



President: Noel Kemp
☎ (03) 6243 6296

Secretary
PO Box 235
Lindisfarne
TAS 7015

Website: www.key.org.au/bonsai

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)

Newsletter 193 March 2009

March Meeting: Tuesday 17 March Pre-bonsai or trees in training are formally known as potensai. Will Fletcher will be our presenter looking at the selection of young and developed plants suitable for cultivation and final presentation as bonsai. Potting on potensai to enhance the development of taper and nebari will be part of Will's presentation.

Display Table: Please bring along your bonsai and potensai.

Launceston Day Trip: Saturday 21 March. The main purpose of this outing is to visit the Tasmanian Bonsai Centre, "Etosha" on New Ecclestone Road, Riverside where the owner Lynne Farrell will demonstrate the construction of a setting on a slab of cork. Tea, Coffee, Bikkies provided BYO lunch and other refreshments. Since our last newsletter we have learnt that Garden View (wholesale) Nurseries have closed. There are various nurseries in the Launceston area as well as the big Bunnings centre at Connector Park, Kings Meadows to visit – we will decide on the day time permitting.

Travel will be by carpool with us setting off from the car park outside the main gates to the TCA grounds at 8 am. Stopping at Campbell Town for a leg stretch. Stopping again in the car park behind the shops off Ecclestone Road at the corner of the West Tamar Highway before continuing on to "Etosha". Maps will be provided at our March meeting and on the day.

2009 Calendar

Meetings: Tuesdays - 17 March, 21 April, 19 May, 16 June, 21 July, 18 August, 15 September, 20 October, 17 November

Christmas Party: Tuesday - 1 December

Workshops: Sunday 26/4, Saturday 23/5, Saturday 25/7, Sunday 23/8

Confirmed & Suggested - Outings: Saturday 21/3, Sunday 21/6, Saturday 19/9

Suggested possible outings for 21/6 and 19/9:

- Garden Nursery cruel.
- Viewing mature trees as inspiration for Bonsai. For example - Natives on Mt Wellington, Lake Dobson/Mt Field. European trees at our Hobart Botanical Gardens.
- Digs – Conifers at Seven Mile Beach, Natives back of Geeveston.

We need a volunteer or two to lead/co-ordinate these outings. There is not much organising involved so don't hesitate in getting involved. Please speak to the secretary or one of the executive committee to offer your assistance.

Acting Secretary:

- Helene Browne 6 months leave of absence from April 2009 – Evelyn Black has agreed to take on the role secretary – thank you Evelyn.

Hobart Horticultural Society Inc Shows

13 & 14 March - Dahlia, Gladiolus & Floral Art Show (Hobart Town Hall) *The drop off details are Thursday 12 usual time around 7:00/7:30pm and the collection date & time is Saturday 14 March at around 4:00/4:15 pm.*

1, 2 & 3 May – Chrysanthemum & Floral Art Show (Hobart Town Hall)

11, 12 & 13 September – Daffodil, Camellia & Floral Art Show (City Hall Hobart)

6 & 7 November – Rose, Iris & Floral Art Show (Hobart Town Hall)

Royal Hobart Show

22 to 24 October 2009

Bonsai Exhibitions & Conferences

11 to 13 April – Bendigo Bonsai Club Exhibition, St Paul's Parish Hall, Myers Street, Bendigo. Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 11am-5pm, Monday 10am-4pm.

22 to 25 May – "Shine on Bonsai" 22nd National Bonsai Convention, Royal on the Park, Brisbane see our notice board or www.aabcltd.org for details.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT NURSERY STOCK FOR BONSAI

It is important to remember that to own a fine quality bonsai one must start with good stock.

If you are going to cut down a nursery plant, then it must exhibit certain qualities initially.

Basically these are the qualities you should look for:

1. A good solid trunk with a low curve or curves (unless you are looking for a perfectly straight trunk for a formal upright style).
2. Evenly spaced roots all around the base of the trunk.
3. Many branches to choose from all over the tree.
4. Branches growing low on the tree.
5. Strong healthy growth all over. (If you find a plant that you like but it is unhealthy – pot it on for growth and improvement before potting up as bonsai.)

Remember, your Bonsai will probably be about 15-25cm high if it has a trunk base width of 25mm. This guideline of 1 to 6 is often broken, but usually the wider the base of a tree, the better the taper (width to height ratio). Also, there should be a branch towards the top, facing the front, that you will be able to wire upwards as the new apex.

Beginners: try to pick your nursery stock from this list

<u>DECIDUOUS</u>	<u>EVERGREEN</u>
Japanese maples	Junipers
Trident maples	Chamaecyparis
Liquidamber	Sasanqua camellias
Elms – Chinese/English/Corky	Azaleas
Zelkovas	Figs
Wisterias	Cedars
Pyracanthas (can be prickly)	Olives
Crabapples	Pines
Larch	
	<u>NATIVES</u>
	Tea tree
	Huon Pine
	Banksia
	Melaleuca

All the above trees are used commonly for Bonsai. There are many other varieties also suitable, but it is better for beginners to stay with the more well known varieties. For absolute beginners, probably the Chinese Elm or the Trident Maple will perform best in a wide variety of situations.

Thanks to the BFA Inc for the above which is taken from their autumn 1995 newsletter (with some slight modifications). *Submitted by Diana Jones & Will Fletcher*