



NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

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

7pm Tuesday 14 December 2010
SCBC Christmas party & team styling

7pm Tuesday January 2011
There will not be a meeting in January 2011

CONTACT DETAILS

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COMMITTEE

Patron Dorothy Koreshoff
President Neville
Vice President Sue
Secretary Tani
Treasurer Chris
Public Officer Max
Newsletter Editor Tony
Librarian Damian
Catering Philip
Committee Philip, Gary, Jennie, Hector

MEMBERSHIP

Full Membership \$30.00
Concession \$20.00
Family \$45.00
Pensioner \$20.00

Welcome to the December Newsletter



December Meeting

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

You can add to the fun by wearing something Christmassy – so raid the Christmas tree and see what you can come up with – you just know that dangly ornament will make a great pendant!

Let's not forget our bonsai, choose one and give it a Christmas make over – a bit of tinsel here; a bauble or two there – you get the idea. Then bring it to the meeting too

The club will be providing champagne & non alcoholic drinks

We are asking that everyone bring a small plate of nibbles – enough for four people please.

We are planning to have drinks & nibbles at the beginning of the meeting this year before we get into the serious business of team styling.

How Team Styling works: the Club is providing 3 x unstyled trees (Sue won't tell me what type!) Teams will be picked at random and each team will work together to style there tree. Each team has 60 minutes to complete the job. Please bring along your tools & wire. 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 & produced an evening of smiles & fun so be sure to be there to join in.

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



In this months newsletter:

- To see photos taken at the November meeting turn to page 2
- For before and after pruning pictures of trees worked on at the November meeting workshop turn to pages 3 & 4
- For a great article on styling your bonsai turn to page 5
- Fungal Leaf Spot is explained in an article on page 6

PHOTOS TAKEN AT THE SCBC NOVEMBER MEETING



Sue explaining pruning techniques, Sue called for a volunteer to prune one of her Elm bonsai



Sue's Elm before pruning



Richard volunteered and with great concentration & care set about the delicate task of pruning

Sue's Elm after Richard's pruning

A job well done!



At the September SCBC meeting Sue demonstrated repotting an Elm bonsai, during her demonstration Tony noticed a large root had been cut off and discarded. He asked Sue could he have the root and took it home. Now in early December Tony has the beginnings of a new Elm semi-cascade bonsai!

This beautiful bonsai group planting could be yours!



This is the prize for our lottery – make sure you buy your tickets; the draw is at the December meeting

BEFORE & AFTER PICTURES TAKEN AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING



Privet before pruning



Constantine working on his Privet



Privet pruned and repotted



Tony's Azaleas before pruning and after pruning and showing possible new fronts for both



BEFORE & AFTER PICTURES AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING



Fig before pruning



Phil's *Banksia serrata* before & after pruning



Sue sealing the wounds with water from a spray bottle, if you didn't know, water cauterizes wounds on a fig



Phil's *Banksia serrata* after pruning & angled to show the future placement of the Banksia when it is planted in a bonsai pot



The fig after pruning and repotting

LOOK TO THE TOP OF THE TREE by Lee

If your design isn't working and your tree doesn't look quite right, look to the top of the tree.

I have just helped two enthusiasts redesign two trees, one of which was ready for the recycle bin. In each case the main problem was a proliferation of branches and foliage at the top of the tree giving the bonsai a heavy and awkward feel.

Judicious pruning, a slight alteration of the front and the remade trees were balanced and far more attractive.



The tree before work began

We tend to think of taper relating mainly to the trunk - thick at the bottom - thinner at the top. But taper in a bonsai is EVERYWHERE. The base to the apex of the trunk, the base to the tip of each branch and taper from the heavier bottom branches to the thinner, lighter top branches.

Keep in mind this aspect of taper and look at your tree with fresh eyes. If you have a tree with a thick branch at the top, relative to the tree's size, it is going to look wrong in the majority of instances. There are exceptions to every guideline but overall heavy branching at the top of the tree totally unbalances the look.

If you are afraid to cut then cover the branches you think you should remove with a white cloth and see how the balance changes when they are visually removed.

When you are doing a major restyling you will seldom get the tree you want. You will get the basis of the tree you are going to develop in one or two years. You will get the framework to get the future growth and development to hang on.

Too much framework and you have a problem. You need to establish an 'eye' for future growth, visualizing fuller foliage pads that will change the weight of each branch. You also need to consider that a tree cannot extend indefinitely and a lot of major pruning is undertaken to condense the tree and bring the silhouette in.

To my eye one of the major faults in styled bonsai is the tree is far too tall and extended for the trunk size. There is a ratio: 6 to 1 - the height of the tree should equal approximately 6 times the trunk width.



Initial pruning and training

Start reevaluating the trees you see and all too often the ratio is 10 - 1, 20 - 1 and the result is a skinny tree that looks as though it is trying to escape to the heavens. As soon as you start reducing the top the emphasis swings from the extension to the main trunk itself, highlighting this important part of your tree and making the tree look older and, more importantly, better balanced.



The repotted tree with some regrowth

Each tree has one apex and that must be the dominant branch at the top. Branches around it must be lower, thinner and less prominent.

Educate your eye by studying your trees and seeing where the weight is and if the tree is telling a cohesive story or is merely an upright pole supporting a number of branches that are growing without co-ordination.

LEAF SPOT ON FIGS



Fungal leaf spot on one of Sue's figs. Sue recommends spraying with Mancozeb Plus®, it controls the fungus but a powdery residue is the downside

When it comes to leaf spot on figs there are two main culprits. These fungi are from the genus *Cercospora* spp. & a group of fungi known as **Anthracnose** (actually several different types of fungi from several genera but all affect the plants the same way and respond to the same controls and treatments)

Leaf Spot Fungus - also known as *Cercospora* spp. This looks like tiny black dots on the backs of the leaves of the tree. The leaves may turn yellow and fall off. Remove the diseased leaves and spray with Benlate® (follow the instructions exactly). Do not mist the leaves.

Anthracnose - shows up as rusty-looking spots on stems and leaves. The plant may also ooze from these spots. Remove the diseased leaves and spray with Benlate (follow the instructions exactly). Do not mist the leaves.

References:

- <http://www.bonsai-bci.com/species/ficus.html>
- <http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/enpp/pathology/pathcirc/pp394.pdf>
- <http://hubpages.com/hub/Ficus-Tree-Problems>

REMINDER: The club will again have a stand at the Easter Show in 2011 for 6 days (April 22 - 27) Please put these dates in your diary and if you think you might be able to help out on the stand on any of those 6 days please contact Sue.

How to Control Leaf Spot Disease

The fungal leaf spots on this *Viburnum* show the typical circular shape of fungal leaf spot.

The fungus spore lands on the leaf, tunnels in side then spreads feeder threads (hyphae) into the healthy cells to feed.

The even spread of the hyphae from the central spore makes the typical circular shape of Fungal Leaf Spot.



A severe occurrence of leaf spot disease can cause the tree to lose all its leaves and die in the infected areas. Fortunately, it rarely affects the tree to this extent.

Leaf spot disease, when under control, usually only lowers a tree's aesthetic value. Follow these steps to control leaf spot disease.

- 1 Be sanitary. Collect fallen infected leaves regularly. Dispose of them immediately. If the leaves are diseased, the infection will spread quickly.
- 2 Prune the diseased leaves to control the spread to the uninfected parts. The wind can blow the spores to other portions of the trees.
- 3 Water the tree at soil level to prevent the leaves from getting wet. Leaves that are constantly wet are a breeding ground for leaf spot disease.
- 4 Allow spacing between trees. Branches that are overlapping can't dry quickly and become more susceptible to leaf spot disease.
- 5 Spray fungicide in the spring if necessary. It will not cure the infection that is already there, but it can control the spread of it.

Begin spraying when the trees' buds break through. Repeat the spray three times in 12 to 14 day intervals.

Read more: [How to Control Leaf Spot Disease | eHow.com](http://www.ehow.com/how_2081343_control-leaf-spot-disease.html#ixzz17CJm6rqg)
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Date	Event	Details