



NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

Green Square Community Hall

3 Joynton Avenue
Zetland

7pm Tuesday 12 April 2016

Pines –pruning and root pruning.

7pm Tuesday 10 May 2016

Chris will demonstrate how to make a cement fondue bonsai pot.

CONTACT DETAILS



0432 461 025



info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au



sydneycitybonsai.org.au



PO Box 486
Summerhill NSW 2130

COMMITTEE

Patron Dorothy Koreshoff

President Bryan

Vice President Sue

Secretary tba

Treasurer Chris

Newsletter Editor Roslyn

Librarian Naomi & Les

Catering Philip

Committee Lee, Naomi & Tony

MEMBERSHIP

Full Membership \$40.00

Concession \$25.00

Family \$55.00

Pensioner \$25.00

SCBC wishes to thank Sydney City Council for their continued support for our club by providing the hall at a reduced rate.

Welcome to the April Newsletter

April Meeting

- Pines – pruning and root pruning
- Member styling hotspot and work on your own trees

In this issue:

- SCBC at Sydney Royal Easter Show– page 2-3
- Sample guide of judging bonsai – page 3
- Native Deciduous & Koreshoff advice on correct time to root prune natives– page 4
- Lee restyles juniper from Ausbonsai sale-page 5
- More winners at 2016 RAS & Events Calendar – page 6

SCBC Upcoming Event! Special demonstration at June meeting



SCBC is pleased to host Clinton Nesci doing a demonstration and Ray Nesci on the side selling some small stock. Clinton is a well-known demonstrator and one of our bonsai masters. His friendly, down to earth approach makes him easy listening and great to learn from. Be sure to put Tuesday 14 in your diary as a club meeting not to be missed. You will learn a lot as well as really enjoying the learning.

SOIL SALES

The club has arranged with the Nescis to supply bags of their bonsai soil on a prepaid basis. Orders and money can be placed with Lee and they will bring the soil on the 14th of June. I will ask that they put in a couple of extra bags just on spec but to ensure you get a bag [or two or three] you must pre-order and pre-pay. Orders and money will be taken at the April and May meetings only.

Soil is \$12 a bag and pre-purchasing saves you the 3 hour round trip to get to Dural. This will arrive just in time for spring repotting so make sure you order enough for your needs. The soil is well made, very open but not as heavy as the crushed gravel mix. There will be a sample bag of soil at the April meeting.

SCBC AT THE SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW

2016 Sydney Royal Easter Show Bonsai Competition Results

This year, there were two bonsai competitions each with different judges.

Bonsai is difficult to judge because artistic effort is being judged along with overall bonsai styling guidelines and tree horticulture. This introduces a significant subjective element to the judging. While both judges were very experienced in bonsai, the same trees were often ranked differently in each competition.

Nevertheless, both SCBC's entrants, Sue and Lee, each won two overall champion trees. In Competition 1, Sue's Little Ruby fig saikei won Champion bonsai under 400mm and her Banksia was given Champion native. In Competition 2, Lee's Olive won Champion bonsai (under 400mm) and her Melaleuca was given Champion native (includes both under and over 400mm).

Sue's champion trees



Sue's champion Banksia



In Competition 1, Sue's Little Ruby Fig saikei won Champion Under 400mm.
(Photo taken before announcement of Champion Trees)

Lee shows both the before and after photos of her champion trees



Lee bought this Melaleuca in 2004



Same tree now! – What a transformation!
Competition 2 Native Champion



Lee bought this Olive in 2007



Same Olive in 2016. Note how Lee has created a sense of trunk taper through careful and skilful carving of the trunk.

SAMPLE GUIDELINE FOR JUDGING & SCBC STAND AT EASTER SHOW

Sample guideline for judging bonsai – devised by Vita Koreshoff



In Deborah Koreshoff's book "Bonsai –Its Art, Science, History and Philosophy", Deborah writes about exhibiting, displaying and judging quality bonsai. She explains that the following guideline for judging bonsai was developed by her esteemed father, Vita Koreshoff, and is one of the most objective measures for judging an Art form.

Judge ID	STYLE		Exhibitor No.	
	Not according to schedule Remarks:		Accepted for Judging	
Date:			Max Marks	Marks given
TRUNK	Shape.....	-According to style	5	.....
Total Marks 15	Bark	-Well-developed or not	3	.....
	Marks	-Wire marks (0 pts); other	2	.....
	Blemishes...	-Unightly cuts (0 pts)	2	.....
	Tapering...	-Natural or artificial	3	.....
BRANCHE S	Distribution	-Groups of three	5	.....
Total Marks 25	Development	-of main branches	2	.....
	Doubling	-Branch directly over another	0-1	.....
	Whorled	-Branches on the same level	0-1	.....
	Bark	-of main branches (cuts etc)	2	.....
	Marks	Left by wiring	0-1	.....
	Shape	-According to style	4	.....
	Wiring	-Quality and correctness of	3	.....
Reticulation	-Branchlets & sub branches	5	.....
Lack of reticulation	-Too few branchlets	0-1	.....
FOLIAGE	Leaves	-Horticultural perfection	4	.....
Total Marks 15	Blemishes	-Insect or dry margins	0-4	.....
	Size	-Proportionate to tree	4	.....
	Distribution	-Not hanging below branch	3	.....
ROOTS	Visible	-Well or badly distributed	1-4	.....
Total Marks 10	Not Visible	-Soil condition (recent Pot)	3	.....
	Butt	-Shape of butt at soil level	3	.....
SOIL	Well finished	-Clean of weeds etc	1	.....
Total Marks 5	Moss	-Quality	2	.....
	Other Cover	-Appropriate to tree	1	.....
	Figurines	-Deduct two points	...	.....
POT	Pot	-Cleanliness	1	.....
Total Marks 5	Size	-Overpotted (deduct two points)	.....	.....
	Size	-Good proportion to tree	2	.....
	Size	-Underpotted (effect good)	1	.....
	Placement	-Tree well positioned	1	.....
AESTHETIC QUALITY (Subjective Judgement)			25	
Maximum Value 25 Marks				

SCBC 8 Day Stand at the 2016 Royal Easter Show



Part of SCBC's stand at the 2016 RAS take prior to public entry

Under Sue's excellent organisation and incredible hard work the SCBC's 8 day stand at the Horticultural Pavilion at the 2016 drew a lot of interest and offered a lot of people the chance to see what well styled bonsai are like.

One confused young kid looked at the trees and turned to his mum to say 'I thought trees were big'. Another much older viewer asked if the bonsai were real. Overall there was much more familiarity with bonsai and a great many 'awesome' comments from the public.

The display was varied and impressive and it was a worthwhile exercise. A workshop table was at the side of the display where there were elms and azaleas and pines in various stages of bonsai development. This attracted lots of people fascinated about how you actually make a bonsai and stimulated many questions about the transformation from a plant in a pot to a bonsai.

Once again Sue is to be congratulated for her incredible work to get the stand set up, stocked with trees and manning the volunteer brigade. Any many thanks to all those who donated their time to man the stand and answer questions and promote bonsai.

Components required to create a perfect Bonsai

Roots, trunk, branches, foliage pads, crown, container, negative space and accessories e.g. rock, grass, moss, soil etc. The arrangement of these components need to be in a unified manner, resulting in being aesthetically pleasing to the eye which should give a sense of harmony to the viewer. Each of these components have their own characteristics in line, form, colour and texture. This design must include the miniature form of the tree in its natural state being environmental, tree morphology, horticultural and plant physiology for it to be a true Bonsai. The illusion of balance created by the shape and position of the roots, the trunk, branch placement, foliage pad configuration, the crown, and the container will determine the visual pose of the Bonsai setting.

NATIVE DECIDUOUS & CORRECT TIME TO ROOT PRUNE NATIVES

Australia lean pickings for Native Deciduous

There's Australia's only one cold climate winter-deciduous tree, *Fagus* [*Nothofagus gunnii*], the deciduous beech found in Tasmania that is a remnant of the forests that once grew in Gondwana.



The *Fagus* autumn display is superb. *Fagus* turns a spectacular range of autumn colours, from rust red through to brilliant gold, during late April and May.

It needs very low temperatures in winter. Even in Hobart it only succeeds as a garden plant in the cool western suburbs above 400 metres. Individual trees live for about 250 years and the oldest known tree is 350 years old.

This tree likes the cold and thrives in Tasmania. There are the red and white cedars and the boab that grow subtropical to tropical and lose a portion of their leaves in cooler weather.

Being deciduous is not a hallmark of our natives – our trees are mainly evergreen. This is an interesting and unique aspect of Australian natives. Australian natives need to be ready for optimal growth opportunities at any time of the year. Generally the length of day, moisture and temperature sets leaf loss in motion. There is insufficient sun during winter to promote leaf growth so trees lose their leaves and go into hibernation. In a variable climate like Australia being deciduous is not a safe method.

Good growing conditions can happen throughout the year and it makes it imperative for a tree to be able to take advantage of the good times when they come. If a tree has leaves it can take advantage of sudden rain. If it is deciduous the water is wasted.

Australian soils tend to be nutrient poor but deep so the trees tap into groundwater far below the surface. During dry seasons trees can keep going in a maintenance situation ready to burst into growth when rain comes. While evergreen leaves take more energy to maintain they last longer so it evens out.

So our climate and soil structure favour the evergreens over deciduous.

For more information on *Fagus* see:

<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/?base=3244>

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2000/04/01/2662876.htm>

How to recognise the right time to root prune Australian natives

Summarised from Dorothy and Vita Koreshoff "Bonsai with Australian Native Plants"

Most of our native trees grow and stop many times throughout the year. Whilst this provides more opportunities for the bonsai grower to root prune natives, your native risks death if you follow the seasonally-based root-pruning schedule that is best for exotics. The time to root prune a native is when the leaf buds are beginning to swell but prior to their bursting open.

By observing your trees you will notice that after the first flush of growth, the new leaves will lose their soft green colour and become darker and harden (i.e. mature). The tree then settles into a dormant period for various lengths of time. Later, leaf buds can be observed at the base of the leaf stalk and begin to swell until new soft growth begins to appear.

THE TIME TO ROOTPRUNE NATIVES, IS JUST PRIOR TO THE BURSTING OF THE LEAFBUDS.

If this regrowth has caught you by surprise, and one or two SMALL sprouts appear on TOP of the tree, then providing root pruning is done immediately, there should be no setback. THE MOST DANGEROUS TIME for any tree is when there is soft immature growth on the plant.

Be patient, allow the tree to grow through the cycle described above, and be ready and waiting next time around.

When root pruning you will need to balance the loss of root with the amount of foliage left to be supplied with nutriment. If there is no excess growth to be removed it is possible to cut half or whole of the leaf above the leaf stalk. The stalk or leaf remnant will eventually brown and drop off.

With some plants, especially Eucalypts, there always seems to be new growth on the tree throughout the year. For those trees you can artificially induce a dormant state by gradually reducing the water, mainly by allowing longer periods between watering, even allowing the leaves to wilt a little. In many cases this is sufficient to stop new growth, and a period of dormancy begins.



Leaf buds can be observed at the base of the leaf stalks and branch terminals. The time to prune is just prior to bursting of the leaf buds.

Too Early

Right

Too Late



LEE RESTYLES JUNIPER FROM AUSBONSAI SALE

Lee restyles Juniper from Ausbonsai sale

Despite the fact I am not a juniper person I spied this tree at the Ausbonsai sale in Auburn and was attracted to it. I tried to do the big ignore but kept going back. The \$50 dollar price tag was a definite attraction but I noted the mature and curvy trunk and close branching. Some heavy wire marking had pretty well grown out to become character instead of flaw and it didn't really take too long before I passed over the money and put the tree in my car. I also was pleased with the pot as it will look good with one of my pyracanthas.



Juniper from Ausbonsai sale shows great potential

Home after the sale and waiting was not an option. I wasn't impressed with the soil the tree was in and preferred to get it in a more open mix as soon as possible so in-between rain showers I repotted and repositioned it as well as removing the heavy branch on the left.



"Already the tree has a distinction it did not have as a semi cascade even though no styling has been done other than removing one branch. For those of you fairly new in bonsai don't ever think that the way you get a tree is the way it has to sit. Always look for other styling options, other angles to bring out the best in the tree. This juniper probably could have been a nice semi cascade but I didn't see it that way."

The next day a work session produced the first styling result. The tree needs growth, refinement and restyling as it starts to develop but the new start is pretty good and I am pleased. Junipers and cascades, I'm not really fond of either and yet this tree has something going for it that pleases me. I am looking forward to another season and the foliage pads filling out and the tree really starting to show its class. It also has a lovely taper that is nice to see in a juniper.

I rewired the lower trunk to get a bit more movement in the final stretch but for the moment I will let it rest.



Initial restyling now completed. The tree needs another season and the foliage pads filling out before this Juniper shows its class.

Despite the fact it is recommended that junipers go in matt brown pots I quite like the high glaze with the foliage. Partly that is due to the pot's subdued colour but the foliage will be striking against the pot when the pads develop. Yes, a very nice buy and I am glad I put aside my preference for leaf trees and added this one to my collection.

Member styling hot spot



Sue helps Amanda cut back her Japanese Black Pine



David's African Olive in fruit

MORE WINNERS AT THE 2016 RAS & BONSAI EVENTS CALENDAR

More winning bonsai at the 2016 RAS

In the two RAS competitions in the various bonsai categories Sue and Lee were prominent in the awards. Lee picked up 2 champions, 7 firsts, 6 seconds, 1 third and 2 highly commended whilst Sue picked up 3 champions, 14 firsts, 5 seconds, 2 thirds and 3 highly commended. In competition 1, champion over 400mm was won by Jan from the Ausbonsai Society and Sue won the over 400mm in competition 2. Here are a few selected photos from the competitions.



Paulette from Ausbonsai Society competition 1 champion Pyracantha



Sue's award winning fig in competition 2



Competition 2 prize-winning Pyracantha under 400mm styled by Lee



Maple (over 400mm) styled by Sue

BONSAI EVENTS CALENDAR

Date	Event	Details
17 April 2016	Autumn Bonsai and Penjing Expo, International Koi Association	International Equestrian Centre, Saxony Rd, Horsley Park
31 April-1 May 2016	Illawarra Bonsai Society Annual (Autumn) Show	Sutherland District Trade Union Club (Tradies), Kingsway, Gympie
20-23 May 2016	29 th Australian Bonsai Convention	Wrest Point Convention Centre, Hobart, Tasmania
27-28 August 2016	Bonsai Society of Australia	Forestville RSL, 22 Melwood Av Forestville
3 Sept 2016	Bonsai Study Group Annual Show	tba
9-11 Sept 2016	Tops Workshop Weekend, Illawarra Bonsai Society	Tops Conference Centre, Stanwell Tops
11-13 November 2016	Newcastle Bonsai Society Annual Exhibition	Charlestown Bowling Club, 5 Lincoln St Charlestown