



NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

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

7pm Tuesday 8 December 2009
Santa Team Styling Caper and
Christmas Cheer

7pm Tuesday January 2010
No meeting in January.

CONTACT DETAILS

 0435 036 186

 info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au

 sydneycitybonsai.org.au

 PO Box 486
Summerhill NSW 2130

COMMITTEE

Patron Dorothy Koreshoff

President Neville

Vice President Sue

Secretary Jennie

Treasurer Tani

Public Officer Max

Newsletter Editor Tony

Librarian Philip

Committee Philip, Gary, Jennie,
Damian

MEMBERSHIP

Full Membership \$30.00

Concession \$20.00

Family \$45.00

Pensioner \$15.00

Welcome to the December Newsletter



December Meeting: SANTA TEAM STYLING

It's time for Sydney City Bonsai's Christmas Fun Night!

Please wear something Christmassy

Please bring a plate... enough for 4 only

Bring your tools and some wire

Bring a bonsai decorated with a Christmas Theme



The Club is providing unstyled junipers. Teams will be picked at random and it will be team styling efforts to bonsai the stock plants. The eatables will be available from the start of the meeting with Handi-Wipes to get fingers clean. There will be some champagne and soft drink as well to loosen up the styling options.

Each team has 60 minutes to complete the job. The assembled revellers will choose the favourite tree, fun prizes will be awarded and the trees will be sold.

Last year the Santa Team Styling proved to be a great hit and produced an evening of smiles and fun so be sure to be there to join in.

Looking forward to seeing all members to celebrate the end of a great year of SCBC meetings.



We had another great turn out for the November meeting; many members brought trees to work on under the guidance of more experienced members.

In this months newsletter:

- Members trees on display at the November Meeting page 2
- To see pictures of the November Meeting Workshop see pages 3, 4 & 5
- For a list of suitable species to train your own bonsai Christmas tree see page 4
- See pages 5 & 6 for the *Melaleuca alternifolia* make over – great images
- For an article on using Dolomite on bonsai Olives see page 6
- Bonsai Events page 6

MEMBERS TREES IN TRAINING ON DISPLAY AT THE OCTOBER MEETING



Tony & Sophie's *Ficus* bonsai



Lee's Informal upright *Baekea* bonsai in flower



English Oak Bonsai

Many thanks to Jennie & Lee for taking the pictures for the Newsletter this month



Neville's *Leptospermum petersonii* - Lemon Scented Tea Tree bonsai

***Killing trees is the tuition you pay for learning bonsai.* - John Naka -**

PICTURES FROM THE NOVEMBER MEETING WORKSHOP



Chris working on his Fig – fantastic trunk on this tree.



Chris's Fig after pruning



John looks on while Lee works on his tree



Lee & Fred discussing the future direction of his Cascade Juniper

Just wanted to say thank you!



Peter & Les generously donated all these trees for the November Meeting raffle – thank you

PICTURES FROM THE NOVEMBER MEETING WORKSHOP



Greg ready to tackle his Oak tree – side cutters might be optimistic if the plan is to reduce the trunks!



Yeah now your talking – Phil lends Greg a hand

Species suitable for Christmas Tree Bonsai:

If you have been thinking about trying your hand at producing a Christmas Tree Bonsai you can decorate for the festive season, the following species will all grow in Sydney. Some like the *Cedrus* & *Picea* are more challenging than the Junipers.

Cedrus atlantica 'Glauca'
Cedrus deodara
Cryptomeria japonica (Dwarf Cultivars)
Juniperus 'Keteleeri'
Juniperus procumbens 'Nana'
Juniperus rigida



Neville tackles a fig with great potential



Seeking the tree within



Les working hard root pruning his tree

Juniperus sabina
Juniperus x media cvs: 'Sargentii' 'Blauw' 'Shimpaku'
Picea abies 'Little Gem'
Picea glauca 'Albertiana Conica'
Pinus densiflora
Pinus thunbergia

PICTURES FROM THE NOVEMBER MEETING WORKSHOP



Tani & her Pyracantha after the initial root pruning



Tani's Pyracantha before ↑ & after ↓



MELALEUCA ALTERNIFOLIA REMAKE By Lee

In April 2004 I bought a sun starved *Melaleuca alternifolia* from an enthusiast. The branches were long with minimal foliage and it had very few roots. When I repotted it I not only tied it into the pot but I had to tie around the pot to keep the gentle breeze from knocking the tree out. In a month the roots were rock solid and the tree had started to regenerate after I reduced the branches.



Melaleuca April 2004

In two years this tree became one of my staple show trees and appeared at the Royal Easter a couple of times.



Melaleuca June 2006



Melaleuca March 2008

Melaleuca alternifolia Remake Cont'd & EVENTS CALENDAR

By 2009 the upper branches which had always grown very much forward became too dominating, too heavy and I felt they looked awkward. Also, the tree needed a larger pot and I did not want a bigger pot, I wanted a smaller tree. I took the tree to a workshop and asked the opinion of a local stylist whom I have great confidence in. Do I cut this back? "No, it's great, give it a good trim and it will be fine".

Just as we are encouraged to get other opinions we are also encouraged to use our own ideas. This opinion only confirmed my thoughts that the tree had to have a cutback and the next day I removed the apical branch and two other major branches. I am waiting for strong shoots to lengthen so I can shorten the too thick back branch and regrow it. I also turned the tree and the original back is now the front. While the tree looks denuded and badly done by, the skeleton is better balanced and more contained.



Melaleuca July 2009



Melaleuca October 2009

This Melaleuca is very robust and over the past four months since the cutback it has regrown to the stage where I can once again start its styling. It is easy to see the tree's direction and the anticipated foliage pads.



Melaleuca November 2009

It has now had its major overhaul with a lot of growing still to come but the primary and secondary framework is now there and better than the original. I can see this tree once again becoming a prize winning bonsai in 2011. And, good news, it once again visually fits the pot.

DOLOMITE for OLIVES



Dolomite & Dolomitic Limestone are great for olives. They are like a health supplement. Sprinkle the soil surface with a light coating; water it in and in 6 weeks the leaves will be darker, greener and growing better. The Dolomite supplies magnesium and calcium to the olives like plus sweetening the soil.

Apply at six monthly intervals. At \$12 for a 5 kg bag it is a bit excessive for the average inner city bonsai grower who might have one or two olives. At the December meeting Lee will bring in small bags of Dolomite at \$2 each – sufficient for one or two years supply for a couple of trees.

Date	Event	Details
14-17/5/2010	23rd AABC National Convention hosted by Illawarra Bonsai Society Inc. - "A Bonsai Celebration"	
17-19/9/2010	Illawarra's Eleventh Weekend Workshop at Tops Conference Centre	