



## NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

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

**7pm Tuesday 10 February 2009**

Workshop: pruning figs, natives, junipers, privets, olives

**7pm Tuesday 10 March 2009**

Workshop: to work on the Nursery Crawl finds or any other trees suitable at this time of year.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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## COMMITTEE

**Patron** Dorothy Koreshoff

**President** Neville

**Vice President** Sue

**Secretary** Lee

**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 January / February Newsletter

### February Meeting:

Jennie will hold a brainstorming circle discussion to see exactly what you, the members, would like to do at the meetings so we can be sure the Committee is providing you with the stimulus you need to do good bonsai.

After the discussion we will workshop: pruning figs, natives, junipers, privets, olives

**21 FEBRUARY – NURSERY CRAWL** Attendees will again meet at Morton Park, Gould Avenue, Lewisham at 9 am and pack a few cars for a trip to Bonsai South nursery in Caringbah. Leong has a good selection of stock plants from \$6 to The Skies and a lot in between. You can get tools, pots and wire as well. Afterwards we will go to a Vietnamese El Cheapo but El Goodo in Marrickville for lunch to celebrate the discoveries and just have a good time. You are asked to give the driver \$5 to cover costs.



Part of the display area at Bonsai South nursery

### **A WARNING FROM JOE MIFSUD FOR ALL BONSAI ENTHUSIASTS**

Information has come to hand regarding the need to be vigilant in protecting your bonsai. It appears that there is a couple, mainly on the NSW Central Coast but have travelled as far as Queensland, who use the ruse of asking to come to see bonsai at people's home, especially during shows and exhibitions.

**It is important to stress that members should not divulge addresses of members.**

There have been numerous examples of merchandise stolen at bonsai nurseries when this couple is about. Unfortunately, the proof was not available to prosecute the people so please be on your guard and be careful who you discuss bonsai with especially during the Christmas and New Year period.

Regards, *Angelo (Joe) Mifsud – Secretary Association of Australian Bonsai Clubs Ltd*

# NEBARI, OLD POTS & NEW POTS



Serious Nebari – Lee took this photograph of nebari on a Privet bonsai in a Newcastle enthusiast's bonsai collection

Something to meditate on while at our next bonsai meeting:

*Thousands of candles  
can be lighted from a single candle,  
and the life of the candle will not be shortened.  
Happiness never decreases by being shared*

*Buddha*

## OLD BONSAI POTS

It's a bad practice because of the danger of theft, to spread the word that you do bonsai. Yet by telling people this is your hobby you could be asked if you want some old bonsai pots. Still, the risk is great these days.

Bonsai pots, like everything else, go through fashion cycles with glazes and shapes dropped and new variations brought on the market. You can find a difference in quality as some of the older pots can be of a finer make than many contemporary ones. But the main beauty is the old glazes and the chance to get a pot that is quite different from the stock on today's shelves.

Another option is to stop at every garage sale and second hand shop. When a bonsai dies some people throw the whole thing out – what a waste, particularly if it was a medium or large tree. But there would be those who would keep the pot and that brings in the possibility of eventually finding the pot in garage sales or op shops. As the old saying goes.. 'you have to kiss a lot of frogs before you find your prince[ess] but to stumble on a lovely older pot makes the futile stops more than worthwhile.



A beautiful older style blue glazed bonsai pot recently acquired by Lee

So keep an eye out for recycled bonsai pots... you could find something very interesting.

## NEW BONSAI POTS FROM MIRKWOOD

*Mirkwood Bonsai Pottery*  
Handcrafted *shohin* pots from the slopes of Kosciuszko

 170x130x65mm	 150x125x50mm	 160x135x50mm	 145x130x55mm
 180x145x55mm	 160x60mm	 200x175x50mm	 165x125x65mm

Patrick Kennedy 10 Tumut St, Adelong, NSW 2729 Phone: (02) 6946 2956 patspots@bigpond.com

## SANTA'S STYLING CAPER IN PICTURES

December's SCBC Christmas meeting offered enthusiasts a chance to work in groups of 4 styling their club supplied junipers.



The Junipers for the Santa's Styling Caper



Team Blitzen concentrating hard on their tree

The groups went to the task with Christmas spirit, good humour and intent and in 45 minutes of decision making changed each shaggy unstyled juniper to a potential bonsai.



It was all a laugh for Team Dasher



Is everyone listening to the elf on Team Blitzen?



Team Comet looking for the 'tree within'



That's more like it, Team Dasher go 'hands on'

*"Bonsai is an artistic representation of a natural tree. It is an image, an illusion of nature. It is smoke and mirrors that defies the senses. The best bonsai are magicians' tricks that have fooled the eye into seeing a far off place in the distant past, or the side of a craggy cliff. We all have to strive to be the magician."*

From BONSAI/STYLES - The big picture November 4, 2004

# SANTA'S STYLING CAPER IN PICTURES



Team Comet is still looking



Is an elf on the team even legal?



Wait a minute Jenny has made a move!



Now it's Team Dasher's turn for looking – there is a tree in there!

Prizes were awarded, chocolate roses to the winners, chocolate butterflies and chocolate ladybirds to second and third.



Team Blitzen's Tree



Team Dasher's Tree



Team Comet's Tree

Everyone enjoyed the night and the committee is pleased that we have finished off the year with another very good meeting. It was a really nice night and offered learning under different and fun circumstances. The members voted on their favourite tree and two teams tied for first and the members not involved voted again.

Team Dasher narrowly pipped Team Blitzen at the second voting. The ultimate prize was good fun and a Christmas meeting with a difference. Afterwards was a get together over the traditional supper. It was a very nice evening of bonsai, fun and friends.

# ENCOURAGING AERIAL ROOTS AND A BOUGAINVILLEA BONSAI

Lee took these pictures while on a visit to Newcastle:



The two on aerial roots show a treatment to encourage the roots to grow. Small drink bottles with water are attached to the trunk after the roots have been put inside.



Once they get long enough to reach the ground the bottles can be carefully removed.



A man and his tree, a Newcastle enthusiast and his Bougainvillea bonsai

## Teachings of Naka

*"There are no borders in bonsai. The dove of Peace flies to palace as to humble house, to young as to old, to rich and poor. So does the spirit of bonsai."*

--John Y. Naka,

## Overheard

*"That cut was NOT a mistake... just wait twenty years and you'll see that it's PERFECT!"*

--scuttlebut at the bonsai club.

*"It is the slowest sculpture in the world, and there is, at times, doubt as to which is being sculpted, man or tree."*

--Theodore Sturgeon

## PROPOSED 2009 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**10 FEBRUARY** – Brainstorming circle discussion with members for future meetings and a workshop: pruning figs, natives, junipers, privets, olives

**21 FEBRUARY** – **NURSERY CRAWL** Attendees will again meet at Morton Park, Gould Avenue, Lewisham at 9am.

**10 MARCH** A Workshop to work on the Nursery Crawl finds or any other trees suitable at this time of year.

**APRIL** – **NO MEETING** due to Royal Easter Show commitments. Members will be asked to help man our 14 day stand at the Royal Easter Show.

**12 MAY** – **Guest Speaker.** Brenda Parker, President of Illawarra Bonsai Society and Suiseki Society of Australia, presents the glory of decorative stones

**9 JUNE** – Guest Speaker – to be advised

**14 JULY** – **TEAM STYLING CAPER** This proved so popular at the December 2008 meeting that we have decided to do two this year

**11 AUGUST** Workshop – rebot deciduous trees, pines, azaleas, natives, junipers

**8 SEPTEMBER** – Workshop – rebot and style azaleas, evergreens

**13 OCTOBER** – Workshop - Figs, Figs, Figs and whatever else you want to do

**10 NOVEMBER** – Workshop – natives and figs

**8 DECEMBER** – Santa Team Styling Caper and Christmas Cheer

# NEW WEBSITE FOR BONSAI BEGINNERS & MAPLE LEAF DAMAGE STORY

<http://www.bonsaiforbeginners.com/>

This site has good basic information if you are new to bonsai. Under the Make A Bonsai tab there is information on selecting suitable plants, the basics of pruning, wiring, root pruning and potting.

The styling information is limited – you would do well to re-read Sue Brennan's notes on initial training and branch selection or one of the bonsai books recommended in previous newsletters. To get a more artistic understanding of bonsai styling.

Check out the back issues for some excellent articles. Happy browsing

## TRIDENT MAPLE – LEAF DAMAGE by Lee

I have 5 trident maples and all get the same treatment but over the last three years one, naturally the best, has been plagued with severely damaged leaves. The opening leaves were dwarfed, edges curled inwards and the edges browned then blackened off.



I showed the leaves to a number of knowledgeable enthusiasts and the damage was put down to insects chewing the buds but nothing I used to treat it worked. The tree was isolated from the rest of the trees to minimise passing this on. My garden is very protected so wind damage was not a possibility nor was the burning and leaf distortion similar to wind damaged leaves.

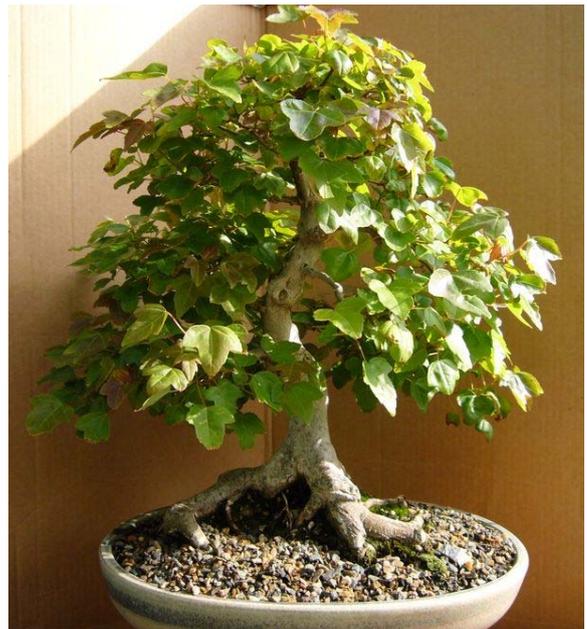
It was also suggested that the damage was caused by root rot and I treated it for this with some improvement but when I repotted the roots were in wonderful condition, healthy as you would want...no root rot here.

2008 spring and the leaves were still affected but not so severely and in early January 2009 I defoliated the tree so the new crop would come in looking great. WRONG. The leaf damage was worse than ever.

I asked Leong Kwong of Bonsai South about this tree and his immediate reply was 'salinity'. This particular maple is especially sensitive to the salts in Osmocote and the excess salts were damaging the leaves. Leong said that tridents are known for being sensitive.

Despite it being high summer, I put the tree on the lawn and washed out 2/3rds of the soil with a gentle jet stream without removing the tree from the pot and, without really disturbing the roots, refilled the pot with soil with no fertiliser.

Within two weeks leaves that had some damage were starting to 'relax', to open fully, grow properly. The badly damaged leaves I can do nothing about this year. It is not worth the risk defoliating again.



The root rot treatment I gave the tree which had a positive affect on the leaves I put down to temporarily neutralising the salts in the soil.

I have also drenched the pot repeatedly to wash out any fertiliser I didn't remove when most of the old soil went.

I am now looking forward to seeing how the tree comes on in September and will be greatly modifying my fertilising program when I repot trees.

**REMEMBER BRING A TREE TO EVERY MEETING**

Date	Event	Details
22-25 May	22nd National Bonsai Convention	Royal on the Park, Brisbane City. For more info download the <a href="#">flyer</a> , <a href="#">program</a> and <a href="#">registration form</a> .