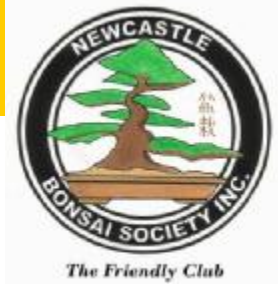


NEWCASTLE BONSAI SOCIETY

Newsletter

MARCH
2011



- **The next meeting and workshop** will be on Saturday March 12th 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** February meeting—Jennifer U Geoff F
- **Bus Trip- 26th March** if we get enough people for the trip This will be to the Central Coast Show with maybe a stop at a Nursery or Mt Penang Gardens. Garden entry is \$7-50 for adults, \$3-50 for children and \$5 for seniors. On top of bus fare
Cost has yet to be confirmed may be \$20 or \$25 cost of entry to show extra.
Next meeting is when we need names and Money if possible
This will be confirmed at the March Committee meeting..
- **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**
4th 5th & 6th November At Charlestown Bowling club
5 Lincoln Street, Charlestown, NSW, 2290.
- **A Demonstration By Peter C at the March Meeting** Should not be missed and will start around 11am. The Topic will be a surprise as Peter was only asked at the last meeting and needed time to organise his demo.
- **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.

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

PRESIDENT: David Wood (49 664 312)

SECRETARY: Geoff Farris (49 529 376)

TREASURER:

EDITOR: Baden Willmott (0423 626 290)

Bonsai Travels Part 6.

After seven weeks of Western style culture, I was well and truly looking forward to the final destination of trip, two weeks in Japan. Where my previous two visits had been fully Bonsai oriented, this trip was to be a general experiencing of day to day "normal Japan". To say that I was looking forward to seeing the trees, parks and gardens etc "in Leaf" would be an understatement. The two previous trips were during the end of winter and the



deciduous trees were bare and the paddies had not been planted with rice and looked so stark and bare. After clearing customs and immigration and activating my seven day JR Pass, the scene that passed the windows of the Narita Express to Tokyo was so GREEN! The rice crops were on their way and the Maples and other deciduous species were covered in leaves. I was rapt. The countryside looked so different and so vibrant, it was not the sleep of winter, it was verdant and alive. After meeting my friend John and briefly catching up and making plans for later in

my stay after depositing the luggage in their guest room, it was on with the back pack and head off north on the Shinkansen. I had read about the bay of many islands at Matsushima up the east coast of the main island Honshu. Coupled with this, for some time I had wanted to experience a traditional Japanese Hotel, a Ryokan. Using the internet I had managed a booking using the JTO (Japan Tourism) website. Once the Shinkansen reached Sendai, it was a case of find the local train section of the station and find the information office and hope that the staff had a little English. Timetable secured it was a simple manner to locate the correct platform and head off. At Matsushima, the young information officer explained how to get to my hotel with the free tourist map on offer. It

was probably a mixture of having been travelling in one way or another for over 24 hours (Milan to Matsushima) and that it was raining that I misread the map and got a little lost and had to retrace my steps before getting the right road through the forest and solemn temples. As I neared what I thought just may be my destination, a gentleman in a dark uniform approached me from inside and bade me welcome in Japanese. There were no garish neon lights or any major signage on the front of the building but I



had made it. I was overjoyed when I found that my room overlooked the bay. What a glorious sight. The evening meal I had prepaid turned out to be a full banquet in my own little alcove. The breakfast was a full on buffet. Both



the dinner and the breakfast had nearly every conceivable type of Japanese food. I was in heaven. Sleeping traditionally on the floor was no problem and the deep bath tub in the room was fantastic for a leisurely soak. By now you are proba-

bly wondering where the Bonsai content of the article is. While I was searching for the hotel, I had walked past a house that had a fair sized collection of Bonsai in the yard and it turned out that it was only a short distance downhill from the Ryokan. The rain had cleared overnight and made seeing the Bonsai after checking out just that little bit easier. This collection had no visible security, the gates were open, the trees were in clear view. If ever there was an example of the Japanese spect for property, especially someone else's, this was it. They would not last five minutes back here. An indictment on our society? Could well be.

The rest of the day was spent experiencing the local train service that traversed the island between Koriyama and Niigata, with a lay-over half way in Aizu-Wakamatsu. The second leg of this trip followed a magnificent river down a valley and should be listed as a great train journey for rail addicts like me.

The rest of the two weeks went quickly. So much culture, so much good food, so little time.



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Bob NIEASS

JOBS FOR MARCH

- Autumn is considered a second spring here so you can safely re-pot most of your trees. For the next few weeks, as it cools down a little, you can re-pot – especially those trees you didn't get to do in spring or ones that require emergency treatment.
- When re-potting, concentrate on the evergreens and leave your deciduous trees until the end of autumn, or wait till late winter/early spring.
- It's a good time of year to re-pot Aussie natives.
- Early autumn is a good time to dig trees from gardens or building sites. Pot them into foam boxes or large boxes to settle in. Seasol can be given to help get over transplant shock and to stimulate root development.
- Do not allow any drastic re-potting or pruning on figs as it's getting too late in the season.
- Pinch back growth on junipers to keep foliage pads tight.
- Clean out old needles on pines to allow sun and air movement between the branches.
- Fertilizing is still a priority for your trees to give them a boost to their reserves to take them through the winter.
- Remove any moss if it is close to the trunk as you need to keep this area dry or collar rot could destroy your tree over winter. Keep weeds down.
- This is a great time to collect moss. Place it in shallow seed trays with a small amount of potting mix and place in a cool shaded area and keep well misted. Try to collect as many different colours and textures as you can to create a more natural landscape effect. The greyer types will accept more sun than the green ones.
- Do not tip prune azaleas or camellias as the flowers have already formed at the ends of the branches.
- Aerial layers you took last spring are probably ready to be cut off the host tree. Pot them up and keep them in a sheltered position until new growth is evident.
- By now you should have already completed the defoliation of your figs, maples, crepe myrtles and Chinese elms and the new growth should have started to come through. As it grows, it's important to keep nipping it back to two sets of leaves to help ramify the branches.
- Keep an eye out for insect damage and control it straight away before it gets out of hand.
- Prune off old flower heads of crepe myrtles now to stop it trying to produce seeds and put unnecessary stress on the tree.
- Prune back any growth that has grown beyond the canopy of your trees and keep the shape neat.
- Cuttings can be struck from the new growth of spring that has now hardened off. Put many in one pot and place in a shaded spot with other plants to help create a micro-climate with high humidity.
- A constant check on the moisture content is essential at this time of year.

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



Phone: 9654 1893
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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 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

AUSTRALIA DAY 2011



A short time before Australia Day 2011, notification was received advising of a Bonsai Exhibition being conducted by AABC and BFA Northern, being two of the three major Bonsai “collectives” in Australia. AABC (Association of Australian Bonsai Clubs Ltd) is a National organisation which has member clubs in every state and territory. It hosts the annual May conference and has insurance which covers the transportation of trees to and from exhibitions and damage or loss during that exhibition. They also run the visiting tutor scheme which enabled us to feature Tony Bebb just over a year ago. The BFA is another Bonsai organisation which differs from AABC in that it is comprised of two

chapters, a Northern chapter based in NSW and a Southern chapter based in Victoria. BFA regularly organises top overseas demonstrators to visit and tour Australia.

The combined exhibition held at the Merrylands RSL was made up from trees displayed from Bonsai Clubs and individuals based in and around the Sydney region. There were some well stocked trade stalls as well as demonstrations. The trees were of a great standard and the demonstrations were both entertaining and informative.

I was totally impressed that the two organisations got together to put on this show and certainly hope that it is the start of



presenting a unified face of Australian Bonsai in the world arena.



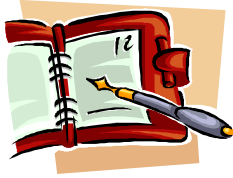
Being a mad motorcyclist as well as a Bonsai addict, I was truly surprised to see that the venue was also hosting an exhibition of classic OLD motorcycles. Indian, Triumph, AJS, Matchless, Rudge... Bliss!

What a great day Australia Day 2011 turned out to be.

May your trees be small
and your motorcycle
stay shiny side up!



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Bob NIEASS



DIARY DATES

- March 19-20** “Styling Inspired by Australian Native Trees” hosted by Canberra Bonsai Society at the National Botanic Gardens, Canberra
- March 26-27** Bonsai Society of The Central Coast – Annual Bonsai Show at Gosford City Arts Centre, East Gosford
- April 3rd** Nepean Bonsai Society annual show at PCYC Hall, Penrith
- April 16-17** Annual Collectors’ Plant Fair at Bilpin
- April 30th** “A Day with Grant Bowie” hosted by Bonsai Society of The Central Coast at Niagara Park Community Centre
- May 7th** Bonsai Study Group annual show at Pymble
- May 20-23** 24th 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** 12th 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** 11th Asia Pacific Bonsai & Suiseki Convention & Exhibition, Takamatsu, Japan
- November 26th** 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.