

## FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL BONSAI COLLECTION

### Acting Chairman's Report for 2014

Following the resignation of the chairman Dave Cheshire, due to unforeseen work commitments, Barry Walker assumed the position of Acting Chairman. His first task involved taking an overall look at the Collection and the work being done in maintaining it. His findings and recommendations were reported to the last FoBBS committee meeting.

The conclusions were:-

- The recording system for work completed on trees and the site was found to be incomplete. Some details of tree care were missing, whilst volunteers were finding more maintenance was required than would normally be expected. People consequently had to work for longer periods than expected. Steps are being taken to remedy these issues.
- Early this year a group work day was tried involving five FNBC Committee members attending the collection to re-pot some of the larger collection trees. It proved successful and six of the larger trees were re-potted. This was a task normally undertaken by the tree adoptee. However with the larger trees this was proving difficult, as most needed two or more people to manage them. This coming year it is intended to have three or four of these group work days as required.
- It is intended to review the adoptee system. Using instead group work days and removing the re-potting tasks from their workload, unless requested differently by the adoptee due to horticultural advice. This will give the adoptees more time to carry out more specific tasks for the individual trees.
- With all this in mind communication is going to be all important. It is hoped to set up an email system to all the volunteers, adoptees and FNBC committee members, keeping them all up to date with regards to the work on the site or on the trees.

In conclusion, I wish to thank David Cheshire for his work during the period of his Chairmanship as well as all those Committee members and volunteers for all their efforts during the course of the year.

Barry Walker,

Acting Chairman, FNBC