



sydney city  
**bonsai club** inc.



## NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

**Green Square Community Hall**  
3 Joynton Avenue  
Zetland

**7pm Tuesday 12 June 2012**  
Workshop, Presentation 'What to look for in Bonsai.'

**7pm Tuesday 10 July 2012**  
Workshop, bring your trees.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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## COMMITTEE

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**President** Bryan  
**Vice President** Sue  
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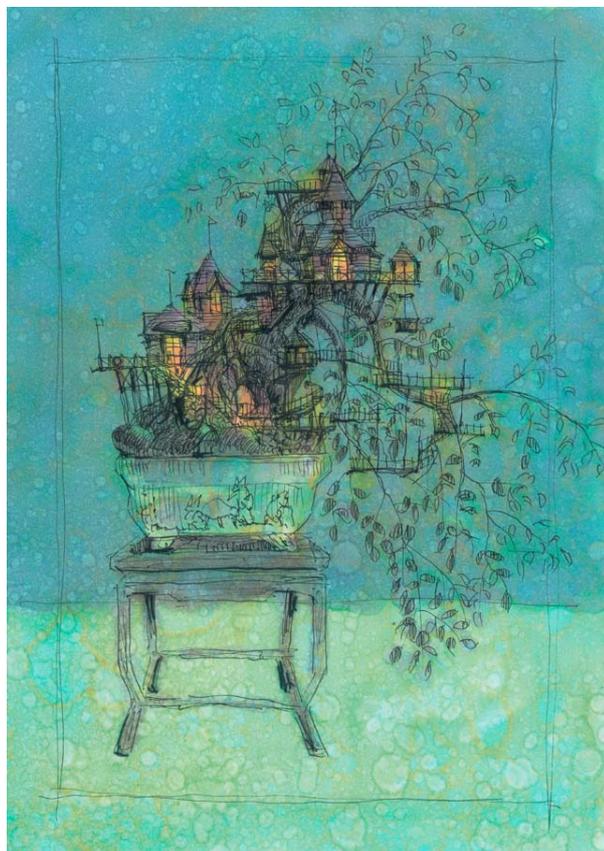
## MEMBERSHIP

**Full Membership** \$40.00  
**Concession** \$25.00  
**Family** \$55.00  
**Pensioner** \$25.00

## Welcome to the June Newsletter

### June Meeting

- Workshop – bring a tree
- Horticultural Tips (Tony)
- Presentation by Constantine
- Talk about a tree & Raffle



A drawing in preparation for one of Takanori Aiba's Miniature Kingdom bonsai designs pp. 5-6

We will again be meeting at the:  
**St Helen's Community Centre**  
184 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe

### In this month's newsletter:

- For pictures taken at the May club meeting see pages 2 & 3
- For an article on Lantana as bonsai see pages 4 & 5

## BONSAI ON DISPLAY AT THE MAY MEETING



*Zelkova serrata* – Japanese Zelkova Bonsai



Chinese Elm Bonsai



Small Leaf Privet bonsai

*According to Japanese tradition, the bonsai represents the three virtues or shin-zen-bi, which translates into truth, goodness and beauty.*



Chinese Elm Bonsai – group planting

**POT SALE AT THIS MONTH'S MEETING**

**BRING YOUR MONEY WITH YOU**

## PICTURES FROM THE MAY MEETING OF THE SCBC



Anna's Lillypilly before initial training by Naomi



Anna's Lillypilly after it initial training



Naomi doing the final wiring of Anna's Lillypilly

*A bonsai can never be a finished work of art...because it will always be a living piece of nature, continuing to live and grow.*

John Naka - American Bonsai Master



Rootball of a bonsai watered infrequently – roots only develop in the more regularly moist base of the pot



Rootball of a well watered bonsai, with even moisture there is even root growth throughout the soil in the bonsai pot

## NOXIUS WEED & BEAUTIFUL BONSAI

I have extolled the virtue of Lantana before but when a plant is labelled a noxious weed it doesn't get a lot of supporters. I would be the first to admit that the original and far too prevalent Lantana IS a noxious weed and should be eradicated totally. It grows just about everywhere in Sydney, it has flower clusters composed of tiny individual cream and pink blossoms, every branch is covered in small vicious thorns and the plant has a bad smell when touched... not that you would be advised to.



Birds eat the seeds and spread the plant everywhere.

Ornamental lantana is often said to be safe to plant in gardens because it is sterile. However, studies have shown that five per cent of pollen from supposedly sterile ornamental lantana is viable (Neal 1999), and also that pollen from weedy lantana can pollinate these supposedly sterile varieties, causing them to produce fertile seed.

Ornamental varieties of *L. montevidensis* (creeping lantana) have also been developed for sale in nurseries. In some cases, it is the weedy purple-flowered form capable of producing fertile pollen and seed that is grown in gardens as an ornamental. The ornamental forms of creeping lantana are sterile, flowering profusely without setting seed. However, the pollen from weedy forms can pollinate ornamental forms resulting in viable seed, which adds to the genetic base of weedy creeping lantana.

Allowing the sale and use of any ornamental lantana therefore adds to the genetic diversity of the lantana species complex, and potentially enhances the ability of weedy lantana to spread by adapting to new environments and resisting control by herbicides and biological control agents.

Due to its noxious weed classification Lantana is banned by Auburn Council and no Lantana can be shown at the Royal Easter Show. The Lantana enthusiast can only display at club meetings and club shows.

Like the much reviled Privet, also a noxious weed, Lantana makes a beautiful bonsai. While *L. montevidensis* [Creeping Lantana] is useless because the branches never thicken, *L. camara* varieties have a stout trunk and these hybrids do make excellent bonsai.

They can be trained like any other bush. The hybridization has eliminated the thorns and greatly modified the odour.



Young Lantana bonsai

Azaleas, camellias, wisteria and most of the flowering plants have a specific flowering season and then may or may not spot flower at other times. You get a burst of stunning flowers and then the plant reverts to a green bush until its flowering season comes again.

Lantana, on the other hand, flower, flower, flower. You can get a period of a few weeks when there are few or no flowers and then suddenly the tree is covered again and keeps going. A Lantana can flower for the majority of the year except for the winter months.

Lantana is easy to grow but the wood is very brittle and any shaping needs to be done when the branches are young and have some pliability. They shoot back on old wood so a broken branch can soon be replaced with a new one. The leaves reduce well and it is just a case of pulling off any large leaves and leaving the smaller ones. Care needs to be taken to avoid bar branching.

Lantana in a pot is extremely thirsty and it is better to slightly over pot and always keep the water up. In the winter they get scatty finding even the mild Sydney winters a bit too chilly for their best growing temperature. But come the summer heat and on come the lantana flowers.

The plant is a strong grower and needs frequent nipping to maintain a shape. When the flower heads die the deadheads should be nipped and from one flower two will develop.

## Bonsai Pot Sale & Calendar

To get a lantana ready for display do a heavy prune 6 weeks before the show and by show date it should be displaying a full head of flowers.



Everyone should be familiar with Lantana flowers since the weed is in so many gullies and parks.



The mushroom shaped flower head will have a cluster of individual flowers that can be 1) solid bright yellow 2) hot pink and orange mix 3) pink and cream mix 4) orange and yellow mix 5) white 6) red and orange mix. There are other colours but I am talking about the type that develops a tree shape and not a sprawling bush.

As a noxious weed Lantana cannot be sold in commercial nurseries but some specialist nurseries carry starter plants. The starters can be ground grown and provide the garden with a wonderful burst of colour for most of the year.

Choose a plant that has some curve to the trunk. Trim the plant back each winter and do some styling to the branches. It is advisable to lift them in spring and trim the roots.

Once the plant has attained a size and character that starts saying 'bonsai' it can be potted and full training started. It doesn't take long to develop a full head of foliage topped by the flowering canopy.

Keep in mind that the growth tends to be straight so you need to get some shape into new branches and it is best to cut the wire off after a month or so. The branches set as quickly as they thicken and vigilance is required to avoid wire marks and cutting the wire off minimizes the chances of breaking a branch.

As a bonsai it makes a wonderful addition to the bench with its long time flowering habit. Other than its need for water it is easy to care for and doesn't seem to have a lot of insects or diseases that bother it.



Brighten your bench and get a flowering plant that really puts out the flowers over 10 months of the year in Sydney. There is no difficulty telling the hybrid from the parent... hybrids have no thorns and the leaves are not sticky. They do have a vaguely unpleasant scent when touched but not as strong as the wild one. All in all, a Lantana is worth cultivating as a bonsai for the wonderful array of flower colours as long as you are vigilant in removing spent flower heads.

## Miniature Kingdoms



*By Mariella Moon, Tecca*

If you think all bonsai look like mini trees in somebody's zen garden, you haven't seen Takanori Aiba's pieces yet. The Japanese artist combines bonsai art form with Lilliputian architecture design to create some of the most stunning pieces you will ever see.

On his website, Aiba says his crossover creations are the fruit of his days as a (plain) bonsai maker and maze illustrator. None of his designs are derived from real structures — all of them are products of his imagination. But because the details are so elaborate, people usually think he copies the designs of real buildings.

# PICTURES FROM THE MAY MEETING OF THE SCBC

So just how much time does he take to create one of these exactly? Aiba tells Tecca that each piece is so detailed, it takes him anywhere from three months to a year and a half. The bonsai in the first image below took him six months to finish, while the one in the second picture called Hawaiian Pineapple Resort took him a full year.



Unfortunately, you have to go to Japan if you want to see these artworks in person. Aiba is looking for more opportunities to exhibit his work, though one of his pieces called Hotel de Michelin is currently displayed in his restaurant in Tokyo



Takanori Aiba (相羽高德) was born in 1953 in Yokohama, Japan and studied Japanese traditional textiles and dyed clothing in Tokyo Zokei University.

Date	Event	Details