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### MAY NEWSLETTER 2012

Dear Members,

This past weekend our bonsai club had its annual show which included a small suiseki display as only 4 of our members belong to the suiseki club and only 3 of us exhibited. The stones did spark a bit of interest and as I have said many times before suiseki in this country is not very well known only to those that may be involved in bonsai would know what they are. The general public who attended the show were interested and saw them as a novelty. If only they knew what a fascinating art form it is and what they are missing!

Below are just a couple of the stones exhibited – a mountain stone and Madonna and child.



Some of our members who were at the show began discussing miniatures and one lady told me that she was going to a miniatures show and that she had been collecting small objects since she was a little girl. I was envious as I couldn't go with her the next day and I also told her that I have collected small things all my life as well. We started comparing what we had in our collections and the excitement it bought you would have thought that we were 6 year old girls getting excited over a new toy!

On hearing our joy our club member and resident potter who was selling her wares at our show, Janet Selby, said if you both like miniatures so much take a look at these. With abated breath we waited while she carefully opened a small box and we gasped in amazement at what she had made. In there she had tiny micro-miniature bonsai trees, landscapes and also some suiseki all made with clay that was created while sitting in front of the television. All I can say is that the programs must have been pretty boring!

After I purchased what appealed to me I invited her to come along to our next suiseki meeting to show the other members. Another aspect at looking at stones but made from a different medium with a bit of art thrown in. A fun night with a twist. Here are the examples that I purchased with a 5 cent coin in comparison to show how small they really are.



As you can see the colourings are true to form and the chrysanthemum stone (right picture) looks very realistic. The tree in the tray on the left even looks ancient with all of its markings and lack of branches.

Over the years I have also found many miniature stones that I have made daizas for and the collection has really grown. They are kept in cases that are lined with foam rubber and to keep them safe when travelling the foam has been cut for each stone to keep it snug. I think these ‘treasures’ will also have to have an airing at the next meeting while Janet is there.

This is an invitation to all members to also bring along any of your small ‘treasures’ to show and it doesn’t matter if they are not stone related. It doesn’t matter if you collect miniature frogs or bonsai pots bring along what you collect for a fun night.

Happy Hunting,  
Brenda

### **THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH (Haiku by Janet Selby)**

Its massive trunk sits  
proudly in a little dish,  
six inch bonsai.

George and Johns ‘Timely Timber & Tool Tips’

May, 2012

Hello ‘Rock Hounds’

Had a lovely trip to a place called Joadja Creek today. It was organized through our local services club, and although I don’t normally go along on these ‘Seniors Coach Trips’, this one caught my interest as I thought it may possibly be a site to look for some interesting stones. Joadja Creek is a ghost town located a couple of hours drive south of Sydney, west of Berrima / Mittagong on the way to Wombeyan Caves. Joadja Creek was the site of a mining town where oil bearing shale was mined and refined to produce kerosene in the late 1800 - early 1900 hundreds. The village supported about 1300 hundred people in its heyday, mainly Scots who had the knowledge of refining kerosene bearing shale, and was pretty much self sufficient, being 2-3 days travel from Mittagong. At the time, Joadja Creek had the largest population in the southern Highlands area. As well as producing kerosene and other related products (*one of which was petrol, but as horses don’t drink petrol and there was no practical use for it then, and due to its*

*volatility, it was flushed as waste into the local creek, shades of Orica!!*) They had a large orchard which not only supplied fruit locally, but was shipped to the Sydney markets in wooden cases bearing the ‘Australian Kerosene Oil and Mineral Company’ stamp. I wonder if shoppers then were as concerned with the source of their fruit.

As with many other profitable ventures, then end for Joadja Creek came when America started to produce petroleum products from crude oil at a much cheaper cost and refining oil from shale became prohibitive (*is there a resources lesson here somewhere?*).

What you may ask, has all this to do with suiseki?

Joadja Creek is now a Heritage listed area and unlike a couple of decades ago when the then owners of the site were encouraging people to take away samples of all and sundry – at a small price of course-removal of any material from the site is now definitely a no-no.

Although I didn’t get anything – well almost nothing- to show for my visit, it was a most informative and enjoyable look into some of Australia’s past. Pick a nice day, go and have a look around and maybe, if you’re lucky, you may just find a memento of bygone days.

So long till next time,  
G&J

### **REPORT FROM THE MID NORTH COAST (Jan Briggs)**

Suiseki is alive and well on the mid north coast. We recently had the Wauchope Agricultural Show where traditionally they have had a bonsai competition, but this year our enthusiastic veteran Margaret (who is a longstanding member of the venerable show committee) persuaded the committee to allow us to have a suiseki display. Margaret is so influential that instead of the usual stands that have chicken wire fronts (so that little fingers don’t touch the displays) she persuaded the committee to give us a most beautiful old glass showcase which even had a light, to allow us to display our stones. Margaret and I put on a good display of stones and received lots of interest from the general public, with one couple saying they would like to come and join us (not for bonsai but just for suiseki). One old dear even took my explanation sign about suiseki as she never even knew it existed.

Suiseki is indeed alive and well on the mid north coast. Following Brenda’s visit to our Wauchope Bonsai Group last year we have engendered lots of interest amongst our members (well at least four or five members) who would like to have a little suiseki workshop group meet once a month at my place to do some daiza carving. We have all been so busy it’s been hard to find the time (as it will be for the next three months or so), so hopefully we can start the wood chips flying soon. Lynette from Coffs Harbour (2 ½ hours drive) and Barry from Foster (1 ½ hours drive) are both intending to come, such is the enthusiasm. Oh how we do miss our suiseki workshops at Rays (and Rose’s rock cakes of course). Maybe we can even manage to entice George north for a visit in the future. Here are some pics to prove it.





Great to see other clubs putting on stone displays. Does your club do them as well – send us a photo so we can see your stones in the newsletter.

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***A notification sent by Chiara Padrini (from Italy) regarding suiseki trips she is organizing for your information. Her email address is [chiara@padrini.it](mailto:chiara@padrini.it)***

Dear Friends,

As you may know, the BCI Congress will be held in China Yangzhou April 20 to 22 2013

The organizers are setting for a tour that is expected after the congress. The program and dates will be available during Denver BCI Convention next June.

Personally I'm trying to organize two tours and I need to have your provisional interest in attending one of these tours for optimizing my work.

The first tour - that I have the quote - is in Vietnam, where some of us have already come with me before the BCI China 2010. It 'a beautiful country and travel agency offers excellent service. Attached the trip program and costs.

The second tour - I care much more – is in Korea, where stones are very beautiful, and thanks to a Korean friend who lives in Italy and is a stone lover; I can have important contacts in Korea. He travels frequently there and knows Directors of the Korean Association who were willing to help for visiting many cities with Suseok museums and private collections. This tour is expected to be about 6 to 7 days and may visit more than one place on the same day as South Korea, is a country not very large. I think it is a great opportunity because it is not so easy to enter into the stones in Korea and see the most important sites.

This program is still in the working phase therefore susceptible to change. For now I can't give precise figures for guidance, but the places I plan to include in the tour are:

1. BU Cheon: near Seoul with a stone museum <http://www.bcmuseum.or.kr/>
2. CHUNG JU: public museum for NAMHAN GANG stone (approx. 150km from Seoul).
3. AN DONG: famous folk village after QUEEN ELIZABETH visit on the way to CHEONG
4. CHEONG SONG: Which village is famous worldwide for flower stones there you can see how this stone is cut / cleaned / waxed. That is the only place where you can see and buy SUNFLOWER stones which are the most famous and expensive.
5. KYEONG JU: more than 1.500 years old and beautiful capitol of Shilla Dynasty, on the way to KOSUNG
6. KO SUNG: public museum for Korean Palombino- like stone.
7. SUN Cheon / YEO ON: collector's private museum
8. KWANG JU: another collector has his own private museum
11. JEON JU: One Buddhist monk has his own museum (Also this city is famous for traditional Korean food)

I would be very grateful if you can let me know if you are interested in participating in one or both tours, in order to plan the tours better.

Best regards

*Chiara (April 2012)*

I had an email come through via our website from a Romanian guy who lives in Italy and who only collects Sugata-ishi or Figure Stones. These stones can look like people, animals, huts, boats and bridges. He has been out of work for 2 years and thoroughly enjoys collecting these stones. He hasn't made daizas for these stones as yet but when he does he will send me some photos of them. For now though, here are a couple of photos he did send me.



A human stone.



An animal stone.

### NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be on the 16<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm.

Our theme will be miniatures of any kind that you may collect. Janet Selby will be our special guest when she will show us her latest creations.

See you all then,

Brenda

## PICTURE GALLERY



A mountain stone that was exhibited at a recent bonsai show. It is a very heavy piece of limestone from Western Australia.

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