



# NEWSLETTER 281

NEWS FROM THE BONSAI SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN TASMANIA

[www.bonsai-southern-tasmania.org.au](http://www.bonsai-southern-tasmania.org.au)

MARCH 2017

## FIRST WORKSHOP AT THE CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY HALL

## EVENTS THIS MONTH



*Working hard at the new venue - plenty of light & space. Photo: CW*

The first workshop has been held at the Cambridge Community Hall and I think all who attended would agree it was a great success. With the exception of those who happen to live very close to the BCAC the rest of us hardly noticed the extra distance; and the ease of parking, easy access to the building, (you can park by the door to unload then move your car to a shady spot), plenty of room to work and an adequate kitchen and facilities more than made up for it. We had our oldest and youngest member in attendance, along with a number of our new members and many of the usual stalwarts. Chris and Tony were both available to help members with advice on pruning, wiring and styling, until Chris had to change into his glad rags and head off to a big fat Greek wedding! If you weren't able to make it last month try to come along this month as we would like to get as many opinions as possible on whether to make this our permanent home for workshops.

**WORKSHOP: Natives -Sun 19 Mar 1pm - 4pm**  
**Island Bonsai Nursery, 37 Hall Street, Ridgeway, with Will Fletcher** **Cost: \$3**

Take your native plants to work on, or purchase some at the nursery. Will also has wire, pots and tools for sale.

Tea/Coffee provided - bring a snack to share.

**MEETING: Tuesday 21 March 7.30pm BCAC**  
Will Fletcher will talk about Natives as Bonsai.  
Tea/Coffee provided - bring supper to share.

**WORKSHOP: BSST Sun 26 March, 1pm - 4pm**  
**Cambridge Community Hall.** **Cost: \$3**

You can bring plants to work on, or just come and observe, chat, and enjoy afternoon tea.

**Wire** is available to purchase at workshops.

Tea/Coffee provided - bring a snack to share.

### WORKSHOP SUGGESTIONS:

**Conifers:** Pine needle plucking. Juniper, Cypress and Cedars can be wired and styled.

**Deciduous trees:** Last pinching for deciduous and ficus. Avoid heavy pruning. Wiring can start late March.

**Natives:** Last pinching for natives. Start wiring and styling.

## COMING UP - EARLY APRIL

**SUNDAY 2 APRIL** Will Fletcher's second of four workshops, 'Native flora as Bonsai' at his Island Bonsai Nursery, 37 Hall Street, Ridgeway.

We also have the first of our VTP national presenters **Joe Morgan-Payler** from Melbourne, pencil it in your diary for 22/23 April.



*Our oldest member Herbert working on his trees. Photo:AC*



*Our youngest member Indie enjoying afternoon tea. Photo: CW*

## REPORT FROM THE MEETING

The first meeting for 2017 was held at the Bellerive Community Art Centre with a full house. President Ambrose opened the meeting and outlined the events for the year, which seems to have become a very busy year, with the opportunity to now have two sponsored workshops through the Visiting Tutor Program (VTP). We have also been asked to participate in an Australian tour by international tutor Rui Feirreira from Portugal, which is being arranged for September by the Bonsai Federation of Australia (BFA). We also have the four native plant workshops that Will Fletcher is offering. The VTP demonstrators selected are Joe Morgan-Payler, Vic., and Andrew Ward SA. A good selection of trees were presented for the display table, and the raffle winners for the evening were David Budd, Tony Clifford, Hans Faltermeier and Jan Dicker.

The names of all the new members who attended the first meeting were entered into the draw for a chance to win the little Myrtle, styled and donated by Cam Wadley - and the winner was Trevor Dicker.

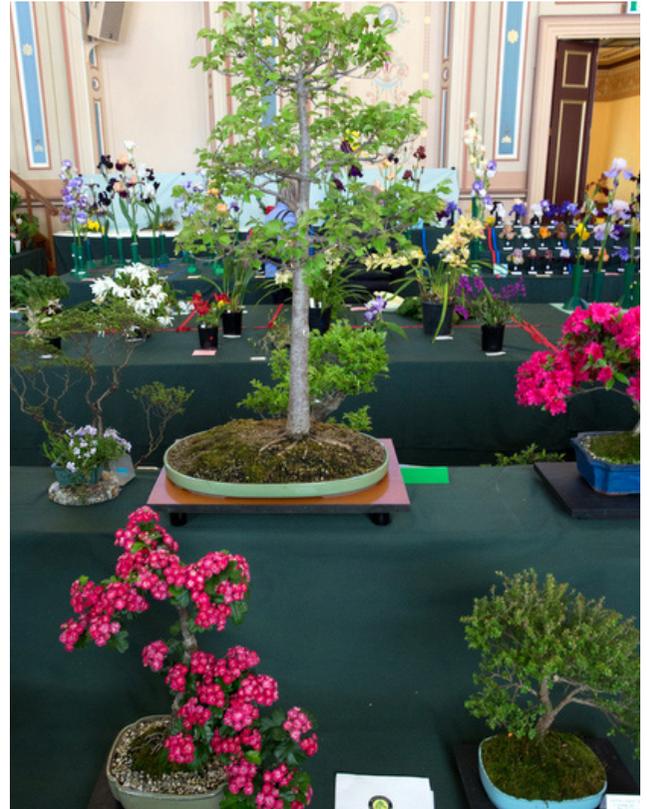
The evening was rounded off with an interesting talk and slide show by Chris Xepapas of his time in Japan with Mr Urushibata, where he worked on a number of large, old trees, some of which were being prepared for a prestigious bonsai sale, which is very important for the reputation of the Bonsai master.



Chris Xepapas and Urushibata-san his Oyakata next to a Japanese black pine Chris had styled.

## DAHLIA, GLADIOLI AND FLORAL ART SHOW

The Hobart Horticultural Society's **Dahlia, Gladioli & Floral Art Show** was held at the Hobart Town Hall **Friday 24 February, & Saturday 25 February**. Among the beautiful gladioli and dahlia blooms, some of which were exhibited by one of our members David Budd, the Bonsai Society of Southern Tasmania was represented by a small but interesting display of plants from Herbert, Gill and Alex.



Herbert's Hornbeam takes pride of place among Gill's azalea and flowering hawthorn at the Town Hall Exhibition. Photo: HHS website (I forgot to take one!)

## POLO TOPS AND T-SHIRTS

Would you like to order the Society's very smart short sleeved polo shirt or long sleeved rugby shirt with our embroidered logo?

**Polo shirt** – Short sleeve, cotton stretch, navy, Small - XXXL-(PS55) **\$22.50 4X/5X+\$5**

**Rugby shirt** – Long sleeve 100% cotton, navy, Small - XXXL -(Lakeport) **\$60.50**

**Embroider only** – Your own T-shirt - **\$8.00**

TAS. Workwear Group,

Shop: 26 Channel Hwy, Kingston

Factory outlet: 5 Howard Rd, Derwent Park,

**ph: 6229 2881 or 62271759.**

**\*VISITING TUTOR PROGRAM (VTP)**

This program was set up by the AABC to accredit the more experienced member practitioners as demonstrators and to arrange to tour them around the country. To encourage clubs and societies, large and small, to participate the AABC will now subsidise two Tutor Visits per club per year. Our very own Chris Xepapas has recently been accredited as a tutor, which unfortunately for us, means the more popular he becomes the less we will see of him! On the positive side we have been able to select two tutors Joe Morgan-Payler from Vic. and Andrew Ward from SA. Joe will make his visit next month which will take the place of our regular workshop on the 22 and 23 April.

**(VTP) JOE MORGAN-PAYLER**

Joe Morgan-Payler is a member of Bonsai Society of Victoria and Bonsai Northwest Inc. He has been an AABC demonstrator since 2010 and enjoys sharing his passion and knowledge with the wider Australian bonsai community. He is particularly adept at pines and conifers although he is happy working on other species. Joe specializes in styling bonsai stock and restyling existing bonsai. He is not afraid to use heavy bending when working with the trees.

Joe was 16 years old when he first became interested in Bonsai. Over time he has been influenced by other bonsai artists including Hirotoishi Satio (Japan) and fellow demonstrators he has met through the AABC visiting tutor programme.

During the past 10 years Joe has travelled to Japan many times. While there he studied with Mr Urushibata of Taisho-en, considerably improving his skill and reinforcing his passion for bonsai. While Joe has travelled to many parts of Australia as a demonstrator, this will be his first visit to us here at Bonsai Society of Southern Tasmania.

**JM-P SESSION TIMES - Sat 22 Sun, 23 April**

Sat 9.30am-12noon - Demonstration by Tutor

Sun 9.30am-12noon - Workshop

Sat&Sun afternoon 1.30pm-4pm - Workshops

**(VTP) ANDREW WARD**

Andrew Ward is a regular presenter at SA Bonsai Society meetings and is particularly adept at Saikei and Rock/Mallee Settings, although is able to work on other styles and areas of bonsai. Favourite plants are the various Ficus, Ash, Elms and Junipers.

Andrew has travelled widely, including China in 2006 where he was able to experience Penjing first hand. He has travelled to bonsai nurseries, exhibits and private collections in WA, SA, NSW, ACT, Vic and Qld. He has attended national conventions and been influenced by other bonsai artists including Hirotoishi Saito (Japan), Michael Persiano (USA), Janet Sabey and other demonstrators through the AABC visiting tutor program. He was a presenter at the 2013 National Convention in Canberra. He is proactive in his participation in bonsai events – not happy to be just the observer, ever-willing to ‘take the risk’ and learn more through being a participant. Some of you already know Andrew from his previous visit to us in April 2014. We look forward to his visit in July.



*Chris Xepapas in Japan with a trident maple he had been pruning and wiring.*

\*\* See attachment: **Bonsai Registration** you can print the form, fill it in and bring it to the meeting or workshop with your payment.

**SESSION FEES**

**Demonstration:** BSST members FREE;  
Non-members \$10

**Workshops:** BSST member participant \$10,  
Non member participant \$25

**Observer:** Per workshop session \$5

## GETTING THE MOST OUT OF WORKSHOPS

**With so many workshops coming up some advice about getting the best out of a workshop might be useful.**

Most people attend workshops because they want the tutor to help create a good bonsai or \*potential bonsai, but some people attend because they want the tutor to create the bonsai, right down to doing most of the wiring, pruning and shaping. **In the latter case you may go home with a nice bonsai, but what have you learned?**

Attend workshops with the attitude that you will go home with a tree that is your own creation, having been helped with styling options and any particular techniques that you may not have used before. Do all the work you are capable of and make all the decisions about the tree yourself, after consultation. You will learn more and be more able to enjoy doing bonsai at home.

Plan before the event. Select the most developed tree you can with plenty of growth on it, consistent with whatever style you think you want to achieve. Even better plan well ahead and develop a collection of 'workshop stock'. Buy or collect (on a dig) a number of trees that you like, leave them in nursery pots and just keep pruning the foliage and feeding them. Within six to twelve months you should have a nice selection of trees ready for a workshop. As you use a tree replace it with another and keep maintaining them for future workshops. The better developed the tree the better the end product, and the sooner you will have a displayable bonsai.

The better prepared you are in terms of knowledge about your tree, the style you would like and so forth, plus having all the necessary tools and equipment, the more time you can devote to the actual bonsai creation, and the less time you will waste on nonpractical work, and you will also maximise the one to one time you have with the tutor.

\*don't always expect to go home with a fully formed bonsai - sometimes it is better to start the process, wiring and shaping but then let the tree grow on a while, before potting up.

## TASMANIAN BONSAI COLLECTIVE

The Tasmanian Bonsai Collective is being developed to improve networking between the three main groups in the state. It will be an informal gathering of enthusiasts getting together once a year to take stock, and devise ways to promote and improve the quality of bonsai in Tasmania.

This year it will be a one day event, held in Launceston at Lynne Farrell's Bonsai Centre on **Saturday 17 June**. The program will include introductions, followed by short presentations on specific aspects of Bonsai, from four invited participants from each group. The afternoon session will be an intensive workshop on wiring led by Chris Xepapas, with the aim of training the selected participants to be able to teach the correct techniques to other members of their groups. (The format may change from year to year to keep it interesting). The content will be aimed at intermediate to advanced levels but anyone is welcome to attend.

Participants need to bring advanced raw stock or bonsai, along with their tools, wire etc. Costs to be advised.

## ADVANCED WORKSHOPS

In order to facilitate this Chris Xepapas will be conducting advanced bonsai workshops at Heritage Bonsai Tasmania Shofu-en. The first two will be held on **Saturday 13 May** and **Saturday 3 June** from **9 am to 3.30 pm** and will focus on correct wiring techniques.

Each workshop will be limited to 5 participants and is aimed at members who are relatively experienced. The idea is to select the two people who along with two from each of the other Bonsai groups in Tasmania will be invited to attend the intensive workshop on wiring as part of the Tasmanian Bonsai Collective meeting. Participants need to bring advanced raw stock or bonsai to wire along with their tools and wire etc.

The cost will be \$10 a head which will include lunch (toasties) and tea/coffee.

If you wish to come along as an observer the cost will be \$5 and you will be welcome to walk around and ask questions – it's all about education.

## GETTING STARTED WITH BONSAI

Although there are bonsai which are hundreds of years old, trees don't have to be old in years, the art of bonsai is in creating the illusion of age. This may be done by bending and twisting the trunk, peeling bark from the trunk, exposing the roots (nebari), creating scarring and dead wood (jin or shari). Conifers are particularly good for this as even young trees can give the impression of great age, where deciduous trees tend to look their age.

Look at trees in the wild and notice how they grow, and how weather conditions and terrain affect them. They lean towards water and away from wind.

Bonsai can be anything from a few centimetres tall to over one metre high:

- **mame** < 7cm
- **shohin** > 20cm
- **kifu** 20 - 40cm
- **chu** 40 - 60cm
- **dai** > 60cm

Most will fall into one of the five main classifications:

- **chokkan** – formal upright – straight trunk, planted perpendicular
- **moyogi** – informal upright – may have a curve in the trunk and a slight slant but the apex of the tree should still be over the base
- **shakan** – slanting – more severe slant and the apex will not be over the base
- **han-kengai** – semi-cascade – the trunk grows up out of the soil and then cascades to level with the top surface of the pot.
- **kengai** – cascade – the full cascade grows up then turns abruptly down over the front to past the bottom of a usually taller pot.

Formal and informal upright are the most common and easiest for beginners to work on because they require less manipulation of the trunk.

For more information - look out the Sunset Book in our library *BONSAI an Illustrated Guide to an Ancient Art*.

Not all trees are suitable for bonsai. Some are easier to train than others, due to their particular growth habits and natural vigour. When looking for your potential bonsai, know what characteristics you want. Look for a vigorous healthy tree with small compact foliage. Try to find one that is not too tall and gawky and one that has a thick, strong trunk at the base (dig down to see if some of the trunk is below the soil surface). Look carefully at the shape and arrangement of major branches. Try to imagine which might be the front and back. Let the tree suggest the basic form, upright, slanting, cascade. Ask yourself would any branches need to be removed? Can this be done without visible scars? Imagine how you want the finished tree to look, what will you need to do to achieve that – bend the trunk? wire the branches? create a new apex? Your study of trees in the wild will help with this. An oak or maple may suggest an upright or possibly slanting style. Some pines and conifers insist on upright styling while others can easily tend toward a cascade style.

Some hardy plants to consider using are:

**Cotoneaster** (*Cotoneaster conspicua* 'Decora', *C. dammeri*, *C. microphylla*)

**Ezo spruce** (*Picea jezoensis*)

**Flowering cherry** (*Prunus subhirtella*)

**Hinoki false cypress** (*Chamaecyparis obtusa*)

**Juniper** (*Juniperus scopulorum*, *J. virginiana*)  
(*J. chinensis sargentii*)

**Kurume azalea** (*Rhododendron Kurume hybrids*)

**Maples:** Jap. maple (*Acer palmatum*),  
Trident maple (*A. buergerianum*)

**Pines:** Jap. black pine (*Pinus thunbergii*),  
Mugho pine (*P. mugo mughus*)

**Pyrocantha or Firethorn** (*Pyrocantha species*)

**Sawleaf zelkova** (*Zelkova serrata*)

**Wisteria:** Jap. wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda*),  
Chn. wisteria (*W. sinensis*)

From a dig you may have sourced some native plants, including: **Myrtle, Sassafras, Celerytop Pine, Tea Tree, Pepperberry, Dogwood, Cheesewood, Ferns and mosses**. Some make better bonsai than others.

## MUSINGS FROM THE EDITOR

Following the somewhat rushed and a little sparse display at the Town Hall in February we will really need to do better in August, as the HHS has allocated us a bigger display table in the centre of the room. We will also have another space to run demonstrations and a raffle, and sell plants, so we need to treat this as a proper exhibition not just a bit of a display. We are now also looking forward to a very busy year with plans for visits from two national and one international tutor in April, July and September. Although we have our own excellent tutors to help us in the Society, it is always good to see another person's point of view, so I would recommend attending these workshops as an observer if not a participant. The Society is aiming to make them as affordable as possible for everyone.

I am pleased to report Chris's knee surgery was a success and he is recovering well.

Due to extremely bad timing, I will miss the next meeting, the workshop and both of Will's workshops, which I was planning to attend. I will be away at a workshop doing my other hobbies. However, as part of my trip I will be in Canberra for some of the time, so will take myself off to the bonsai section of the Arboretum - and I shall also try to remember to take my camera! -Ed.

## 2017 BONSAI EVENTS CALENDAR

Sun 19 Mar – Natives Workshop, Island Bonsai  
 Tue 21 Mar – BSST Meeting, BCAC  
 Sun 26 Mar – BSST Workshop, CCH  
 Sun 2 Apr – Natives Workshop, Island Bonsai  
 Tue 18 Apr – BSST Meeting, BCAC  
 Sat & Sun 22-23 Apr – VTP Joe M-Payler, CCH  
 Sat 13 May – Ad. Workshop, Heritage Bonsai  
 Tue 16 May – BSST Meeting, BCAC  
 Sat & Sun 20-21 May – 2017 AABC Conv Brisbane  
 Sun 21 May – BSST Workshop  
 Sat 3 Jun – Ad. Workshop, Heritage Bonsai  
 Sat 17 Jun – Tas Bonsai Collective, L'ton  
 Tue 20 Jun – BSST Meeting BCAC  
 Sat 24 Jun – BSST Workshop  
 Sat & Sun 15-16 Jul – VTP Andrew Ward, CCH  
 Tue 18 Jul – BSST Meeting, BCAC  
 Tue 15 Aug – BSST Meeting (AGM), BCAC  
 Sat 19 Aug – BSST Workshop  
 Fri & Sat 25-26 Aug – Exhibition, Town Hall  
 Sat & Sun 1-2 Sep – BFA Rui Feirreira, CCH  
 Sun 10 Sep – Natives Workshop, Island Bonsai  
 Tue 19 Sep – BSST Meeting, BCAC  
 Sun 1 Oct – Natives Workshop, Island Bonsai  
 Tue 17 Oct – Meeting, BCAC  
 Sat 21 Oct – BSST Workshop  
 Fri & Sat 3-4 Nov – Exhibition, Town Hall  
 Tue 21 Nov – BSST Meeting BCAC  
 Sat 25 Nov – BSST Garden Sale, Quayle St.  
 Sun 26 Nov – Xmas Workshop/Get Together

BCAC Bellerive Community Arts Centre  
 CCH Cambridge Community Hall

\*Events could change - advance notice will be given.



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ISLAND  
 BONSAI



Open by appointment  
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 Tasmanian native plants as bonsai

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