



# sydney city bonsai club inc.



## NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

7pm Tuesday 14 March

7pm Tuesday 11 April

**(Doors open @ 7pm for a  
7.30sharp start)**

## CONTACT DETAILS



0407 573 419



info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au



sydneycitybonsai.org.au



PO Box 329  
Darlinghurst NSW 1300

## COMMITTEE

### Patron

Dorothy Koreshoff

### President

Marika Kahle

### Vice President

Sue Brennan

### Secretary

William Hay

### Treasurer

Neville Althaus

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### Newsletter Editor

Anick Daneault

### Librarian

Philip Bell

### Committee

Michael Zanetti

Lee Wright

Gary Graham

## Welcome to the March 2006 Newsletter

### SYDNEY CITY BONSAI CLUB SPECIAL UPDATE

The SCBC had a resounding success on opening night in the new venue. We were disappointed that no previous members came along but that was mitigated by 5 new members signing up. Four came along for the first time and all liked the SCBC well enough to become a part. That's definitely a good omen for the success of the Green Square Community Church Hall. As an unexpected opening night bonus, a traditional jazz quintet started practicing in the church about 8:30. They played very well indeed and the music floated into the hall, just loud enough to be a pleasing background to the conclusion of the demo and the meeting. Congratulations to Kamala who won the door prize on the night!

Lee Wright gave a demo on saotome azaleas and showed the members how to select a very young plant with a number of suckers near the base and plait them together to get a thicker trunk. This method is also beneficial in concealing a very straight main trunk and giving it some movement.

Sue Brennan has some stock of Décor bonsai watering cans that have a fine soft spray. You can position the rose so it spray down or up. At \$15 this is an ideal way to water your trees between legal watering times. If you are interested see Sue at the next meeting.

The club has purchased a nice cabinet that sits at the front of the hall and the library is now fully accessible to all financial members. Philip Bell is the librarian and he will be on hand to sign books in and out. Philip is also in charge of coffee and teas so maybe someone will please volunteer to take over the refreshments so Philip can concentrate on being librarian. It's an easy job – there's a shop across the street to pick up fresh milk on the night. Supplies are kept in the cabinet and it is just a case of getting them out and putting them in the kitchen, getting the jug heated up and then ensuring the supplies are put back in the cabinet and the kitchen area is tidy before lockup.

Next month will be a workshop on junipers. Bring a plant and your wire and tools. Help will be given for styling. At the April workshop the junipers will be potted up. Juniperus squamata prostrata, juniperus squamata prostrata nana and sargent's juniper are recommended. When you are selecting your juniper look for a plant with as many branches as possible as this increases the styling possibilities. Some junipers have very prickly foliage so handle the foliage to see if you are happy to work with it. Juniperus rigidia makes a stunning bonsai but they aren't called needles for nothin' so run your hands over the foliage before you buy. Any of the bonsai nurseries will stock suitable plants. They can also be found at regular nurseries.

The committee is looking forward to seeing known and new faces at the March meeting. Don't forget the Club's New location:

**Green Square Community Church  
182 Victoria Street (cnr Collins St) Beaconsfield**

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	"Do not consider boastful men who talk about their knowledge of	
	plants, but consider those who are silent and their plants talk about	
	their master's proficiency."	
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## FROM ASH to RICHES (so to speak)

In Dec 2003 SCBC newsletter featured a cover photo and an article on Don Deluca, an ardent bonsai enthusiast and bonsai stock plant grower in Hay. Don was working on a desert ash and sent in a photo of it at that stage. Unfortunately the original is not available and the newsletter copy has been scanned but here it is.

In January 2005 Don sent a current photo of the same tree showing the effects of his practice, learned from the English master, Kevin Willson, of literally wiring everything down to the last twig.

From Don's pen....

I've enclosed a couple of snaps to show you how the ash in the 2003 edition is coming along. I began work on this tree directly after Kev's [Kevin Willson] visit to Australia in winter/spring 2002.

The work began with repotting the tree this past winter. I did it early to allow the roots time to gain strength before bud swell. Ash roots remain pretty active in Hay in the winter and by spring the tree is at full strength. If the tree is advanced and you do leaf reduction technique in order to bring the tree up to show standard you need to slow it down. The way to do this is to root prune it at bud swell and the result is a much smaller spring burst with much finer growth produced. With defoliation on top of this, the leaves reduce down to almost nothing.

I hard pruned the tree leaving the branches with only a basic structure just as the buds began to swell and then I wired what remained. The tree shot and grew like crazy and as soon as the foliage firmed up I defoliated it, tip pruned and left it to grow unchecked until the growth firmed up again.

Normally I would have dewired it and rewired at this time but I wanted to allow the tree to reshoot with the least amount of disturbance as possible. The bending procedure does actually retard growth.

The tree bounced back quickly due to the heat and fertiliser being applied. As soon as the leaves firmed up again I defoliated it again and removed the wire.

The branches held the design really well. The first flush had made good extension and when I tip pruned it after the first defoliation the little branchlets exploded with growth. There was a lot of ramification to wire into place. It took me just over four hours to wire the entire tree but the result was worth it.

Next year this tree will slow down due to the roots filling the bowl but by then I'll need to slow it down anyway or I'll not be able to control the growth.

Little changes in approach can make a huge difference to results. Because I've been playing around with multi-defoliation since the early 90s I thought the results were good enough without pushing it any further. By not wiring the tree after the first defoliation I saved time and allowed it to shoot with less trauma. A small adjustment to the post defoliation period combined with less wiring has already given me a better result.



Desert Ash in its second wiring and leaf pruning since spring. Photo was taken in March 03

Desert Ash March 2003



...bare in Jan 06



...and in leaves, Jan 06

### Monthly Tasks...

Just prior to the short period of growth in late summer to autumn, we have a second chance to repot bonsai. It is not as safe as late winter to early spring period since it is of much shorter duration and it is a little harder to detect due to the fact that deciduous trees are already covered in leaves. This makes the emergence of new growth less noticeable. Watch your trees closely, and if the tree is still in 'midsummer dormancy' and it is late summer, you can repot. But don't be as drastic with the root pruning as you would in the late winter to early spring period.

As the weather is beginning to cool down, fertilising every two to three weeks at half strength is recommended. Fertiliser that is high in potassium and phosphorous will help build wood and discourage winter die-back. If foliage is not looking the best at the moment, feeding now will not do a great deal to improve it but the food will be stored by the tree and used for the production of healthy growth next season.

## **Trees are good for cities, but in Sydney they are often seen as intruders, writes Wendy Frew.**

IN 1910, the founder of landscape architecture, Frederick Law Olmsted, described the city of Boulder as one "properly proud among Colorado towns on account of its numerous and large street trees".

One of the champions of the City Beautiful movement that began in the 1890s in the US, Olmsted had only praise for the city's leaders for the creation of an urban forest he described as "an example of the immense effect upon a town's appearance that may rapidly result from a popular custom once set agoing". The result, he said, was "surely pleasing".

The theory behind the city beautification movement was that the more aesthetically pleasing a city was, the more people would want to live there and the happier they'd be. Almost a century later, the modern city of Boulder still loves its trees but it looks at them in a much broader light.

Rather than valuing them purely for their aesthetic appeal, city officials have mapped and documented Boulder's urban forest - cataloguing tree species and grasses, measuring trunks, determining the health of the city's vegetation - and then calculating their contribution to a wide range of city functions.

The results of that study, released in 2002, showed the average canopy cover across the city of 23 per cent significantly reduced stormwater run-off, kept the city cooler and its power bills down, and soaked up dangerous greenhouse gases and car pollution.

The report estimated that during a 50-millimetre storm event Boulder's tree canopy retained stormwater roughly equivalent to the volume of a 20-storey building the size of a football field.

City-wide, the energy saved by tree shade and its effect on temperatures was worth \$US1.65 million or enough to power 4500 typical homes for a year. The trees also saved more than \$US525,000 a year in pollution removal and health care costs, while soaking up 2000 tonnes of carbon, the equivalent of driving about 16.1 million miles each year.

Not surprisingly, the report's authors recommended Boulder's urban forest be not just maintained but increased.

BOULDER is a long way from Sydney, but they share the kinds of problems suffered by all major urban centres, such as air pollution (on the rise this summer in Sydney), stormwater pollution (exacerbating siltation and pollution of this city's waterways) and rising levels of greenhouse gases.

But there's no map of our urban forest, no figures on how much car pollution has been soaked up by trees, no estimate of the energy and money saved because of the effect trees have on temperature, and few references to the role vegetation plays in mitigating the dangerous effects of greenhouse gases and climate change.

For the full article, log on to :

<http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2006/02/28/1141095741169.html>

### **ANTAGONISTIC LIVESTOCK**

By Lee Wright

I water my trees daily by hose or watering can and I check each one as I do so. We all know it is far too common to find 'livestock' ascending or descending from webs on the branches. Having long lived with an incontinent nose, I normally have tissues in my pocket and kill the spiders with that. But on those drier days when I don't I use one or two hands to crunch the spider.

Not again.

I'm not into 6 legged critters so I don't know what it was that bit me when I smashed it with two hands as it dangled from my pyracantha. It was small and a pale colour, that I do recall. That was about 7 am. By mid afternoon I had developed numerous small blisters on two thumbs and an index finger, blisters that had enlarged and formed into single entities by the next morning and had doubled again late that afternoon when I sat across from the doctor displaying my ill gotten gains, so to speak.

I'm now on a strong dose of antibiotics, the badly infected blisters were drained and bandaged and while not feeling sore and sorry for myself, I am definitely FAR more careful when working with my trees when I come across a spider.

So a word of caution when you are working with your trees. Don't be hasty in squashing a spider - find a better, more careful way of removing it. And I know, I know, this has never happened to you. Well, it took 6 years to happen to me but once is enough, believe me. Two days into the antibiotics and two large blisters are uglier than sin and drying, but the third is still growing. This isn't a fun thing. So take care.

# EVENTS CALENDAR 2006

Date	Event	Details
26-29 Mar	19th AABC National Bonsai Convention	Hosted in Queensland's Gold Coast is the biggest bonsai event of the year with international demonstrators Robert Steven and Budi Sulisty and much more. For more information call Carole on (07) 5530 5452 b/h or (02) 5525 1428 a/h.
Easter	Bendigo Bonsai Club Autumn Bonsai Show	The show will be held from Easter Saturday to Easter Monday at the St Pauls Anglican Hall, Myers Street. Contact David on (03) 5439 5605 for more info.
15-17 April	Bendigo Bonsai Club Autumn Exhibition	Part of the Sandhurst Trustees 2006 Bendigo Easter Festival, St.Paul's Parish Hall, Myers St, Bendigo. Adults \$3, children free. Trading table & Demonstrations. (03) 5441 2147 or (03) 5446 8736
7-20 April	Sydney Royal Easter Show	Enter your best bonsai in the Easter Show! Visit <a href="http://www.eastershow.com.au">www.eastershow.com.au</a> for more information. Bonsai Day is on 17 April at the Horticultural Pavillion
20 May	Bonsai Study Group Show	Community Hall, Lofberg Rd, West Pymble
26-29 May	AABC Seminar	Legends Hotel, Surfers Paradise
2-4 June	The Tops Weekend	Illawara Bonsai Society Live-in Weekend workshop at Stanwell Tops
1-2 July	Bonsai Federation of Australia Convention	Will be hosted in Ballarat with Hirotooshi Saito as principal demonstrator. The program is not yet finalised, but will include workshops on the Saturday and Sunday. More details will be made available later.
25-27 August	ABC Gardening Australia Expo,	Sydney Showgrounds, Sydney Olympic Park
7-10 August	Central Coast Bonsai Society Show	Flora Festival at Mt Penang, Special demonstrations by Mr Kobayashi at the Gosford Flora Festival. More details yet to be announced
16-17 Sept	Illawar Bonsai Society Annual Show	Stapleton Community Centre, StapletonSt, Sutherland
22-24 Sept	Bonsai Society of Australia Annual Show	Baulkham Hill Community Centre, Showground rd, Castle Hill, both retails and member's sale tables.
22-24 Sept	New Zealand 14 <sup>th</sup> National Bonsai Convention	Hosted in Auckland with key demonstrators Reiner Goebel, Robert Langholm, Mick Balzary, Mr Yang and Louis Buckingham. More more information <a href="#">download the flyer</a> .
14-15 Oct	School of Bonsai Show	Ray Nesci Nursery, 26 Sagar Rd, Kenthurst/Dural
28-29 Oct	South Coast Bonsai Society Show	Figtree Community Hall, Figtree