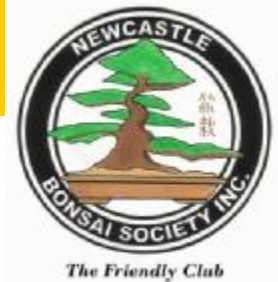


# NEWCASTLE BONSAI SOCIETY

## Newsletter

APRIL  
2011



- **The next meeting and workshop** will be on Saturday April 9th 2011 at the Warners Bay Guide Hall. Committee meeting is at 9.30am All members are welcome to attend the committee meeting but cannot vote.
- **Raffle winners** March meeting—Margaret (a visitor), Bob F and Trent (new member)
- **We have started talking about another Friendship Day** again any ideas welcome please let us know dates for consideration at a future meeting- so help us out.
- **.Show dates confirmed**  
4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> November At Charlestown Bowling club  
5 Lincoln Street, Charlestown, NSW, 2290.
- **At the May meeting** the former President David Kiernan will be demonstrating. The subject has not been confirmed yet so come along and find out
- **Display Table**-Trees for display have been a bit light on so far this year . Should we make one a theme table with the other a display of anything Bonsai. Let us know what you would like.
- **Proposed bus trip in August:** a bus trip has been proposed for Saturday 20th or 21st August 2011 to the Bonsai Society of Sydney show at Terry Hills and a visit to another nursery to be announced. If interested in the bus trip, please leave your name with Assistant Treasurer, Ann, so that we may assess the level of interest. Cost will be about \$20 BYO lunch

### 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 521 KOTARA N.S.W. 2289**

PRESIDENT: David Wood (49 664 312)

SECRETARY: Geoff Farris (49 529 376)

TREASURER:

EDITOR: Baden Willmott ( 0423 626 290)

## **Styling Inspired by Australian Native Trees**

On the weekend of 19th & 20th March 2011 a small but enthusiastic group of bonsaists gathered in Canberra for the first Symposium on Styling Inspired by Australian Native Trees.

The symposium was held in conjunction with the 8th National Exhibition Of Australian Native Plants As Bonsai at the Australian National Botanic Gardens. The National Botanic Gardens was, of course an ideal venue for the symposium as we were surrounded by hundreds of hectares of Australian native plants at all stages of growth and development.

Both the Symposium and the Exhibition were brilliantly organised and staffed by Canberra Bonsai Society. Their members worked tirelessly all weekend and were still bright and cheerful on Sunday afternoon. A great effort from the Canberra Bonsai Society members that was much appreciated by those who attended. The Symposium opened on Saturday morning with an introductory talk by Roger Hnatiuk about the styling of Australian species and whether we should apply the same rules that we have learnt from the Japanese. Many of you will know Roger as the convenor of the Australian Plants As Bonsai Study Group. Roger is a bit of an iconoclast and likes to throw around a few radical ideas to get people thinking and talking. He did give us some food for thought and set the tone of the Symposium. This type of thinking and discussion carried over into the next session which was a panel discussion on bonsai styling and philosophy in general and, in particular, how we apply our ideas to Australian species – an interesting discussion that several participants said should have gone longer.

Will Fletcher, a nurseryman from Tasmania, who actually suggested the idea of this symposium originally, then gave a really interesting and inspiring talk about Tasmanian Tea-Trees – the various types of *Leptospermum* that are endemic to Tasmania. Will actually travelled all over Tasmania to find specimens of all the varieties of *Leptospermum* and photograph them for this talk. I noted down eight different *Leptospermums* that he talked about. There may have been more – I was writing mostly in the dark.

After lunch at the Botanical Gardens cafe there was a choice of a guided walk in the gardens or a workshop on *Melaleuca*, *Callistemon* and *Leptospermum*. I chose the walk but had also registered to observe the workshop. The walk was in the oldest part of the gardens looking at *Leptospermums*, *Callistemons* and *Melaleucas* up to 40 or 50 years old and our guides were Roger and Ruth, President of Canberra Bonsai Society. The idea, of course, was to gain inspiration from nature and there were many magnificent specimens to provide that inspiration. Photographs below show a couple of examples. No single trunks and left, right, back here!! But the bark and the twisting branches were wonderful!



After the walk, I caught about half of the workshop and then spent the rest of the afternoon at the Exhibition which I had not seen until then. The exhibition comprised 32 excellent trees beautifully presented and a digital video display of some photographs of other trees. I took photographs of the trees I liked best and some of these are included below but they are not as good as the real thing. You really had to be there!

On Sunday morning there was a workshop on Banksias conducted by Grant Bowie, followed by a barbecue lunch and then a general discussion session to wrap up the Symposium. After that and a cup of coffee at the cafe, I spent a bit more time at the Exhibition where they drew the raffle at 3-30pm and guess who won the raffle!!

The Symposium will be held again next year and I recommend it to anyone with an interest in styling Australian plants as bonsai. Of course, in what I have written about it, I haven't mentioned the discussion and exchange of ideas that went on among the participants for the whole weekend and that is probably the greatest benefit. I found the whole weekend very educational and inspirational and I find I am looking at Australian plants with new eyes.

Some of the trees from the 8th National Exhibition Of Australian Native Plants As Bonsai



*Elaeocarpus Reticulata*  
(Blueberry Ash)

*Banksia "Birthday Candles"*



*Melaleuca Bracteata* (Revolution Gold)



*Leptospermum Laevigatum*  
(Coastal Tea Tree)



Bonsai Society of the Central Coast

# A Day with Grant Bowie

A Level One Tutor AABC and Curator of National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia

**Saturday 30th April 2011.**

Niagara Park Community Centre

Shop 21, Niagara Park Shopping Centre, Washington Ave, Niagara Park

Morning Session 9:00am - 12:00noon with 30 minute morning tea break

This will cover the important bonsai basics, including his research into potting mixes, and a slide presentation of the progression in styling and maturation of a series of trees.

Lunch More details ph Denise 0434940580

Afternoon Session 12:00 - 1:00

1:00pm - 4:00pm with 30 minute afternoon tea break

This will cover more advanced techniques including heavy bending and Banksia as a species for bonsai.

Cost: Full Day (includes morning & afternoon tea and lunch)..... \$35

Morning session (includes morning tea).....\$ 15

Afternoon session (includes afternoon tea).....\$15

NOTE: If paying on the day, cost' will be \$40 full day and \$20 morning or afternoon session



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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)



Callistemon Sieberi  
(River Bottlebrush)



Baeckia Linifolia (Weeping Baeckia)

Eucalyptus Nicholii  
(Narrow-Leafed Black Peppermint Gum)



Melaleuca Alternifolia  
(Narrow Leaf Tea Tree)

Thanks to Geoff F for  
his article and Photos



## JOBS FOR APRIL

- Have a good look at your tool kit. Clean, sharpen and oil your cutters, scissors, etc – especially to remove the sap from figs for example. You can also oil them with a thin smear of lanolin. Clean out the bottom of your tool box of soil and rubbish dropped there from re-potting etc. Think about what other items you can add to your kit – an old toothbrush for cleaning moss and algae from trunks and another old brush for cleaning potting mix from tools and cleaning pots; corks for spreading branches and roots; tree sealant; a roll of grafting tape in case of accidental breakages; mesh to cover drainage holes; rubber gloves for those sharp-needed junipers.
- Collect and keep short bits of wire to make staples for holding down moss and stray roots.
- It's a good idea to mark your tools eg a spot of paint or coloured tape so that, in a workshop situation, your tools won't be misplaced.
- Evergreens can be re-potted – the ones you ran out of time to do in spring. Some natives can be re-potted now too. You can keep up re-potting at least until mid-April. The cool nights and warm days encourage good root development before winter sets in.
- You can thin out the needles on your pines now if you aren't re-potting them. This allows the sun to reach the trunks and branches strengthening the tree and stopping the inner branches and needles from dying. This should be done with junipers, too.
- This is a good time to start looking at trees with autumn colour to choose which ones you like best.
- Trees which flower or fruit in spring can now be fed a fertilizer high in potash.
- This is a good time of year to have a look at your soes. If they are over-crowded, you can divide them and re-pot. Look for unusual bulbs and ground covers for your collection. Those of you going on the bus trip to Bilpin will find plenty to choose from. Soes finish off your display.

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## **MARILYN'S GARDEN OPEN 9-10 APRIL**

Marilyn Swan's garden will be open on 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> of April as part of the Open Garden Scheme from 10am to 4pm both days.

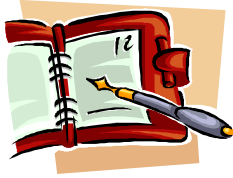
Marilyn's address is 5a Marshall St, New Lambton Heights

A second open garden may be accessed via Marilyn's.

Only \$8 for both gardens with proceeds to the Alport Foundation for kidney research.

Food and drinks available to purchase.

(Directions to Marilyn's: Turn off McCaffrey Drive into Elbrook Drive. Turn left into Atherton Close and park in Atherton Close. Walk along pedestrians only laneway at end of Atherton Close to Marilyn's garden)



## DIARY DATES

- April 3<sup>rd</sup>** Nepean Bonsai Society annual show at PCYC Hall, Penrith
- April 16-17** Annual Collectors' Plant Fair at Bilpin
- April 30<sup>th</sup>** "A Day with Grant Bowie" hosted by Bonsai Society of The Central Coast at Niagara Park Community Centre
- May 7<sup>th</sup>** Bonsai Study Group annual show at Pymble
- May 20-23** 24<sup>th</sup> AABC Convention, hosted by Bonsai Society of Western Australia in Perth
- August 20-21** Bonsai Society of Sydney annual show at Terrey Hills
- August 27-28** Illawarra Bonsai Society annual show at Gymea
- September 16-18** 12<sup>th</sup> annual workshop weekend at The Tops conference centre, Stanwell Tops, hosted by Illawarra Bonsai Society
- October 15-16** Canberra Bonsai Society annual show
- November 4-6** Newcastle Bonsai Society annual show at Charlestown Bowling Club
- November 18-21** 11<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Bonsai & Suiseki Convention & Exhibition, Takamatsu, Japan
- November 26<sup>th</sup>** Campbelltown Bonsai Society annual show

## DISCLAIMER

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