



sydney city
bonsai club inc.



NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

7pm Tuesday 14 February
Demonstration: Saotome Azaleas

7pm Tuesday 14 March
Do-it-yourself Juniper Workshop 1

7pm Tuesday 11 April
Do-it-yourself Juniper Workshop 2

CONTACT DETAILS

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COMMITTEE

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Vice President
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Welcome to the February 2006 newsletter

SYDNEY CITY BONSAI CLUB SPECIAL UPDATE

NEW MEETING DATE & VENUE

New date
Tuesday 14 February 2006 at 7pm
(2nd Tuesday of each month Feb-Dec)

New location
Green Square Community Church
182 Victoria Street (cnr Collins St)
Beaconsfield

PREVIOUS MEMBERS WELCOME

Haven't visited us for a while?

Come along and check out our fabulous new venue! For the month of February, we're offering those with lapsed memberships who come along to our meeting, to have full membership privileges restored until 30 June 2006!

SPECIAL NEW HALL DOOR PRIZE

Come along to our next meeting on Tuesday 14th February 2006 at our new venue and you could walk away a winner with this beautiful handcrafted free-form pot!

The pot has three compartments for planting a tree and some side plants or flowering garden plants. The man-made finish on the pot gives it a natural warm stone colour appearance, which will make a nice addition to a bonsai enthusiast's pot selection. Don't miss this opportunity to get a free pot!

If you have any questions or want to know more about the update, please contact Marika via marika@sydneycitybonsai.org.au or call 0407 573 419.



SYDNEY CITY HAS MOVED

On Tuesday 14 February 2006 at 7pm we will meet at Green Square Community Church Hall, Beaconsfield.

Thanks to Neville's scouting, we have secured a new meeting place in a turn of the 19th century church hall. The hall is more than adequate for our size and hoped for growth in the coming years. It has a small kitchen and a convenient loo just off the main hall. NO more trekking for the necessities of life. And if your bonsai is doing badly, there's an intimate and ambient church right next door and you can pray for its improvement.

There are steps up to the main entrance but for those bringing trees, there is an entry off the laneway that is two low steps into the hall. This is purely for loading and unloading and not for meeting parking. The church is located in an old suburb that is not yet over developed so there is ample on street parking in close proximity to the hall. The church hall is a block away from Botany Road if anyone comes by bus.

After 4 years in the cavernous hall at Sydney Boys, with the poor lighting and the great distances that needed to be traveled to set up and take down and bring trees in and out, we feel that this new meeting spot will be very conducive to a happier club.



KORESCHOFF'S TO CLOSE

The hottest news, and the saddest, is the news that Koreshoff's Nursery in Castle Hill will close. The property is up for sale as of January and the termination of this very special nursery will be dependant on when the property changes hands.

Koreshoff's (Bonsai) Nursery was established almost 50 years ago by Vita Koreshoff and when Dorothy and Vita married she married his passion as well as the man. Since her induction into the world of bonsai, Dorothy has become a world authority on growing and styling bonsai and received an OAM for her services to horticulture. The love of bonsai was absorbed by the family and Deborah Koreshoff, Dorothy's daughter, is a renowned exponent and the author of *'Bonsai: Its art, science, history and philosophy'*. This book has sold 50,000 copies worldwide and is an important reference book.

While offering a modest selection of stock plants, Koreshoff's has specialized in offering well styled bonsai both newly created and advanced. They have proudly filled a niche market and their closure will leave the Australian bonsai world much poorer.

The Koreshoff collection, with many of the magnificent trees started from seed in the 30s and 40s, should be incorporated into a public collection but the costs of security and maintenance have made this an impossible goal to achieve. Bonsai enthusiasts can only hope that some of the trees will eventually end up in the National Bonsai Collection at the National Arboretum that is planned to open about 2008 in Canberra.

Dorothy Koreshoff, Kenneth Doble and Deborah Koreshoff are trying to whittle down their three collections to keep only their most prized trees and this offers a chance for enthusiasts to purchase some of the Koreshoff bonsai.

It will be a sad day when this specialist nursery, nestled in a woody dale at Castle Hill, closes its doors. Koreshoffs has long offered Australian enthusiasts the opportunity to view and purchase well styled trees and to learn more about this art form. There is also something special, in this day of crowds and high density, concrete and construction, to browse and buy in a seemingly rural, tree filled and shady environment.

Dorothy and Vita Koreshoff established the Eastern Districts Bonsai Club in the 70s and Dorothy has had a long involvement with our society, fully approving the 2003 change of name to the Sydney City Bonsai Club to better reflect our area of coverage. Dorothy has been the club's patron for many years and has always been encouraging and helpful and keenly interested in our progress.

For anyone wishing to visit the nursery, the hours are 9 am – 4 pm Thursday to Sunday, 14 Telfer Road, Castle Hill.

BROWSING MY BENCHES

By LEE WRIGHT

You can tell your level of expertise or interest by the amount of equipment you buy. I just had to replace two wire sizes and no longer do I even consider the small rolls, it's a half a kilo per gauge. I've been very neglectful since mid November and my weeping melaleuca is looking as though it has been spun rapidly on a carousel and all the branches are trying to be horizontal. I've also belatedly realised that you start wiring a weeping tree from the lower branches but I've always been a great one to learn by doing it the wrong way first.

Are any of our members confident enough to enter a tree in the 2006 Royal Easter Show? The bonsai competition is on for one day. Last year it was Easter Monday. It means an early start to deliver and bench your trees and a late finish because they are collected after everyone has left the show –10 pm. You can go to eastershow.com.au and request a catalogue. Entry is free and there are 10 classes. If you are considering this then you should be well on the way to refining your entries NOW. If you want more first hand information talk to Sue or Lee at the next meeting.

December brought news of the death of Max Candy. Max was very active in Sydney bonsai in the 70s, 80s and 90s and was well renowned for his expertise and knowledge with figs. The SCBC sends sincere sympathy to his family. His passing is a loss to the Australian bonsai world.

I'm going to be a virgin again and that's saying something. I am giving my maiden demo/talk at the February meeting on one of my favourite 'fun' trees, the saotome azalea. This is a small leaf, non flowering azalea ideally suited to bonsai. I will be demonstrating on two \$3 starter plants which look like a little bit of god help us and a far more established 2 year old plant. As demo assistants I have 2 saotomes that have been two years in training and two that have been four years in training. Not only will I show you how easy it is with this very forgiving plant, but I will have photos of the plants from day one when they were all a little bit of god help us. The rapid change is wonderful in a hobby that can take years to create something beautiful.

As an incentive to members to try saotomes, the three demo trees and one 2-years in training tree will be raffled. NO! NOT my two advanced ones!!! I was as green as the newest member when I started on these two trees and I am very proud of how I have developed them. So to bolster your own confidence... come along and watch and learn, ask questions and learn. Get your own saotome and learn.

The December January period was not kind to enthusiasts with record high temperatures. I hope all of you have kept your trees moist and have not lost any. I put a thick layer of sugar cane mulch on several trees that are water guzzlers. So far this seems to be helping. If you have a shredder, put newspaper through it and use that to keep the moisture in your pots. Equally important, it helps keep the roots cool. I have two trees that were struggling until I moved them to a spot where they get very early shade. The improvement was immediate and I feel the plants did not like the soil temperature in the sun.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our new meeting place in Beaconsfield in February. Check the first page for full details. I have really positive vibes about it and I think we will all thank Neville for finding it. Until the meeting.... Happy bonsaiing.

TIP OF THE MONTH: MULCH

If your trees get a lot of direct sun during these hot days soak mulch or shredded newspaper in water until it is saturated and put it on top of your pots, particularly the smaller pots. Wetting it first makes it less likely to blow away. The mulch not only helps retain water but, equally importantly, insulates the soil. Keep it a bit away from the trunk and don't put it on those plants that prefer drier soil [pines, olives, etc]. Do a roadtest and hold a small pot in your hand late in the afternoon and water it. The water draining out is a comfortable temperature and not the semi-scalding it can be.

With cooler roots your bonsai can grow better.

EVENTS CALENDAR 2006

Date	Event	Details
25-26 Feb	Blackheath and Districts Horticultural Society 80th Show	Show will be hosted at Blackheath Community Centre opposite to Blackheath Railway Centre on 25th Feb (12noon-5pm) and 26th Feb (10am-3.30pm). Devonshire Teas and Plant Stalls. Adults \$3 free for under 15s. Exhibitors are invited. For more information download the flyer or call the secretary (02) 4787 1580 or craft officer (02) 4787 8183.
7 Mar	Sandra Quintell at the Bonsai Society of Australia	Bonsai Society of Australia's special guest is Sandra Quintell, a major NZ demonstrator. West Pennant Hills Community Centre, 42 Hills Road, West Pennant Hills. Tuesday 7 March 8:00 - 10:00 pm. All Welcome.
7-20 Apr	Sydney Royal Easter Show	Enter your best bonsai in the Easter Show! Visit www.eastershow.com.au for more information.
8-9 Apr	Western Creek Bonsai Show	Weston Creek shopping Centre, Weston Creek, Canberra
April (Easter)	Bendigo Bonsai Club Autumn Bonsai Show	The show will be held from Easter Saturday to Easter Monday at the St Pauls Anglican Hall, Myers Street. Contact David on (03) 5439 5605 for more info.
26-29 May	19th AABC National Bonsai Convention	Legends Hotel, Gold Coast, QLD. The biggest bonsai event of the year with international demonstrators Robert Steven and Budi Sulisty and much more. For more information download the flyer visit www.aabcltd.org or call Carole on (07) 5530 5452 b/h or (02) 5525 1428 a/h.
1-2 Jul	Bonsai Federation of Australia Convention	Will be hosted in Ballarat with Hirotooshi Saito as principal demonstrator. The program is not yet finalised, but will include workshops on the Saturday and Sunday. More details will be made available later.
7-10 Sep	Special demonstrations by Mr Kobayashi at the Gosford Flora Festival.	More details yet to be announced.
22-24 Sep	New Zealand 14th National Bonsai Convention	Hosted in Auckland with key demonstrators Reiner Goebel, Robert Langholm, Mick Balzary, Mr Yang and Louis Buckingham. More information download the flyer on www.sydneycitybonsai.org.au

AABC Annual Seminar 26-29 May 2006

Clubs are encouraged to submit a member's name to go into the \$1000 draw. The winner, chosen at random, will receive a refund of seminar fees if they have already paid and the remaining funds to offset seminar costs. The winning member who has not paid will get expenses reimbursed to the value of \$1000. Entries must be submitted by 24 March. It costs nothing to enter, one member per club. Details and form on the www.aabcltd.org.au website

Photographic Contest – Member Clubs are asked to have their members submit photographs of a good and photogenic bonsai and submit it to the photographic contest. Details on the web www.aabcltd.org.au. Winners will be announced at the seminar.

AABC Annual Seminar 2007

The AABC is asking any member club interested in hosting the 2007 AABC Annual Seminar to contact the Secretary at www.aabcltd.com.au. The AABC has received verbal advice that the Newcastle Bonsai Club are unable to honour their commitment to host it.

