



NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

Green Square Community Hall

3 Joynton Avenue Zetland

7pm Tuesday 11 July 2017

Lee to talk on styling an evergreen and illustrate root pruning and repotting

7pm Tuesday 8 August 2017

Peter & Les on styling & repotting.

CONTACT DETAILS



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COMMITTEE

Patron	Sue Brennan
President	Bryan
Vice President	Sue
Secretary	TBA
Treasurer	Chris
Newsletter Editor	Roz
Librarian	Les
Committee	Lee & Frank

MEMBERSHIP

Full Membership	\$40
Concession	\$25
Family	\$55
Pensioner	\$25

SCBC wishes to thank Sydney City Council for their continued support for our club by providing the hall at a reduced rate.

July Meeting

- Annual General Meeting – spill and fill Committee and membership fees for new financial year required. (See below for details)
- Lee to talk on styling an evergreen and illustrate root pruning and repotting



Morton Albek, specialist in shohin, keeps his shohin in semi-shade and keeps the air humidity high around the trees by planting vegetation and water basins nearby. The small pots used for shohin dry out much more quickly than for larger trees. (<https://shohin-europe.com/2014/06/07/training-the-environment-for-your-bonsai/>)

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Reminders

Membership Fees are Now Due: You need to pay Chris at the July meeting. You must be a financial member to vote in the AGM. Cash only as we do not have a card facility.

Annual General Meeting: July is the time our club spills and fills our Committee for the financial year. The positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Librarian and two committee members become available for nomination. You can nominate yourself or another member for a position but you need to get two others in the club to second your nomination.

I have attached a nomination form in the email with this newsletter. If printing this form is a problem, then there will be some forms available at the July meeting.

We are always looking for new members for the Committee, especially less experienced members as they help guide us in the key topics for learning and give the committee fresh new ideas. The Committee meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month – it is a lot of fun.

SHOHINS – HOWS AND WHY

Chris Allnut: Shohins-Hows and Why

This story is a composite of Chris Allnut's talks at Bonsai By the Harbour and Sydney City Bonsai Club's June meeting.

Chris has been doing bonsai for 35 years and specialises in minis and shohins. 12 years with school of bonsai and Megumi Bennett at the same time. Shohins are bonsai that are 20-30 cm whilst Mames are up to 15cm in height.



Always start at the bottom of your tree and work up. Never start at the apex. If you are going to start the smaller trees you need to start with a good base. You need to aim for a 360 degree spread of root.

Have to look around for suitable trees or grow your own. Air layer a tree. Start with seeds and grow it big to get some girth in the trunk and then cut it down. Buy one and develop it further or work from a root cutting.

The key techniques include working to get close internodes and grafting to improve the nebari and get branches where you want them. Most important is time and patience – expect years to get a true well developed shohin or mame.



Development of shohin. Note how the tree is first grown large to develop the nebari; then branches are allowed to extend and finally much finer branches are grafted close to the trunk and branch base

For closer internodes, let heavy branch grow to let minor branch develop. When the small branch is developed enough the larger end will be removed. The closer the internodes the more ramification you will get. Also you can graft fine branches with short internodes close to the base of the trunk and large branches.

When planting shohin and/or mame's take your time to work out the best viewing angle. Turn the tree every angle before you finally decide. This will direct where you develop and/or graft branches. Also really work on choosing the right pot for the tree. It will make a world of difference in the overall presentation.



A couple of exquisite pots designed for mame bonsai

Shohin Trident Maple

The Trident below has had its nebari developed by in arch grafting 5-6 seedlings in between the roots on one side of the tree 8-10 years ago. 4 years ago he grafted 5-6 seedlings on the other side of the tree. He left both grafts on for about 3.5 years.



Well developed nebari from arch grafting seedlings into base of the maple. Right -2nd grafts still healing.

As the seedling root system grew they eventually coalesced with the main tree's root system forming a very wide continuous nebari. On the side of the tree where the seedlings were planted first there full integration has occurred. However the second set of grafts were taken off a little early and that they had not integrated fully yet and hence are sealed until fully integrated.

SHOHINS *CONTINUED* & SCBC'S NEW PATRON



Trident is now styled by Koji who removes many of the large branches and greatly compacts its future growth

In terms of styling the tree, at BBTH Chris handed the tree over to Koji who proceeded to refine the styling. The main takeout was removing the large branches and making sure that each of these cuts were properly cleaned up and sealed.

Shohin Japanese Maple

This Japanese Maple was developed from an air layer from the top of a much larger tree. All six shoots of the tree were thread grafted back into the main trunk near the bottom and then let grow until they were two metres and then cut. With the regrowth, the branches on this maple are too big and the top branch is too long. This branch removal should be done at the very beginning of spring.



10 years in development, this Japanese Maple is ready for a significant trim at the beginning of spring.

Chris had placed clay discs under the roots and also added one root graft to fill out the nebari. This tree has taken 10 years to develop.

Shohin Japanese Black Pine

This Black Pine, aged about 25 was developed from nursery stock over a metre tall when first cut. Late June or early July Chris will graft a new branch to fill the empty space.



25 year old Japanese Black Pine

With grafting, the after care is critical. You need to make sure that the grafted area does not dry out and is protected. You should know if the graft has taken within a month. However you must protect the grafted area for about one year.

SCBC has a New Patron – Sue Brennan

In recognition of the year's of service and support to the Sydney City Bonsai Club and with Sue moving to Goulburn, the Committee decided to nominate Sue Brennan to be our new Patron.



Sue demonstrating repotting at one of SCBC club meetings

Our previous patron, Dorothy Koreshoff has moved on to England to live. Many years ago, Dorothy and her husband Vita started the SCBC and many other bonsai clubs in NSW and has been our patron up until now.

However, as all of our members know week in and week out for many years, Sue as Vice President, has provided advice and training and the Easter Show stand. Sue has kindly accepted the position of SCBC Patron and from time to time she will visit our club with her precious advice.

NOELANDERS RESTYLES BLACK PINE

Marc Noelanders – Black Pine Style Change at AABC Brisbane 2017

One of the most useful aspect of Marc Noelanders demonstrations was that he took you on a journey through his decisions about a tree and along the way explained some of his techniques about styling and wiring. At the AABC, Marc started with an 82 year old Japanese Black Pine with a relatively straight trunk, a rather ordinary nebari and planted as a slanting style.



85 year old Slanting Style Japanese Black Pine

Marc explained that he could not bend the trunk and so he chose the reorientate the tree and create a more literati style.

The first step is always choosing the front of the tree (viewing angle) and if you choose “good front then 60% of the styling is completed”. Otherwise, you will need to wire branches at strange unnatural angles.

So it is better to spend 10 minutes looking at the tree and making sketches of the tree on how it will look when finished. Sketches are also important to examine possibilities before you start working on the tree.

He even thought about the kind of pot that will suit this new reorientation – a moonstone shape pot so that the focal point of the eye will go towards the middle of the trunk. This will correct this tree from the focal point going from the nebari up the relatively straight trunk in its old orientation.

Marc spend quite a deal of time getting the new orientation correct, shifting blocks of wood in various positions. Once he was clear about the orientation, he proceeded to use strong tape to ensure that the tree was firmly held in position so he could properly wire the

tree. Also he will not repot this tree on the same day as he does the major styling work.



First sketch of proposed new style

He noted that this tree has a long straight trunk with all of the foliage on the top. Thus it is better to get the back branch down to get some foliage coming to the front.

When styling, you need to concentrate on “the most important branch” - it is this branch that gives the character of the tree. In classical styling, the apex points a little to this most important branch.



The new orientation is secured so that Marc can commence wiring the tree

In its new orientation, the tree has two apexes, one stronger on the top. One will go and a small jin will be made. The final decision about keeping this small jin will be made after the rest of the styling.

He thus referred to his sketch and explained how the back branch and apex will balance the “most important branch”. He noted that the needles are not very strong as this pine is already pushing new needles. If you were planning to show a pine, and you need to cut needles, then make sure that you cut only a week before the exhibition as otherwise you will get yellowing at the tips.

RESTYLING OF BLACK PINE *CONTINUED*

Wiring Technique

When wiring, you should set your tree in a position so that you are not wiring above your shoulders. The best position is hands at about heart level. Also you should use a turntable. Wire through the whole hand and index finger.

For Black Pines, you wire through to the end and pull up at the end before cutting off the wire. For convenience and efficiency, Marc uses special scissors called masakichi scissors (small bonsai wire scissors). This allows him to trim small branches and cut small gauge wire without having to change tools all of the time. Obviously, when using thicker wire you will still need to use the standard wire cutters.



Correct body position for wiring

Check that the wire is thick enough by bending the branch a little bit after wiring and if it does not stay in position then the wire is not thick enough. You can put two wires to increase strength but in environments where there is a lot of sun (T° up to 38°), be careful that not too much wire is used as the heat through the wire will damage the plant. Marc uses copper wire for pines and junipers but aluminium wire for deciduous trees.

You also need to wire so as to mimic the tree trunk: -if the trunk is straight, then branches are relatively straight; if the trunk is curved, then so too are the branches.

After approximately four hours, Marc has fully wired the tree and placed the branches. The tree is now on a new journey. Over time the soil will be built up over the exposed root area from the reorientation and the plant will be potted into a moonstone shaped pot.



This pine restyled into its new orientation. Notice the sketch with the tree in its "new" pot.

Melaleuca Claret Tops Styling

At the Brisbane AABC, Albert Garcia, a local bonsai artist from the Bimer Club worked on a *Melaleuca Claret Tops* using material retrieved from road widening works.



Melaleuca Claret Tops before styling

Originally 2-3 metres tall with three big trunks, Albert has removed 2 of the trunks; done some preliminary and temporary carving on the remaining trunk and grown the tree in a large deep pot in a water tray to get it going again.

The raw bonsai raw material has re-shooted well over much of the very straight stump. Albert plants to heavily cut back at the top to get more energy into new lower branches. He will also clean up the stump and choose the branches he wants to keep.

MELALEUCA STYLING & EVENTS CALENDAR

Melaleuca Claret Tops Styling *continued*



Preliminary carving work on old removed stump

He decided on keeping the strong main branch and removing the lower weaker one.

Albert explained that he will taper the cut at the top of the tree when creating a new apex. However he left a bit more around the top to ensure that the new top will grow. With this tapering cut, sealant was applied. When shaping the apex, Albert left lots of wisps so he can create branching and get a dome shaped apex.



Making a new apex including tapering the cut

When making sharis, Australian natives have good resistance to wood rot. However you should always cleanse the wood, add a little bit of lime sulphur or Searles Wood Hardener and leave the area for 6 months not touching water.

Now that the tree is robust and has had its preliminary shaping completed, it will be repotted in early Spring. (when its starts to get new shoots).

Just before it shoots in late Winter, it will be cut back a little and as a result it will get little shoots everywhere – plenty to choose from and fill out the branches. Make sure the plant is kept wet throughout the repotting. The pot will be smaller and will be either a cream or more brownish colour.



Melaleuca now ready for its next stage of development

Bonsai Events Calendar

Date	Event	Details
12 Aug 2017	Internationally renowned Boon Manakitivipart demonstration	9.30-4.30 Toowoomba Bonsai Group-Toowoomba City Golf Club. \$30 pre-purchase; \$40 at door www.toowoombabonsai.com
19 Aug 2017	Bonsai Society of Sydney Show	Forrestville Community Arts Centre, 5 Darley St Forrestville, contact Alex 0401 275 313
25-27 Aug 2017	18 th Annual Tops Bonsai Weekend,	Acacia, Stanwell Tops Function Centre, Stanwell Tops
20-23 Jul 2018	AABC National Bonsai Convention	Mantra Bell City, Preston – Melbourne