

VICTORIAN NATIVE BONSAI CLUB

PRESENTS

**THE 2020 EXHIBITION OF
AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS
AS BONSAI**

MAY 2020

CATALOGUE OF DISPLAY TREES

1. *Leptospermum lanigerum*

Woolly Tea Tree

“Granville Spreader”

Purchased in 2016 as nursery stock that had been pruned regularly by the roaming wallabies. Styled in several workshops. Its common name derives from the conspicuously hairy capsules, along with the fine, silky hairs present on branches and leaves.

2. *Baeckea brevifolia*

Short Leaf Heath Myrtle

It was collected in the wild from Central New South Wales and is probably in excess of 60 years old. A common heathland shrub found in coastal central New South Wales. The bark is a highlight and must be decades old.

3. *Melaleuca linariifolia*

Snow in Summer

From a tiny seedling collected at the edge of a neighbour’s dam about 8 years ago. It has grown and developed rapidly under a hedge pruning regime with occasional wire to direct growth. The pots sits in a water tray over summer.

4. *Leptospermum sp.*

Tea Tree

A chance seedling in a pot of another species of tea tree. It takes very well to both pruning and repotting. Mostly trained by clip and grow with occasional wiring to direct trunks and branches.

**5. *Melaleuca paludicola*
*syn Callistemon sieberi***

River Bottlebrush

Trained to resemble the trees that survive in and along the edges of our flood prone mountain streams where all growth points downstream, roots grip the bare rocks and dead wood is common on the upstream side of trunks and branches.

6. *Kunzea ambigua*

Tick Bush

A collected tree from the NSW central coast. Immediately after purchase in 2019 it was potted into the current pot. I have styled it over time at meetings and workshops. Tick bush is mainly found on sandstone soils in eastern Australia. Grows to 5m and bears small white flowers in spring.

7. *Leptospermum laevigatum*

Coastal Tea Tree

After starting as tube stock the tree was gradually potted into larger pots until I purchased it in a 300mm squat pot in 2016. The design movement to the right was established during a workshop in 2019. Future work will be improving ramification and possible removal of the first back branch.

8. *Baeckea linifolia*

Weeping Baeckea

Purchased in November 2015. I removed top branch and styled the major bends using a steel rod to hold the shape in place. The tree was potted into the current bonsai pot in January 2016.

9. *Leptospermum laevigatum*

Coastal Tea Tree

Free tube stock was handed out at a VNBC club meeting in 2015. Three of the seedlings were twisted together to make this planting. In January 2017 I potted the twisted tree it into a pot carved out of bluestone.

10. *Leptospermum laevigatum*

Coastal Tea Tree

Using free tube stock handed out at a VNBC club meeting, I decided to create a group planting. I got my inspiration from seeing old coastal tea trees with twisted trunks low to the ground on the sand belt golf courses of Melbourne.

11. *Ficus rubiginosa*

Port Jackson Fig

The original 5-year old single-trunk tree died in severe frosts in 2000, and new shoots arose several months later from roots around the base of the old stump. These have since been developed in this clump formation, with the limestone rock providing a landscape context.

12. *Nothofagus cunninghamii*

Myrtle Beech

Originally collected in Tasmania, the tree has been in training since purchase in 2014. Myrtle Beech is a tree species of sheltered creeks and gullies in the cool, wet rainforests of Victoria and Tasmania, with small leaves, and striking bronze colours in its new shoots.

13. *Eucalyptus polyanthemos*

Red Box

This tree has been grown from a tubed seedling since 1983, with most of the substantial training carried out in the past 10 years. All of the current crown originates from development work since a burning event in December 2012. Last repotted in February 2020.

14. *Eremophila racemosa*

Showy Eremophila

Acquired as tubestock in September 2017. The tree was pruned and wired, and planted in a bonsai pot in March 2019. It needs to be located in full sun and is put under shelter if rain is imminent because root rot can occur if the roots become too wet. A very open coarse mix is used.

15. *Grevillea anethifolia*

Spiny Cream Spider Flower

Approx 4 years old when found almost dead at the back of the nursery in 2017. Planted into a bonsai pot in 2019. Prefers to be in full sun and watered moderately. It is found in western NSW, South Australia, and southern Western Australia. Leaves have prickly tips. Flowers white.

16. *Melaleuca decussata*

Cross Leaf Honey-myrtle

Very fine leaves and white paperbark make this an ideal candidate for bonsai.

17. *Leptospermum lanigerum*

Woolly Tea Tree

The tree was nursery stock in 2016 and was styled in a workshop during the 2019 AABC Convention. It has been in a bonsai pot for less than a year but is progressing well.

18. *Banksia integrifolia*

Coastal Banksia

This tree was originally part of a group planting. It was separated from the group about 7 years ago. The tree continues to develop finer branching and smaller leaves.

19. *Melaleuca bracteata*

Bush Garden

Main tree - Black tea tree/River tea tree "Revolution Gold"

The main tree, the Melaleuca, is about 15 years old and this scene was put together in 2020. Other trees - Acacia "Micro Matts", Acacia howittii - front left, Acacia conferta - behind house.

20. *Eucalyptus mannifera*

Brittle Gum

Originally purchased as tube stock by the previous owner in 2000. In 2015 it was cool burnt and cut back hard. I acquired the tree in 2017. Pruning is continuing to develop the canopy. The tree responds with massive leaf growth.

21. *Eucalyptus sp.*

Gum Tree

Gum tree showing typical insect damage. Several years ago, it was almost ring-barked by black parrots. The bark has now recovered.

22. *Acacia howittii*

Sticky Wattle

Obtained as nursery stock in a 140mm plastic container in October 2019. The tree is planted in a vintage Japanese container that has lots of small holes on the bottom rather than the typical one or two large drainage holes.

23. *Leptospermum sp.*

Tea Tree “Rocky Cape”

Obtained as a seedling from a fellow member, this is probably a variety of *Leptospermum scoparium*, the name originates from where the cultivar was collected. It naturally grows in this sprawling, weeping habit and does not require wiring.

24. *Kunzea peduncularis*

Mountain Burgan

Forest planting, created from seedlings collected from the Seymour area 2 years ago. Varying thickness and heights, and pathway through the trees creates a natural setting. Planted in a freeform pot.

25. *Melaleuca ericifolia*

Swamp Paperbark

Purchased from a club member in 2018. Styled in May 2018 at a VNBC club workshop. The root base is not the prettiest, but creates a unique look

26. *Leptospermum petersonii*

Lemon Scented Tea Tree

Created from nursery stock May 2016. The chosen style is a traditional Broom style.

27. *Eucalyptus nicholii*

Willow Leaf Peppermint

The tree is over 20 years old and was grown from tube stock.

28. *Melaleuca linariifolia*

“Claret Tops”

The planting evokes a tree growing from a rock which it has split, on the edge of a meadow. The little flowering plants in the meadow are natives.

29. *Sannantha pluriflora*

Tall Baeckea

Originally acquired from a deceased estate, the current arrangement involved repositioning the trees before being planted into this freeform pot. This was done during a workshop approximately 3 years ago.

30. *Melaleuca leucadendra*

Weeping Paperbark, Fine Leaf form

Grown 6-8 years ago from a layered branch. The branches have been wired to make a weeping form to mimic what happens in nature with this species.

31. *Leptospermum petersonii*

Lemon Scented Tea Tree

Purchased from a friend 5 years ago. The whole tree was tilted up to its current position to create the clump style. It is potted in the pot given as a gift when I did the demo for the club in 2018.

32. *Leptospermum polygalifolium*

Tantoon

Approximately 18 years old, this tree has thickened well in pot culture and has been allowed to develop with little intervention apart from trimming to develop and maintain overall shape and foliage density. Found from the South coast of NSW to Cape York. Varies from small shrub to a 7m tree.

33. *Leptospermum laevigatum*

Coastal Tea Tree

Ground grown for several years, this tree is approximately 18 years old. It occurs in coastal dunes in NSW, Tasmania, Victoria and South Australia. It has also become naturalised in north-east NSW, south-east Qld and WA. Often exhibits dynamic shapes where exposed to winds.

34. *Grevillea iaspicula*

Wee Jasper Grevillea

This endangered plant, occurs in only six sites in the limestone areas of Lake Burrinjuck and Wee Jasper areas, and was first named in 1986. It is endangered in its natural range due to heavy sheep and goat grazing. Now 8 years old this plant is covered in flower buds. Pink, white, green.

35. *Hakea drupacea*

Sweet Scented Hakea

This tree is about 45cm high and dug as a seedling 3 yrs ago from Bells Beach. They are very hardy and forgiving, producing foliage all year. They do like a lot of water in summer and are happy sitting in a dish of it.

36. *Agonis flexuosa*

Willow Myrtle

Approx age 30yrs plus. I acquired this tree in poor health in late 2015 and promptly set out to restore it back to health. It has recently been repotted into this larger pot made by me.

37. *Kunzea peduncularis*

Burgan

The tree was collected in May 2017, and allowed to recover for almost 8 months before setting in the first styling. I have designed this tree to be viewed from slightly different angles to best capture the tree.

38. *Kunzea phylicoides*

Slender Burgan

Collected from the Canberra region, possibly in 2017. It was allowed to recover and first styled in May 2019. It has developed rapidly and is in a pot made by me.

39. *Banksia integrifolia*

Coastal Banksia

Grown from tube stock, 25yrs years old. The tree has had a mix of wiring and cutbacks to shape the trunk and upper canopy. The bent trunk, where a large branch was removed, and the raising of the branches on the right side, simulate a wind affected tree. Refinement is ongoing.

40. *Melaleuca linariifolia*

Paperbark 'Claret Tops'

Age approx 30yrs, purchased 20ish years ago as an established group planting in a styrofoam container. Restyled for the past 1.5yrs after a period of neglect. A grove style planting with all 5 trees trunks a similar size. Currently in a training pot.

41. *Eucalyptus bridgesiana*

Apple Box

8 years old. Grown strongly in largish pots to develop the trunk, branches have been hooked down rather than wired, as some branches that were heavily wired, died off. Ramifies well, leaves reduce to 1-2cms, new shoots and fine branches have a gentle purple tinge. About 75 cm tall.

42. *Callistemon brachyandrus*

Prickly Bottlebrush

Height about 30cms, and around 7years old. It is a very boring thin stick-ey thing in the wild, but the fine leaves, coarse bark and deep red flowers can make an interesting bonsai. Hardy in cultivation. It is unlikely to thicken much so probably best grown as a small bonsai.

43. *Callistemon linearis*

Narrow Leafed Bottlebrush

Height about 35cms, age around 8 years. Has a natural weeping habit, and beautifully flushed new shoots. Leaves are quite long, but so fine and sinuous that they blend with the movement of the branches. Hardy, but once more, unlikely to thicken much.

44. *Kunzea ambigua*

Tick Bush

Age approx. 50 years. Collected from the Central Coast of NSW in 2018. Initially styled in a club workshop and then reworked in late 2019. Recently potted into locally hand made pot. The moss and hand made sign were added last month.

45. *Callitris columellaris*

White Cypress Pine

This tree was advanced nursery stock in March 2018. It was first styled in October 2019 and planted in the freeform pot. Development has been very rapid. The tree is very tall and won't fit upright in my van. This virtual show gives me the perfect opportunity to exhibit it.

46. *Eucalyptus melliodora*, with *Xanthorrea australis*

Yellow Box, Grass Tree, Brass Wombat

The elements in this display are set up in a traditional form. The Yellow Box is probably at least 40 years old as a bonsai. I have had it for 7 years. It is not easy to maintain as a bonsai and has recently been cut back to no foliage and everything regrown. The Grass Tree is 40 plus years old.

47. *Ficus rubiginosa*

Port Jackson Fig

Figs are easy to grow but are not often seen as finely ramified as this one. To show the ramification, I have defoliated the tree. This tree is around 40 years old and has been in my care for about 10 years. I have also chosen a view over the Latrobe Valley as a natural back drop.

48. *Melaleuca styphelioides*

Prickly Paperbark

A stall stately tree reminiscent of a tree grown in very benign conditions with ample water and protected from strong winds. This had been a bonsai for many years but had a complete make over in 2015. I have always wanted to photograph the tree at night from below.

49. *Kunzea phyllicoides*

Slender Burgan

This tree was collected in the ACT in 2017. The material itself is possibly 100 years old but has only been shaped as a bonsai since 2018. It has developed very rapidly since that time. The dead wood is entirely natural and has only been treated with wood hardener to preserve it.

50. *Melaleuca styphelioides*

Prickly Paperbark

This tree is one of my favourites and is about 55 years old. I have had it for 15 years and have changed its original shape considerably. As it is a large tree, it doesn't often get exhibited. I have taken this opportunity to show it lit up at night by the garden floodlights.