



NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

Green Square Community Hall

3 Joynton Avenue Zetland

7pm Tuesday 10 July 2018

Annual General Meeting and discussion on potting for the less experienced.

7pm Tuesday 14 August 2018

Tony Wilson – horticultural specialist – will help you identify tree species

CONTACT DETAILS



0432 461 025



info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au



<http://sydneycitybonsai.org.au>



PO Box 486
Summerhill NSW 2130

COMMITTEE

Patron	TBA
President	Bryan
Vice President	TBA
Secretary	David
Treasurer	Chris
Newsletter Editor	Roz
Librarian	Les
Committee	Frank & John

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.
- Discussion on potting for the less experienced.
- Member Styling Hotspot and work on your trees.



Fuyo-en one of outstanding nurseries in Omiya, Japan

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Annual General Meeting this Month

July Annual General Meeting (AGM): Active member participation is critical to our club's success. At the AGM in July we spill out all Committee members and elect the new Committee for the year. Current Committee members are listed in the left-hand column of this newsletter. Join the fun of being in the Committee (an extra once per month meeting at a Duwich Hill Thai restaurant which serves really scrumptious food, a little bit of paper work; and an opportunity to learn and contribute to bonsai). For your convenience, I have attached the SCBC Committee Nomination Forms with the monthly newsletter email. Bryan, our President will also bring some forms to the July meeting.

Membership dues for the coming year are due in July: You need to bring your money this month, that is be a financial member in order to vote in the AGM.

SCBC Library: Newer members may not be aware that SCBC has a bonsai library at the Community Hall. Financial members can sign out a book or magazine for one month. It is critical that these books are returned so others can also enjoy them.

DON AT BONSAI BY THE HARBOUR

Don DeLuca at Bonsai By the Harbour

With 29 years of experience with bonsai and 17 years field growing trunks and working on collected trees (yamadori) Don is well known for his instruction on design and technique.

Don brought a *Parrotia persica* (Persian Ironwood) which had been field grown for 6 years. In that time it had reached 3-4 metres tall and Don had cut the initial top off along with a side branch two seasons ago and then he cut it hard again last season and then allowed to regrow to its present form.



Persian Ironwood (Parrotia persica) field grown for 6 years

Today's demonstration was to set the major style framework for the tree as the trunk was now thick enough.

Don pointed out that most trees in their natural form don't follow the "bonsai rules". For example many old deciduous trees have a "multi-trunk" form with small individual apexes that make up the whole canopy. *Parrotia* thrives in Hay with very hot summers and relatively cold winters and has spectacular red edged leaves in Spring although the Autumn foliage is not as good.

This tree was a work in progress and Don explained that he would show the group what should be done at this stage of the tree's development. His plan was to cut the root that was too high, cut the lower straight branch and any other branch that he did not want to keep, re-orientate the tree into its best viewing angle and wire the entire framework of the tree.

When cutting branches Don usually leaves a stump and seals it. The stump serves to protect the tree from die-back into the trunk which can occur if cut flush. Also it allows the new cambium to re-route around the cut and thus protects against losing a major root.



Upper branch cutting after removing unwanted lower branches

When wiring branches, you must follow the theme of the main trunk. If the trunk is very bent then the branches must also have bends. Otherwise the tree will not have coherence and will look artificial.



Wiring branches should follow the theme of the main trunk

He noted that at present that the top of this tree needs more small branching at the front. There is a small branchlet that Don will encourage to begin this area of development.

Deciduous trees are apical dominant and so you need to pay attention to the branch development at the top of the tree. You will need to regularly cut out thicker branchlets and favour the thinner less developed ones.

DON'S TIPS ON STRIKING CUTTINGS

Also when you develop the branches you need to work the ramification so that you get taper in each branch and the lower branches should be thicker than the higher branches. Sometimes you may need to let some lower branches extend right out in order to thicken and only keep the rest of the tree in its correct form.



Major style framework has now been completed

If the tree is healthy then you can accelerate the tree's ramification by regularly defoliating, trimming the terminal bud and re-wiring. Don sometimes does up to 4 defoliations per year on a *Parrotia*. It is important to fertilise regularly. This tree will have a little bit of fertiliser in winter (end of July). As soon as it buds then he will let them extend, then he will shorten and wire again. He will defoliate in Spring and let the plant grow in a hot open spot. Then in Summer he will defoliate again but this time he will place the plant in dappled light to protect the tree. He expect it will take 5 years of this repeated process to get the type of ramification he desires.



Although less frequently defoliated than Persian Ironwood, the extensive ramification developed on this Desert Ash can be seen as a result of this process

Don's Tips on Striking Cuttings

Using *Parrotia* as an example Don noted that the nodes are staggered. If you cut the bottom of cutting at a node, then what is likely to happen is that the roots will develop on one side more than the other (i.e. bud side). However if you cut in between two nodes then the root is more likely to form radially.

Always make the cut at an angle to expose more surface area cambium. Dip in hormone powder or gel and use a dibble stick to make a hole about one third the length of the cutting. You should plant the cutting at an angle to get a free bend.

Don explained that cuttings strike better when they are planted together – he plants around 30 cuttings together in a small pot. It is really important not to touch the cuttings once they are planted. If you do so you are likely destroy the micro roots and generally the cutting will die. Wait until you can see roots emerging from your pot. Keep your cuttings in a warm sheltered spot out of the wind.

When developing bonsai from cuttings you need to have a plan as to what type of tree you want. If you intend to develop a large trunk tree you should field grow it and not worry about bending it with wire early in the growth phase. Your objective here is to get a wide trunk which tapers upward. Rather than wiring the tree at this stage it is better to just plant it at an angle but do not cut the top. Let it nature do its work to create an initial bend in the trunk, thicken the trunk and create heaps of foliage from which you can choose to keep or cut later.



Plan for either wide field grown)trunk or wire early for small pot grown tree.

If you intend to develop a small tree in a pot then you should start the shaping process early. When moving to its initial training pot, cut the top and plant it at an angle. Get the initial lower branch started and prepare to wire when the trunk thickness is in proportion to the intended height of the plant.

KUNZEA POTTED ON A NATURAL STONE

Hugh Grant Pots up Yamadori Kunzea on a Natural Stone

At the 2018 Bonsai by the Harbour, Hugh Grant demonstrated how to pot up a Kunzea (tick bush) that had been collected from the wild (yamadori). After initial collection and two years of recovery Hugh had wired and pruned the piece a number of times. The tree now has its basic structure and has redeveloped its foliage mass.



Above: Intended rock container with Aqua Epoxy attachment wires.

Left: Kunzea cut out of its plastic training pot.

For the potting, he wanted to use the small natural rock container so he could highlight the tree in a way that mimics its natural habitat. He explained that you cannot tell exactly where the roots are as the tree had been in a recovery training pot for 2 years. So he had brought a selection of possible pots for this tree in case his primary aim of putting the tree onto a very small natural rock would not work.

He pre-prepared the natural rock pot with 4 wire attachments using Aqua Epoxy.

The first objective was to work out the orientation of the tree and the viewing angle. Once this was done, he proceeded to cut away the training pot not disturbing the roots.

Hugh explained that the roots of this tree have very fine webbing which make this species very water dependent. He had used straight diatomite (size 8-1mm) at the time of collection surrounding the root ball.

Now using a tapered chopstick and always keeping the tree at the intended angle, he very carefully to remove as much soil as possible without damaging the fine root webbing. As he worked has explained that the base of the Trunk is a T-bar with lots of soil and not much root.

Because you always have to anchor a tree at at least three points to be stable he will use a small bamboo pole cross piece and tie it in.



Steps in preparing the roots for attachment to rock container

It is very important to use a water spray bottle to keep the delicate roots dampened throughout this extensive process.



Securing the attachment wires

When attaching the tree to the rock it is important to get the tie down wires as close as possible to the root. Insert the bamboo pole crossbar hiding it within the rootball. As you join the root to the rock make sure you place the wire in positions which give you the strongest attachment. Be careful not to over tighten the wire.



Final positioning of tree for anchoring

STYLING LEPTOSPERMUM CARDWELL

Kunzea potted on natural stone *cont.*

The anchoring is complete when there is no movement between the rock and the tree.

The final step in the process is to build a layered sphagnum-soil wall. Do not use clay for the soil component as the clay will shrink when it dries and the roots will not get air. Hugh will use akadama for his "soil" component. It holds moisture, allows air into the wall and has good cation-exchange.

You need to wet the sphagnum moss, spread it over the surface and work it in leaving some gaps. Next you pour a layer of akadama, spray the surface with water and with a tapered chopstick work it in.



Wet sphagnum moss



Add akadama



Spray with water after working in each layer using a tapered stick



Once this dries, the whole surface will tighten

You need to repeat the process at least three times in order to build the wall. Once the main wall is build, use wet sphagnum and any remaining overhanging root and fold this in between the root and the top of the rock. For the final layer on the wall you should use moss infused sphagnum made from 50% dried moss fibres and 50% sphagnum moss and ground to 2mm size. Apply moistened with the final akadama layer. Once the mass dries, it will tighten over the surface forming a firm stable root attached to the rock and you will be able to water as normal.

Styling Leptospermum Cardwell

BY LEE

Whilst mid-winter is not the time to do major work on Australian natives, this styling was undertaken in late Autumn. If you are doing work on natives such as tea trees in late Autumn be careful not to do too much root disturbance as you may loose the tree. You may have to fix the nebari in two stages.

Leptospermum Cardwell is an Aussie native with small white flowers and fine leaves, taken from a selection at Flower Power.

When you are selecting a plant don't worry about the upper structure... check out what lies just above and below the soil level. This is where you are going to find the makings of a bonsai.

This plant will flower profusely in season and with small flowers and leaves makes an excellent little bonsai. But the first thing is to get rid of the forest so you can see the tree. The top branches were lopped back hard and all the dead and totally out of contention branches removed.



Plant as had top branches lopped back hard and all unwanted branches removed to expose the basic structure of the tree.

There's movement and interest but the main apical trunk is far too thick and straight to work in a design so the smaller branches stay and that goes.



Now a tree with better proportion

UNIVERSAL PENJING CONFERENCE & EVENTS CALENDAR

Leptospermum Cardwell Styling *cont.*

Already the tree has better proportion but in this position there's still not a lot going for it. It lacks direction and the taper isn't right.



Introducing taper and movement

The larger branch on the right had to go... it was too straight and stiff to work into the initial styling. The soil level was lowered to expose more trunk tapering nicely and the angle of the lepto was changed and the tree planted leaning more forward so the now apical branch is balanced over the trunk. The tree is now down to basics and will be left to recover and develop more branching and foliage so the second styling can take place. It has been planted in an over large pot as a growing on pot and will be worked on again when it has produced a lot more branchlets and foliage. It is possible the left branch will be reduced if it throws a lower shoot but at this stage it can stay.

Look ahead and see it with nice foliage pads and flowers sitting atop a curvaceous trunk and there's nice potential here.

Universal Penjing Conference 18-20 September 2018

This is a first for Australia. Nine Penjing Masters from around the world will gather at the inaugural National Arboretum Canberra, International Bonsai Art and Culture Biennale & International Penjing Creation Conference 2018.



Conference highlights include demonstrations and workshops by these masters, bonsai exhibitions, discussion of emerging trends in bonsai and penjing styles, tea ceremonies and more.

The Two Day Conference package includes:

- *Lunch, morning and afternoon tea on both days;
- *Demonstrations, forums, exhibition; and
- *Welcome Cocktail Party and Gala Dinner

Master Classes (Third Day)

- *Secure the unique opportunity to be tutored by one of six Masters
- *Bring in your own creation to get expert advice & tips
- *Bring in your own trees and materials
- *No meals provided

Visit website for registration more information:

www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au/universalpenjingconference

Bonsai Events Calendar

Date	Event	Details
20-23 July 2018	31 st Australian National Bonsai Convention – Bonsai Exposed	Mantra Bell City, Melbourne. http://www.aabcltd.org/next-convention/
24-26 Aug 2018	The Tops Weekend 2018	Illawarra Bonsai Society, Tops Conf. Centre, Stanwell Park
25 Aug 2018	Bonsai Society of Sydney Show	Forrestville Community Arts Centre 5 Darkey St Forrestville
18-20 Sep 2018	Universal Penjing Conference, Canberra Arboretum	For details and registration go to https://www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au/universalpenjingconference