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BONSAI TIMES



CLUBS

Auckland Bonsai Society

President Lindsay Muirhead — 09 576 7616
Contact: l.dm@xtra.co.nz
Sec: David Radue—09 535 79107
Meetings: 2nd Thurs 7:30pm Auckland Horticultural Council, 990 Great North Road, Western Springs, Auckland <http://sites.google.com/site/aucklandbonsaisoc/>

Avon Bonsai Society

President Beverley Van
Sec: Lyn Kennedy, 45 Claridges Road, Bishopdale, Chch
Contact: dhlekenedy@clear.net.nz
Meetings: 1st Wed 7:30 Isleworth School, Farrington Ave, Bishopdale, Christchurch

Bay of Plenty Bonsai Society

President Rebecca Fisher—07 570 1202
Sec: Sue Vercoe - 07 576 4874
Contact: jvercoe@xtra.co.nz
Meetings: Last Sun 1:30 - 4pm at the St Columba Church Hall, 502 Otumoetai Road, Otumoetai—Tauranga
Website: <http://bonsaibop.googlepages.com/>

Blenheim Bonsai Kai

President Dave Hunt - 03 577 8679
Contact: bonsaitech@actrix.co.nz
7 Hale Street, Blenheim

Bonsai Study Group

Bob Langholm - 09 629 3662
Contact: bob-si@ihug.co.nz
41 Taumata Rd, Mt Albert, Auckland
Contact Bob for details

Christchurch Bonsai Society

President Wendy Gibbs - 03 981 8594
Contact: chchbonsai@yahoo.com
27 Endeavour St, North New Brighton, Christchurch
Meetings: 2nd Wed 7:30 Cotswold Preschool, Colesbury St, Bishopdale, Christchurch

Eastern Bay of Plenty Bonsai Society

President Colin Churchill - 07 323 7560
Contact: Colin_churchill@xtra.xo.nz
10 Porritt Drive, Kawerau 2075
Meetings 1st Sunday afternoons
Phone for details

Gisborne

Heather Deere - 06-868 9519
Contact: Tetia@slingshot.co.nz

Gore Bonsai Club

President Carrol Graves - 03 208 6735
Secretary Helen Whyte 8 Margaret Street, Gore 9710
Contact: rwhyte@xtra.co.nz —03 208 6793
Meetings: 2nd Sat 1:30 Feb/Nov Except May/June
Phone for details of venue

Hamilton Bonsai Club

President Peter Mudie - Ph 07 871 9510
Contact: peter@lrd.co.nz
Secretary: Jeff Richards, PO Box 16194, Hamilton
Meetings: 2nd Sun 2pm May /Sept then 2nd Wed 7:30 Feb/April and Oct/Dec at Glenview Community Centre Cnr Tomin Rd and Glenview Tce, Hamilton
Website: www.hamiltonbonsai.co.nz

Hawkes Bay Bonsai Society

President Neil McCorkell — 06 878 7230
Contact: mccorkell@xtra.co.nz
Secretary: Ian Sayer - 06 843 4717
107 Riverbend Road, Napier
Meetings: 2nd Wed 7:30 Clive Community Hall, Napier

Matamata Bonsai Club

President Graeme Hancock
Kaimai View Garden Centre SH7, Matamata
Meetings: By arrangement contact Graeme

Manawatu Bonsai

President Peter Scotney
Vice President: Lynlee Wallace—06 353 7247

Nelson Bonsai

President Nigel Sutton
Contact: Nigel.sutton@ihug.co.nz
11 Torlesse Street, Wakatu, Stoke, Nelson 7011
Meetings: 1st Mon 7:30 (Except Public Holidays)
Nikau Gardens, 411 Nayland Rd (Summer) Stoke Hall, Stoke (Apr/Aug)

New Plymouth Bonsai Club Inc

President Glenys Jackson — 06 753 9644
Contact: mrep@clear.net.nz
4 Waiwera Place New Plymouth 4312
Meetings: Last Sun 2pm Royal NZ Foundation for the Blind, 131 Vivian, St, New Plymouth

Otago Bonsai Society

President Brian Ellis — 03 467 9629
Contact: gjletts@xtra.co.nz
Sec: Jan Letts 41 Ellife Place, Andersons Bay
Meetings: 1st Tues 7:30 Holy Cross Church Hall, Cnr Ajax & Richardson St, St Kida, Dunedin

Rotorua Bonsai Club

Jan Hansen - 07 345 6339
Contact 11 Charles Road, Hannahs Bay Rotorua
Meetings: 2nd Sun at St. Chad's Hall, Rotorua.

South Canterbury Bonsai Society

President Trevor Swaney - 03 684-5148
Secretary Alyson Guthrie—03 684 5363
Contact alysong@xtra.co.nz
F2 2 Clifton Terrace, Timaru 7910
Meetings 1st Wed Feb/Nov 7:30pm Art Centre, Gleniti Road, Timaru

Wellington Bonsai Club

President:
Secretary: Ken Coad
PO Box 30-621, Lower Hutt 5040
Email: Wellington.Bonsai@gmail.com
Website: www.huttcity.com/bonsai
Meetings: 1st Sunday of each month except January, 1.00pm Hutt Valley Tramping Club Rooms, Birch St Reserve, Waterloo, Lower Hutt

Wanganui Bonsai Buddies

President Neil Gardner - 06 327 7720
Secretary: Pat Kilmister—06 345 0294
2/8 Beckett Place, Martin
Meetings 2nd Sat 10am workshop 4th Sat 10am at members home
Contact Neil for details

YOUR COMMITTEE

PATRON

Keith Lowe MNZM

President

L Muirhead

L.dm@xtra.co.nz

0212458800

Secretary

Brian Ellis

secretary@bonsainz.com

Treasurer

Noel Plowman

penjing@actrix.co.nz

Committee

Joy Morton

Les Simpson

Ian Gear

Dianne Miller

Enquires and information:

Editor—Dianne Miller

EDITORIAL

penjing@actrix.co.nz

Telephone: 021 217 9588 or 09 401 6226

Treasurer—Noel Plowman—09 401 6226

47 Orchard Road, R D 2,

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From The President

We are now coming into what I think is the most exciting time with our bonsai, the spring growth and the new freshness of our trees. It is time to reflect on what the framework of our trees is after watching them over the winter.

I hope everyone has weathered the winter well and taken time to do some wiring on your pines and conifers and plan for the future.

The NZBA committee has been working hard behind the scenes planning for our next convention which we hope will be in 2014 and could be in Cambridge, in the central North Island. We still have some final dates to work out along with who will headline this but it will be well worth it for all.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you all to get those photos in for the WBFF World Photographic Contest as it closes 1st September.

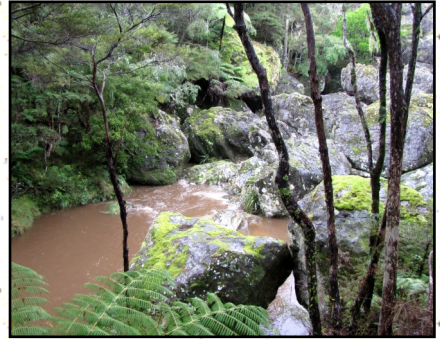
Next year we all have the opportunity of attending two World Conventions in China, BCI early in the year and WBFF in late September. It would be great to see some New Zealand faces at either of these major world conventions.

Also worthwhile planning for is the BCI World Convention on the Gold Coast in early 2014. I take this opportunity to encourage clubs to keep Dianne, our editor, up to date with what is happening in the clubs.

By the time you all read this we will be in spring and after the wet winter we have had in Auckland I am looking forward to the warmer times ahead.

Lindsay





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





BONSAI TIMES

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Moving is a challenging experience at the best of times, let alone having to move your bonsai collection. I have recently achieved this and declare, never again. There are a number of issues that come to hand when attempting to do this which would make a wonderful article for the Bonsai Times. Has anyone out there gone through this who would like to share their experiences? The great thing about our move is that all the bonsai are happy and well and this afternoon enjoyed a good prune. A little late but better than never.

It has been a wet winter and most of us have had to face the challenges that this brought. It's a great test of your soil mixes. Were your trees soggy, dry or about right? You will soon find out if things were not right as your trees may not be the best this year. Spring is just around the corner and your bonsai should be starting to show signs of life. Nothing is more rewarding than seeing those tiny buds start to burst into life. My favourite at this time of year are the maples. The fresh new colour of the leaves is truly amazing. My new property has about thirty specimen trees fully grown and about to burst into life. At the moment we are enjoying the magnolias, next the cherry blossoms and the ash trees are already showing leaf. It will be amazing to watch the leaves arrive and in some ways I feel like it's a birth of awakening. I will get to enjoy each tree as it reveals itself. I have learnt the joy of deciduous trees very quickly.

I must apologise for some errors in the Award section of the last newsletter. The photographic competition is The Joy Morton Photographic Competition and Lindsay Muirhead won both the BCI and WBFF Awards in the Suseki Competition. I regrettably showed the wrong bird stone as a place getter in the National Suseki Competition, donated by Bob Langholm and Simon Misdale. As I don't have a picture of the winning stone I am unable to present it. Hopefully you will forgive me.

Until next time,

Dianne



Workshop with Lee Wilson



The weekend of workshops with Lee Wilson saw some of our more far flung members make the trek back to Hamilton from Auckland and Paihia.

Saturday started with Marshall reducing her large semi-cascade down to more manageable proportions.....



.....whilst Gordon managed to add a trunk onto his tree.



Under Lee's gentle persuasion Gillian turned one tree into a forest.



Lindsay definitely went away with a lot less on his tree than he came in with.



The biggest surprise of the day was the large pine brought in by Martin. This will be a tree to look out for at the next National Show.

Saturday evening was spent enjoying a good meal at Ming City in Hamilton where octopus balls were a point of discussion.



Sunday saw a different lot of trees arrive, hornbeam, mugo pines, junipers, maples and a picea. Apart from one juniper, the trees were a bit smaller than some of those from Saturday but the design decisions were just as tough and the changes in some trees just as dramatic



Throughout it all Lee kept up a cheerful banter and the day seemed to fly by.

Preparation for a Workshop

When attending workshops it is important to maximise this opportunity and achieve the most you can from the occasion. It is important that you come prepared and don't waste your time doing things that you could have done at home. Here are a few points to consider.

- It makes good sense not to be too dogmatic about how you want your tree styled. By all means put your own ideas forward, but be prepared to consider the master's decisions – after all, he is the master! If you really feel you know exactly what you want, then do it yourself at home and get something else for the workshop.
- Find the top (near the surface) roots of the tree before you get to the workshop.
- Clean out weeds from the pot and remove any dead leaves etc. from the tree.
- If you are doing a group planting, then take the trees out of their pots some time before you arrive, reduce the soil to a minimum, and then put the trees into individual plastic bags.
- Apart from group plantings, it is not usual to transfer trees into Bonsai pots at the workshop, as there is seldom enough time. However, bring a pot or pots for approval if you wish.
- Do not water your trees for a day or two before the workshop. Let them dry out slightly.
- Try to have some sort of turntable to work on – even a light cake decorating one would suffice.
- Allow enough time to arrive early, it may take some time to get all your gear into the room and set yourself up.
- Do your best to have all the tools, wire, etc, that you are likely to need.
- Mark your tools with some sort of identification.
- Bring a garbage bag or container to take away your old soil or cuttings.

WAIRERE BOULDERS



Horeke - ever heard of the place? It's about time all bonsai lovers discovered this amazing nature park which is the home of the Wairere Boulders. This world unique boulder park is in the middle of lush subtropical rainforest, in the howling wilderness just off State Highway 12. Not any wiser? Turn off at Rangiahua which is on the way to Kaitaia.

When Lee Wilson visited New Zealand myself and Noel hosted him in the far north and one of our adventures, on a cold wet day, was to visit the Wairere Boulders. It was very Lord of the Rings, with the mist adding to the wow factor. The lush green native forest was a perfect backdrop to these amazing rock structures.



These stunning rock formations at Horeke—now known as the Wairere boulders lay hidden for more than 100 years until a Swiss couple stumbled across them looking for wild goats. Felix and Rita Schaad had lived in this remote valley for four years when they discovered this ancient treasure trove while out catching wild goats with their dog. Rita says when she approached the goat she found these rocks piled on top of each other like a river of stones.

After discovering this geological piece of paradise it took them six





years to bring them to the world. The determined couple began building pathways and bridges by hand throughout this jungle oasis. This exercise was very dangerous and labour intensive. Often Rita had to secure Felix on a rope to make sure he did not disappear into one of the thirty metre deep gaps. The materials had to be transported into the valley by flying fox.

The walk takes approximately

one and half hours. Bonsai lovers beware, this took us hours as we wandered in amazement, clicking away endlessly with the camera. The gentle drizzle highlighting the greens of the mosses and ferns, drawing the greys and yellows out of the rocks as well as making the pathways slippery. We often had to crouch under rocks, walk sideways through passages or stay calm as we climbed up cut out stairways in the rock. Each twist and turn in the path added to the mystery and endless amazement at this ancient wonder. Some of these boulders are over thirty metres high and the size of a house. Hundreds are piled on top of each other, some weathered and worn into patterns, these being smooth, waved, rough or sharp.



together and did not make any logical sense -adding to the spectacle.

The geology of the Wairere Boulder Valley is that around 2.8 million years ago there was a volcano in this area which poured out a basalt layer. This covered the land and formed the Wairere Valley. This sat on a soft clay base.

Water running towards the sea which formed into a river consequently widened the gaps under the layers of rocks, more and more of the lava flow broke off and the boulders placed themselves into forming a valley. As thousands of years passed the valley widened with lots of rocks sitting all over both valley sides in the soft clay. They gently floated down-



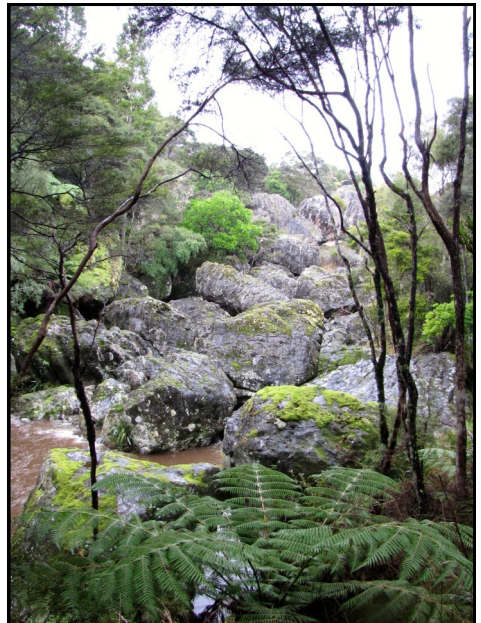
hill towards the deeper parts in the middle of the valley. Slowly rainwater falling onto the boulders moistened and softened the clay all around them.

Eventually all the rocks ended up piled at the bottom of the valley where they sit today, stacked on top of each other. The fluting pointing in all different directions indicating that

the boulders must have been turned around many times during their journey to the valley floor.

Our journey to the Wairere Boulders was something very special and every bonsai lover should make this journey. Surrounding the boulders is native forest and while you journey through this wonderland not only do you hear the rushing of the stream amongst the boulders, as it makes its way down the valley you also hear the song of native birds who dart about and surprise you. Many of the trees are named and you can see that time has made its mark.

I believe this is a special place which I long to visit again. It will have many faces as the seasons would present it in different ways. I look forward to my next visit.



Plants and trees of significance in China

China has some 30,000 species of plant; about an eighth of the world's known flora. Many of our most familiar ornamental plants originated in China including azalea, rhododendron, camellia, gardenia, hibiscus, peony, chrysanthemum and ginkgo. Centuries of tradition and appreciation have imparted aesthetic, spiritual, even mystical significance to many species for the Chinese. They use plants sparingly in their gardens and select each specimen for its symbolic meanings.



Azalea flowers represent elegance and wealth. In Chinese culture the azalea is known as the "thinking of home bush" and is immortalised in the poetry of To Fu. The season for azalea to blossom is just when the cuckoo starts singing (both are called 'Dujian' in Mandarin). There are many ancient poems and romantic stories dedicated to both the bird and the flower.

Bamboo is used in traditional Chinese gardens for its beauty, the rustling sound of its leaves in the breeze and the feathery shadows it casts on the walls of the garden. It is always green in colour and is a symbol of old age and modesty. The cluster of canes arising from one central plant with an extensive root system symbolises the ideal cohesive society.



Bamboo is one of the "Three Friends of Winter". Bamboo and plum together represent man and wife.



Banana trees are common in Chinese gardens in warm regions. It is a symbol of self-discipline. It is valued for the sound made by wind and rain drops on the broad leaves.



Camellia sinensis

Camellia. A Chinese legend recounts that tea was discovered by accident 5,000 years ago when the Emperor Chen Long Huang Ti was relaxing in the garden of his palace one afternoon. A gust of wind blew a leaf from a nearby shrub into the Emperor's cup of warm water. The liquid changed to a resplendent gold colour and a healthy aroma issued from the cup. The Emperor sipped the drink and was invigorated by its fresh taste. He suggested that all people of his kingdom raise tea plants and prepare this noble beverage.

Lilac in China represents modesty, which is one of the virtues valued by Chinese people.



Chrysanthemum is homophone for "autumn", "remain", "nine" and "long time" and so symbolises a strong life. The flowers are displayed sparingly, to emphasise the beauty of individual blooms and to symbolise splendour, lustre and the "courage to make sacrifices for a natural life". It is good to give old people chrysanthemum flowers because it means long life. Only red ones should be given because white and light yellow ones are used at funerals. It is considered to be best picked on the 9th day of the 9th month. Extracts of chrysanthemum stem and flower have been shown to have a wide variety of medicinal properties. It was first cultivated as a flowering herb as far back as 1500 BCE.

Lily is a plant that helps to forget troubles. It is also known as the bringer of sons so is often given to a woman at the beginning of her marriage.



Lotus symbolises purity as it comes out of the mire but is not itself soiled. It is inwardly empty yet outwardly upright. It has no branches yet smells sweet. It is why it is compared to people who are successful in life though they may come from a less prestigious background. The fruit, flower and the stalk of the lotus symbolise the past, present and future. For Buddhist lotus represents noble character, the soul battling against the material world to reach the light. It is also a Confucian model for the enlightened man. Almost every part of a lotus plant is useful; the seeds and root are edible with the seeds often used as medicine. The lotus is said to bloom in Beijing on April 8 (the Buddha's birthday) and January 8 is lotus day.



Maple trees represent old people who don't admit that they are old because these trees blossom in autumn which is near the end of a year.

Jonquil or Narcissus blossoms in winter. In China it is a symbol of wealth and good fortune, whereas in the west it is a symbol of vanity. During the Chinese New Year people decorate their houses with it and if your narcissus blooms on Chinese New Year it is said to bring you extra wealth and good fortune throughout the year. In ancient China when the Chinese saw this beautiful white flower with a golden cup in the centre, they built a mythology about a poor but good man who was brought many cups of gold and wealth by the flower. It is also considered a medicinal herb.





Orchids blossom in spring and they bring an air of high class respectfulness. Orchids are one of the four noble flowers of Chinese tradition and the flower's moral symbolism was first described by Confucius. He believed the beauty and fragrance of orchids reflected nobleness of the intellect and spirit. "The orchids grow in the woods and they let out their fragrance even if there is no one around to appreciate it. Likewise men of noble character will not let poverty deter their will to be guided by high principles and morals" Orchids have been used as a source of herbal remedies since 2800 BCE

Plate by Ernst Haeckel

Nandina is known as sacred bamboo or heavenly bamboo, although it is not a bamboo. In Chinese Nandina means "South Heaven" because of its association with the lucky gods. It is a typical gift for a new homeowner as a symbol of joyful good luck for the newly established household. While the berries are mildly toxic they have a number of medicinal uses.



Riverbank of Peach Blossoms – by Shitao



Peach blossoms in spring and represents beautiful girls. In Chinese tradition at Chinese New Year, people who want to find love will usually buy a whole plant and put it in their home because this will bring them luck in finding love in the coming year. The ancient Chinese believed that peach possesses more vitality than any other tree because the blossom appears before the leaves. When early rulers of China visited their territories they were preceded by people armed with peach rods to protect them from evil spirits. Peach kernels are a common ingredient in traditional medicines.



Osmanthus is one of the ten famous flowers in China. It is a traditional symbol of love and romance and is also associated with the moon festival. This is held in September when the flowers are at their best. Families gathered in their yards to eat moon cakes while the grandmother told ancient stories about the Moon, the sweet Osmanthus and the figures of Chinese legends. Osmanthus was also used in old wedding customs in Taiwan when the bride prepared sweet osmanthus and pomegranate pot plants and carried them to her new family. Dried flowers of sweet Osmanthus can be combined with black or green tea. It is claimed that drinking Osmanthus tea improves complexion and helps rid the body of toxins.

Peonies are the Queen of flowers and represent wealth and distinction. It is the symbol of beauty, intelligence and character. A legend says that one day an empress ordered all the flowers to open at the same time. Only the peony dared to stay closed. Red peonies are the most desired and valued while white peonies symbolise young, witty and beautiful girls. In 1903 the Qing dynasty declared the peony as the national flower. However, the PRC currently has no legally designated national flower.



Rose symbolises youth and the four seasons. The Chinese use rose oil for the production of rose water which is used in many Chinese recipes and ceremonies. The Chinese rose possesses the ability to bloom repeatedly unlike many other rose species. It is strongly related to Guan, the Chinese earth God.



Pines which live for 100 – 1,000 years indicate longevity, persistence, tenacity and dignity. It is another “Friend of Winter”. Many species of pine are native to China.



Plum blossom is fragrant and beautiful and is associated with nobleness. In late winter the bare branches put forth masses of blossoms, often while the garden is still covered in snow. Taoists believe that one who contemplates this sight can experience the essence of spiritual harmony. It is seen as a symbol of winter and a harbinger of spring. It came to symbolise perseverance and hope, also beauty, purity and the transitoriness of life. In Confucianism plum blossom stands for the principles and values of virtue. Plum blossom is one of the most important species in Chinese gardens and represents renewal and strength of will. Branches forced to bloom indoors symbolise friendship. More recently it has been used to symbolise revolutionary struggle.

Pomegranate was introduced to China during the Tang Dynasty. It has very beautiful flowers and contains many seeds. A fruit containing so many seeds is a sign of fecundity. Pictures of ripe fruit with seeds bursting forth were often hung in homes to bestow fertility and bless the dwelling with many offspring. In Chinese tradition, people put this fruit on the bed of newlyweds so as to help fertility.



White Yulan is a beautiful flower and is the official city flower of Shanghai. It has a faint but refreshing scent, so is a good flower to plant in yards or the front of houses. Symbolically White Yulan is said to represent repaying gratitude and obligation.

Bamboo, pine trees and plum blossom commonly seen together in a painting are the "Friends in winter". Every year, as the cold days deepen into the winter season, many plants begin to wither. That the pine, bamboo and plum do not was noted by the Chinese. Together they symbolise perseverance, integrity and modesty. They are highly regarded in Confucianism and as such represent the scholar-gentleman's ideal. The pine and plum-blossom add their fragrance to the cold air and are therefore valued as bringers of distinction to adverse conditions.

The Friends of Winter



Three Friends of Winter by Zhao Mengjian

This is further emphasised by the evergreen qualities of pine and bamboo, added to the early flowering of the plum while snow is still on the ground, and makes of them symbols of perseverance and integrity. In this connection, they also symbolise longevity: bamboo and pine because of their evergreen quality, plum blossom because it reappears on the age-old branches. In other weathers the three sometimes have contrary meanings. Since the pine withstands the wind it symbolises endurance, whereas the bamboo bends with the wind and survives in that contrasting way. Plum blossom, however, is scattered by the spring breeze and in that context symbolises the transitoriness of life and beauty.

The Four Gentlemen

Bamboo, plum blossom, orchid and chrysanthemum are collectively known as the Four Gentlemen. In Chinese art they are also known as the Four Noble Ones. They are most typically depicted in traditional ink and wash paintings and they belong to the category of bird and flower painting in Chinese art. They represent the four seasons; orchid – spring, bamboo – summer, chrysanthemum – autumn and plum blossom – winter, depicting the unfolding of the seasons through the year. They have been used together in Chinese painting since the Song dynasty.

Peony and other plant combinations

Peony, lotus, plum tree, and chrysanthemum symbolise the four seasons

Peony and hibiscus mean flourishing in riches and reputation

Peony and wild apple (hai tang) mean - may your house (tang) stand in riches and credit

Peony and peaches symbolise long life, riches, and reputation

Peony, pine tree, and stone symbolise riches and reputation

Thanks to Brian Ellis for this wonderful article. Brian is NZBA Secretary and member of the Otago Bonsai Society. As we all appreciate nature and the wonder of trees it is delightful to discover a little history of our flowers and plants. Thanks Brian for an appealing and informative item.

Sourcing of Pots



Les Honeyfeild, Auckland Bonsai Society and club newsletter editor provides us with his observations and opinions on sourcing pots.

In response to some queries about the sourcing of pots from newer members, I trust that my comments below may assist.

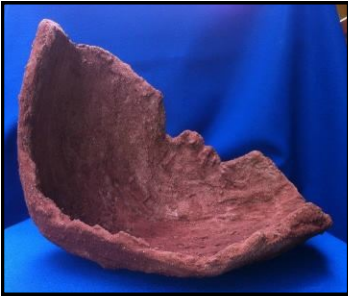
There is value in having a range of unused pots at hand when potting, especially in spring when either re-potting or starting a new bonsai, you realise that the pot you intended to use can be too big, small, shallow, the wrong colour, wrong shape etc. In this situation, when you have a bare rooted tree in your hand, there is little option than to use the most suitable pot at hand. You can re-pot it later causing more stress to the tree, or allow it to irritate you for the coming year.

The cost of having a range of pots sitting there ready for use can be significant, but pots can slowly and steadily be acquired throughout the years without too a heavy strain on the bank balance. Once a range of pots are acquired, they become a valuable asset to your hobby and assuming there are not too many breakages, the on-going cost will reduce over time.

You can find bonsai pots at most garden centres, but the supply may be limited and unreliable. If you find a suitable pot, it is best to buy on the spot as often if you return later, it will have been sold.

Other sources include :-

- Bonsai NZ, in Clevedon - South Auckland
- Plantarama on the old road from Westgate to Kumeu always have a range of bonsai pots.
- A Chinese retailer called "Wah Lee" on upper Hobson Street has pots and trays, but usually not displayed. Ask to see in the warehouse out the back. They also have other items such as figurines, pottery houses and temples etc that can be used to accent displays.
- A little out of town and if you are going through Matamata, the Kaimai Garden Centre has a good range of pots. This Centre is owned by a Hamilton Bonsai club member.



- Don't forget looking on Trademe. Many pots come up for sale, and often there are offerings from potters with new goods. One that I personally recommend is "cambium" from Winton.
- Ask at club nights, some members like to have a clean out now and then and are likely to help out newer people.
- Why not approach potting clubs or societies. They will most likely be looking for a new topic or challenge.

You can use other substrates for planting bonsai :-

- Try landscaping or tile supply firms for slabs of granite or stone.
- They may also have access to lumps of scoria, which can be hollowed out, but this can take some effort or expertise.
- Pumice can be gathered from lake shores, better than the seashore as there is no salt contamination. This is soft and easily worked.
- Driftwood from lakes is another possibility, although this should be thoroughly treated with preservative (suggest clear metalex) several times and rested for a period before planting out. You need to use a little judgment here, as larger / wider timber slabs may split and create some amount of rework and re-establishment of displays



Auckland Bonsai Society

March, Open section
Lodge pole pine
by Roy



Auckland Bonsai Society share their monthly display competition winners. All clubs usually have display tables for members at monthly meetings. At Auckland members are given the opportunity to vote for their favourite tree, with the winner being announced at the end of the meeting. Apologies to Roy as I was unable to cut and paste your April winning entry.

March, Emerging section
Juniper
by Les



April, Open section
Corsican black pine
by Lindsay



May, Emerging section
Pohutukawa
by Les



May, Open section
Atlas cedar
by Roy





David's raft planting demonstration

The raft subject was a Redwood that David collected from the Rotorua forest two years ago, and potted rootless in a tub of general potting mix. While its main trunk had died, a strong side shoot with many branches had taken from the base.

A large timber box had been constructed for the initial planting of the raft.

Removal from the pot and teasing out of soil from the root mass revealed a large healthy root ball.

Branches generally on one side were cut back to the trunk and cambium left exposed. Other sections of bark could also have been cut back at this time to allow more rooting points. Rooting hormone can also be applied to these areas.

A layer of potting media was laid across the box.

Remaining branches were wired, shaped and pinned in final position. Further cuts to the bark can be made on the underside of the selected branches. This operation could have been done in advance of the previous three, but being done at night there was less stress to the tree than when doing it in the heat of the day.

Potting mix was worked into the root mass and over the pinned branch structure.

We anticipate the result in coming years, but with this trees prior history of rooting, we can expect a good start to a redwood group.

Bay of Plenty Bonsai Society



All those who attended Adriaan and Poppie's open day on the 6th of May had a great day. The weather was perfect and a big crowd turned out from Rotorua, Hamilton and Bay of Plenty. Poppie redesigned a Buddleja forest into one of Adriaan's newly made trays. While Poppie worked Adriaan described the construction of the tray from plastic sheet offcuts, filled,

sanded and painted. Adriaan also described the total regrafting of a smaller leaf Ficus to well developed root stock. Poppie's final Buddleja forest was very impressive. Everyone took the opportunity to wander the gardens and admire the many fine Bonsai in Adriaan and Poppie's collection. After question time we all had a wonderful afternoon tea. A great day was enjoyed by all.



Avon Bonsai Society



FIELD TRIP TO CRAIGIEBURN

In spite of the short notice given, we had twelve people travelling to Craigieburn to gather wilding trees. Christchurch showed us a damp overcast morning as we left but on approaching Springfield we could see blue skies ahead of us and what turned into a brilliantly sunny day. There had been a frost but the sun was warm and with no wind it was a perfect day to go tree hunting.

These were to be seen everywhere, all sizes from a few inches to 'as big as you could fit in your car'. Armed with pick axes, spades and shovels, we soon collected a wide variety, including pines, spruce, and larch.

While Bernice and I were sitting enjoying the sun a man drove up and politely asked who we were and what we were doing. He turned out to be the Ranger so it was nice to be able to tell him who we were and that DOC had given permission for us to help ourselves. He pointed out the area in the left of photo (*shown right*), telling us that these trees had been planted some years ago when acid rain was being used as a defoliant overseas and these trees were to be planted to provide their seeds to be sent to replace those trees destroyed by the acid rain.

But when this ceased the project was never carried out. I don't know what will eventually happen to these trees.

MAD NURSERY RHYME NO. 3

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are,
I never took astronomy,
'Cos I'm a little dumb you see.

Otago Bonsai Society

The June meeting was a demonstration and discussion about making Daiza for displaying suiseki.



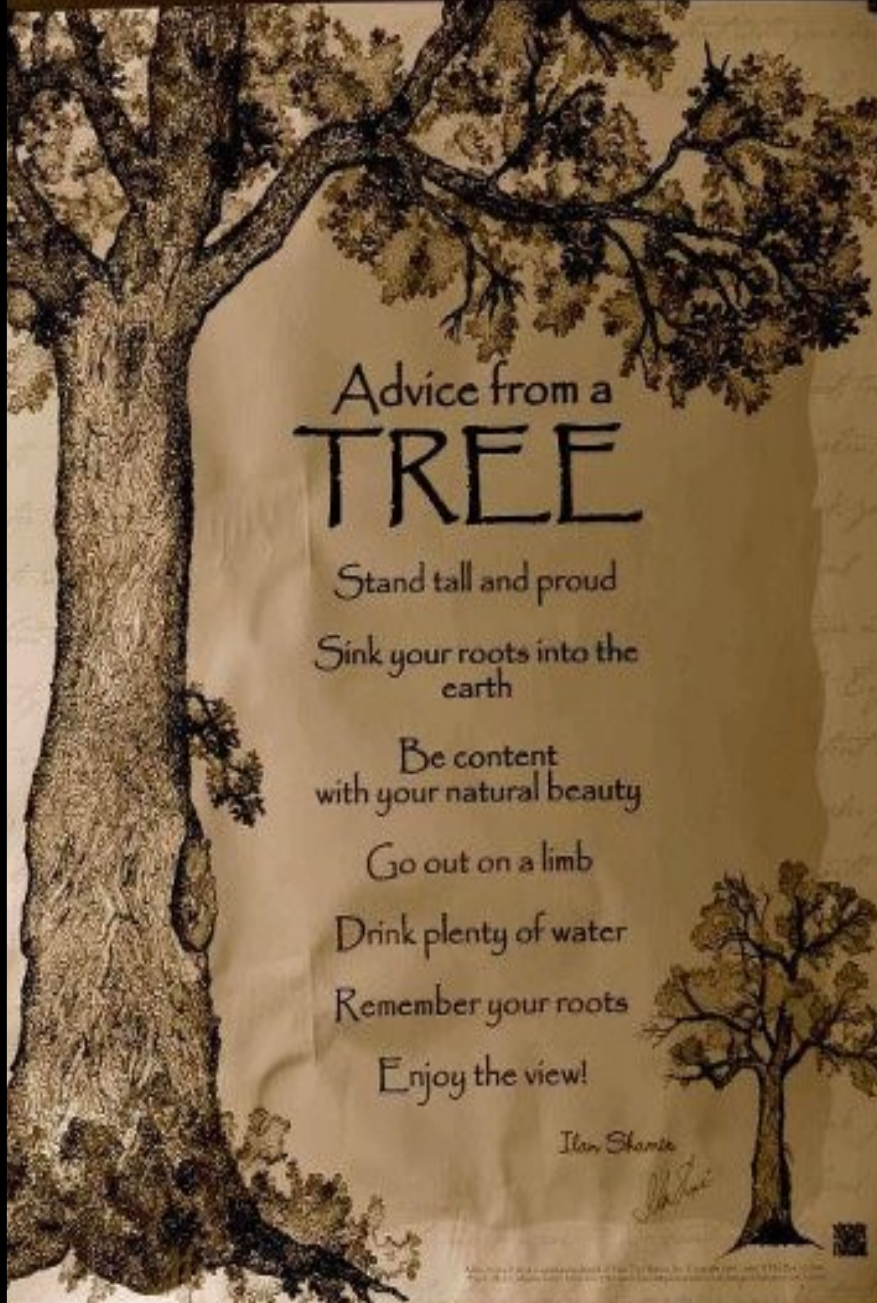
Russ Tait, Colin Morton and Joy Morton demonstrating their approach to Daiza

In July we had Tony Bywater from Christchurch talking about New Zealand natives and their use as bonsai. His key message was that we should be developing our own style in New Zealand when creating bonsai from native trees. This should not necessarily follow the formal style of Japanese bonsai but more closely align with the natural shape of the native tree as it occurs in the wild. It was an enjoyable evening and we can recommend Tony as a speaker for other clubs.

August was our AGM with John Steel of the Botany department of the University of Otago talking about moss. His talk covered the various types of moss and how they reproduce. He then showed some innovative uses of moss in various art forms and finally discussed how to care for and propagate moss.

Notes from the NZBA Committee

The committee has given considerable thought to the next National Convention as it has not been able to secure a host club for either 2013 or 2012. The Committee decided that it would take responsibility for the organisation of the next convention and this is planned for September 26—28 in 2014, in Cambridge. The second National Show, following the first one in Christchurch, will form the convention bonsai exhibition. We are currently seeking confirmation of the keynote demonstrator. Further information will be announced as soon as we have more details.



Advice from a
TREE

Stand tall and proud

Sink your roots into the
earth

Be content
with your natural beauty

Go out on a limb

Drink plenty of water

Remember your roots

Enjoy the view!

Ilan Stavie



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The Secret of Eternal Life

In the wild, a healthy tree will continue growing until it reaches its genetically pre-determined height. Eventually, the distance between the active roots at the periphery of the root system and the increasing mass of foliage at the tips of the branches become too great and the tree begins to deteriorate. The foliage receives less water and nutrients and is less able to supply adequate sugars to generate new roots and the tree eventually dies.

Because a bonsai is constantly being encouraged, by pruning, to produce new healthy roots and shoots, it is always actively growing, trying to reach maturity. The actual living part – the cambium, flanked by the xylem and phloem – is never more than a few years old.

Provided enough growth takes place each year to lay down sufficient xylem and phloem to sustain the tree, a bonsai will always remain essentially young and should, in theory at least, live forever.

This insight into tree growth is an abbreviated extraction from a bonsai care book by Colin Lewis.



AABC Convention 2012



The 25th National Bonsai Convention Melbourne held 18 -21 May 2012 was hosted by Bonsai Northwest Inc Rydges Hotel, Bell City, Preston, Melbourne. World renowned and Japanese trained Boon Manakitivipart was the headliner presenter with Don De Luca and Glenys Bebb the Australian demonstrators.

After the welcome and opening of the convention by Lindsay Bebb, Don DeLuca was the first demonstrator, working with a tall twisted Black Pine whip, "rubbish material" (his words), to show that advantage could be taken of the suppleness of the trunk to bend it into twisted shapes and reduce the height, with a view to creating a worthwhile bonsai in the future. In part two of his demonstration he showed how extreme bends could be put into this kind of material, using wire only.

Boon Manakitivipart did a two part demonstration before and after lunch on both days. He is a great teacher, and showed us a number of new ideas on techniques for managing pines, and caring of bonsai trees generally. He worked on mainly pines and conifers, junipers, a cedar and an impressive looking olive.

There were fifty four trees on display of which two were presented with awards. The first award was presented by Glenys Bebb on behalf of **Bonsai Clubs International** for this cascade style English Elm, which was displayed in a tokoname in the hotel foyer. The second award was from **World Bonsai Friendship Federation**, and was presented by Lindsay Bebb for a large Banksia Serrata, which has grown into a magnificent bonsai.

On Saturday Jim Miller and Grant Bowie presented a slide show re progress of the permanent home for the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia in the National Arboretum at Canberra. It is progressing well, and the official opening will be on 2nd February 2013. There will be tours to the arboretum and the NBPCA collection on the Friday before and the Monday after the 2013 AABC Convention.

During the weekend the International Demonstrator was Boon Manakitivipart, from California, U.S.A., and the Australian Demonstrators were Don DeLuca, who alternated with Boon's sessions on the Saturday, and Glenys Bebb, who gave a great slide show presentation on Bonsai Design on the Sunday morning, before Boon started on his Sunday demonstration sessions. The final demonstration on Sunday was by the "Bonsai Northwest Talent Team" during which Gavin Dalgrosso demonstrated his artistic giftedness by sketching each tree as it was being worked on and also the forest when the team combined their trees into one.

Glenys Barnes and her committee from Bonsai Northwest are to be congratulated for a well organised event. The catering was second to none and the venue was well chosen as it had everything in the one complex.

The next AABC National Convention (the 26th) will be in Canberra from 17th to 20th May 2013 to be organised by the Canberra Bonsai Society whose members made a presentation on the Sunday afternoon.



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 closes 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

- bonsai.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.

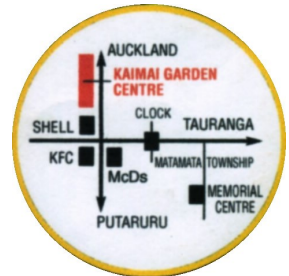
**Canberra Bonsai Society Organising Committee
2013 AABC National Bonsai Convention**



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David Gilbert

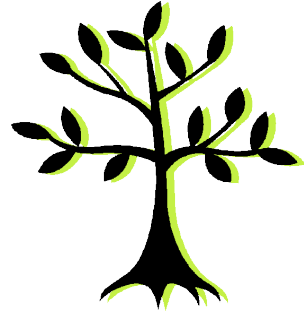
Wellington Bonsai Club is sad to report that David Gilbert has passed away. David was a stalwart member of the Wellington club, being Treasurer for a number of years. He will be sadly missed

Ken Coad - Secretary
Wellington Bonsai Club



New Members

Susan Horrobin—Whangarei



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this small beginning



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TITLE	DESCRIPTION	FEATURES	Rating
Bonsai at his home		John Naka	4
Finding the Bonsai Within 98 minutes	Working with difficult trees. Ponderosa Pine Wiring Techniques	Andy Smith	7
In Full Circle	Japanese-Style Garden. Design and Implementation	D Slawson & P Krause	
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

HIRE RULES

- * DVD's are available at \$10 per month each
- * Alternatively you can hire 2 DVD's at \$15 per month
- * To hire you or your club/society has to be a member of NZBA
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