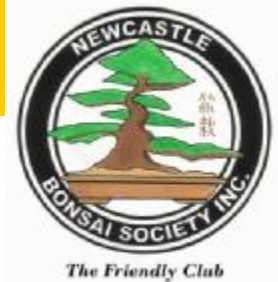


# NEWCASTLE BONSAI SOCIETY

## Newsletter

MAY  
2011



- **The next meeting and workshop** will be on Saturday May 14th 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— Wayne, Rita, and Elizabeth
- **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** A former President of Newcastle Bonsai Society David will be giving a talk all about Bonsai and some techniques used, also he may show some of his trees. Also a bit of time will be saved for a critique session so if you have a tree that you think may need something done to it; but not sure exactly what- this is your chance-Bring it along.
- **Proposed bus trip in August:** a bus trip has been proposed for Saturday 20th or Sunday 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
- **Meeting Times** we have noticed that members are leaving quite early we have the hall to around 4 or 5pm. So if you see someone putting their chair away that is not to say we all have to pack up It might be that they have other commitments. So if you would like to stay longer It is all up to you.
- **Andrew Ward from Adelaide** will be demonstrating his skills in creating forest plantings at the July meeting see his Biography in this months newsletter

### 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)

# Dubbo Japanese Gardens - March 2011

Evidently there are events going on in the world that are outside the realm of Bonsai. Who would have thought that? In March I travelled out to Dubbo with Wendy who was attending the annual conference for Rotary Clubs that comprised the local district that ranges from the coast to way out west. Not being a Rotary member myself, this gave me a fair bit of time all Saturday and Sunday morning to do a bit of exploration.

Dubbo has a fairly new Art Gallery which like other Australian Regional Galleries I have seen, is well worth visiting. An exhibition of Goya prints was outstanding. The cutting of the mat board holding each of these prints was a straight cut, not bevelled as is the general case. Interesting, and looked good, certainly complimenting the prints. Another exhibit was a selection of photography displaying Australia's involvement in various theatres of warfare.



Again the mat boards grabbed my attention. They were cut so that no white edging of the photograph was showing. Without this extra visual line, the photographs themselves were totally the centre of attention. I'll use this technique myself with prints from the O/S jaunt last year. The other exhibits of paintings by various artists were well worth a look at. The only drawback of the whole visit was a modern art sound and vision installation. By itself this was quite well down, **BUT**, it could be heard throughout the entire Gallery and soon grated annoyingly on one's senses. Regrettably an un-

fortunate downside to an otherwise enjoyable visit. Even the volunteer staff were more than fed up with the noise.

Dubbo also has a Japanese Garden, "Shoyoen", which commemorates the Sister City relationship with Minokamo, which is just to the north of Nagoya. The garden is situated on the outer suburbs and quite easily located, not far from a large suburban shopping centre that is no doubt draining trade from the traditional commercial hub in the centre of town. It pains me to see complexes like this, especially having strolled around the gracious tree lined streets that make up Dubbo's marvellous town centre precinct that will, bit by bit I believe, be drained of vibrancy by those large outer complexes which are all seemingly blighted by the sameness of design and occupants.



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The gardens, a gift from the people of Minokamo, were opened on the 153rd anniversary of the founding of Dubbo (23rd Nov 1849) and the 13th anniversary of the Signing of the Sister City agreement. The name Shoyoen means Strolling and Refreshing in Japanese. The garden itself is still developing and certainly shows a level of potential which only years of growth trees and shrubs bring, hopefully blocking out the nearby homes, thus framing the peace and tranquillity from the hustle and bustle of outside.

The manner in which the paths wind around presenting different views at each turn, emphasising the lake as the central point of focus, is a credit to the designers. Japanese buildings on a small knoll further compliment the whole visual experience. The families of water fowl certainly emulate their counterparts in Japan in enjoying their surrounds.

The trip back was uneventful, the audio book made time pass quickly. All in all a great weekend.



Sayonara for now.

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Bob NIEASS

# Andrew Ward BonsaiOgraphy

It doesn't seem that long ago that I found myself scurrying up a steep embankment and digging out an old, bushfire damaged olive from the near hills surrounding Adelaide. The olive was taken home, the native soil washed from the olive, and the olive had all branches removed and was planted in a large terracotta saucer, of which I had drilled holes into the base for drainage.

That dug olive was my first adventure into bonsai. The multi-trunked olive stump quickly took root and within months had branches developing, enough that I could select and grow the branches in the placements that I wanted. I had been long fascinated by Asian Culture, and I had been cultivating plants in pots since a very young age. As a teenager, I remember transforming my family's entrance hall into a miniature conservatory. The transition into bonsai was a natural move, one that combined all my previous horticultural knowledge and experiences, together with the influence of Asian Culture.

It seems difficult to believe that my journey with bonsai began into this millennium. It was in 2003 that I attended my first bonsai show, and then quickly became a member of the SA Bonsai Society Inc (where I was warned about the addictive nature of this past time). I did not take heed of this warning, instead ... embraced the culture in every respect. Kevin Wilson was to visit Australia in 2004 ... his visit didn't eventuate, but I had already registered for the program ... and instead of Kevin, our club had Tony Bebb visit instead. My philosophy was that I would learn far more by doing, than simply sitting back and watching ... it was a real step out of my comfort zone, but one that has allowed me to quickly develop my bonsai knowledge, skills and experiences. I took advantage of every visiting tutor program, from that time on with visits from John Marsh, Lindsay Bebb, Glenis Bebb and Mick Balzary. With my first AABC Ltd Convention in Melbourne (Marco Invernezzi and Michael Persiano) in 2007, I have attended every national convention (including being instrumental in the organization of the Adelaide hosted AABC Ltd Convention in 2007 where I also presented on group plantings in the opening session) ever since. I travel regularly interstate to participate in visits and workshops with a range of national and international demonstrators including Hirotooshi Saito and Peter Adams. I have also travelled interstate to participate in other club's visiting tutor programs, including Grant Bowie, Quentin Valentine and Steve Jarrold at the Bendigo Bonsai Club, Tony Bebb at the Orange Bonsai Club and in 2009 to Bonsai on the Harbour hosted by Bonsai Federation of Australia. There's always a lot of bonsai learnt in these travels, but a lot of other stories and friendships have developed too.

While regularly demonstrating and presenting for the SA Bonsai Society Inc, I also am responsible for compiling our club newsletter. Through my extensive reading and research I have been able to quickly evolve a greater understanding of bonsai. In 2010 I completed a series of well received demonstrations and workshops throughout Australia, including at the Bairnsdale Bonsai Group, Nepean Bonsai Society Inc and The Bonsai Society of Australia. The focus of these demonstrations has been upon inspiring others to participate in our art, and I am most comfortable at this when demonstrating with forest, landscape, group or Saikei settings.

I understand that Newcastle has some unique and beautiful scenery. I am hoping to inspire others to venture further into developing group settings, which are a synthesis of what is most beautiful in our environment.

Looking forward to meeting up on July 9th  
Andrew Ward

# JOBS FOR MAY

- The growth of our trees is slowing down now, so you can take a bit of a breather. Keep up the weeding though and start wiring some branches.
- Time to enjoy the autumn colours and perhaps look for some great coloured trees for your collection.
- You still have a couple of weeks to complete potting evergreens.
- Clear away all fallen leaves from the soil surface of your pots to stop harbouring insects and mildew.
- Wiring can take place on all trees but be careful of new green branches. Let them turn brown and harden off before wiring is applied otherwise you can run the risk of damaging the new branch and causing die-back.
- Fertilizing can be cut right back now. If you are still repotting, Seasol can be safely used.

Penny



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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)

## A Recent Tragedy.

The recent Earthquake, Tsunami, continued aftershocks and other difficulties that the Japanese people are experiencing are to say the least, devastating. People from all walks of life effected by the tragedies. I was glued to the ABC TV news channel once I found out what had happened.

Emails were quickly despatched to friends in Japan. The same evening I received a reply that Tokyo had been spared major damage and that friends were all OK. Next day an email arrived from Ube stating that they were luckily unaffected by



the recent events and that Fujita san was grateful for our interest in their well being. It quickly dawned on me that the earthquake epicentre was not far off the coast from where last year I had strolled around, briefly Sendai and more extensively staying over-night in

Matsushima, further to the east. Matsushima is situated in Matsushima bay which contains approximately 250 small islands which are covered in rock formations and pines whose shapes have been sculpted by the elements. It is regarded by the Japanese as one of Japan's Nihon Sankei (Three Great Sights) and is a popular destination for the Japanese people, especially during the Summer Matsuri (Summer Festival) period.

Once events had "calmed down" a bit, I went onto the internet and managed to find a "blog" which related what damage Matsushima had suffered and included a photo of the marina near where I had walked. It mentioned that the islands were relatively untouched (not being in direct line of



the Tsunami) and what damage had occurred to buildings in the township with the Tsunami reaching just short of the station. Also mentioned was that several boats from the marina had been deposited on the road.

The blog address is <http://pdhealy.blogspot.com/search/label/Matsushima>

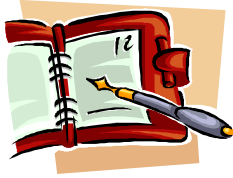


It is with respect that I ask members of the Newcastle Bonsai Society inc and other readers of this article to consider making a donation to the Japan Tsunami appeal. This can be done primarily through the Red Cross which has a dedicated appeal for this purpose. Consider also a recently released music compilation CD, "Songs For Japan" where profits, in part or all, are being donated to the appeal. It was reviewed in the weekend Sydney Morning Herald a few weeks ago and

had been advertised on TV. I downloaded my copy from iTunes for \$16.99, and have found it to be exceptional value for 38 tracks. Evidently music stores now have it in "hard" form. It will be a long lasting memory. By attending various fund raising events conducted by friends in the local Japanese community and buying the CD, I feel that is a small way I have helped the rebuilding process and also thanked the people in our Sister City Ube who donated freely to the Newcastle Earthquake appeal



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Bob NIEASS



## DIARY DATES

<b>May 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Bonsai Study Group annual show at Pymble
<b>May 20-23</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> AABC Convention, hosted by Bonsai Society of Western Australia in Perth
<b>June 11-12</b>	Bonsai By The Harbour
<b>July 9</b>	Andrew Ward demonstrates at Newcastle Bonsai Society
<b>August 20-21</b>	Bonsai Society of Sydney annual show at Terrey Hills
<b>August 27-28</b>	Illawarra Bonsai Society annual show at Gymea
<b>September 16-18</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> annual workshop weekend at The Tops conference centre, Stanwell Tops, hosted by Illawarra Bonsai Society
<b>October 15-16</b>	Canberra Bonsai Society annual show
<b>November 4-6</b>	Newcastle Bonsai Society annual show at Charlestown Bowling Club
<b>November 18-21</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Bonsai & Suiseki Convention & Exhibition, Takamatsu, Japan
<b>November 26<sup>th</sup></b>	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.*