



NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

Green Square Community Church
182 Victoria Street
(Cnr Collins Street) Beaconsfield

7pm Tuesday 11 August 2009
Annual General Meeting, Neutrog representative talk about fertiliser and a round table discussion on bonsai

7pm Tuesday 8 September 2009
Workshop: repotting deciduous trees, styling Azaleas and other evergreen.

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COMMITTEE

Patron Dorothy Koreshoff

President Neville

Vice President Sue

Secretary Lee

Treasurer Tani

Public Officer Max

Newsletter Editor Tony

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Committee Philip, Gary, Jennie,
Damian

MEMBERSHIP

Full Membership \$30.00

Concession \$20.00

Family \$45.00

Pensioner \$15.00

Welcome to the August Newsletter

August Meeting: Annual General Meeting, Neutrog representative Mike Rimmer speaking on fertilising with sample bags for each member present. The meeting will start promptly at 7:30 so be there on time if you want goodies!!! There will be a round table discussion after Mike Rimmer's presentation.

Annual General Meeting this month - please plan to attend



Ray Nesci's Water Gum (*Tristanopsis laurina*) bonsai, see page 6 for Ray's tips on growing and styling Water Gums as bonsai

A special thank you to Lee for all the articles she supplied for this month newsletter, thank you for your continued support.

In this months newsletter:

Ray Nesci's pines in training page 2

Peter Adams gives us bonsai advice on pages 3, 4 & 5

Ray Nesci discusses Water Gum bonsai on page 6

Bonsai Events page 6

RAY NESCI'S MAGNIFICENT PINES IN TRAINING

Ray Nesci has spent 15 years working on these five superb black pines.



As seedlings he planted them in long slender pots to encourage the roots to grow long. When the roots were advanced enough he bare rooted each plant, wrapped the roots with fabric to protect them from the sun, wired and shaped them and then planted the bottom quarter and set them aside to grow.



Over the years the roots have thickened and bonded into trunks, giving an aged and rugged look to the trees.



Peter Adams trimmed one of the pines just before he tried to stash one in his suitcase. Boy did Ray move fast!!!



All kidding aside, they are magnificent specimens and are all under 25 cm... what you can do when you are in bonsai for the long haul.



Suiseki at Ideas Summit

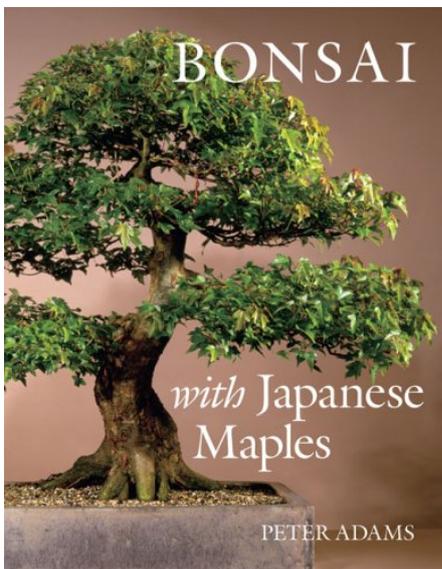
Suiseki can be stunningly beautiful, reflecting nature's many arts – it can also be extremely amusing when the enthusiast has a good eye and a sense of humour.

MEET PETER ADAMS – ENGLISH BONSAI MASTER



Peter Adams began his art career in the 1950's at the age of 12 in England, gaining a graduate degree from the Farnham School of Art followed by a post-graduate degree in painting from the Royal Academy Schools in London in 1962.

In his home country of England, Peter has had a varied career in the arts where he worked at portraiture, cartooning, advertising, TV, teaching and as a Bonsai nurseryman for 25 years. He now lectures worldwide and is a best selling author on the subject of Bonsai as an art medium.



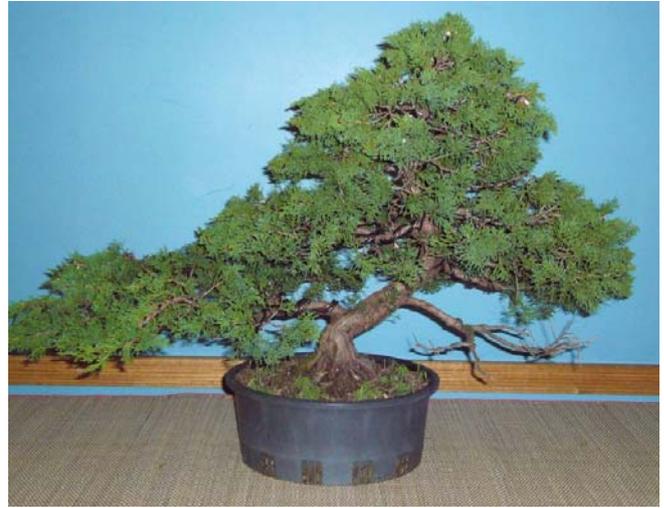
Peter's world famous book on Japanese Maple bonsai

Peter Adam's advice: (Ideas Summit in July 2009)

FIG WOUNDS: *if a fig sustains sunburn damage or a branch removal wound is rotting, let it be. The tree will form its own natural barrier and if it doesn't, so what. It adds character to the tree and enhances the natural look*

JUNIPERS From Peter Adams talks at the Ideas Summit in July 2009

Snip branchlets that are stronger, leaving the weaker ones. Use foliar feed. If needles look dry, cut them off – it takes too much of the tree's energy to try to correct the really weak areas. If it is a Chinese juniper definitely remove them as they will die anyway.



Before pruning



After pruning

Junipers are gross feeders. They will respond quickly to applications of SeaSol [seaweed] and a fish emulsion fertiliser. Stick with the natural organic fertilisers.

CONIFER COLOUR - Peter Adams, Ideas Summit in July 2009

If your conifers are yellow green and sitting in full sun, give the trees more shade to allow the blue green pigment to develop. Full sun will bring out the yellow, more shade will bring out the blue pigments and will also change the way the foliage grows – it will become more lush. You can get a change of colour in a fortnight.

Herb L. Gustafson

...the ultimate challenge for the bonsai designer is to expose the essence of the tree.

BONSAI WISDOM FROM PETER ADAMS

ART OF WIRING

From Peter Adams talks at the Ideas Summit in July 2009

The important thing is the idea you have in your head and not the technique used to get it. Too much emphasis is made on having perfect wiring and not crossing wires. Wire well enough to do the job. Wiring is part of the journey – not the end in itself. Wiring enables you to line up the green. It is the green that counts. Try not to be mechanical in your outcome.

In basic shaping don't wire to the ends. Wire the main branches then let the tree rest a few months and then fine wire when the tree is rested and robust.

When you are fine wiring the foliage that is sticking up everywhere, wrap branchlets around your finger, give them movement, jigs and direction changes and tuck them into the silhouette. They will fill out from there.

When you are shaping a foliage pad let your eye go over the pad from side to side, front to back to ensure the best outcome. You need to look at the body weight of the green and get balance there.

There's a French saying 'the difference between beauty and ugliness is millimetres'. Small adjustments to your styling design in the branches and foliage can make a world of difference. Think all round the tree.

POTS: Peter Adams talks at the Ideas Summit in July 2009



English bonsai masters refer to bright blue pots as 'Export Blue'.

Basically, the strong blues are not usually suitable to the majority of bonsai. Softer colours are preferable. Young trees can take shiny surfaces, older trees need matt finishes.

Older trees do better in calmer pots where a sheen is muted with a soft patina. Any tree that has deadwood needs a calmer pot. If you have a shiny pot you can use wet/dry sandpaper to minimise the shine and age the pot.

PINES

From Peter Adams talks at the Ideas Summit in July 2009

To bud adequately you should foliar feed your pines as they go towards dormancy. When you have really wild growth cut off rising and descending needles. Feed weekly for eight weeks. The tree will explode with energy. Buds will erupt all around the branch ends. Thin them out.



Use ones alternatively placed. This gives you the possibility of building up a branch in one season. Do this every year for three years and you will have filled in the framework of the tree. Budding on new candles – 8 week fertilising regime in addition to regular feeding.

Foliar feed use Miracle Grow full strength. When you foliar feed you MUST water the soil first to avoid root burn.

Pull needles leaving the sheath behind. If the sheath comes off you have left the stripping too late and no buds will result. Buds will occur anywhere in the terminal.

Do not needle pluck more than 30% of the tree each year. It takes three years to do a complete plucking.

When you feed use fish emulsion and seaweed with low nitrogen. This gives the best possible results with no big needles and lovely compact buds.

Pruning channels energy as well as shaping the tree.

Japanese White Pine feed organic food regularly. Feed, feed, feed and they will bud strongly. But it will take three years with white pines.

There's a new Scots pine variant out that grows very well in Sydney's climate. The Scots pine produces more variants than any other species in the world and they tend to be diverse and strong. The new variant ideal for Sydney is the JEREMY Scots Pine.

English Bonsai Master John Hanby is coming to Sydney and will be demonstrating on Sunday 1st. November 09 at the Manly Warringah Leagues Club

See attached flyer for details

CARVING AND THE RIGHT WAY TO USE LIME SULPHUR

CARVING

From Peter Adams talks at the Ideas Summit in July 2009

When doing fine carving follow the grain of the wood, don't go from side to side. You must echo the existing lines. When you are refining your carving or carving on a small branch, open the wood up and come up with a natural result. Open the grain to make the branch less round but don't carve all over the limb – that will make the work too uniform.



Lee's Olive with beautiful carving



A close up of the carving on Lee's tree

Peter was talking about trees with a lot of deadwood and masses of foliage and saying that in real life this would not happen. If so much severity of conditions caused extensive dieback and thus the jins and shari, the tree would not have the means to develop a rich, lush head of foliage. This is a popular style with junipers but it would not happen in real conditions. Harsh conditions and the foliage would be sparse.

Penetrating epoxy can stabilise deadwood.

There is a good cutter available in the US called TRI-CUT. It comes in several sizes and is priced better than the one available from the UK. dcochoy@neo.rr.com

LIME SULPHUR

From Peter Adams talks at the Ideas Summit in July 2009

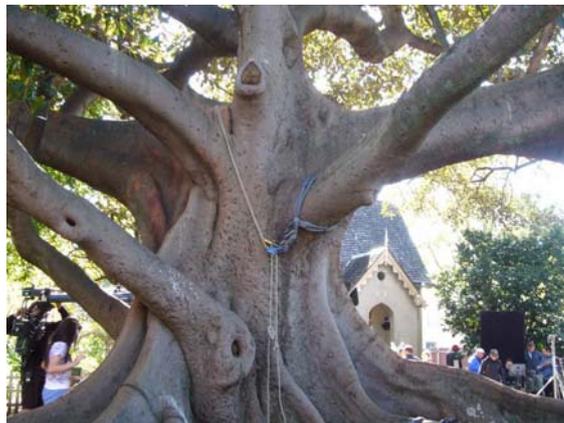
Deadwood should not be white. It is not white in nature and it should not be white on bonsai. Black acrylic paint, coffee grounds, basic black water colours can all be used to dull the whiteness after applying lime sulphur. The top areas of carving would be scoured by wind and weather and they can be smoother and whiter but the recesses and crevices should be rougher and darker.

Carving is about light and shadow and you need to darken the indentations to create a realistic piece of deadwood regardless of how large or small it is. You need to take care as putting on too much can cancel the effectiveness.

Lime sulphur in aesthetic terms is as safe as giving a grenade with a loose pin to a three year old. Its preservative qualities are not being disputed... the matter under discussion is the whiteness that results when it is used. Dead wood is not white... it is many shades of grey. So you lime sulphur for preservation and then apply a softening colour.

When you are carving it is important to have ripped channels and holes. Use lime sulphur with an almost dry brush to highlight raised areas and use 'cheap and cheerful' kid's black water colour to darken the recesses. You can also wash newly carved areas with black water colour to give instant age to the carving. You need to control the intensity of colour you are applying. Leave the water colour a few minutes to dry. It will be going on as black but it is important to get grey into the carved recesses - lighter on raised surfaces, darker in the recesses.

Light and shadow adds age and interest and authenticity. Use your fingers to brush off excess. The impact this makes on round wood is great. Don't let it get out of hand. If you use colouration uniformly you lose impact. Do it in the hollows.



SERIOUS BAR BRANCHING

Now this is what one calls 'serious bar branching'. It is an absolutely magnificent Port Jackson fig with the most wonderful buttress roots. It is located just inside the Camperdown Cemetery one block off King Street, Newtown. The cemetery is well worth a walk around.

Not only are there several trees worth noting for their branch formations but the place is bedecked with gravestones from the mid 1900s, including the slab memorial to the 'remains of the Dunbar passengers'. You really step back in time – the earliest I could read was 1855. Take your lunch and absorb the early Australian atmosphere. The hectic turmoil of King Street is a century and a half away.

RAY NESCI ON WATER GUMS & EVENTS CALENDAR

From a demo at the Ideas Summit in July 2009

Tristaniopsis laurina is a relative of the *Eucalyptus*. The main difference is *Tristaniopsis* flowers have petals, *Eucalyptus* flowers do not. The common name refers to the plant's habitat; it grows naturally by streams and rivers and has deep green laurel like leaves with clusters of yellow flowers in the summer. It grows from the tropics to southern Australia in well drained soil and full sun. In a bonsai pot you might need a water tray depending on your microclimate.

Ray Nesci has a special love of Water Gums. He repots them in August. The plant is a fast grower and you can get a nice bonsai in three to four years. The leaves on a ground grown plant are quite large but they miniaturise extremely well and the Water Gum suits shohin bonsai admirably.



Ray and Clinton repotted a Water Gum that is in training for root over rock and Ray had several lovely shohin water gums on display showing the tiny leaves that you can get with pruning and care.

Ray's trick is to keep removing the larger leaves and allowing the tree time to grow smaller ones.

See a the Water Gum bonsai on page one to see how much the leaves can be reduced



Ray and Clinton worked on a root over rock Water Gum. They took the soil level down to expose the root and then removed the majority of the tree that had been allowed to grow wild to get the roots clinging to the rock faster. Water Gums roots, like trident maples, will gradually 'melt' against the rock giving that wonderful, aged look where the root appears to flow down the rock surfaces. For this attribute alone the tree is worth cultivating as a bonsai and when you see how small the normally large leaves can be dwarfed... well why would you go past it.

Date	Event	Details
15-16 August	Bonsai Society of Sydney Annual Show	Chequers Resort, Terrey Hills
28-30 August	Gardening Expo at Sydney Showground	Sydney Olympic Park 10 am – 4:30 pm
29-30 August	Illawarra Bonsai Society's Annual Show	Boys Club, Box Road, Sylvania
11-13 September	Bonsai Society of Australia Show and Marketplace 9 am – 4 pm at Baulkham Hills Council Chambers, Showground Rd at Carrington Street.	This is one of the best bonsai shows of the year with many advanced bonsai on display. It is an ideal opportunity to see some of the legendary Koreshoff trees. The BSA Show is also noted for a fine Marketplace where members sell trees, both stock plants and bonsai, and the nursery trade is represented with plants and pots. This is a show not to be missed
18/19/20 September	The Tops Weekend Banksia Complex, The Tops Conference Centre, Stanwell Tops.	Live in weekend of bonsai with guest tutors Carole Walker from Gold Coast and Georgina Kretschmar. Pre bookings essential for this very economical and fun weekend. Contact Brenda 9547 2157 or Jamie 0415 440 807
18/19/20 September	Bonsai Society of Australia's Annual Show and Marketplace.	Baulkham Hills Council Chambers, Carrington Rd at Showgrounds Rd, Castle Hill
24/25 October	School of Bonsai Show	Ray Nesci Bonsai Nursery 26 Sagar Rd, Kenthurst [plus sausage sizzle]