



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF NZBA

BONSAI TIMES



Convention Issue

CLUBS

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From The President

The convention in Cambridge has come and gone and what a great weekend it was. Tony Bebb gave us all a great weekend, along with the others who also took to the stage to demonstrate - Joy Morton, Sandra Quintal, Les Simpson, Peter Mudie and myself.

We also had the 2nd National Show and had some great entries from around NZ. Congratulations to Poppie Engelbrecht for winning the Best Tree, a tree which is up to world standards. Also congratulations to the merit winners and to all who entered. Plus congratulations to the winners of the Photographic and Suiseki competitions - details in the magazine.

As the convention was organised by the NZBA committee many thanks to all who made it happen, and a special thanks to Les Simpson as the man on the ground as far as the local organising went. I would also like to thank the members of the Hamilton club for their help without which it would have been very hard.

Two of our committee stepped down this year - Joy Morton and Ian Gear - many thanks to them for their input while on the NZBA committee. We have two new committee members - Peter Mudie and Dawid de Villars - a big welcome to them both and look forward to sharing their ideas.

The combined clubs of Avon and Christchurch have put their hands up to organise the next convention (date to be sorted) so I look forward to seeing you all there again.

Coming up in August is the BCI Convention on the Gold Coast. It's not too late to enroll. This will be a great chance to attend an International Convention, I hope to see NZ well represented.

We are heading into winter now - time to look at some of our trees in deciduous form and plan what we want to do next year.

In closing thanks to all who attended the convention and made it such a success, and to those who did not attend - you missed some great bonsai fellowship.

LINDSAY





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brings you the
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BONSAI TIMES

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Congratulations

to all members of the NZBA committee for successfully holding their first convention at Cambridge in May. It was a pretty full on event and a lot of positives came out for the future of bonsai in New Zealand.

It was amazing to see the quality of the trees in the National Exhibition and I believe it is important to note how much the trees have improved since the first exhibition in Christchurch. It means that bonsai is developing and the strength of our skill and knowledge is moving in the right direction.

Things are now looking a lot more positive for the next convention with Christchurch again taking up the challenge. May I suggest that you all start working towards attending that event not only to support Christchurch but to continue the growth and fellowship of bonsai in this country. It is hoped that the third National Exhibition will be held at the same time so sharpen those tools and get to work now, we need to see your amazing bonsai.

The newsletter this time is obviously a report of the convention. Tony Bebb was an excellent choice of demonstrator and teacher. Our own demonstrators did a fantastic job and I strongly feel that everyone went away learning something new. With the strength of the New Talent contestants I am sure we will have some great new speakers in the future.

There is far too much to report in this edition and it was difficult to get input from others, therefore I would like to ask if you have something you would like to share about the convention please forward it so that our next edition will be about our members impressions.

Dianne



Cover:

Tony Bebb and Poppie Engelbrecht with her award winning White Olive Bonsai.

New Talent Competition



Developing and bringing new talent forward is one of the goals of NZBA. We can't have the same people at the front all the time, it would get boring. We need new ideas, skills and inspiration for the development of bonsai and its artists. This was the third new talent competition and it was fantastic to see five entries. Sam Brierley is from Whakatane, Greg Tuthill from Palmerston North, Peter Scammell from Hamilton, Martin Walters from Auckland and Dawid de Villiers is from Danniverk. Again great to see that these contenders were from all over the North Island—sorry no South Islanders entered, which is a shame.

The New Talent was held on the Friday afternoon. Each competitor drew a number and matched it to the allocated tree. This years trees were Procumbens Nana sourced in Northland. The trees were approximately four years old. Procumbens nana is a common species used in bonsai all around the world. Chosen as young trees, due to their flexibility as they can be made into just about any style you would wish. It would only take imagination, skill and an excellent relationship with the material to bring out the most of its potential.



Five healthy Procumbens Nana await their fate.

As you can see the material was excellent. Lots of foliage, branches and very healthy. What style will our budding artists choose for their trees?

Out came the tools, wire, turntables, music and concentration.

Contestants had three hours to complete their design.

Below:
The Men at Work





The contestants hard at work. *Top* Sam thinks about design, *top right*, Greg begins the cleaning out process, *above* Martin completes some final adjustments to his windswept design, *middle right* Dawid thinks hard about the placement of his apex and *below* Peter cleans away the soil from the trunk.





The completed trees.

Sam Brierley's design (middle) was the winner.



Shohin Demonstration



Bright and early Saturday morning the first of the New Zealand demonstrations Sandra Quintal and Joy Morton gave us a double act on shohin. Sandra is well known for her shohin. She broke apart an existing saikei planting and potted up the biggest tree as shohin. Then she talked about how to prepare trees for show, the requirements for display and the importance of balance.





While Sandra spoke Joy refined a shohin tree from Melody Simpsons collection. The tree was repotted. This was the first time Joy had created a Shohin.



Saturday Instruction



It was wonderful to see Tony Bebb in New Zealand again. He is known to a lot of artists all over the country and has been an instructor at many workshops, mainly in Otago and Hamilton.

Tony chose Juniper to be the topic of his discussion for Saturday morning.



He began by showing how, no matter what your material looks like, you can apply a piece of wire and change the outcome, right from the start of a tree's life. Never write off any material as with a little thought who knows what the future holds.

Grow, prune, wire (or grow, wire prune).



Here are other examples of material that was presented and discussed.

It was clear that some needed pruning back and others had lots of options. He then proceeded to refine one of the smaller trees below.



Tony explained the use of sacrificial branches and how they aid in the thickening of trunks as well as keeping vigor in the tree.

When it comes to larger material Tony explained why it is best to remove the excess material in stages rather than in one hit. The tree he worked on had been reduced prior to the convention and had recovered enough for its next stage of work.





The large Juniper was reduced. There was a lot of discussion around the front of the tree and what was needed to develop the tree further.



Tony then worked extensively on a smaller Juniper. Branch placement and elimination choices were discussed and actioned, wire was applied and a new apex created.



Tony demonstrated how one can use a false branch to see how it would perhaps look on the tree. He also used a white towel to cover branches so you could see what the design would look like without a certain branch (see below).

Carving was suggested for the lower stumps and a talk about the use of power tools followed.



Free Style

The final talk on Saturday was on Free Style Bonsai. Les Simpson, Hamilton Bonsai Club, began by giving us an understanding about the origins of styles, what they meant and why they had certain rules or guidelines. He discussed the five classic styles and how you can get away from these styles.



This was lots of fun with heaps of hand signals!



Next Lindsay Muirhead, now Hamilton Bonsai Club and current President of NZBA, talked about collecting trees from the wild.

He stated that often these trees have a strong style that they have developed on their own and it was up to us to enhance this.



Peter Mudie, also Hamilton Bonsai Club, then continued the discussion with examples of trees that the previous owners had not seen style in and how he had been inspired and created original (freestyle) bonsai from.

Sorry folks more hand signals!

Below right is what Peter called his Lightning Strike Tree.



That was the end of the bonsai programme for the day. Next was the AGM for NZBA. The President gave his report, finance figures were discussed, committee members retired - Joy Morton and Ian Gear - and new members - Dawid de Villiers and Peter Mudie - elected. There was a lot of discussion around the future of NZBA and changing the Bonsai Times to an electronic magazine.

That evening the convention dinner was held with the highlight being the announcement of all award winners:

Emerging Talent (Sam Brierley), Colin Churchill Trophy for Best Tree in Show (Poppie Engelbrecht), Alan Van Trophy for the Best Tree and Pot Combination (Sandra Quintal), Keith Lowe Trophy for the Best Native Tree (Louise Macfarlane), Merit Award Trees from the National Show, Joy Morton Photographic Competition (Sam Brierley), National Suiseki Trophy (Lindsay Muirhead) plus the Merit Awards for these. **See following pages**

Convention Awards



**Colin Churchill Trophy Best Tree in Show
and Bonsai Clubs International Excellence Award
Poppie Engelbrecht
White Olive**



**Above: Keith Lowe Trophy Best Native Tree - Louise Macfarlane
Kowhai Forest**

**Above Left: Alan Van Trophy Best Tree and Pot Combination - Sandra
Quintal - Corokia**





Merit Awards

From Top Right:

Sandra Quintal
Mugo Pine

Adriaan Engelbrecht
White Olive

Sam Brierley
Siberian Elm and Common Privet

Dianne Miller
Atlantic Cedar

Lindsay Muirhead
Scots Pine



National Suiseki Competition



Division A — New Zealand Stone

Winner and BCI Excellence Award

Lindsay Muirhead - Picture Stone

Second and Third Place

Ross Dixon - Buddha Stone

Ross Dixon - Shelter Stone



Division B - Overseas Stone

Winner all places

Lindsay Muirhead - Hut Stone

Scholar Stone

Waterfall Stone



Joy Morton Photographic Competition



Winner: Sam Brierley — Chinese Juniper



Second:

Les Simpson
Trident Maple
(not shown)

Left:

Third:

Les Simpson
Blaauws Juniper

Sunday Demo



The final day arrived early for our demonstrator. Tony got up early and worked on the tree before the convention opened - that's dedication for you.

The material followed the same theme as yesterday - another Juniper.

Things got dramatic very quickly. The carving tools came out almost immediately. This tree had a lot of deadwood and Tony had made up his mind to carve a large shari down the front of the tree before he started on the rest of the tree design.

It did not take long for the front seat grabbers to be showered in the white stuff. Benefits of front seats do come with hazards as well as the view.

He finished off the top with hand tools to give a natural finish.



Problem number one was dealing with the straight bottom branch. It was decided to wrap it in raffia and apply wire, guide wires and then slowly bend it.

To help with this process was Sam, our newly awarded New Talent winner. Right into the fire of learning first hand, front stage.



After the wet raffia was in place the branch was wired, then screws were placed into the trunk to secure the guide wires which were needed to pull the branch into place. This was done by Sam as Tony watched for the correct position to appear.

We all held our breath. There was only the sound of heavy breathing, no cracks or screams were heard from the tree.

Then more wire was applied to the branches.





Branches were repositioned and then Tony suddenly asked the question after positioning the white towel: Maybe we should remove that bottom branch after all. What do you think? Tony with the finished tree as it is today.



North V South

To bring a bit of fun and wind up the convention a group planting competition was held between teams from the North and South Islands'. The material was native Totora kindly donated by Les and Melody Simpson.



The North Team was led by Poppie Engelbrecht, with two of the new talent contestants whilst the South Team was led by Brian Ellis, joined by a fellow southlander and a subbed northlander, whoops. The odds don't look good but.....

Both teams explained their plan of action, spoke about forest plantings, placement, the material. All sorts of extras were added, rock pools, pathways and mosses. At the end both plantings were auctioned off and the winner was: Team South



Tree Critique

The final session was a critique of ten trees chosen from the exhibition by Tony. He highlighted some minor changes that could make a very good tree into an outstanding bonsai.



Some of the trees that Tony discussed. The two trees above came from Sam Brierley's collection, slight front adjustments and maybe a new pot. Below left is my Cedar, a change of pot to something more earthy. Below right was Jack Lin's Juniper, refinement and a change of angle.





OUT
&



ABOUT

MANY THANKS

The New Zealand Bonsai Association would like to thank all the people, clubs and businesses below for the kind raffle donations. These contributions helped to fund the convention and without them costs would have been higher. Thank you also to all who purchased tickets and we trust that the winners are enjoying their prizes.

**Cambridge Warehouse
Dianne Miller
Lindsay Muirhead
Bob Langholm and Simon Misdale
Christchurch Bonsai Club
NZBA
Graeme Hancock- Kaimai Garden Centre
Otago Bonsai Club
Tony Bebb
Noel Plowman
Colin Churchill
Marshall Gray
Hamilton Bonsai Club
Les Honeyfield
Shirley Faull
Ross Dixon and Michael Adams
New Plymouth Bonsai Club
Fern Valley Bonsai
David Kidron
Bay of Plenty Bonsai Society**

President's Report

It is with much pleasure that I present this Presidents report for the last twelve months.

I look at what we have achieved at this 2014 National Convention, arranged by the NZBA committee, along with help to run it from some of the Hamilton Club. At this stage I would like to express thanks to some of the committee who, without their tireless work, this convention would not have happened. Les Simpson for all the local work, Secretary Brian for all the behind the scenes work, Treasurer Noel and his back up from Dianne - to them and the rest of the committee many thanks for all you have done to make this happen.

It is great to be hosting our second National Show and to have so many trees entered. It was hard for the selection committee to come up with the final selections, and I feel all who had a tree selected will feel proud of that achievement.

We also have two new awards this year, the Keith Lowe Trophy for the best New Zealand Native Bonsai and the Alan Van Award for the Best Tree and pot combination. These join the Colin Churchill Trophy for the Best Tree in Show and the Suiseki and Photographic Awards.

It was great during the year to see one of our members, Joy Morton, selected to represent New Zealand and Australia at the WBFF convention in China. Tony Bebb, our convention demonstrator, was also selected for this honour.

I would like to offer a challenge to all clubs in New Zealand. What are you doing to drive the expansion of bonsai and get younger members into this great hobby of ours? I feel it is time to look at what we do within clubs and if you are not attracting younger members have a look at how your club operates. I know of several clubs with quite large bank balances - are you using this to grow the knowledge within your club.

Several of the National Committee are either up for re election or are standing down, and special thanks to Joy Morton and Ian Gear for their input over their term.

I also want to thank our editor Dianne who continues to put out a fantastic magazine, and going forward we need to look for help for Dianne.

Avon and Christchurch clubs are looking at working together to hold a joint convention either October 2015 or March 2016 and the challenge is for a North Island Club to pick up the following convention.

In closing I thank all who have attended this convention and also the ones who entered our second National show.

Lindsay Muirhead

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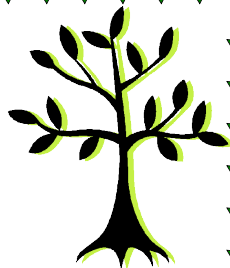
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Denito Dayap — Otorohanga
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NZBA National Convention Napier 2008	The demonstrations, speakers and exhibition trees		
NZBA National Convention Christchurch 2009	The demonstrations, speakers and exhibition 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
Two Shimapaku Plantings	Includes Rock Plantings	Yuji Yoshimura	6
US National Bonsai & Penjing Museum	Comments on trees viewed one by one		7
Demonstration	Accent Plants	Keiko Yamane	6
Newstead 2 Bonsai Extravaganza 2006	UK selection display for the Ginkgo Exhibition	John Hanbys Newstead Bonsai	7

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