



## NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

### Green Square Community Hall

3 Joynton Avenue  
Zetland

### 7pm Tuesday 9 June 2015

Feature Tree: Olives. Lee will give a talk on olives.

### 7pm Tuesday 9 June 2015

Members work on own trees. Possible tool sharpening demonstration - tbc

## CONTACT DETAILS



0432 461 025



[info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au](mailto:info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au)



[sydneycitybonsai.org.au](http://sydneycitybonsai.org.au)



PO Box 486  
Summerhill NSW 2130

## COMMITTEE

**Patron** Dorothy Koreshoff

**President** Bryan

**Vice President** Sue

**Secretary** tba

**Treasurer** Chris

**Newsletter Editor** Roslyn

**Librarian** Naomi & Les

**Catering** Philip

**Committee** Lee, Naomi & Tony

## MEMBERSHIP

**Full Membership** \$40.00

**Concession** \$25.00

**Family** \$55.00

**Pensioner** \$25.00

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

## Welcome to the May Newsletter

### June Meeting

- Talk on Olives by Lee.
- Member workshop: Pines and Junipers and general maintenance.
- Don't forget to contribute to the short Member Styling Hotspot led by President Bryan. One or two trees are needed each month for open discussion.



Lee and Roz attended the 28<sup>th</sup> Australian National Bonsai Convention held in Adelaide 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2015.

Here is one of the exhibits from the convention. Look out for notes and pictures on some of the excellent demonstrations given, new learnings and interesting highlights.

## In this issue:

- Koji Hiramatsu demonstrates JBP at 28<sup>th</sup> AABC Convention – page 2
- Koji styles twin trunk Juniper – page 3
- Collecting suitable material for bonsai - page 4
- Three demonstrators – three species at AABC, 2015 – page 5 -6
- Events Calendar – page 6

## Memorial Bonsai Sale this month

With sadness we note the passing of Paul Roy. Paul Roy was a member of the Sydney City Bonsai Club for a number of years and enjoyed his participation with the club and working with bonsai. Paul was a renowned professor, researcher and specialist paediatrician and his death is a loss to the club and to the medical fraternity and all those patients who were recipients of his expertise. The condolences of the Executive and members of the SCBC are extended to his family.

Paul's family have decided to donate almost all of Paul's bonsai collection to our club. As a consequence our Committee has decided to sell these bonsai to club members in order to raise funds for our club. Please be prepared for an opportunity to buy these bonsai at the June Club meeting.

## KOJI HIRAMATSU DEMONSTRATES AT 28<sup>th</sup> AABC CONVENTION, 2015

### Koji Hiramatsu demonstrates Japanese Black Pine restyling at AACB, Adelaide, May 2015



Koji Hiramatsu was the international demonstrator at the 28<sup>th</sup> AABC Annual Bonsai Convention held in Adelaide in May 2015. Koji is carrying on the bonsai tradition of his father and grandfather.

He had a reasonable command of English, an even better command of the Australian sense of humour and a cheekiness that engaged the audience fully.

Koji's first tree was a Japanese black pine which could be made into bunjin or literati style.



Japanese Black Pine to be restyled as a literati

When you work with black pines you have to remove needles. Remove old needles to leave at most 5 needles. In Japan you would do this in May or June, at the beginning of summer.

When you replot the tree the tree isn't so strong so don't decandle then.

Koji had the long needles cut short and wanted to design the tree to be more compact. If you design the tree to be more compact the tree looks bigger.

He then undertook major cutting...where most branches were removed



"Now tree is very compact, very compact. This accentuates the movement"

When you cut needles in winter you have to protect the tree if you get cold weather. Zero would be considered cold and the tree should be in a greenhouse.

When you jin a branch cut the branch as long as you can. Then think about the shape of the jin. Do jins in winter, not summer.



Close up of jin and of Koji's wiring technique.

When you wire the tree you bend and twist the tree if it is to the left you have to wire to the left. When you wire the tree with two wires on the same branch the second wire has to be against the main wire. You decide the top of the branch and then spread the needles like a hand.

Koji works about 8 months of the year on wiring. The only way to improve your wiring technique is to keep wiring.

When you design branches you separate them into 'parts', levels, individual pads. Remove older needles before spring. If you don't remove them before spring the interior weak needles won't develop. They will just get weaker and the stronger ends will just get longer. Every year you must do this.

When you wire the tree you must see it always from the front side.

The apex is very small but will thicken in a couple of years. It is now a very compact tree.



Bunjin or literati style Japanese Black Pine

## KOJI STYLES TWIN TRUNK JUNIPER AT 2015 AABC CONVENTION

### Koji styles twin trunk Juniper

Koji's next tree was a twin trunk juniper.



Juniper before styling

When trunks have same direction you can use both trunks. But if trunks are going in different directions you need to remove one.



Koji cuts off one of the trunks. He will have to sculpt the jin to create a curve to give it movement.

The cut off branch is too big to give it movement. When you make a jin you have to tear the wood and you can sculpt the jin to create a curve and give it more interest as well as reducing the thickness to make it in proportion to the tree.

If you make a big jin at the base of the trunk it is best to leave the base with live wood so the tree doesn't rot.

Design your jin first so you don't have wired foliage in the way to get damaged. It can take one day to do the detail on a jin.

This tree has 2 possibilities, cascade or informal upright but Koji designed it as an informal upright. You have to be careful not to break branches at the junction when you bend them down.

Working with a juniper he uses thinner wire and wires even the smaller branches. As a bonsai professional he has to sell the tree as soon as he can after wiring while hobbyists don't have the time limitation.

When you wire the tree you must ensure the lines you are creating are harmonious.

He trimmed most of the foliage off the top branch leaving just a tuft of foliage at the end. It is to be a sacrifice branch to help thicken the trunk but he wired it and shaped it in an artistic spiral so that it would add to the tree's design even though it would eventually be removed. How long you keep it depends on you, how much development you want.



Koji wires the long sacrificial branch retained to thicken the trunk in a spiral shape so that artistry is maintained even if it will be eventually removed.

When trunk is bigger then you should make a shari on both sides. By doing two sides the live veins will grow faster than if you do just one shari on one side.

If you want to make a 20 cm tree you design it as 17 or 18 cm and let it to develop to the height you want. You don't finish the first styling with the tree at its anticipated height.



First styling is done. More detailed work needs to be done on the jin and sacrificial branch will be removed at a later date.

# COLLECTING SUITABLE MATERIAL FOR BONSAI

## Bonsai Digs: Collecting suitable material for bonsai (Summary notes taken from [www.midwaybonsai.co.za](http://www.midwaybonsai.co.za))

### A. Collection etiquette

Only those items to be removed be dug; holes be filled in; that no rubbish be left behind; no structures nor remaining plants be damaged and that any gates opened are closed.

- Before you start digging – select and tag those plants with bonsai potential; then decide on how many plants can reasonably be cared for and mark those for collection.
- Make sure the tree is alive. If dormant scratch a twig to see if there is green cambium below.
- Dig surface soil away and check for satisfactory surface roots and evaluate the taper and trunk diameter.
- After removing the plant fill in the hole with soil and with any plant debris from your dig.
- Before leaving, remove the tags from any plants that were not dug.

### B. Method of digging

- After selecting a plant for collection it is important to establish a new balance between foliage and the roots remaining after digging. This is done by removing all branches which will not be needed, shortening the height of the tree where appropriate, and removing much of the remaining foliage.
- Around the trunk outline circle in the soil which has a diameter less than the diameter of the intended container.
- With a sharp shovel or spade, make vertical incisions, cutting the soil and roots below this circle to a depth equal to the length of the tool's blade. Use a mattock or pick if soil is very hard. Dig to a depth of 300mm and then cut towards the tap root. When the tap root is exposed you can cut it to be able to remove the root ball.
- Keep as much of the root ball (roots and soil) intact as possible. If all of the soil falls off the roots, put some in a container to use when potting the plant.
- Wrap the root ball in sheet plastic, a plastic bag or hessian, tying it securely with twine to help keep the root ball intact.
- Moisten the root ball to keep it from drying out.

### C. Post collection care and cultivation

#### C.1 Planting into training pot

- The length of the roots and branches to remain is determined by the shape of the tree and the dimensions of the training pot.
- The length of the major roots should be slightly shorter than the dimensions of the bonsai container into which they will be ultimately be planted.
- The tree is then planted into a training pot – it is rare to plant directly into a bonsai container.
- Tie plant securely into its container to prevent it shifting.

#### C.2 Watering and protection from dehydration

- The first watering should be thorough and an anti-shock solution like Seasol should be used.
- Mist with water morning and evening and placing a hessian or plastic shroud helps prevent dehydration. Collected trees need to be protected from sun, wind and extremes of temperature for two to four weeks, or until they appear no longer stressed.

#### C.3 Continue intensive care after plant begins sprouting

- Sprouts may be a result of food stored in the plant rather than nutrients being manufactured by the plant.
- Excessive new growth should be removed to prevent weakening the plant and to channel existing nutrients into those growth points which are to be retained.
- Protect the new buds from being scorched by the sun.
- After a month gradually reduce the time spent under shade.

### D. When to start fertilising

- In about six weeks as the plant appears to be recovering begin applying small quantities of fertiliser to stimulate leaf, branch and root growth.

### E. Wait before any further root reduction

- If any additional root reduction is necessary, wait a minimum of one year and preferably two before making any drastic cuts to the roots.



Collecting, first pot and training European spruce

<http://walter-pall-bonsai.blogspot.com.au/2012/07/european-spruce-45.html>

## THREE DEMONSTRATORS – THREE SPECIES

### Three demonstrators – three species

The 28<sup>th</sup> AABC Annual Bonsai Convention held in Adelaide in 2015 proudly showcased three of the Bonsai Society of South Australia's club members. Each enthusiast talked about a favorite species and illustrated his talk with several trees that he had developed.

#### Luke Parsons

Ash has become quite an invasive pest species. *Fraxinus* is native to Portugal and Spain. The best attribute for bonsai is the ash bark. It can be heavily fissured or almost cracked bark. It is best to collect stock in late winter or early spring but they are hardy and could probably be collected later. Branches are springy. The tree can have a mass of leaves so it is best to wire when they are deciduous.



Luke Parsons with two of his Desert Ash bonsai.



Fissured or almost cracked bark in Desert Ash is a key feature for bonsai

Watering - despite the fact they are called desert ash they like water, grow happily in creek beds and in hot summers need to be watered twice a day. It is better to over pot in summer due to their water need.

They are apical dominant and if allowed to grow freely the apical branches will become quite thick. So the top is pruned regularly and heavily while the bottom would be allowed to have more foliage.

A heavy soil mix is used. They are fertilized quite heavily in summer.

Ash develops a good root base. If a root isn't barking up score it then wrap in sphagnum moss around the root and keep it moist and it will bark up.

#### CHRIS DRINKWATER

Chris displayed a tall elegant *Ericophalus africanus* that he had collected, seriously restyled and turned into a superb bonsai.



Chris's yamadori *Ericophalus africanus* bonsai really impressed convention delegates with its elegance and wonderful trunk.

Chris has collected a number of long established *Ericophalus africanus* and has propagated many smaller trees. The bush grows 1.2 high, 2 metres plus in width.

Wiring. You can wire smaller branches but larger ones are brittle.

Fertilizer, Dynamic Lifter

Potting mix. Standard

As they grow the undergrowth will die. Once they flower cut all the flower heads off so the branches will thicken. Don't bare root this species.

Using smaller stock he planted them with pieces of fine deadwood to create very interesting mini bonsai



Chris showing how to plant *Ericophalus africanus* with deadwood.

## 3 DEMONSTRATORS – 3 SPECIES AND EVENTS CALENDAR

**Matt Sharp** (continued from page 5)

Matt's tree of choice is the *Salix babylonia*, weeping willow. Horticulturally they are quite demanding. Take a good sized cutting and put it in a bucket and let it stand for 3 weeks and keep the bucket full of water so the cutting develops roots. A willow is very demanding of water but keeping its pot in a water tray doesn't work. The tree roots grow into the water, the water is used then the roots dry and die. Matt found a drip system works best with water dripping all day. It sits above a bucket of water with a pump to keep the water coming.

One issue in autumn if you withhold water you will get dieback. It's not a problem, willows grow quickly but with a bit more care you won't have this trouble.

When they start shooting the shoots grow straight up which looks weird so after letting them grow a bit put small clothes pegs on each branch to weight them down and leave until the branch sets.

Take cuttings as soon as you see the tree growing. Repot twice a year anytime in the growing season.



Matt explains "A bonsai willow develops a better look when foliage is not allowed to grow on the top."

**Luke explains how to make a Ciment Fondue Pot**



Hand-made Ciment Fondue Pot

You need galvanised mesh and 80-90 gr fibreglass cloth.

Sew with cotton thread onto metal frame. It is very laborious. Start with a piece of cloth four times the size of the pot to get the twists and turns.

Flat mesh with cloth on it and start bending it by hand into the irregular shapes which is hard. Physically twist it into shape. The cloth has no shape so it is the wire frame that holds the shape. Brush ciment fondue on in a couple of layers, spray it with water, and cover it with wet plastic bags to let it cure slowly. Alter grey cement colour with oxide additives.

Make holes in cloth and wire and brush the fondue around the holes. Don't try to drill holes through the finished pot as there is a high chance of cracking. Be sure to apply the fondue totally to seal the pot so water doesn't seep into the galvanised mesh and rust it.

Ciment fondue is a French made product. Ciment Fondue... Parex is the company that makes it. Fibre cloth is available from some moulding companies.

## BONSAI EVENTS CALENDAR

Date	Event	Details
6-7 June 2015	Bonsai By the Harbour	Bonsai Federation of Australia Northern Inc, Sydney Church of England Grammar School's Rowing Facility, 86 Wharf Rd, Gladesville NSW
15 June, 2015	Open Invitation to all Clubs to Celebrate 45 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Illawarra Bonsai Society	Demonstration by Mauro Stemberger & bonsai display, Gynea Community Centre, Gynea Bay Rd, Gynea. Doors open 6.30 pm.
18-19 July, 2015	"Bonsai by the River"	Wauchope Bonsai Workshop Group, Panthers, Port Macquarie
28-30 August, 2015	16 <sup>th</sup> Annual Illawarra Bonsai Society Tops Weekend Workshops	Tops Conference Centre, Stanwell Tops