

# NEWCASTLE BONSAI SOCIETY

## Newsletter

**FEBRUARY  
2007**



**The next meeting** will be on Saturday 10th February 2007 at the Warners Bay Guide Hall with a Committee Meeting commencing at 9-30 am and a Workshop later. Please bring something interesting for the display table.

**This Month** we have someone from Neutrog Fertilisers coming to tell us about their products and I hear that there will be free samples.

**Last Meeting** we welcomed a few new members into the club—Ryan Means, Luke Rossington and Kelsey Hart. If you don't know them, please introduce yourself to the new members and make them feel welcome.

**POSITIONS VACANT:** In six months we will need to replace the current executive. Max has done a great job as President but does not wish to continue. Erika has now been the Secretary for 4 years and has done an outstanding job but she also does not want to continue. Wayne has been an excellent Treasurer for 4 years and he wishes to retire so he can work on his bonsai at the monthly workshops. This is the 75th newsletter that I have produced and I think that perhaps it is somebody else's turn now.

**Please** think about taking on a job at the AGM in August! Do some research and find out what the job is about before you decide it is not for you or that you don't have the time. Those doing the jobs now don't have the time either. Speak to the people doing these jobs and find out what would be required of you. We need your skills and expertise, including the skills that you may not yet know that you have. It would be great to have some new blood on the Committee—some of the newer and younger members would be ideal. Now is the time to start thinking about it so that by August you will know what you are letting yourself in for and whether you can handle it or not.

### NEWCASTLE BONSAI SOCIETY

Newcastle Bonsai Society meets on the second Saturday of every month at the Warners Bay Guide Hall Cnr Burton Rd and Lamington Drive, Mt. Hutton. A bonsai workshop commences at 10.30 a.m. which usually includes a demonstration.

There will be a committee meeting commencing at 9.30am and all members are welcome to attend.

[www.newcastlebonsai.org.au](http://www.newcastlebonsai.org.au)

**P.O. Box 150 TORONTO N.S.W. 2283**

PRESIDENT: Max Smider 02 4975 2772      SECRETARY: Erika Smider 02 4975 2772

TREASURER: Wayne Hohol 02 4946 8751      EDITOR: Geoff Farris 02 4952 9376

**Bus Trip 17th March.** Our next bus trip will be on Saturday 17th March to Greenlight Nursery at Moorlands, a barbecue lunch at Harrington (bring your own food and drinks, or buy something at the local shop) and then, probably, a privet dig. We are not sure about the dig yet but Max is working on it and we expect that we will be digging privets somewhere. \$20 per person. Book with Erika.

### **AABC National Photographic Competition.**

Every year, the AABC hold a Bonsai Photographic Competition in conjunction with their National Bonsai Conference which this year is being held in Moonee Ponds in May. The competition is, of course, for the Bonsai not the photography but there are strict rules about photographing your Bonsai so that, I guess, all entrants may be judged equally. Entries close on 11th May 2007 and Erika has all details—entry forms, rules, etc.

**Our Library** has a great selection of books, magazines, video tapes and DVDs for members to browse and borrow. There are also newsletters from other Bonsai Clubs which often contain a wealth of useful bonsai tips. Please see our librarian, Bev, at the monthly workshops and she will help you find what you need.

**Bonsai Wire** is available for sale to members at all of our monthly workshops and you can also order tools at reasonable prices. See Geoff Farris for wire and Erika if you need to order tools.

**Club Shirts.** Polo style shirts are available to members at cost price. These are green with a club logo and name embroidered on the left hand side. Please see Erika if you would like to order a shirt. I think they are about \$25.



## **NEW SHIPMENT OF POTS AND TOOLS HAS ARRIVED FROM JAPAN**

**POTS—**Bunjin, cascade and many more

**TOOLS:** Full range for beginners to advanced  
Cut paste, calus mate, rust & sap remover

**DVD:** Bonsai Techniques by Megumi Bennett \$19.95  
(Ideal for beginners)

**NEW RELEASE:** Imported from Japan (limited supply)  
Mount Fuji Beech-

**WORKSHOPS:** Black and Red Pines—4 times a year

### **Bonsai Art p/1—Imperial Bonsai Nursery**

18 Myoora Rd Terrey Hills 2084

Tel: 02 94502802 Fax: 02 94501903

Email: [bonsai@acay.com.au](mailto:bonsai@acay.com.au)

Web: [megumibennettbonsai.com](http://megumibennettbonsai.com)

**OPEN 7 DAYS**

**9am to 5pm**

### **INTERVIEW WITH RAY NESCI**

- *What got you interested in bonsai and how long have you been working with them?*
- My first job was working in a pottery five days a week and the other two days I did gardens for other people. So, you see, I was a workaholic from the start. I then did gardening full-time for about eight years. I became interested in bonsai at the end of '68. I joined a bonsai club soon after that. I did a short course (nine weeks) on bonsai at Ryde School of Horticulture. It was only supposed to be a hobby for me. Then I started to sell some to friends and neighbours and then at Art and Craft shows. My backyard was getting very cluttered with all sorts of plants, so my wife said, "If you want to do this, we have to move out of here." So we went and bought five acres in Dural. I said to my wife, "See how we're going and if we can make a go of this, ok, but we can always go back to do my gardening jobs."

The first couple of years were not easy. I had three children under seven. People didn't know where we were, but after that, business was getting better and people got to know where we were and what we had to offer them and we've been in full-time business for twenty seven years. I've been very lucky that my son got interested in bonsai and we've been working together since he left school.

- *What was your first tree?*
- A Japanese Maple.
- *How successful was it? Do you still have it?*
- It wasn't a fantastic shape, but it has great sentimental value. I still have it. It's thirty six years old.
- *What different types of bonsai do you have?*
- Lots!
- *What is your favourite bonsai and why?*
- I couldn't pick one, but my favourite ones are deciduous trees because I see a change in the trees all year round.
- *What is the most difficult bonsai you've worked on so far?*
- Brachychiton, because each time you cut it, you only get one branch (if you're lucky).
- *Are there any styles more suitable for some trees and not others?*
- Yes.
- *Do you have an opinion on suitability of pots to styles and types of trees?*
- Yes. My preference is for oval pots.
- *What is your opinion on soil types or potting mixes.*
- If 1,000 people do bonsai, there will be 1,000 different mixes, but so long as it works for you, that's all that's important.
- *What fertilizers do you use and when do you use them?*
- I mainly use two fertilizers. One is Nutricote and the other is Charlie Carp.
- *Do you have any problems with diseases?*
- I rarely have a problem with diseases, but what I do have is easily controlled.
- *Do you have any other problems to deal with?*
- Yes. DROUGHT!
- *What is important to remember when dealing with a particular specimen?*
- Some trees are more flexible than others.

- *What, in your opinion, is a good tree for beginners to start with?*
- Figs, any figs.
  
- *What basic tools do you think are indispensable? What tools do you use most?*
- Four tools—Root Pruners, Trimming Scissors, Rake and Spatula, Branch Cutters.
  
- *Can you recommend any books or authors?*
- For beginners, “101 Essential Tips for Bonsai” by Harry Tomlinson.
  
- *Is there a place or nursery you go to, to get special trees?*
- We propagate 98% of the trees we sell here.
  
- *Do you have a story or incident you’d like to share with us?*
- I used to go to shopping centres promoting Bonsai. One day a lady came along with a dead bonsai to show me. She wanted to know why it died. I started asking questions and the first one was “Where do you keep it?”. She said to me, “Under the bed.” I said “Very funny, where do you keep it?” She responded., “Under the bed.” I asked “Why would you keep a bonsai under the bed?” “Because that’s the only place where my dog couldn’t get it!” True story!
  
- *What haven’t you yet done with bonsai that you would like to do?*
- I would like to have more time to do more experiments.
  
- *Any advice for beginners?*
- If you start bonsai, you’ll have to be patient because bonsai are for the long-term.

*Thanks, Ray, for the interview, especially the story.*



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**RAY NESCI  
 BONSAI NURSERY**

26 Sagars Road Dural NSW 2158

**\* New Carving Tool Attachments Just In\*  
 (As seen by past European Demonstrators)**

**From : Bonsai Design Holland, [www.samurai.nl](http://www.samurai.nl)**

**Samurai 6mm shaft - \$259** ( Very powerful & efficient in bulk clearing of wood)

**Samurai jr 6mm shaft - \$173** ( Ideal for detailed work in difficult places)

**Ninja 6mm shaft - \$199** (For work on medium and large size trees where precision & accuracy are needed)

**Shogun short 6mm shaft - \$168** ( Long length carving attachment of 62mm, enables insertation deep into the tree to create Saba miki)

**Shogun long 6mm shaft - \$188** (As per Shogun short)

(For pictures and additional information see above website)

For purchase enquiries phone number as above or email: [raynescibonsai@bigpond.com](mailto:raynescibonsai@bigpond.com)

## GROWING DEADWOOD

I suppose the heading doesn't make sense, but I have been working on a tree now for some years and have GROWN DEADWOOD.

We live in Australia, the lucky country, but we bonsai people aren't so lucky. The selection available to us of wild trees is limited compared to what can be dug up overseas. In particular I mean the old pines of America, Japan and Europe that have fantastic swirling deadwood areas on them. My lifelong goal is to one day visit the White mountains of Nevada in America and view these ancient natural bonsais in the wild.

Anyway that's enough dreaming for now, what I have been doing for a couple of years is growing deadwood on a couple of trees. One such tree is ready to work on and this short story may interest you in doing the same. When I dug up this Privet it had everything I wanted to create an old windswept tree. The criteria that I see essential for windswept style are,

Leaning trunk and branches  
 Old bark and exposed trunk or branch deadwood  
 Minimal pads or clouds of growth  
 Exposed nebari or base roots holding the tree against the wind

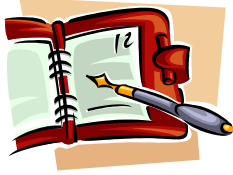
This material had all the above but I wanted heaps of long twisted dead branches and the only way to get them is grow new branches, wire them into wild shapes and let them grow. So I have and they have been thickening up for the last couple of years.

Windswept bonsai is a beautiful style but it can be very difficult to create the illusion needed. Look at any tree along the coast or side of a mountain that receives a lot of wind and you will see what you are up against in growing a windswept style bonsai tree. In growing heaps of new branches and then stripping off the bark, I have created an illusion of wind blown growth that couldn't handle the harshness of life in the wind and died some time ago. Remember that this privet already had leaning branches and lovely old bark so I was half way there, all I've done is add some extra interest to the tree.

It's easy and only takes a little time, look for the right material, that's the key and give it a go if you like windswept style bonsai.

Greg





## DIARY DATES

FEBRUARY 10 Newcastle Bonsai Society monthly meeting and workshop

MARCH 17 Bus trip to Taree area and privet dig. \$20.

MARCH 25 Open House and Bonsai Viewing at Bob & Wendy's

MAY 18—21 20th National AABC Convention at the Clocktower Centre, Moonee Ponds.

NOVEMBER 2—4 Newcastle Bonsai Society Annual Exhibition at Club Macquarie

## DISCLAIMER

*The opinions and information expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributing author and not necessarily those of the Newcastle Bonsai Society.*

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