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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. 279 - December & January 2017

Our weather's unpredictability has been making life a trifle difficult in caring for our bonsai - decent rain followed by intermittent days of gusty winds, sunshine, cloudy skies and fluctuating temperatures haven't helped with watering regimes, and fungal diseases are also appearing. Who said summer had arrived?

The words of the late John Lennon's song ask: "And so this is Christmas, and what have we done?" Well, fellow members, we have done a lot this year! March saw us participate with a display at the Japanese Association's Summer Festival, and a week later at the Hobart Town Hall, followed by another display at Hadley's Hotel for the Japanese Associations 40th anniversary. Of course, May was what we had all been working towards - and a very successful National Convention it was! In June we held our first "Swap & Sale" meeting, August saw us again at the Town Hall, our Bonsai Exhibition at the Barn occurred in October, another display at the Town Hall in early November and a fortnight later our Bonsai & Garden Sale in Sandy Bay. We have also moved to forge closer links with our bonsai friends further afield within the state, and plans are afoot for some combined activities.

To top off the year our membership has grown to 50! And I'd like to express a very warm welcome to the following new members, and hope you enjoy many happy "bonsai years" with us:-

Sarah Babcock, Colin Baldwin, Kevin Bennett, Thomas Blackwood, Andrew Bradbury, Joyce Corner, Jan & Trevor Dicker, Raymond & Sally Duay, Leah Galvin, Bindi Jacob, Hannah MacFarlane, Danielle McCarthy, Arman Mirkazemi, Hieu Nguyen, Dan Norton, Izzy Von Lichtan, and Indie Wadley who is definitely our youngest member!

Could you please advise a committee member if you do not have a name badge or club badge.

I think everyone would agree that, despite being such a busy year, it has been a very rewarding one in many ways.

President Ambrose opened the meeting at 7.35pm welcoming 30 members. There were 5 apologies.

Several items were mentioned including the possible use of Cambridge Hall for future workshops. With increased membership, our present facilities are becoming a little overcrowded. Committee members will inspect the Cambridge facility to ascertain its potential use in next year's programme.



The Bonsai Collective will hold a meeting in Launceston on March 25th - further information will be made available in the new year.

John Dados will also visit us in the new year for a presentation. A nursery crawl to Andrew Bradbury's Forcett Nursery is planned, and a proposed dig for natives is also in the pipeline. The popular "Swap & Sale" meet, is also included in this year's program.

Members can also request information, or make suggestions for topics to be presented during our bonsai year.

Will Fletcher has decided to part with his big banksia - most members would recall its presence at the entrance to past Exhibitions. So if you're interested in becoming its new owner, please contact Will Fletcher of Island Bonsai.

The Society has been approached by Hobart City Council to organise a display of bonsai for a Japanese Mini Summer Festival being arranged to celebrate their Sister City anniversary with Yaizu. **Members interested in displaying bonsai should contact either President Ambrose, Secretary Anita, or Committee Member Alex** (contact details on page 4 of this newsletter.) Details of the event as follows:

*Come and experience a Japanese Mini Summer Festival at Waterside Pavilion, Mawson's Place on the Waterfront, Hobart, on Saturday 4 February 2017
From 9am to 3pm*

Hobart and Yaizu celebrate a 40-year Sister City anniversary

The Hobart community and a delegation from Yaizu, Japan will present calligraphy, children's games, Bonsai, Martial Arts demonstration in samurai armour, Origami, Kimono and Yukata displays, Japanese Okinomiyaki pancakes and Mochitsuki (sticky rice making demonstrations and tastings), Ikebana, Taiko Drum performances, Japanese dance and more....

Raffle: Stephanie chose the pot, Tony Clifford opted for the book, Trevor Dicker won the biscuits and Cameron settled for a bottle of wine.

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".

Over the past two or so years, in lieu of a presentation, our November meeting has taken the form of a critique, providing an opportunity for members to display trees they have are developing or re-shaping. Members are also welcome to ask for a critique of their tree, or advice on training for future development.

The following information comes from David Budd in response to the conundrum over Diana's mystery plant which she brought along to the October meeting:

As a bit of back ground about this plant, I too have exactly the same one growing in a couple of pots for a few years, without knowing what it was. In fact on the Tuesday of the meeting I found another pot with a small one growing in it.

At the meeting I spoke to Diana and it was agreed that whoever was able to have it identified would contact the other.

With the help of a friend's daughter we were able to identify it as *Metrosideros excelsa*, commonly known as New Zealand Christmas Bush, of which there are several red varieties.

I have one growing in our backyard, and when I called Diana to let her know, she informed me that they also had one growing in their garden.

From memory, the one I have is *Metrosideros excelsa* "Rubra", and while, over the years it has flowered at Christmas time, for some reason it has been a bit slow over the past 3-4 years. When it does flower it is a very effective bee magnet - in fact the bush really does "buzz" once they get started.

With all the activity between that meeting and when you release the next newsletter I am pretty sure a lot of people will have forgotten about the "mystery plant" but there may be some who will be interested to know what it is.

I have attached a couple of photos of it and they are about the same as the sample we saw at the meeting.

(Ed. Note: thank you David for your contribution.)



New Zealand pohutukawa,^[2] New Zealand Christmas tree^[3] is a coastal [evergreen](#) tree in the [myrtle](#) family, [Myrtaceae](#), that produces a brilliant display of red (or occasionally orange, yellow^[4] or white^[5]) flowers made up of a mass of [stamens](#). The pōhutukawa is one of twelve [Metrosideros](#) species [endemic](#) to [New Zealand](#). Renowned for its vibrant colour and its ability to survive even perched on rocky, precarious cliffs, it has found an important place in New Zealand culture for its strength and beauty and is regarded as a chiefly tree (*rākau rangatira*) by Māori.^[6] The blossom of the tree is called *kahika*. (Wikipedia)

Rather slow growing and shrubby in early years, if the lower growth is removed the tree attains an attractive umbrella shape.

Bonsai Events & Diary Dates

Next meeting: Tuesday 21st February, 2017 Our first meeting for the new year at Bellerive Community Arts Centre, commencing at 7.30pm. Vice President Chris will be telling us about his recent sojourn in Japan - it's bound to be very interesting!

First Workshop for 2017 will be held on Saturday 25th of February from 1 - 4pm, at the Cambridge Hall. Don't forget a plate of something to share during afternoon tea. I do hope Herbert is still producing his delicious cream sponges!

Other Events:

Saturday, 4th February 2017 - Japanese Mini Summer Festival at Waterside Pavilion, Mawson's Place on the Waterfront, Hobart, from 9am-3pm.

Dahlia, Gladioli & Floral Art Show, Hobart Town Hall from Friday 24th February 2017 1.00pm until 6pm, and Saturday 25th from 10am until 4.30pm. Our Society is always invited to present a display at these shows, run by the Hobart Horticultural Society. Trees to be delivered on Thursday, 23rd Feb. between 4 - 6.30pm. Please ensure trees have been well watered, pots are clean, free of weeds, debris and insects. Trees can be picked up from 4.30pm on Saturday 25th. Please speak to a committee member if you require further information.



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

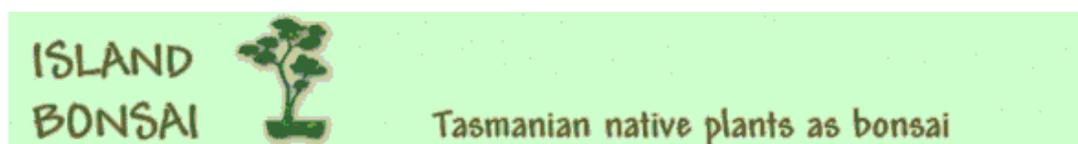
also include useful information, with bonsai enthusiasts such as Peter Adams looking at optional designs for particular trees.

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!).

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