



NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

Green Square Community Hall

3 Joynton Avenue Zetland

7pm Tuesday 8 August 2017

Peter & Les will demonstrate repotting bonsai including a root over rock.

7pm Tuesday 12 September 2017

Potting essentials by Chris.

CONTACT DETAILS



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COMMITTEE

Patron	Sue
President	Bryan
Vice President	TBA
Secretary	David
Treasurer	Chris
Newsletter Editor	Roz
Librarian	Les
Committee	Frank & John

MEMBERSHIP

Full Membership	\$40
Concession	\$25
Family	\$55
Pensioner	\$25

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

August Meeting

- Peter & Les will demonstrate repotting bonsai including a root over rock.
- Members styling hotspot and work on your trees.



On the SCBC bench in July.

Winter is a good time to display bonsai as you get a chance to fully examine a tree's structure and ramification.

The 2018 AABC will be held in July this coming year in order to display bonsai in their winter glory. Usually the AABC conferences are held in May.



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Reminders

Membership Dues: If you have not already done so, please remember to bring in money for your annual membership.

Support the club's raffle: Bring a little cash to the meeting so that you have a chance to win a real bargain and support the club.

GROUP PLANTING BY BEBB TEAM AT AABC

Group Planting by the Bebb Team at 2017 AABC

The Bebb Family Team: The Bebb family, Lindsay, wife Glenis and son Tony are all well-known and recognised bonsai demonstrators both nationally and internationally. Lindsay and Glenis ran a bonsai nursery for over 30 years in Brisbane and have held numerous state, national and international positions in the world of bonsai.

At 2017 AABC in Brisbane, The Bebb family put together a group planting on a giant rock slab. The slab, an extremely rare piece, was acquired many years ago from South Australia by Lindsay Bebb.



Now this is an amazing and rare giant rock slab from South Australia

The team, Lindsay, Glenis and son Tony, decided on using 5 *Neea buxifolia* plants grown over 17 years from cuttings and originally imported from Puerto Rico.



The five Neea Buxifolia plants placed on the slab before Lindsay commenced positioning them

Neea (common name "Nia") *Buxifolia*. *Neea* is native to Puerto Rico and has very tiny leaves with short petioles.



Example of Neea Buxifolia bonsai

The tree is especially attractive during the growing season due to the deep red colour of its new shoots. The bark is grey and smooth and the tree bears small yellow flowers in spring followed by little, red mature fruit in summer. It should be grown in filtered light and cannot survive at temperatures below 4.4° C.

Lindsay spent some time working out the trunk angles and placement of the trees which ultimately was going to be in a 3 + 2 formation. Once the position of the trees was established, Tony prepared the slab for the tie wire using a Plastibond to attach the anchors.



Lindsay is carefully placing the first set of trees in position. Notice the anchor wires which Tony had prepared earlier using Plantation

BEBB TEAM GROUP PLANTING *CONTINUED*

Glenis explained that it is better to wire before and only take off unwanted branches much later when the trees have put on some foliage. Glenis and Tony used slightly heavier wire than required now because these plants will put on a lot of foliage over the next 6 months. Also some of the branches will have to come off later.

Although May was not the time of year to be root pruning, with good after care and growing in Queensland meant that these plants should start looking good around mid-Spring. Glenis explained that they will treat the group planting once a week with a plant conditioner.

When group planting, you should try to get variation with trunk thickness and height. These trees are all the same age and so it is a little challenging to achieve this in this instance. The trunks need to be harmonised. All trunks need to be visible from the front and when viewed from the side no three trees can be in line.



This rear view of the planting shows the effect of making the trees harmonise the direction of their trunks in the direction of the slab



Side view of the planting shows how the trees are placed so that no three trunks are directly in line.

Lindsay explained that every rock has a “direction” and you have to make sure that you marry up the rock direction with the planting. In this case the rock is going from left to right and so the trees on the left are higher than the trees on the right.

Once the anchors were properly in place, Tony began to build a wall with “muck” (equal parts clay + kiwi peat). Tony adjusted the mix with water until he got the right consistency.

Then working as a team, Lindsay placed the trees in position, checking and adjusting each one until they were right before he used the tie wire to ensure the plants were secured in place.

Tony explained that he was using the muck to develop the contours for the soil outline. If he used muck all the way around he would make a wall dam which would trap too much water.



Tony adds “muck” to develop the contours for the soil outline. He mainly uses the muck on the steep portions making sure he does not build a dam wall

And now for the final unveiling! The group planting was turned around showing the front and the black cloth under the slab was removed revealing a crafted cut light coloured sandstone platform – a delightful completed work.



Once the foliage develops, this group planting will look magnificent – a true work of art

GETTING PINE NEEDLES SHORT IN SYDNEY

Sue Brennan Explains Getting JBP Needles Short in Sydney

Sue gave a great talk on “Getting Pine Needles Short in Sydney” at the 2017 Bonsai By the Harbour. She explained that she has based her instruction on Ryan Neil’s technique which he presented at the AABC in Canberra some years ago.

In essence, Japanese Black pines have two growing spurts, one in spring and one in summer. You should encourage the spring growth then cut back strongly to 2-5 needles in summer.

The exact timing in spring and summer is determined by your local growing conditions and also if you have an impending exhibition. However, with the spring growth you need to make sure that the new growth has hardened off before you cut back. In Sydney Sue generally does her cut back in late November or early December. Others choose to cut back a later such as late December or early January. If you cut back later, say January you will get shorter needles because the plant has less time to grow its second needle growth.



From Sue’s JBP bonsai diary. The picture on the right shows the spring growth. The left picture is the same plant 7 months earlier

In Sydney root pruning can be done in March-April but if this timing is missed then leave the repotting until mid to late August. If you want to work on your tree in the late autumn or early winter, then only cut off unwanted branches; leave the needle cutback work until spring.



The “death-cut” a term coined by Sue, is when you cut off large structural branches to get the basic Japanese Black Pine design.

Top left shows the stock plant given a “death-cut” by Sue at the 2017 BBTH.

If you want to do a “death cut”, i.e. a cutting off a large structural branches to get the basic design you must leave the tree for one year giving it time to recover. Do not attempt to repot and do a “death cut” in the same year! Don’t touch the roots that year.

It is important to feed the spring growth as this will help give the plant the vigour it needs for good back budding. If you want a branch to back bud, the cut back early after the spring growth.

How to get short needles.

Pines will start to grow when the night soil temperature reaches about 7-10 °Celsius. Once the night temperature has reached this level, you can fertilise with say Charlie Carp once per week. It is important to water the plant first 20 minutes before so that you do not burn the feeder roots when using full recommended strength. Sue also adds Dynamic Lifter Standard Pellets at the recommended dose to the fertilising schedule. In general in Sydney you will be heavily feeding your Japanese Black Pine for about 6 months of the year.

Fertilise heavily, then stop 2 weeks before you will cut back the spring growth. In a Japanese Black Pine the needles will last for about 3 years. It is important that when you pluck the needles at you do not damage the sheath. If the sheath is damaged then you will not get new growth. So it is better to twist out the needles carefully.



The cutback of spring growth to 2-5 needles is shown.

In summary, Japanese Black Pines have two growing spurts, one spring and one in summer. The spring growth develops long and thick needles. In summer, You cut off the spring growth and thin the remainder of the needles to 2-5 needles at each point. You can only do one cut per year in summer. However, do not leave you summer cut till Autumn as you need 8-10 weeks for the new growth to develop and grow.

MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN BONSAI

So Many Opportunities to Learn Bonsai

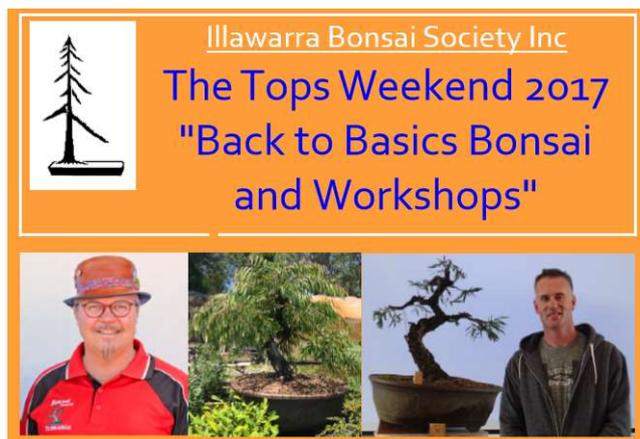
Sometimes we forget to make use of all the opportunities and resources we have access to in order to learn bonsai.

Use the SCBC Library

As a member you can borrow books on bonsai from our library. Les is our librarian. All you need to do is to ask Les to view what is available and then sign for any borrowed books which you can keep for one month.

Go to Bonsai Events

Get to view experts in action styling trees and giving you advice through workshops. Two really excellent events that are coming up over the next month are the Illawarra Bonsai Society's "The Tops Weekend 2017" and Bonsai Society of the Central Coast's "A Touch of Japan."



The advertisement features a stylized tree icon on the left. The text reads: "Illawarra Bonsai Society Inc The Tops Weekend 2017 'Back to Basics Bonsai and Workshops'". Below the text are three small images: a man in a red shirt and hat, a bonsai tree in a pot, and a man in a grey hoodie standing next to a bonsai tree.

This year The Tops weekend features Shane Boyce (on left) who will be presenting "Bonsai the Horticultural Tree" and Andrew Edge who by popular demand is back for workshops. The weekend is from the 25-27 August at the Tops Conference Centre – Acacia, Stanwell Tops.

If you cannot go the whole weekend then do a day registration. What is unique about the Tops Weekend is that you bring in the trees you want to work on and either you do the formal workshops or you work on your own trees in a very collaborative environment. For example, there will be free workshop activities such as "Grafting and Aerial Layering; Olive Carving tips; and Larger Scale Carving Techniques."

For further information go to Illawarra Bonsai Society Inc's website: <http://www.illawarrabonsaisociety.org/tops-weekend.html>

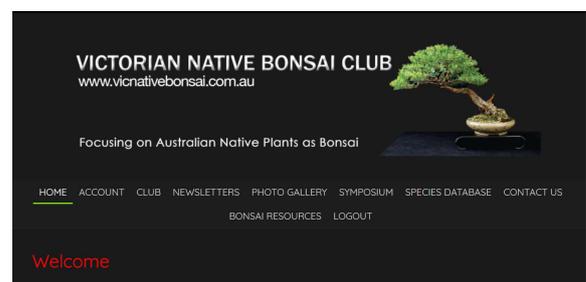


The advertisement is titled "A TOUCH OF JAPAN FAMILY FUN DAY". It is for the "20TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS" of the "BONSAI SOCIETY OF THE CENTRAL COAST". The event is on "Sat. 2nd & Sun. 3rd Sept 2017". The location is "Gosford Regional Gallery, Edogawa Commemorative Gardens, 36 Webb St East Gosford NSW". The featured activities include: "Bonsai Display and Demonstrations, Ikebana Demonstration, Suiseki, Anime Characters, Aikido Demonstration, Japanese Calligraphy, Silk Kimonos, Children can dress in Japanese costume and make their own bonsai". The bottom of the ad includes the website "www.centralcoastbonsai.org.au" and contact info "Ph Steve 0417017447 email: sreeve@bigpond.net.au". On the right side, there are four small images: a purple flowering tree, a blue stone, a bonsai tree in a pot, and a person in a white kimono working on a tree.

As part of its 20th anniversary, Bonsai Society of the Central Coast is really making their event a family fun day on the Saturday with a theme "A Touch of Japan." While the family is occupied, there will be 4 bonsai demonstrations running simultaneously in another studio provided by 4 top Australian bonsai demonstrators. On the Sunday there will be bonsai workshops (that you must register and pay for) by these bonsai experts.

Interested in Natives as Bonsai?

If you are interested in Australian natives as bonsai, then join the Victorian Native Bonsai Club as an interstate member: <http://www.vicnativebonsai.com.au/>



The screenshot shows the website for the Victorian Native Bonsai Club. The header includes the club name and website "www.vicnativebonsai.com.au". Below that is the tagline "Focusing on Australian Native Plants as Bonsai". A navigation menu includes: HOME, ACCOUNT, CLUB, NEWSLETTERS, PHOTO GALLERY, SYMPOSIUM, SPECIES DATABASE, CONTACT US, BONSAI RESOURCES, and LOGOUT. A "Welcome" message is visible at the bottom left. On the right, there is an image of a bonsai tree.

For only one and annual fee of \$15 as an interstate member you get members access to the website which includes monthly newsletters; a native species database from members who have grown these species; and more recently videos of the club's monthly meeting. Its a goldmine of information on natives.

UNUSUAL BONSAI & EVENTS CALENDAR

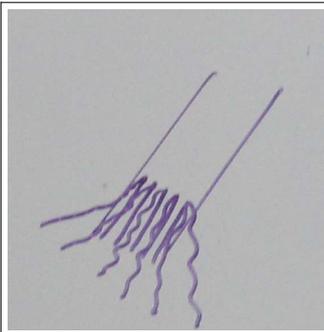
Brenda Parker Talks on Unusual Bonsai

At Bonsai By the Harbour Brenda Parker gave a fun session on trees you don't normally see grown as bonsai. Here are a few examples accompanied by some hints on how to grow them.



Common Jade (Portulacaria afra)

Common Jade is easy to strike. Best to do this in October.



If you want a good nebari then make cuts with a sharp knife to hard wood. Leave the cutting for 2-3 weeks to dry. When there is no more sap coming out of the cuts put the piece in a sand porous mix.

Prune as for figs and defoliate October. Rarely repot.



Miniature Kumquat (Fortunella Hindeii)

Strike the Hong Kong Kumquat from seed. Prune in late Spring. Twist off (don't cut) the fruit off after Christmas so the tree can revive. Use Confidor to control leaf minor.



Miniature Holly (Olex aquifolium or pernyi)

This Holly is really slow growing. It was given a lot of fertiliser last year-so is really healthy. It is 15-18 years old. "So just experiment – it is fun and you can get some real winners."

Bonsai Events Calendar

Date	Event	Details
12 Aug 2017	Australian National Bonsai Assoc. Bonsai Market Day	10am-1 pm East Ryde Scout Hall 25b John Miller St Ryde.
19 Aug 2017	Bonsai Society of Sydney Show	Forrestville Community Arts Centre, 5 Darley St Forrestville, contact Alex 0401 275 313
25-27 Aug 2017	18 th Annual Tops Bonsai Weekend,	Acacia, Stanwell Tops Function Centre, Stanwell Tops
2 & 3 Sept 2017	A Touch of Japan and Bonsai Workshops – Central Coast Bonsai Society	Gosford Regional Gallery, Edogawa Commemorative Gardens, 36 Webb St, East Gosford
20-23 Jul 2018	AABC National Bonsai Convention	Mantra Bell City, Preston – Melbourne