom, and finally a mystery plant which she had found growing amongst her cuttings. Diana had brought it along in the hope that someone could identify it. Alas, although we all admired its growth, no one knew what species it was.

Gill showed us her pink grafted Hawthorn which was just about to flower. It had masses of tiny buds waiting to burst open.

Cameron also had a trio of bonsai on display. They were an American Larch, and a small Japanese maple, both of which he had purchased from Chris at Heritage Nursery, and a Tasmanian wattle, *Acacia derwentia*, which had almost finished flowering. Although most of the blossom had turned from light yellow to a dusky bronze colour, their feathery shapes could still be seen amongst the fine foliage of the tree.

Tony had brought along the group of 7 European beech trees that he had used to create a landscape display at our recent exhibition. These formed part of the talk/demonstration that was planned for this meeting.

Anita showed her *Camellia transnokoensis* in a nursery pot which was also going to be styled during the evening talk/ demonstration.

### **Presentation:**

Two members of the Society, Tony and Anita, shared the floor at the meeting. Tony spoke on the subject of group landscaping and then both went to work styling and potting up a *Camellia* from nursery stock to create a bonsai in training.

Then.....“time for another cuppa!”

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

**Next meeting: November, Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> - our annual tree critique** - let's see some of the trees from last year's critique, alternatively something you've worked on during this year, or perhaps something you'd like to have critiqued for future styling. Being our last meeting for 2016, we will also be celebrating the Christmas /New Year Festive season so members are encouraged to bring along something appropriate for supper!

**Annual Garden & Bonsai Sale - Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> 2016** with Treasurer Rob hosting it in the carpark at 3/54 Quayle St Sandy Bay.

Sales items should be delivered to Rob **by Friday up to 6pm**. If you're planning to deliver on Saturday morning, it really needs to be **no later than 9am for display**.

*Rob can be contacted on 0402 340 744 or [rwgw100@gmail](mailto:rwgw100@gmail.com) if you plan to deliver at other times.*

Any unsold material needs to be collected, preferably straight after the sale.

Please ensure you label material for sale. And you will need to decide what price you want for any item, and what commission you are willing to offer to the Society. The club once again will be asking for a 20% (or more if you wish) donation from all sales. No doubt Rob will provide some last minute information at our meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>, however I'm assuming arrangements for pricing of sales items remains the same as last year.

Small cardboard boxes are useful for customers buying multiple items.

Let as many friends, neighbours, relatives know about the sale - the more publicity the better.

Assistance in setting up tables and displaying material would help - from 8.30 onwards. Once the doors are open, it's good to have people there to talk to customers - if you can help for an hour or two, it would be very much appreciated.

And, of course, you can also be a customer - perhaps you'll find a bargain bonsai, suitable pot, or some plants for that special spot in your garden!

**Workshop & pre-Christmas get together Saturday, 26th November 2016** at Bellerive Community Arts Centre from 1 - 4pm. As this is our last workshop for this year, perhaps a few Christmas nibbles would add to the spirit of the occasion. Cost is \$3 per workshop and don't forget a tree to work on.

Following is a brief report from VP Chris on his activities during his first few days in Japan. It arrived on 3rd October but I overlooked it when publishing our last newsletter (apologies Chris).



Hi Bonsai Members,  
Made it to Japan and my goodness is it hot and humid, and wet?!

I'm in a more rural location than my previous visit, and there are not as many services available nearby, but I'll manage.

Urushibata-san, who is teaching me, is an old fella' who can't walk properly, but is amazing at what he does with bonsai!

I feel humbled in his presence. And I believe my skill level has already exceeded my expectations.

I am allowed to work on really beautiful trees - 100 years plus, in age!  
Urushibata-san is tough but good and is really honing my wiring skills - especially with copper wire - which makes using aluminium wire child's play.

The work load is unbelievable as I am expected to work on up to 6 trees a day, and he doesn't like slackers!

There are also many lessons on design principles. One thing I noticed immediately is that we are always after a "quick" bonsai in Australia, whereas in reality a top class bonsai is developed in stages over many years, unless you are lucky enough to come across advanced material.

The pine bonsai pictured is a tree I fully wired.





*Open by appointment*

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#### **Library Collection:**

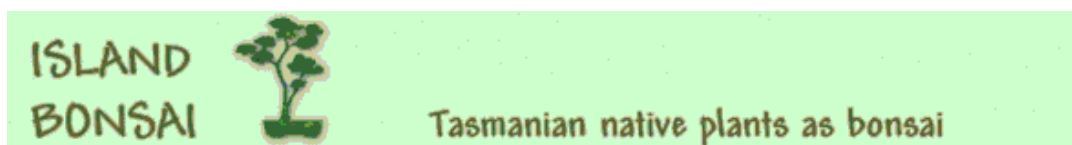
The Society's selection of books and journals is available for members to borrow for a month at a time, without charge. It's regarded as a further source of gaining information and improving our bonsai skills. New members in particular might find copies of "*Bonsai Today*" especially helpful on re-potting,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