



NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

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

7pm Tuesday 9 February 2010
Workshop: pruning figs, natives,
junipers, privets, olives

7pm Tuesday 9 March 2010
Workshop: pruning & training
Junipers and other conifers

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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 January / February Newsletter

February Meeting:

Time to get moving on all that growth the rains have produced on your bonsai, this month we have a workshop pruning figs, natives, junipers, privets and olives. Remember to bring along tools and wire as well as your trees!



The Sydney City Bonsai Club members line up for a Christmas meeting photo – it is great to see so many people took up the option for a Festive addition to their wardrobe.

In this months newsletter:

- Members trees on display at the December Meeting page 2
- Team Styling at the December Meeting see page 3
- The winners of the Team Styling at the December Meeting page 4
- For a great article on Trunk & Branch Movement in Bonsai see pages 4, 5 & 6
- Want to change a timber tray into a bonsai stand – see page 5
- For an article on Callistemon bonsai culture see page 6
- Bonsai Events page 6

MEMBERS TREES IN TRAINING ON DISPLAY AT THE DECEMBER MEETING



Lee's Elm bonsai in its Christmas finery – did Santa crash land?



Bryan's elegant *Pyracantha* bonsai in Christmas Minimalism decoration



Paul's African Olive bonsai



Paul's Juniper bonsai joined the Christmas dress-up fun too

PICTURES FROM THE DECEMBER MEETING



Tani & Damian getting the victuals ready for the Christmas meeting.

The competition – Santa's Team Styling Caper

- (1) divide the members into three groups
- (2) give each group a tree
- (3) instructions are simple, turn the tree into a fledgling bonsai – working as a group
- (4) Diplomacy was in the air, each member got to put forward their ideas for the training of the tree, then a group decision was made on what ideas would be pursued.
- (5) Team styling is great fun and a great way to gain training experience (help was always available from the more experienced members of the club how kindly abstained from joining a team)



El Presidente' – Neville discusses the judging process & the elements the judges considered when assessing each tree

Santa's Team Styling Teams:



Team A

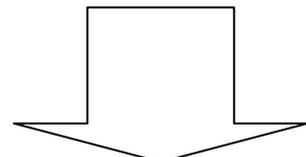


Team B



Team C

AND THE WINNERS ARE:



PICTURES FROM THE DECEMBER MEETING



Team A's tree



Team B's tree



Team C's tree



Team C - congratulations

TRUNK-BRANCH MOVEMENT

By Lee

Developing a pleasing bonsai is a lot about movement: The trunk has to have movement and the branches have to have movement to remove any static 'clothes horse' element from the tree. Even formal uprights must fall into this guideline so they don't resemble telephone poles with the stiff cross pieces.

The problem with a lot of styling for movement is the enthusiast is so keen to do the right thing and get movement into the tree that the branches or apex are wired to look like corkscrews. The result too often is that the trunk and the branches look like actors on the same stage reading lines for different plays.

The movement of the branches must compliment the movement of the trunk. If the trunk is fairly rigid the branches should have soft movement; enough movement to soften the straightness of the trunk, not excessive movement to look incompatible. If the trunk is really shapely then the branches can reflect this with more movement. Even this has to be watched as excessive branch shaping can bring visual confusion while gentle shaping can compliment a graceful trunk without overwhelming it.

There is also a difference in branches wired for movement and getting a tree wherein 'clip and grow' or natural growth have created branches of sharp angles and directional changes. No artist can replicate the intricacies of nature and the sharpness of some of the natural branch movement will compliment the trunk because of its very nature. There is also a visual difference seeing sharply angled branches on a straightish trunk as opposed to wavy branches on a straightish trunk.

In some instances over-shaping is done to bring a branch from a wrong position to a more desired position but it can be hard to disguise the source of the branch so it could be more advisable to take a longer term view, cut back hard and hope the tree will shoot a branch in a more suitable position.

Working with plants at workshops it appears that over shaping is a common tendency in newer enthusiasts. On a personal basis, it took me years to finally see/realise what I was doing and then break the habit.

I find photography is the best start to identify and amend inappropriate branch movement. Faults are much more blatant in a photograph and therefore harder to avoid seeing. So view your collection with fresh vision and see if your branch wiring is compatible with the tree's trunk and makes an all over pleasing impression. If not, you have work to do.

TRUNK & BRANCH MOVEMENT IN BONSAI



1) This olive has a beautiful trunk with branches wired with excessive movement that conflicts with the trunk movement. The tree will improve with the branches rewired to more gentle curves and a new header grown more in line with the trunk.



3) Trident Pat The trunk has a lot of movement and the branching has a fair bit of movement but not enough to conflict with the trunk



2) Casurina The trunk has very gentle movement and the branches have been wired to reflect this.



4) Trident Trunk The branching movement is gentle, reflecting the quietness of the trunk



Toss Out Becomes Bonsai Stand - I was walking the dog and noted a little nibbles tray without its 4 component ceramic containers sitting beside a rubbish container. It was clean so it had been put out after the rains. I spotted the potential immediately and the good condition and carried it home. A bit of work and the feet were removed from the bottom and attached to the top and the tray container became an almost instant bonsai stand. It would not suit a lot of enthusiasts but I have two trees in long tray pots and this stand makes an ideal addition to my stand collection – especially at the price.



MOVEMENT IN BONSAI, PRUNING CALLISTEMON FOR FLOWERS, EVENTS



5) Olive Euro Natural kinks in the branches have been retained and clip and grow has been used to get more jigs in the branches to compliment the fairly static trunk



6) Privet – a very sinuous trunk and naturally sinuous branches give a balletic feel to this tree.

PRUNING CALLISTIMONS for FLOWERS

By Derek



There have been a lot of questions about *Callistemons* (bottlebrush) - when to re pot, when to prune and how much. *A common question* - why does mine not flower. Well I hope to be able to help. I have been growing them for 20 years.

I have never had no flowers in a season, I have struck cuttings at 4 cms and have inarch grafted. The best thing about *Callistemons* is that they flower on new growth. You can prune them hard after flowering and they will power away again.

One thing to remember is they are very apical dominant so November is the time to make sure the apex is still tapering. This is where I have taken my cuttings from. The important thing for flowering is to remember new wood. If you keep pruning for shape you will lose buds that will flower.

So cut back hard in November, even if it has not flowered. Let it grow, then in late March / early April, cut to shape then do not, I repeat 'do not', prune again until after flowering. You can pinch tips for ramification, but that is it.

I use Miracle Gro for Azalea and Camellias once a month and use Phostrogen once a month, alternating fortnightly. This is my standard fertilising regime. All my plants get this except the Miracle Gro is not used on my exotics. I have some pictures of my tree in flower, when the blooms were past their peak and then the pruning, or cutting back.

Repotting is carried out in November if it is needed. In most cases repot about every 3 years. Some times it will push itself out of the pot. If this is happening do it before the weather starts to warm up.

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	