



NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

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

7pm Tuesday 8 July 2008
Repotting deciduous trees,
junipers & pines

7pm Tuesday 12 August 2008
Repotting deciduous trees,
junipers, pines & natives.

CONTACT DETAILS

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COMMITTEE

Patron Dorothy Koreshoff
President Neville Althaus
Vice President Sue Brennan
Secretary Lee Wright
Treasurer Rebecca Irving
Public Officer Max Blanco
Newsletter Editor Tony Wilson
Librarian Philip Bell
Committee Philip Bell
Gary Graham

MEMBERSHIP

Full Membership \$30.00
Concession \$20.00
Couples \$45.00

Welcome to the July Newsletter

July Meeting: Repotting deciduous trees, Junipers & Pines.

Noel Summerell surrounded
by some of his
Shohin Bonsai at the June meeting
of the SCBC

Noel a qualified horticulturalist and bonsai enthusiast for
over four decades talked on his particular love
Shohin bonsai.

**THANK YOU NOEL FOR A FASCINATING
PRESENTATION**

To see close ups of some of the Noel's wonderful trees turn to pages 4 & 5



**SCBC Annual General Meeting will be held August 12
2007 before the regular club meeting.**

All members are asked to attend. **Membership renewals are due 1 July** and only financial members can vote for the 2008-2009 committee..

The club earnestly requests members to consider nominating for committee positions. Without YOUR support we cannot function as a club. Elections will be for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Librarian and committee.

Nomination forms for committee positions will be emailed out or handed out at the next club meetings.

- Turn to pages 2 & 3 to see member's trees in training at the June meeting
- Turn to page 6 for an article on Workshop Etiquette, info on the Plant Sale at our next meeting & the Events Calendar

TREES IN TRAINING ON SHOW AT THE JUNE MEETING



Sue Brennan's *Taxodium* bonsai



A close up of the lower trunks & roots of Sue Brennan's *Taxodium* bonsai



Lee Wrights *Melaleuca* 'Snowman' bonsai



Neville Althaus's *Callistemon viminalis* 'Little John' bonsai

Taxodium distichum / Swamp or Bald Cypress <http://www.bonsai4me.com/SpeciesGuide/Taxodium.html>

The Swamp Cypress is an upright, conical, monoecious, deciduous or semi-evergreen coniferous tree found in swampy forest or by river margins from SE USA to Guatemala. In its native habitat it can reach heights of 20-40 metres. Though often found growing in wet, swampy soils, the Swamp Cypress also grows well in relatively dry soils. In wet soil conditions, Swamp Cypress develop aerial roots known as 'knees' or pneumatophores at water level.

BONSAI CULTIVATION NOTES

POSITION - Full sun, hardy to -10°C.

WATERING - Swamp Cypress should be kept moist at all times as they are thirsty trees; it is beneficial to stand them permanently in water.

FEEDING - Swamp Cypress are very vigorous growers and require regular feeding every one or two weeks with a balanced feed.

REPOTTING - Repotting should be carried out annually in Spring as new buds extend. Use a soil that is able to retain water but is still fast draining.

PRUNING - Pinch out new shoots throughout the growing season to keep in shape. Hard pruning can be carried out in late winter; this commonly results in prolific budding from the trunk.

WIRING - Care should be taken when wiring, as these trees are fast growing and wires will damage the bark if not removed quickly enough. If possible use guy wires to pull down the branches.

PROPAGATION - Cuttings at most times of the year and air layering in late Spring.

PESTS AND DISEASES - Trouble free

STYLING - Formal and informal upright forms, slanting and literati, twin-trunk and group forms in all sizes.



Pneumatophores

TREES IN TRAINING ON SHOW AT THE JUNE MEETING



Eric Desmoulin's Sargent Juniper bonsai



Sue Brennan's Oak bonsai



Lee Wrights Saotome Azalea bonsai

*“Good judgement comes from
experience”*

*“Experience comes from
bad judgement”*

Margaret Atwood



Doug Raynor's *Ficus rubiginosa* 'Little Ruby' bonsai

NOEL SUMMERELL'S TREES SHOWN AT THE JUNE MEETING



Some of Noel's Shohin bonsai



Ficus neriifolia



Ficus neriifolia



Parthenocissus quinquefolia – Japanese Ivy



Coprosma x kirkii 'Variegata'

NOEL SUMMERELL'S TREES SHOWN AT THE JUNE MEETING



Coprosma x kirkii 'Variegata'



Coprosma x kirkii

Did you know:

Noel Summerell discovered the
← *Ficus rubiginosa* cultivar 'Little Ruby'
in 1987 as a chance seedling among the many
hundreds of seedlings he raised



Ficus rubiginosa 'Little Ruby'

Noel's technique for raising Fig seeds:

Use a seed tray mostly filled with zeolite; then top the zeolite with a layer of sieved coco peat. The washed fig seeds are sown in the moist coco peat.

Noel recommends you cover the seed tray with a cover made of masonite – this cover keeps the moisture in and the light out.



This *Ficus rubiginosa* 'Little Ruby' bonsai was on show in a 2005 Bonsai Exhibition held at the Australian National Botanic Gardens

WORKSHOP ETIQUETTE & EVENTS CALENDAR

Workshop Etiquette

You only get out of it what you put in it

Workshops are arranged to enable club members to work on their trees with experienced guidance at hand.

In order to get the most out of a workshop the following are established guidelines:

- Bring something to work on that has scope for styling. A tree of pencil thickness with a few tiny branches cannot be styled beyond possibly putting movement in the trunk. It is important to bring a suitable plant that offers styling possibilities.
- Bring all the tools you will need
- Bring soil if you are repotting
- Bring two or three pots - you don't know what the roots are like and the selected pot could be unsuitable
- Bring various gauges of wire to style the tree.

Anyone taking up a hobby has to spend money for basic tools and necessary paraphernalia. Whether the hobby is bushwalking [good shoes, back pack, appropriate clothes], cooking [good ingredients, pots, bowls and utensils], sports [suitable sporting equipment]. Even cloud watching, a pastime that can have you lying on a hill dressed in nothing special can require a book so you can identify the cloud formations. Any hobby costs money and you only get out of it what you put in it.

It is not up to the club to provide basic materials. There are bonsai nurseries around Sydney that stock everything required. If it is impossible to get to a nursery to get equipment and a good plant than maybe bonsai is not the right interest. Regular nurseries like Flower Power can carry some bonsai pots and tools as well as suitable material but to get the best value for money, it is better to go to a specialist nursery.

The essential basic bonsai equipment is:

Sidecutters [good ones can cost around \$60 – there are many tools specially made to work on bonsai but this is the only essential one for beginners] It is a waste of money to buy cheap tools!

Chopstick [the throwaway chopsticks break easily – the stronger bamboo or plastic are recommended]

Scissors [sturdy pair of household scissors that can also be used to cut roots]

Fly wire [buy ¼ metre from a hardware store]

Wire [in several gauges from thick to thin depending on the size tree you are working on. Wire is mainly purchased from bonsai nurseries. Ray Nesci has a starter pack that has several sizes for about \$12

A good stock plant to work on. A container to put your tools in

If bonsai is YOUR hobby than it is necessary to invest money in the basic equipment and decent plants to enable you to work and learn and end up with something worthwhile.

The translation of bonsai is 'tree in pot' but bonsai really means a STYLED tree in a pot. Just putting a plant, be it a shrub or a tree, into a bonsai pot does not make that a bonsai. The tree must be styled, it must be in a pot size / shape / colour suitable to the tree style and it must present a unified image in balance, proportion and harmony. While it is fine to pot a tree in any type of container during training, when it goes on a bench, be it club or show, the tree should be appropriately styled and potted to reflect the fact it is a bonsai and not just a plant in a pot. This is part of the achievement; taking an unshaped plant, working on it until it becomes a bonsai and then displaying it. Some plants can go from basic stock to benchable in one or two years, others might take years or decades. The joy of bonsai is working constantly with your trees to style and refine them until they reach the stage where they earn the name 'bonsai'.

If you buy a \$5 plant there is little incentive to remember to look after it. If you invest \$20 or \$30 [the cost of a T-shirt, a bottle of wine, a cheap night out, a book] in a good stock plant you will have scope and interest in maintaining this tree and working to develop it into something worthwhile.

TREE SALE



Here's a chance to pick up some nice stock plants. Maples, spruce, elms, figs, cedars
\$5 to \$40 - most priced at \$10 or \$15 **Cash only**
ON SALE TUESDAY JULY 8 at the meeting

REMEMBER BRING A TREE TO EVERY MEETING

Date	Event	Details
1-3 August	Tops Weekend Workshop,	Stanwell Tops. See Lee Wright for details
29-31 Aug	ABC Gardening Australia Expo	Sydney Showground, Homebush Bay
30-31 Aug	Illawarra Bonsai Society Annual Show	Sylvania Heights Community and Youth Club, Box Road Gynea
19-21 Sep	Bonsai Society of Australia Annual Show	Annual Show and Member's Sale Table, Baulkham Hills Council Chambers, Showground Road, Castle Hill
4-5 Oct	Goulburn Bonsai Society Annual Exhibition	
18-19 Oct	School of Bonsai Annual Show	Ray Nesci Nursery, Kenthurst
14-16 Nov	All Native Bonsai Exhibition	National Botanic Gardens, Canberra