Volume 6 Issue 4 October / November/December 2012



BONSAI TIMES



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From The President

Another year is drawing to a close and how quick it has gone. It was a busy year for all Bonsai enthusiasts.

In March we had a great National Convention in Dunedin and recently a lot of club shows have been held around the country. Well done to all the clubs that have put on public shows to promote the art of Bonsai.

At the end of September I had the privilege of judging the first South Island Bonsai Show in Dunedin. Over a one hundred and fifty trees presented from all over the South Island. This was held in conjunction with the World Daffodil Convention. The Dunedin Club were the hosts and did a fantastic job. The display of trees was a credit to all involved.

Coming up in 2014 your committee is busy putting together a National Convention to be held in Cambridge. Date and guest speaker to be confirmed at a later date.

Next year there are three major exhibitions which would be well worth attending. Australia's Convention in Canberra held by the AABC in May. Bonsai Clubs International Convention hosted by China in April and The World Bonsai Friendship Foundation convention again held in China. I am involved with this in September and all of these would be well worth attending.

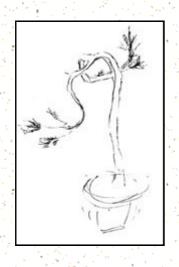
I take this time to remind clubs that you need to send your information on what is happening in your club to Dianne Miller, our editor, so you

can share your club activities with us all, and a reminder to forward any change of club details.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a great festive season.

Lindsay











BONSAI TIMES brings you the inspiration, motivation and encouragement to create remarkable bonsai







BONSAI TIMES

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Exceptional is how I would describe all the bonsai exhibitions that have been happening across the country in the past few months. How far we have all come, we can be proud of our efforts as this shows the development of bonsai in New Zealand.

It was several years ago when Hamilton Bonsai Club decided that they needed to exhibit their members trees. There was a lot of discussion about where we could hold such an event, manning the exhibit, and the biggest concern - the cost. It is amazing that the biggest worry has become the biggest benefit—money to drive the club forward, to support its members and grow the club. Sometimes it's worth facing the fear, running with things for the benefit of your group. There will be moments of regret, failures, but at the end of the day the success and positive benefits achieved far outway any loss.

Just reading and viewing all pictures and notes coming into my inbox for the newsletter from clubs demonstrates that we have taken a huge step forward in recent years. There has always been a lot of talk about awards, not judging our trees, that we did not need to do that sort of thing, we do this for our enjoyment. For those clubs that have taken that path and development of their members trees have taken a giant leap forward. I know from experience with the Hamilton Club show that providing a platform for members to display and share their trees the rewards have been great.

If your club has not taken this path please do think about the rewards. A sense of pride in your work, increased membership for your club, an opportunity to develop skills in display, grow skills by holding demonstrations and the list goes on.

The main benefactor in all of this of course is yourselves and your bonsai. We put in hours of work styling, caring and maintaining our trees, why not share them with others and then grow from the experience.

It never ceases to amaze me how much people out there love bonsai. What a wonderful art to share. Be proud of your work and share it

with others.

Dianne



The Mountaineers



After seeing the mountains Wayne had created we were longing to make one for ourselves. So one Saturday in November we met at Beverley Van's place to try constructing a mountain for ourselves out of a pile of polystrene and concrete.

Fortunately we had a lovely sunny day with little or no wind. As you may imagine, as the polystyrene was cut and broken into shapes to form the template, the little beads of polystyrene seemed to be everywhere, on the ground, clinging to our hands and faces, - everywhere!

First the No More Steel was sieved to remove the large gravel and then the polystyrene was joined together with wire or wooden skewers to form the template of our mountain. Next the powder and water was mixed to form a slurry into which strips of material were dipped and draped over the templates. Holes were then cut for future planting of trees and plants and thicker concrete slurry was dribbled over the creations. Finally some red, green or black oxide powder was sprinkled on then lightly sprayed with water.

Some of us chose to make a pot rather than the mountain. Soil was mounded to make a form which was then covered with the No More Steel which had not had its shingle removed. Wine corks had been placed on the mounded soil to mark the drain holes. All great fun and a test for our artistic abilities. The finished mountains will now be something for us all to look forward to!



Left: All set to start

Below: Sieving out the shingle



Above: Template ready to be covered

Below: Ordered chaos



Above right: Mixing the slurry

Right: One mountain coming up





Left:

Pot shape ready to be covered

Below:

Four mountains all ready to be finish with 'no more steel' mix with their plantings



Cat Supervising Re-potting



Cat; 'What do you mean you need this spot to re-pot your Mame, Human? I'm quite comfortable here.'

After an hour of working around the spoiled cat, he got up, stretched, and wandered off.

The Mame are both Box Honeysuckle in training since 2002.

Sandra Q

South Island Bonsai Exhibition



South Island Champion Bonsai Joy Morton Cryptomeria Japonica Bon Sugi

he South Island Bonsai Exhibition was held from $28^{th} - 30^{th}$ September in the Edgar Centre in Dunedin. It was held in conjunction with the World Daffodil Convention, DHS Spring Show and the South Island Camellia Show, all under the umbrella of the Dunedin Horticulture Society, which meant good crowds were guaranteed.

One hundred and fifty six Bonsai were entered in the exhibition, with exhibitors bringing trees in from Christchurch to Gore. There were a combination of both club members and individuals showing some really nice trees.

Our judge was Lindsay Muirhead from Auckland who thought "The display of Bonsai was probably the largest seen in New Zealand".

The convention was opened by Mayor Dave Cull, who also presented the major awards for the shows. The awards were as follows;

South Island Champion Bonsai – Joy Morton for Cryptomeria Japonica Bon Sugi Peoples Choice Award – Anna Zonneveld for Flowering Crab Apple Presidents Award – Anna Zonneveld for the same Crab Apple New Zealand Native Award – Joy Morton for Southern Rata Merit Awards – Sean Heseltine for European Larch Sean Heseltine for Pinus Radiata Sean Heseltine for Fern Leaved Beech Jan Letts for Hornbeam Barbara Lee for Hawthorne Joy Morton for European Larch

Joy Morton for Juniper Procumbens Nana

Joy Morton for Pyracantha



Above: Peoples Choice Award Anna Zonneveld Flowering Crab Apple

Presidents Award Anna Zonneveld Flowering Crab Apple

Right: New Zealand Native Award Joy Morton for Southern Rata





Left: Sean Heseltine for European Larch



Right:Sean Heseltine for Pinus Radiata **Below:**Sean Heseltine for Fern Leaved Beech





Left:
Jan Letts for Hornbeam
Below:
Barbara Lee for Hawthorne



Above:Joy Morton for Juniper Procumbens Nana









n Saturday Lindsay did a critique of some of the exhibition bonsai giving plenty of useful advice along the way. That was followed on the Sunday by a very productive workshop at the Otago Bridge Club. There were participants from Christchurch, Timaru and Dunedin and all left with plenty of positive comments and lots of good advice.

Overall it was an exciting weekend with lots of positive remarks, including one man from Texas who had "never in his life seen a show like this".



From a judges' perspective

The first challenge that I found was looking at over one hundred and fifty trees and working out what it was I was looking for and the reason as to why I liked certain trees more than others. The first thing I did was go around the trees several times and pick out my top twenty five and put a marker on them. Then I went back around these and cut them down to about fourteen trees.

At the next stage I had a judging sheet made up of ten key points that I felt were needed in a good Bonsai. These trees were marked points out of ten for each point. When all this was done, I added it up and from this I got the winning tree and eight merit awards. The winning tree was one by Joy Morton. There has been years of work put into making this the tree it is.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organisers for inviting me down and I enjoyed running a workshop for the members on the Sunday.

Hamilton Bonsai Club Show



The Lane Award

Sandra Quintal's forest planting of cedar was this years winner of the Lane Award selected by public vote.

he display this year was a stunner with one hundred and forty trees on show as well as our usual excellent Suiseki display. If we get many more trees turn up next year we'll have problems finding the space. Setting up on Friday was done in double quick time on a gloriously sunny day. What a pity the weather on Saturday was so dreadful. We only had forty five paying visitors as everybody stayed indoors to avoid the heavy rain and gale force winds.

Sunday was a bit better with some sunny periods but not many visitors to the gardens. Over the weekend we had around a third the usual number of visitors.

Colin Churchill came over from the East Coast to do the judging for the Merit Awards. Colin is a past President of the NZBA and has many years experience with bonsai. He took a couple of hours going round the trees and commented he could easily pick thirty trees worthy of Merit Awards but found it very difficult getting that number down to ten.

Over the next few pages are the merit trees along with Colin's comments about them.



Above:

Acer Palmatum 'Shindeshojo'

Good ramification and branch placement, nice taper on the trunk. The apex curves forward to greet you, there is a good root base. The soil is clean and tidy. There are no wire marks on the branches.

A clean and well presented tree in a correctly sized pot of a good shape and colour (although Colin prefers blue pots for maples).



Below:

Chamaecyparis

A nice base to the trunk, a healthy tree. Very neat at the soil level with small areas of moss which is not overdone.

The small amount of wire is neat and unobtrusive.

This is Colin's type of tree and in a few years it will be wonderful.



Left:

Acer Palmatum — Root over Rock

Lovely natural looking tree which looks at home on the rock. Good branch placement, the bar branch look has been avoided by the careful placement of the opposing branches. Possibly a slightly deeper pot could be used.



Below:

Juniperus Chinensis

Well finished with a nice root structure. A healthy tree with no wire marks on the branches.

An appealing shape in a pot whose colour does not detract from the tree.



Left:

Juniper 'Blue Alps'

This Literati is Colin's type of tree.

A healthy tree with an excellent shape, although the jins would benefit from a bit of work.

In five years time this will be a fantastic tree.



Above:

Kowhai Group

Nice under planting with a good choice of plants and mosses.

Well placed trees with larger trunks at the front decreasing in size towards the back. Not over potted.

It takes a lot of work to create a good landscape like this.



Above: Mame Display

The work put into creating and maintaining these is to be admired.

Colin could have picked any of the Mame displays as worthy but the little pine just adds a bit more to this display



A good multiple trunk style which always looks more natural than a more structured tree. Clean with no weeds in a good pot.

Jins could do with some lime sulphur to protect them.



Left: Cedrus Deodara

Good taper to the trunk, good branch placement. The wire is tidy and the apex is coming forward. Lush green foliage.

The placement of the tree in the pot is perfect.



Nice pot, the path through the trees is good, giving the impression of a wander through the forest. Nice moss. Difficult to maintain groups well.



Rewarding Hard Work

At the recent Hamilton Bonsai Club AGM two of its long standing members were awarded Life Membership of the club in recognition of the contributions they have made to the club over the years.

Sandra Quintal



S andra joined the club in 1988 after a couple of years of trying and killing her early trees.

Sandra has been Vice President for a number of years and has done the odd stint as President. She is well known in clubs up and down the country for her passion for Mame / Shohin.

She demonstrates regularly both here and around the country and is on the Australian demonstrators list as well as NZBA. The club and its members benefit from the beginners classes she holds at her place. Now with our best potter moved up North, Sandra has started making her own pots.

Jeff Richards



The quiet one who sits in the corner taking notes at all the meetings and writes them up in his own unique style which is much appreciated. He joined the club in the early 1990's after starting to learn about bonsai with Dianne Miller at Penjing in Cate Road.

Jeff is a regular contributor to the club newsletter and, on occasion, the NZBA newsletter, with a number of wry observations on our activities.

He is a supporter of whatever events the club decides to put on, as well as offering to help out with extra shows and talks. Whenever there is a workshop Jeff always brings along the tree that needs the most

wire. Relaxing away from the club he has developed quite a taste for boutique beers. He is also a bit of a devil with the camera and has managed to catch a number of the committee and other club members in unflattering poses.

As well as their Life Membership the club presented them with a certificate and a limited edition pot made by Walsall Studio Ceramics as a little token to remind them of our gratitude for their efforts.

Tips for Summer

November

Some trees like Privets, Chinese Elms, and some Junipers can still be re-potted in November as long as they are sheltered from strong winds afterwards. I don't recommend re-potting from November unless you really need to and are prepared to take the risk of over stressing the tree.

Regular watering is now a must. Check your bonsai each day, even if it has rained, in case they are drying out more quickly than you realise. If you are growing very small bonsai (Mame or Shohin) under eight inches tall, or tree species that use a lot of water like Wisteria, place them on a tray with stone chip in it. Fill the tray with water each day and this will ensure that the bonsai have enough water to last all day.

Look out for those pesky caterpillars on your Kowhai, as left unchecked they will defoliate your tree in no time.

December and January

Watering by hand is recommended (with the hose) so you can get the water beneath the canopy of foliage and over the soil surface. At this time of year in the city the chemical levels in the water are high, so allow the water to run out of the hose for a minute or two before watering your trees. The best time of day to water is in the morning so the bonsai have the water available in the middle of the day when they need it most. Watering occasionally by dunking the tree in a bucket or deep dish is a very good idea to thoroughly soak the soil.

Unless you are really keen there is little point in feeding your bonsai from December on, as the flush of spring growth has passed.

This is the time to trim your Pines and those shaggy Maples you have been allowing to grow over spring.

December is also a better time of year to wire trees that need shaping, as the wire won't cut in so quickly, and trees often set in the new shape quicker.

It is best to provide shade from midday for deciduous bonsai and small bonsai or bonsai in shallow trays.

When going on Holiday: Treat your bonsai like pets. Even if you have an automatic watering system, if you are going away, try and arrange for someone to come in every couple of days, to check that all the trees have water and that nothing has fallen over or onto your bonsai.

Sandra Q

Avon Bonsai Show



Jay and Chris talking to visitors to the show and explaining a little of what bonsai growing is all about.

Avon Bonsai Society shares with us their OCTOBER SHOW

nce again, thanks to your efforts and good will we had a very successful and pleasant show weekend along with our friends in the Orchid Society and the China Painting ladies. (Wonder why it appears to be only ladies who do the china painting?!)

Inspite of three of our usual members' entries not being present on the show benches (two were judges for this show) we had a good number of trees entered, forty in all. The standard of trees continues to improve, showing that our members are putting a lot of time into the care of their creations.

As in other years the Orchid and China personnel were their usual friendly selves, with the ladies in the kitchen presenting their delicious refreshments as always. I told them their prices were extremely reasonable, helping them to make a nice little sum for their charity.

Unfortunately at the time of writing this we cannot be sure of what 2013 holds for us so far as a venue for next year's show is concerned as the rental of the facility has more than doubled this year and with the shortage of available venues we can only hope that we will continue to be able to have a show to present to the public.

Following are the full results of the show.

CLASS ONE - INFORMAL EVERGREEN

1st – Beverley Van – Cryptomeria Japonica 2nd – Paul Boyd – Cedar of Lebanon 3rd – Alison McIntosh – Hollywood Juniper



CLASS TWO - INFORMAL DECIDUOUS

1st - Beverley Van - Elm 2nd – Jay Van Lent – Maple 3rd – John Simpson – Ironwood H/Comm - Beverley Van - Japanese Hornbeam Commended - Paul Boyd - Jack Humm crabapple

BEST IN SHOW bonsai was Beverley's elm in the Informal Deciduous class.



CLASS THREE - NATIVE TREES 1st – Beverley Van – Black beech 2nd – Chris McLaren – Totara 3rd – Jay Van Lent – NZ beech



1st – Chris McLaren – Cotoneaster 2nd – Jay Van Lent - Cotoneaster 3rd - Kees De Jager - Juniper Commended - Bernice Lenz





CLASS FIVE - GROUP PLANTINGS 1st – Jay Van Lent – NZ Silver Beech 2nd - Chris McLaren - Chinese Elm Commended – Lyn Kennedy - Lawson Cypress



CLASS SEVEN - MAME/SHOHIN

1st - Nick Pjifers - Pyracantha/alpine willow/cotoneaster

2nd - Chris McLaren - Lonicera/Elm/Ch. Elm/Cotoneaster/Rose

3rd - Jay Pjfers - Juniper

Commended - Nick - Lonicera



CLASS SIX - FREE CHOICE OF STYLE1st - Lyn Kennedy - Cotoneaster root over

2nd – Beverley Van - Chinese elm 3rd - Chris McLaren – Hackberry

rock

JIN/SHARI
1st – Nick Pjifers - Coprosma
2nd – Chris McLaren - Juniper
Commended – Nick Pjifers - Spruce



PEOPLE'S CHOICE trophy was won by Jay Van Lent with two of his trees tying for first place, his maple and his NZ beech. So congratulations to Jay for his two lovely trees.

JUDGES were Julie and Wendy. We thank them for their efforts in what can be quite a difficult task at times and with so many lovely trees it could not have been easy to make the final choices.

Thanks once again to everyone who gave of their time in one way or another to make the show the success it was.

Otago Bonsai Society



In September the focus of our Society was on the South island Bonsai exhibition which is reported separately. Our October meeting was a general workshop when members brought along trees to work on.

Members working on their trees with advice and help from others.





On Saturday 27 October members travelled to Middlemarch where we were able to access a paddock to collect slabs of schist rock. It was a fine day and considerable energy was expended in collecting the rock. Some cars made a very slow journey home!

At the Society meeting the following week Joy Morton gave a demonstration using a schist slab followed by a workshop with members using their schist slabs to create their own landscapes.

Lindsay Muirhead giving a critique at South Island Bonsai exhibition

Lindsay explains why he chose this as the best tree and how another tree could be refined.





Obituary David Gilbert

David died on July 30th 2012 aged 65 years. His life was spent in Eastbourne where he went to Muritai School. Dux in 1960 led to him continuing his academic achievements at varsity in mathematics and science. David was a scientist at NIWA and was responsible for deciding New Zealand's fishing quotas.

Together with Carol Lough, his lifetime partner and sons Peter and Isak they enjoyed overseas travel and tramping.

Some of his many interests included cooking, photography, woodwork, boating and bonsai. David was the first man qualified at the Eastbourne Playcentre. In 2011 at the NZ Masters Games David and Carol won a number of medals for ballroom dancing.

His interest in bonsai was stimulated when he joined the Wellington Bonsai Club in 1984. David shared his bonsai knowledge at club days and invited members to see his collection of trees as part of the 'Eastbourne Bonsai Crawl 2008'. He was Treasurer of the club from 2007 to 2012 and was a valued member of the committee

David will be missed for all of his contributions to Wellington Bonsai Club.

marilan Hannah

Drawing Workshop





As part of this year's activities the Hamilton Club wanted to get members looking at raw material critically to try and identify a suitable style for a tree rather than just be told what to do with material. To help with this, a two part drawing workshop was devised. In July we held the first part of the workshop during which seven trees were chosen from amongst a dozen brought in. These represented a range of materials and potential styles including clump, twin trunk, windswept, informal upright and literati.

The seven trees were: Trident Maple Redwood Deodar Cedar Two Junipers Two Pines





Everyone was handed paper and a pencil before being given the task of drawing their vision for each of the trees.

It took about three quarters of an hour for everyone to go round all seven trees and draw their vision for each one. Once everyone had finished we discussed each tree, going through the potential styles, fronts and angles. The final choice on the drawing to be worked to was made by the tree's owner.





Over the next few months the trees were worked on and the second part of the workshop was held in October where six of the trees made a return appearance.

Out of the six trees, the redwood had decided it would sulk following the restyling and had started to throw branches.

The trident maple had undergone a transformation when Lee Wilson was visiting from Australia. Walking round the garden he offered advice on its styling and this was taken up. The result was in the same vein as the original drawing but did not follow it closely.



The deodar cedar had posed a problem for its owner as he kept changing his mind over how the tree was going to look as he worked on it but there was some progress towards the design.

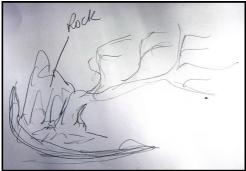


One of the junipers had undergone a large transformation and was now looking like the design and sitting in a specially commissioned pot by Noel Plowman.









The most dramatic change was in the a second pine.

Originally purchased from the collection of the late Leo Jury the pine has been styled as a wind-swept tree in a custom made pot with two ceramic rocks to complement the design. Although it looks good as it is the rootball did not allow for it to be placed in quite the correct alignment in the pot. This will be corrected later on as the tree matures.



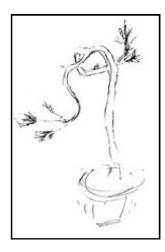






The tall straggly pine was now a literati, also repotted.





This was a very worthwhile learning exercise for the club members as well as being a fun activity. Now we'll have to wait and see how the trees develop over the next couple of years.







26th National Bonsai Convention Canberra

The Australian Journey

17-20 May 2013

Hosted by Canberra Bonsai Society Inc In partnership with The Association of Australian Bonsai Clubs Ltd

Welcome to the first update for the 2013 AABC National Bonsai Convention. We would be grateful if you could remind your members that Earlybird Registration closed on 31 October 2012.

- Please advise your members that payment must be received within 10 days of registration.
- All participant places in the Ryan Neil workshops on Monday 20 May have been booked. There are observer vacancies in these workshops.
- There are vacancies in Averil Stanley's and Andrew Ward's workshops both for participants and observers.
- And there are vacancies on all tours of the National Arboretum Canberra and the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia.

We have created an entry for the convention on AusBonsai where we will be adding information regarding the Convention from time to time. The link is: http://www.ausbonsai.com.au/forum/viewtopic.php?f=25&t=11788

For those who would like to see Ryan Neil in action, the following are links to internet material on Ryan's recent appearance at the 2012 BCI/ABS Conventions

Ryan Neil BCI/ABS 2012 ofbonsai.org/galleries/demonstrations/ryan-neil-marc-noelanders-dueling-demo-bciabs-2012-part-one,of bonsai.org/galleries/demonstrations/ryan-neil-marc-noelanders-dueling-demo-bciabs-2012-part-two

For those planning to stay in Canberra beyond the Convention, new events are being listed on the Canberra 100 website. To see what's on, please visit http://www.canberra100.com.au/

Thank you for your help in circulating this information to your members. Please contact us at secretariat2013@cbs.org.au if you need any additional copies of the printed materials distributed at the 2012 Convention, or sent to you recently by post. We look forward to seeing you in Canberra next May.

Canberra Bonsai Society Organising Committee 2013 AABC National Bonsai Convention



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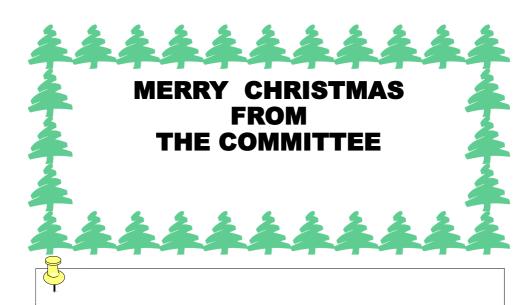


As well as always being willing to talk bonsai, Graeme also hosts several workshops and demonstrations at Kaimai Garden Centre every year. Phone 07 8888140 for more information.

YouTube

For those of you who are into the YouTube a recent visitor to the Hamilton Bonsai Club Exhibition posted this onto the site:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jBolOlnUnt4



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NZBA National Convention Napier 2008	The demonstrations, speakers and exhibition trees		
NZBA National Convention Christchurch 2009	The demonstrations, speakers and exhibition trees		
NZBA National Convention Hamilton 2010	The demonstrations, speakers and exhibition trees	Robert Steven	
Juniper Forest Demonstration		John Naka	6
111-Tree Florida Elm Demo		John Naka	5
39 Tree Stewartia Demonstration		Saburo Kato	6
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US National Bonsai & Penjing Museum	Comments on trees viewed one by one		7
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