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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 247 February 2014

I do hope everyone has recovered from the Festive Season's celebrations and your bonsai were not forgotten in the process! Interestingly, we have been fortunate the weather has, for the most part, remained mild with some rain to keep our trees and shrubs happy. I happened to be in Adelaide mid-January managing to survive the plus 40° temperatures, but noticed some of the liquid ambers in the Adelaide Hills were already showing autumn colour.

This year, of course, Andrew Ward will pay us a visit in April. Our own workshops commence on Saturday, 22nd March continuing monthly, with the last being held on Saturday 20th September. Note all workshops this year will be held at Bellerive, as Will's premises are undergoing some major changes. And speaking of Island Bonsai, hopefully everyone enjoyed the barbecue on the 19th January – I'm sorry I missed it! (Photo courtesy of Cameron Wadley)



Our First Meeting for 2014: Tuesday 18th February commencing at 7.30pm. Chris Xepapas will provide an insight into creating bonsai using Pines &/or conifers, so it might be worth bringing yours for the display table, and perhaps some advice or comment.

Events:

Andrew Ward will be holding workshops on April 12th & 13th, followed by a demonstration at the Society's meeting on Tuesday, 15th April. Judging by the variety of trees in training that were displayed at our November meeting, some members already have their specimen to bring along. Members are reminded of the Committee's request for expressions of interest. An updated list will be available at our February meeting.

August 21st – 24th, 2014 Bonsai Convention International, Gold Coast, Qld. You can find all the details at the following websites:

www.goldcoast2014.bonsai-bci.com or www.aabcltd.org

Our Website: Rob continues to update its information with a great deal of verve – those of you with internet access would, I'm sure, be finding some interesting bonsai information!

Coping With Wind

Ambrose Canning.

Recent windy weather has been a real test for bonsai and their owners. Usually we expect some wind in Spring near the equinox but even today in early January as I write this it is too windy at times to do anything outside. The westerly wind is very gusty and these punchy gusts can blow bonsai over, blow bonsai off benches, blow bonsai out of pots and can smash valuable pots.

Wind also dries out bonsai and I water mine more frequently during very windy periods, twice a day.



Once a bonsai has good root development, after at least one growing season, then it will usually stay in its pot even with strong wind. But a bonsai that is recently repotted and root pruned is vulnerable to blowing out of its pot unless it is well protected from the wind or held in. That is one reason that bonsai get wired into pots, to hold them in position while their roots develop and prevent wind from blowing them out. Usually the wire is enough but for particularly top-heavy bonsai, or large bonsai in relatively small or shallow pots, I have at times had to temporarily add a couple of old bricks or half-bricks on top of the pot and soil surface to add stability while roots re-grow after repotting.

I have had a few ceramic pots broken over the years by bonsai being blown off benches and onto the ground or concrete underneath. During windy periods I try and regularly check my bonsai and look below and behind benches to rescue tumbled bonsai. If they need a new pot I find a larger plastic pot and repot the bonsai into that with no or minimal root disturbance. Sometimes I have been able to glue broken pots back together and reuse them, but others have been smashed into too many small pieces.



What I do now is tie unstable or wind-vulnerable bonsai down to the benches they are on. Others I move away from the edges of benches, and some I lift off benches or stands they are on and down temporarily onto the ground. I have a few benches made from treated pine and with tops made like a household timber deck, from strips of timber with about 5mm gaps in between. I can then simply pass some string down through the gaps, under the bench top, then back up and over a bonsai and pot and a simple knot to hold down. The photos demonstrate what I do and is has been successful for me during these extreme wind days.

Cultivating Healthy Habits

Health problems are far better prevented than cured. Good hygiene and regular inspections should be a regular part of your routine. When watering your trees each day, examine each of them in turn so that you will be able to spot even the slightest of changes almost as soon as they occur. The following check list will help you to develop healthy habits:

- Before you water, make sure the tree actually needs it. If the soil is damp, don't water. If it's bone dry, ensure it doesn't dry out again. If it rains for days, tilt the pots at an angle to encourage drainage.
- Check foliage and shoots for anything unusual: an odd colour, distorted leaves, wilting etc. Drying winds and/or hot sun cause species like maples and hornbeams to develop dry leaf margins; if this occurs, move them to a more sheltered spot.
- Strip disfigured leaves and try to discover the cause. Examine shoots and foliage for aphids. If you see any signs, treat immediately.
- Check the inner areas, especially of conifers, for dry or dead leaves. This may be natural wastage, but could also be caused by spider mites. Remove dead leaves. While you're at it, clear the inner areas of debris.
- If some foliage is sick, while the rest of the plant is in good health, find out why. There may be a tight wire or a branch might have been damaged, at a fork, or where it meets the trunk. Or, the roots directly below one or other of the branches may have died off.
- Check trees for the telltale white specks left by scale insects and scrape them off.
- While looking for signs of insect damage, check that wires are not digging into the bark. If any seem tight, cut them away.
- Clean the soil surface, removing fallen leaves or debris that might harbour spores or bugs. This is important in the autumn and winter.
- Are organic fertilizer cakes breaking down? If not, put some earth or a piece of fresh moss around each cake to introduce microbes. Don't worry about cakes that seem to be growing hairs or those full of worms: this is part of the natural process and will do no harm.
- Is your tree vigorous? If not, are you feeding adequately? Is the soil too wet, or dry? Don't automatically feed or water again, until you are sure what is causing problems, or you might make things worse.
- Do any shoots need pinching back? During summer, broadleaved trees grow almost all the time and it's essential to keep the pinching under control. Junipers, too, grow all the time and it is a good idea to pinch out the new tips daily, right through to mid-autumn.
- In winter, check all trees at least once a week to make sure the soil is moist and that there's no evidence of pests.
- Finally, stand back and take pleasure in the admiration of each of the trees in turn: this is what bonsai trees are for! Visualize the possible future development of each of them, and think about the most likely route you will take to achieve that objective, until the final, near-perfect image is firmly fixed in your mind

(From: "the Bonsai handbook" by David Prescott, New Holland Publishers)



We are organizing a colossal bonsai event called “**International Bonsai Art & Culture Biennale**” (Theme : “When Art and Culture Meet Through Bonsai”) in Yogyakarta, an old historical/ cultural city in Central Java of Indonesia, renowned as the centre of classical Javanese fine art and culture . This event is jointly organized by Forum Hobby Indonesia (**FHI**) and Indonesia Bonsai Art Club Association (**Aksisain**), supported by Keraton King Palace of Yogyakarta, Vredeburg Fortress Museum, Culture & Tourism of Yogyakarta, and Tour Guide Association of Yogyakarta.

This is the first bonsai exhibition ever done with new presentation concept to accommodate creative and innovative inspiration, to collaborate bonsai art with other art forms, because we believe art is a living thing and has no limit in conveying messages of the creator. We hope this will open a new perspective to the bonsai world, and bring more fun to bonsai art. Yet, of course you will also witness many “conventional” display but in better way.

The exhibition venue will be in an old historical Dutch fortress, the “**Vredeburg Fortress Museum**” and the “International Culture Night” will be hosted by our Yogya Sultan in the “**Keraton Palace**“. All are within walking distance to the city center, Beringharjo traditional market, Malioboro night market etc. After the opening ceremony, all guests will join the “andong” horse-carriage and “becak” city parade to enjoy the unique bonsai display along the city boulevard.

There will be “**King Trophy**” from **Sultan Hamengku Buwono X**, “**Ismail Saleh Trophy**”, “**Saburo Kato Trophy**”, “**Iwasaki Trophy**”, “**Amy Liang Trophy**”, “**WBFF Trophy**”, “**China Trophy**” from the **Chinese Penjing Artist Association**, “**Ryuga Dragon Trophy**”, “**The Best Bonsai Display Trophy**” etc. There will be also uncounted art & cultural activities during the event e.g. demo of batik drawing, silver jewellery, ceramic making, painting, sculpting, traditional music (gamelan) & dance, wayang (puppet) show; Gala Dinner with Ramayana Cabaret at Prambanan Temple, touring to such as Borobudur Temple, Taman Sari Water Palace, Kasongan traditional crafts center; we can also organize special tour to caving, hiking, diving or surfing adventures, to Bromo Mt, Bali Island, Tanah Toraja, Toba Lake, or other specific trips, etc.

We will also organize a picnic-trip where all guests will participate in the “Friendship Trees-Planting Picnic” as part of our green campaign activity; last but not least, all international delegates will be requested to participate to perform their unique culture in the “International Culture Night” with their traditional costumes.

It will be from **18 – 21 October 2014**, in concert with the celebration of 258th birthday of Yogyakarta City; so we will also celebrate together the “258 Lanterns Night for Yogyakarta”. We are expecting hundreds of guests from around the world, including world famous bonsai masters. Among our friends who will be coming are Mrs. Naemi Iwasaki, Mr. Hatsuji Kato, Solita Rosade, Mauro Stemberger, Pedro Morales, Bill Valavanis, Prof. Amy Liang, Wu Cheng Fa, Huang Jiu Wei etc.

Please jot down and reserve your schedule, bring your family and experience the great fun.

Other details and information will be added and updated...

Warm regards,

Robert Steven
General Secretary

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incorporated

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Dear Club Secretary,

Canberra Bonsai Society is hosting the tenth national exhibition of Australian Plants as Bonsai and the third symposium on developing Australian plants as bonsai. This combined event will be held in Canberra on 15-16 March 2014. The theme for the event is 'Naturally Inspired'.

Included with this letter are:

- The symposium program
- Background information providing more detail about the symposium and program
- Symposium registration form
- Tree registration form (for trees and photographs).

Could you please assist by promoting this event to your members, either to attend the symposium or submit a tree or photos for the display?

We have incorporated successful elements of previous events and added some new segments and ideas which we think will provide greater learning opportunities for attendants. Steve Hantos, who hosts the AusBonsai website, has agreed that we can use Ausbonsai to follow progress on the development of trees from the *Podocarpus lawrencei* workshop in the following year or so. This will ensure information about this interesting Australian conifer can be shared with the whole bonsai community.

We hope to see as many interstate visitors as possible.

Regards,

Ruth McLucas
President.

