

JUNE
2010

NEWCASTLE BONSAI SOCIETY

Newsletter



- **The Next Meeting and Workshop** will be on Saturday 12 June 2010 at the Warners Bay Guide Hall. Committee meeting is at 9.30am All members are welcome to attend the committee meeting but cannot vote.
- **NEWCASTLE BONSAI SOCIETY SHOW** will be held at a new Venue
5th 6th & 7th November
Charlestown Bowling Club: 5 Lincoln Street, Charlestown, NSW, 2290.
www.charlestownbc.com.au
- **Raffle** was won by Geoff, Rita and Geoff again (who said he never wins anything?)
- **Who took Vivien's Bougainvillea?** At the May meeting, Vivien bought a bougainvillea from Matt and somebody else took it home. Please check to see if you took home Vivien's bougainvillea by mistake and, if you did, please bring it in to the next meeting.

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

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23rd National Bonsai Convention

A Bonsai Celebration

Proudly Hosted by Illawarra Bonsai Society Inc

This year the convention was held at Bankstown Sports Club and, what a location it was. With everything in the same complex we did not have to leave at all.

The first demonstration of the day was **Grant Bowie**, who is the current curator of the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia in Canberra.



Grant had brought a few trees with him, above are two example of his work.

Grant talked about bonsai in the early day of visiting a nursery and looking through the material hidden out the back. To now , where we can get field grown bonsai stock at most Bonsai Nurseries. The latest way of getting bonsai is by buying them as “old trees” from early bonsai growers. The fig above has been defoliated 4 times this year with the last a week ago this tree will be kept behind glass window throughout winter as he lives in Canberra. Grant is pushing the limits with defoliating. His plan is to try 6 times next year. He talked about fertilizer which he uses, ozmorcote when repotting also uses Seasol, Maxicrop & Power Feed etc, the rest of the time. With regular fertilizing throughout the year. Grant has started using double sealer on all wounds first he uses the tube and when this has dried it is cover with the paste in the tub which has been given better result, worth a try.

Next was **Salvatore Liporace** from Italy I will give you a run down on Salvatore in next month’s newsletter. Salvatore talked about changes in the bonsai world from when Jon Naka talked about tree heights of 1 in 6 this is the trunk with, say is about 10cm diameter the tree height will be 60cm. With changes over the last 10 to 15 years the height now is 1 in 3 or 4 eg. Tree with a diameter of 10cm will now be 30cm to 40cm in height. Salvator had his helper Chris wire the tree he worked on but first the branches not needed were removed. The first tree was a mungo pine which was wired and restyled as the 3 photos on the next page shows the different stages.



The first picture was the start.
The second picture all unwanted branches were removed.

Third and final picture shows the tree cleared of foliage. Foliage only left on the ends, then wired. Once this was done Salvatore reshaped the tree as below. With all tips facing upwards



The next tree which Salvatore worked on was a large Juniper which needed reducing in height. Grafting to the live vein is the best way to go. Salvatore show pictures of trees that he has with over 30 grafts.

Picture below shows graft and the small picture show a before shot.

To finish of the day we had a demonstration by **Jamie Miller** a member from the Illawarra club who is relative new to Bonsai he started in 2004 Jamie also used a juniper. Picture below showing raw material and the finished tree. While Jamie was working on the tree **Janet Selby** a potter talked about making pots. This was followed by **Brian Wasson** showing how to make a stand for display: an all in one demonstration; tree, pot and Stand.



By David Wood



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**RAY NESCI
 BONSAI NURSERY**

26 Sagers Road Dural NSW 2158

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

From : Bonsai Design Holland, 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

The Origin of Bunjin, part II

Bunjin bonsai was defined as “bonsai made by the bunjin according to their tastes”. The bunjin were influenced by Chinese painters of the Sung school in Southern China, who preferred trees that were in accordance with the rules for painting described in *The Mustard Seed Garden Manual of Painting* (Chien Tzu Yuan Hua Chuan, first published in 1678) the text book for any painter who considered himself an innovator. This manual even used present day terms (it could be the origin of these terms for bonsai styles-kengai cascade) and Chokkan (formal upright) and describes in detail the techniques for painting trees, people and landscapes in the nanga style

Since interest in those days was focused on octopus style, rare trees and exotic varieties, the appearance of bunjin bonsai was truly an innovation. Varieties preferred by the bunjin class were Japanese pines, Japanese Maples, Pomergranates, Flowering Apricots and others that were suitable to that style. They were usually collected trees with no wiring and little pruning.

The bunjin class liked trees similar to those they saw in the mountains that had developed long slender trunks. Most were informal uprights, though cascades, slanting trees, ones with multiple trunks and others were also appreciated. What's important is that the trees were not selected at random— I believe they chose those that looked like what they saw in the Chinese Painting Manuals.

For the bunjin it was not enough to contemplate nature— they kept in mind images that originated in Chinese Culture. when gazing at these bonsai, they they wanted to be in a Chinese landscape an enjoy Chinese Culture at a time when visiting China was impossible due to the Japanese policy of isolation— the only way to enjoy these pleasures was through surrounding themselves with things Chinese, and through their imagination.

The bunjin adopted the classical image of a Pine growing on a precipice—the symbol of the bunjin soul endeavouring to live without compromising his ideals. Gradually these scholars and artists began to search for and shape these ideals into bonsai design.

Although the bunjin movement was concentrated in Kyoto and Osaka, at the beginning of the Meiji period, people in the Tokyo area began to show interest. This initiated the transition of the second period of bunjin history

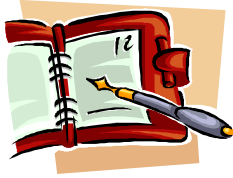
Continued Next Month

Next page shows some pictures from the 23rd AABC Convention taken by **Penny**



JOBS FOR JUNE

- About the only pruning to be done at this quiet time of the year is to remove any unwanted elongated growth that spoils the canopy shape. Deciduous trees can be re-potted, re-shaped, pruned and styled now.
- Assemble deciduous forests, group plantings or Saikei in large flat trays complete with moss, rocks and under-plantings. Doing groups like this is a good way of using up those not-so-special trees taking up room on your benches. You'll be amazed at just how good they look when formed into a group. Remember to use different sized trunks and different height trees to give some perspective to your composition.
- Keep your eyes open for new material at nurseries or neighbourhood gardens for unwanted plants.
- Conifers and pines are ideal for wiring at this time of year. Their sluggish sap flow means they can be bent more easily than at other times of the year.
- Winter is a good time to clean up. Your benches can be scrubbed down now to get rid of any build-up of grime and sediment. Scrubbing will help control unwanted bugs and disease as well as making the area look better.
- Clean out the old needles from the branches of pines so air and light can penetrate to stimulate new budding in spring and to keep the tree healthy and insect infestations away.
- If you live in an area of frost, you can start putting your trees under shadecloth or in bush houses or ferneries –even under a tree will help to protect them. Start collecting moss now as it's growing well. Try to find different textures to give the surface of your potted trees a more natural look.



DIARY DATES

- 11-12 June – Bonsai by The Harbour – contact secretary for programs and further details
- 3rd July – Macquarie Hills Potters present a one-day workshop with Janet Selby at Baulkham Hills. Secretary has more info.
- 7th September – Garden Clubs Of Australia AGM and 60th Anniversary luncheon at UTS, Broadway, Sydney
- 10th-12th September - Bonsai Society of Australia Annual Show at Baulkham Hills
- 17—19 September Illawarra's 11th Weekend Workshop at Tops Conference Centre
- 15-17 October – New Zealand Bonsai Convention, featuring Robert Steven, at Hamilton, NZ. Secretary has more info.
- 17-20 October – The Australian Rhododendron Society celebrate their Golden Jubilee in the Dandenong Ranges. www.vicrhodo.org.au
- 5, 6, 7 November—Newcastle Bonsai Society Annual Show, see details on page one

DISCLAIMER

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