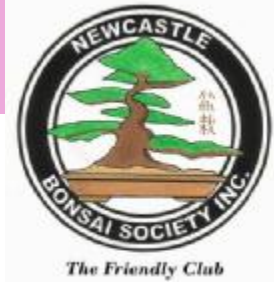


NEWCASTLE BONSAI SOCIETY

Newsletter

JANUARY
2011



- **The next meeting and workshop** will be on Saturday January 8th 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.
- **Reminder** that membership fees are now overdue. \$52 single, \$57 family. Members may pay by installments if that is easier for you. Please see Ann at the next meeting and make a full or part payment.
- **Reminder** to everyone that we recently increased the price of wire to \$6 per roll. Sizes available are 1mm to 5mm in 0.5mm steps.



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

P.O. Box 521 KOTARA N.S.W. 2289

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TREASURER:

EDITOR: Baden Willmott (0423 626 290)

Bonsai Travels Part 4.

After an enjoyable three weeks in Canada based in Ontario and Montreal in Quebec, it was time to head further east. We can only put up with glorified “American Chain Restaurant” fare masquerading as food for only so long. France here we come. The weather on the continent was even hotter than in Canada and was showing no signs of cooling down. Our time in France would be a couple of days in Paris before heading south west to Nantes for a week before finally returning to Paris for a further few days.



My attempts at finding any Bonsai in Nantes proved fruitless which meant that I'd have a bit of walking around the “Isle de Paris” (Central Paris and immediate surrounds) to check out the two outlets I'd

“Googled”. Once again, the plan was to set off on foot before it got too hot. After an hour of stepping it out I came across the very charming and extremely professional premises of Paris Bonsai. The quality of trees for sale was quite good and the staff spoke some English, well not much actually. They were extremely friendly once they found out that I was visiting from Australia and communication really was not a problem. In the brief time that I was in the shop, they had a couple of paying customers so business on a Saturday morning was quite good. The prices of some of the stock for sale, in particular the small Pine 89€ and Pistachio 59€ as pictured, seemed to be more than acceptable to the locals. After bidding them adieu, it was off in another direction for another half hour of walking. I was interested in finding this next outlet. It is owned by Isabelle & Remy Samson who wrote a book on Bonsai that resides in my personal





collection. I was quite taken aback as I approached the address and could not see any visible signs of Bonsai activity that were so evident in the previous premises. Upon entering, I discovered that this was indeed the shop I was seeking. A customer's tree was being worked on at the front counter

and a limited array of Bonsai equipment was on sale in the slightly cramped sales area. A larger area at the rear appeared to be to nursery of sale trees. I can only assume that the person working on the tree was the owner and he was too busy to see if I was a customer or not. The two shops displayed totally different attitudes, both in customer service and presentation of goods for sale.

Only two nights before, we had experienced a Bonsai surprise when searching the Latin Quarter behind the Sorbonne for a restaurant to have yet another well priced and extremely



acceptable meal washed down with a fairly cheap but very nice chilled local Rosé. There in the side window of the restaurant were two good size Bonsai sitting in water trays. We just had to dine there. Once again, the food and wine was outstanding. Our limited school French revealed that the trees belonged to the "Maitre de" and that he shaped the trees by clipping instead of wiring. What species they were, I'll never know.

After an extremely enjoyable two weeks "en France", it was time to head off to Milano in Italia. More next time.

ボブ ニエス
Bob NIEASS

The Challenge part 3

After setting my layer this tree did not skip a beat. It shoot from everywhere, including across the now bridge of live wood left between the 2 carved sections, excellent, life flows on after my butcher with an Arbortech. It continued to push new growth until the end of July. The few leaves that had survived the trip from Sydney in a ute turned & fell in a matter of days and the tree fell silent, the new growth however did not turn but carried right thru until i finally had some spare time to get to work on it.

On the 10th of October the time had come to see what was going on in that bag i had wrapped six months before. All of the growth was cut right back to the first node & any remaining foliage removed. I held my breathe as I unwrapped the bag only to have the sphagnum fall straight off. NO ROOTS!!!! Ok i had half expected this but given the growth i had hoped high. It had calloused well in some places but in others it had started to repair the cut, completely in some places. A chisel was used to recut the groove a little deeper also removing the bridged areas. I also trimmed the bottom edge off all of the callous to stimulate it to go sideways rather than down. then the whole lot was rebagged.



While i was working on it i decided to give it some fresh soil, it has been in this box for more than a few years. Instead of doing a major repot this late in the season i simply slipped it from the foam box placed 10cm of dynamic lifter enriched standard bonsai mix then dropped her back in, then more dynamic lifter ontop, watered and placed it back in its usual position of full sun. The first leaves were breaking in a week and off she went as if i had done nothing.

Matt

JOBS FOR JANUARY

- Watering is most important at this time of the year, although in the last week or so, we've had a welcome change from the hot weather and from having to water our trees. Check your trees often. Some may need to be soaked in a bucket of water.
- Maintain fertilizing until mid-January and stop until mid-February as the hot weather will have brought on a dormancy in most of your trees. Don't fertilize on really hot days because, as the soil dries out, the fertilizer will become more concentrated and burn the delicate feeder roots. Remember, though, to water well and thoroughly both before and after fertilizing.

Again, don't trim crape myrtles, wisterias or bougainvilleas or you will be cutting off future flowers. Callistemons and Beckias can be given a good trim after flowering.



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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

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 insertion 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

30 years of Sister city relations - Newcastle and Ube



Recently a cultural group from Ube visited Newcastle to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Sister City agreement by the Newcastle and Ube City Councils. These visits are a joy to participate in even though there is precious little

heralding of the event by the local authorities.. It's a pity that the visit was only heralded in advance by a small piece in one of the two free of charge "Newspapers" with nothing whatsoever in the "voice of the lower Hunter, The Herald, until the visitors had actually arrived. I despair that locally the Sister City movement is seen more as commercial benefit than cultural as the original charter was laid down. Back in February 2009 when Geoff, Wendy and I were in Ube, we were told that there would be a visit around the end of October or the beginning of November 2010. To get details of the visit from the local International Office at the Council proved to be a mission. It took much harassing by Geoff to extract the actual times, dates and level of involvement of our Bonsai Society would have in the visit. *ONE* table was provided for our Bonsai Society, out on the entry court of the much fenced off Laman street Art Gallery, to mount a Bonsai display and if space



permitted, some demonstrations. Luckily smallish trees were brought in so that we could utilise the space provided.

Fujita san, whom Geoff, Wendy and I met in Ube last year was in the touring party. It was heart warming to see meet the Sensei of minis again

Thanks go to organisers for the excellent Interpreter provided for the day. She is a young Japanese student who is at the University of Newcastle undertaking English studies and certainly did an excellent job helping us communicate with our friend.

The Teiko drummers were spectacular. It was amazing to watch the energy they put into the three routines belted out at each of the scheduled performances. Brilliant! The ages of the drummers was quite varied and well represented by women, one of whom actually broke a drum stick during a sequence. The drums were transported to Newcastle by a coal ship and returned to Ube by the same method.



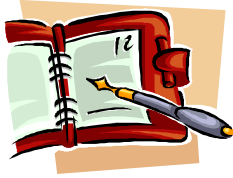
Other cultural displays were inside the Gallery and included Tea Ceremony and Origami. There were also traditional garments available for trying on by the children from the many school groups that visited throughout the day.

On the Tuesday, Fujita san was shown the collections of Michael and Peter and provided with lunch at Bob and Wendy's house. It was a gesture to show that as a club we respect the interaction with the Ube Bonsai Group and to thank the group for their ongoing friendship and in no small part for the fantastic calendars that they generously send us each year.

During this visit, Fujita san presented to the club a magnificent Suiban and the book from this year's Kokofu 10 Bonsai Exhibition. Truly generous indeed. Aregato Fujita san. Domo!

I would like to thank, in no particular order, Geoff, David, Baden, Peter and Pat, Maurie, Penny, Peter R, Michael and Anne K for their involvement and/or participation with the visit and commemoration festivities.

ボブ ニエス
Bob NIEASS



DIARY DATES

- 20-23 May 2011-AABC 24th Conference in Perth



DISCLAIMER

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