



# NEWSLETTER 306

NEWS FROM THE BONSAI SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN TASMANIA

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

AUGUST 2019

## JULY WORKSHOP

Another good turn up at the July workshop - we are almost needing a few more tables. Lots of wiring and pruning and even some potting.



Herbert gets help repotting his Liquid amber.



Kevin wiring his Prunus and also working on an Escalonia



Tony helping Madelaine with her juniper squamata.



Rose was kept busy working on her Chamaecyparis



Suchita all the way from Wynyard works on her radiata.



Gaye is challenged by a large Berberis clump.



Ambrose thinning his Yew and Thomas working on his Juniper



Jan looks on as Chris helps Heather with her Juniper

## EVENTS THIS MONTH

**NATIVE BONSAI STUDY GROUP – Meeting and Workshop, 1.30pm – 5pm Sunday 4 August, Montane Bonsai Garden, 608 Collinsvale Rd, Collinsvale.** Creating miniature alpine landscapes will be the focus of the demonstration/workshop this month.

**NURSERY VISIT Saturday 17 August – Andrew Bradbury's Nursery at Forcett.** Meet at 10am by the shops on the left at Forcett for those who don't know the way. Andrew has a good selection of plants that have been grown with a bonsai future in mind.

**MEETING: Inc AGM Tuesday 20 August 7.30pm Bellerive Community Arts Centre.**

The meeting will be followed by our annual Dogwood and Oak critique. We have watched the growth of Ambrose's dogwood for a few years now and he has recently added the oak which was cut back radically at the JMP workshop two years ago. It makes for an interesting ongoing study. Tea and coffee will be provided, please bring a snack to share.

**WORKSHOP – Saturday 24 August, 1.30 - 4.30pm Cambridge Hall, Bring along your trees to work on and practice what you learned from Tony Bebb. Tea and coffee will be provided, please bring a snack to share.**

## COMING UP - SEPTEMBER

**Sunday 1 Sept – Native Bonsai Study Group – Ethical collecting/rootpruning w'shop, Ridgeway. 1.30pm – 5pm**

**Fri 6 & Sat 7 Sept – Bonsai exhibition at HHS Daffodil, Camellia & Floral Art Show - T/Hall**

**Tuesday 17 Sept Meeting Bellerive – preparing for Oct exhibition & Chris on repotting**

**Sunday 22 Sept Workshop at Cambridge Hall, 1.30pm – 4.30pm.**

## MEETING REPORT

**BSST Tuesday 16 July 2019** at Bellerive Community Art Centre. Chris welcomed visitor Brett. He reminded members that the AGM will be held on 20 August prior to the regular meeting. Anita had forms ready for those who wished to nominate for committee. The Launceston Bonsai Group will be holding a workshop with visiting tutor Andrew Sellman on the weekend of 12 and 13 October 2019. Andrews presentation 'Mame for Bonsai and landscapes'. Members of the Lton group always support our tutor visits so it will be nice to return the favour and help make the weekend worthwhile for all. (details pg 5). Chris was happy to report that we now have full control of our website and facebook which Thomas will now be able to update. The study group activity this month will be focus on miniature alpine landscapes so should be lots of fun. Also the nursery visit which is on Saturday 17 August not Sunday as I had previously written. Also a call to more members to put a bonsai in the displays we run at the annual Horticultural Society shows the first one for the season will be the Spring show Daffodil and Camellia 13/14 Sept.

**Raffle draw** David Budd chose the plantfood as did John McLaren, Steph Semmens chose the gogo juice and Andrew Bradbury got a book on Bonsai.

**Display table and critique of trees**

The display table was quality not quantity this month, being mid winter not everyone's trees are at their best. Some look a little bedraggled without their foliage, but not Andrews wild cherry plum group planting. It looked magnificent in its starkness showing the fine lines and structure to great effect. Dug up near penstock lagoon some fifteen years ago and planted up as a forest Andrew wanted advice on repotting.

Stephanie Abercromby had a Beech, also in its winter glory. Grown and styled from nursery stock about five years ago. Chris suggested that the

branches could be wired more horizontally with the higher ones even being a little more upright as is the custom now. Chris said that in Japan many trees of this sort would have branches grafted on to fill voids and place them exactly in the perfect position. But this is a lot more very tedious work than many of us are prepared to do. Herbert had brought along a delicate salmon coloured Azalea in full bloom. Although he was worried that it was having trouble recovering from a spraying to rectify a problem and the leaves were a little pale. Chris mentioned that Azalea are not apical in growth habit and the top should not be pruned too hard. Thomas brought a very healthy looking Juniper he was growing on in a semi cascade style. He bought at the swap and buy sale two years ago and has plans to pot up into a smaller pot soon. Tuesday 16th July was also the occasion of Herbert's 93rd birthday. 'Happy Birthday Herbert'.



## A TREE IS A TREE - A POT IS A POT WITH THOMAS AND JARRYD

Thomas and Jarryd gave a very informative slide show and practical demonstration on choosing the right pot for your bonsai.

A tree is a tree, a pot is a pot. It does not become a Bonsai until these two are combined and form a harmony together. But once planted into a Bonsai pot the tree growth will slow considerably, so don't be in a rush to put your tree in a bonsai pot. The tree's health comes first! Develop the roots in a training pot. Once you have a healthy tree and you are happy with the overall size and thickness of the trunk it is time to consider what type of pot might suit your tree.

It is important to select a bonsai pot to enhance not one that overshadows the beauty of your bonsai. There are a number of general rules to guide you in this important step. Thomas covered everything from the material from which the pot is made, pot gender, tree gender, size, style of tree, shape of pot, the role colour plays. But the first consideration is if your bonsai is predominantly masculine or feminine as this has great bearing on the style of pot to choose.

**Style of tree** Masculine - Thick trunk, branches, or foliage, stands tall and straight, or otherwise suggests power. Additionally, techniques utilizing using deadwood or visible wounds in the Bonsai are virtually always masculine.

Feminine - Graceful curves, sparse foliage, or relatively thin branches.

**Style of pot** Masculine pots are deep, angular, have clean lines and stout feet. A lip on the rim strengthens the masculinity.

Feminine pots often have soft lines, delicate feet and are relatively low and sleek. An inward rhyme reinforces the pot femininity.

Round pots and drum pots are generally considered to be androgynous.

**Shape** Pot shapes include: concave, convex, angular, round, oval, rectangular.

The shape of the bonsai pot must relate to the bonsai tree's style. A straight trunk style will look more balanced in a rectangular pot, while soft-lined or curved trunk style will look better in a round, oval or round-cornered pot. A rugged and powerful looking bonsai tree is best planted in a bonsai pot with hard angles.

**Size** The pot needs to fit your bonsai. The general rule is: The length of the pots is usually determined as 2/3 of the height of the tree, or if the main feature of the tree is the spread of the branches then the pot is chosen to be approximately 2/3 to 3/4 of this length. The depth of the pot should be the same as

the thickness of the base of the trunk, apart from cascade styles where a greater depth is required to balance the mass of foliage.

Round or square pots are 1/3 the height of the tree - unless foliage is unusually large, then the pot should be wider, this is compensated by lowering the depth of the pot.

However these are guidelines only!!!

For example a fast-growing species such as Trident maple will need additional depth to accommodate its fast-growing roots.

The closer the pot design matches the degree of masculinity or femininity of your tree the more harmonious your bonsai will be.

Remember that there is never only one fitting choice of pot for your tree. Choose what will make you happy to look at. As always, it depends on the individual tree and your individual taste. (cont page 4)

Jarryd brought along a Melaleuca in a clump style, he had collected in the Penstock Lagoon area which he estimated had probably around 80 years growth. He also selected four pots any of which would suit the tree.

Opt 1 - a large deepish narrow oblong turquoise blue antique style pot.

Opt 2 - a smaller shallower wider oblong Nameco glaze purplish black (sea cucumber)

Opt 3 - unglazed deeper oblong brown pot

Opt 4 - Pat Kennedy large oval blue woodash glaze

He talked about the pros and cons for each pot and then we voted for which pot we thought he would choose. Most people preferred options 3 or 4. Heather was the only person to pick the one Jarryd had chosen - option 2. (Option one and two can be seen on the photo below - the dark one is option 2).



## JULY MEETING DEMONSTRATION – MORE INFORMATION

### Pot Shape – basic guidelines

**Round** – literati, cascade, and semi-cascade style trees

**Square** - not commonly used for traditional styles.

**Deep squares** are used for cascade styles.

**Rectangle** – best for straight trunk trees.

**Oval, and rounded corners on rectangles** – suit curved trunk trees or deciduous with round crown.

**Crescent** - Best for cascade and semi-cascade.

**Wide shallow pots, flat trays and slabs** - are perfect for multiple trunks, rock plantings, rafts and forests.

### Pot Colour – basic guidelines

When choosing the glaze for a pot the color should reflect colour in your tree, either the bark, the leaves, fruit or flowers. Complementary colors can also provide balance and make for a refreshing composition.

### Colours for Common Trees – basic guidelines

Off White/Grey – Hawthorn, Oak, Acer, Ash

Light Green – Acer, Ash, Beech

Medium Brown – Elm, Birch, Mountain Ash, Acer

Dark Brown/Red Brown/Un glazed Red/Brown –

Pine, Juniper, Cotoneaster, Larch and other conifers,

Light Blue – Azalea, Malus and other flowering species

Matt Blue – Acer, Juniper, Pine, Azalea

Matt Blue/Green – Pine, Junipers, Acer, Azalea

Dark Green – Acer, Azalea, Chinese elm, Cotoneaster

Unique Pots and Slabs – forest plantings and landscapes.

### Japanese bonsai size classification

**shito or keshitsubu** – ‘finger-tip bonsai’ ‘tiny pea’ or ‘poppy seed-sized’ rarely exceeds 5 - 7.5cm or 1 to 3 inches in height can be carried on a fingertip.

**mame** – ‘baby bonsai’ or ‘little bean’ grows between 5 -15cm or 4 to 6 inches in height. It is considered the smallest among one-handed bonsai trees because it can be carried in the palm of the hand.

The above two size classifications are also known as **shohin** which literally means miniature bonsai.

**komono or kotate (or kotade) mochi** – This classification covers most small to medium bonsai. Growing between 15 - 30cm or 6 and 12 inches they can be carried in one hand.

**Chiu or Chu-mono**, – medium to large, growing 30 - 60cm or 12 to 24 inches in height, and can be carried by one person.

**Omono or Dai** – large to very large bonsai size classification, grows 60 - 120cm or 24 to 48 inches in height and takes two or more people to carry it.

**Hachi-Uye** – grows 40 to 60 inches tall. It is also called a six-hand bonsai because it takes as many as three people to move the bonsai tree in its pot.

**Imperial** – The largest of all size classifications, grows 60 to 80 inches tall. Also called an eight-handed bonsai, as it needs at least four people to move it.

## NATIVE BONSAI STUDY GROUP WORKSHOP

It was a lovely sunny Sunday as we ventured forth to Collinsvale. A very pretty hidden valley full of small farmlets just up behind the northern suburbs of Hobart. It is not really very far away, but somewhere you don't tend to go unless visiting someone who lives there. We arrived at number 608 to find some members already there. Jarryd said he has only been there for a couple of years and the house looked like it was undergoing some major renovations. Outside Jarryd's own trees are displayed on some high wooden benches and he has levelled and gravelled areas to display his stock trees in various species and sizes. He has already built a large polytunnel, his next job is the shade house. A lot of work done – a lot still to do.

After looking around the nursery and some members purchasing plants to work on, we repaired to the polytunnel where it was a little warmer than outside.



Jarryd had selected some specimens of native pines including a Creeping strawberry pine, Podocarpus (Mawson pine), Celery top pine, Huon pine, Mountain plum pine and Diselma. We spent some time discussing the various merits of growing each of them as a bonsai.

Jarryd said that when growing from cuttings they will follow the form (ie: weeping) of the plant they are taken from, where seed grown trees will be more true to form for the species. He suggested a heat mat from a pet store can be used to keep cuttings warm and give them a head start. He said all native plants can be fertilised regularly while growing on, but will need less once they are in a bonsai pot as they will grow more slowly. So again the advice is not to be in a rush to pot up your bonsai. Grow them on until they are more or less the size you want them to be, then pot them up and maintain them.



## LAUNCESTON VISITING TUTOR WEEKEND OCTOBER

AABC Visiting Tutor Andrew Sellman – Sat 12th & Sun 13th October at Lynne Farrells' Tasmanian Bonsai Centre, 70 New Ecclestone Rd, Riverside.

**'Mamè for Bonsai and Landscapes'**

Saturday morning Andrew will explore Mamè Bonsai growing on techniques to develop material for quality bonsai. The afternoon will be an open workshop on any style of tree.

**Cost for Saturday AM Demonstration & PM Workshop**

**Observer: Club Member \$45.00, Non-Member \$65.00**

**Participant: Club Member \$60.00, Non-Member \$85.00**

On Sunday morning Andrew will give a Powerpoint presentation on Japanese bonsai methods and horticulture followed by an interactive critique of members' established bonsai. In the afternoon there will be another workshop.

**Cost for Sunday AM Demonstration/Critique 9.30 – 12.30:**

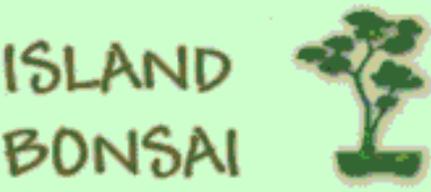
**LBW Club Member \$FREE, Non-Member \$10.00**

**PM Workshop 1.30 – 4.30: Observer: LBW Club Member \$5.00 Non-Member \$10.00 Participant: LBW Club Member \$15.00 Non-Member \$30.00**

Bring your own lunch both days, tea and coffee will be supplied. Saturday evening - dinner booking at Suwan Thai Restaurant in Newstead 6.30pm. Pay as you go food/drinks. If you wish to attend please let us know on the registration form. Return registration page together with payment to: [LauncestonBonsaiWorkshop@gmail.com](mailto:LauncestonBonsaiWorkshop@gmail.com) or post to 27 Talbot Rd, South Launceston, 7249.

Andrew has been involved in bonsai since 2006. He has made several trips to Japan to visit bonsai gardens and exhibitions and two separate 2½ week long study trips. The first at Kouka-en under Keichi Fujikawa and Bjorn Bjornholm. The second at Taisho-en under Noboichi Uruahibata. During these study visits most work days (from 8:00am until 7:00pm) were spent wiring and styling many different varieties of trees. He also learnt horticulture practices specific to bonsai varieties, the display of bonsai and day to day nursery work. He has a YouTube channel with video documentaries about these trips. A qualified horticulturalist, Andrew has worked in nurseries, landscape centres and soil batching facilities. In 2010 he started his own landscaping and maintenance business.

Awards include 5 Best In Show trees at the Queensland Bonsai Society, 6 Best in Show at the Sunshine Coast Bonsai Society, a BCI Medal of Excellence and an Award of Merit from Marc Noelanders for a tree at the 2017 AABC Convention. Two articles about his bonsai journey have been published in the Bonsai Focus. Having demonstrated many times in Queensland he recently was one of three Australians to demonstrate for the Black Scissors 3rd Anniversary online international demonstration.



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## 2019- BONSAI SOCIETY SOUTHERN TASMANIA CALENDAR -2020

Sunday 3 February	Native Bonsai Study Group – introduction to study group, bonsai display and workshop. 1pm – 5pm. 37 Hall St, Ridgeway
Tuesday 19 February	Meeting Bellerive – Chris and Jarryd - Copper wire vs aluminium wire
Saturday 23 February	Workshop. Cambridge Hall, 1pm – 4pm. (gold coin donation)
Sunday 3 March	Native Bonsai SG – Eucalypts as bonsai, 1pm – 5pm 37 Hall St, Ridgeway
Friday/Saturday 8/9 March	Hobart Hort Soc Show. Set up Thur 7th for Fri and Sat show
Tuesday 19 March	Meeting Bellerive – Tony Hewer discusses Elms as bonsai
Sunday 24 March	Workshop at Cambridge Hall 1.30pm – 4.30pm, (gold coin donation)
Sunday 7 April	Native Bonsai SG – repotting/root pruning workshop, Ridgeway, 1pm - 5pm
Tuesday 16 April	Meeting Bellerive – Sakei/Penjing landscapes. Two teams (Chris/Anita & (Tony the Mosser) Jarryd/Will) construct two displays
Saturday 20 April	Easter weekend, – no workshop
Sunday 5 May	Native Bonsai SG – day trip to Mt Field to see the fagus (all welcome!)
Tuesday 21 May	Meeting Bellerive – Presentation by members who attended the AABC conf.
Saturday/Sunday 25-26 May	Visiting tutor, Tony Bebb, Bonsai Society of Queensland
Sunday 2 June	Native Bonsai SG – Tas. Pencil pines as bonsai, Ridgeway, 1pm – 5pm
Tuesday 18 June	Meeting Bellerive - Swap & Sale Meeting
Saturday 22 June	Workshop at Cambridge Hall, 1.30pm – 4.30pm, (gold coin donation)
Sunday 7 July	Native Bonsai SG – Native conifer styling, esp. Diselma and Podocarpus at Jarryds, 608 Collinsvale Rd, Collinsvale. 1pm – 5pm
Tuesday 16 July	Meeting Bellerive – Matching pots to plants, Thomas and Jarryd
Sunday 21 July	Workshop at Cambridge Hall 1.30pm – 4.30pm, (gold coin donation)
Sunday 4 August	Native Bonsai SG – Making mini alpine landscapes, Collinsvale, 1-5pm
Saturday 17 August	Nursery visit – Andrew Bradbury's nursery, 7 Delmore Road, Forcett
Tuesday 20 August	Meeting Bellerive – AGM - Ambrose with Dogwood and Oak critique
Saturday 24 August	Workshop at Cambridge Hall, 1.30pm – 4.30pm, (gold coin donation)
Sunday 1 September	Native Bonsai SG – ethical collecting/rootpruning w'shop, Ridgeway. 1-5pm
Friday/Sat 6 / 7 September	Bonsai exhibition at HHS Daffodil, Camellia & Floral Art Show - Town Hall
Tuesday 17 September	Meeting Bellerive – preparing for Oct exhibition & Chris on repotting
Sunday 22 September	Workshop at Cambridge Hall, 1.30pm – 4.30pm, (gold coin donation)
Sunday 6 October	Native Bonsai SG – Native plants dig (details to be arranged)
Tuesday 15 October	Meeting Bellerive – Final preparations for exhibition at the barn
Sat/Sun 19/20 October	Club Exhibition at The Barn
Sunday 3 November	Native Bonsai SG – Flowering natives and workshop, Ridgeway, 1pm–5pm
Fri/Sat 8/9 November	Bonsai exhibition at HHS Rose, Iris & Floral Art Show – Town Hall
Tuesday 19 November	Meeting Bellerive – Exhibition review. Tree Critique: A native vs exotic
Sunday 24 November	Christmas BBQ at Jarryd's, 608 Collinsvale Rd, Collinsvale (to be confirmed)