



## NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

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

**7pm Tuesday 9 March 2010**

Workshop: pruning & training  
Junipers and other conifers

**7pm Tuesday 13 April 2010**

Sue Brennan to review the basics  
of bonsai training + Workshop:  
pre-winter pruning

## CONTACT DETAILS

 0435 036 186

 [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** Neville

**Vice President** Sue

**Secretary** Jennie

**Treasurer** Tani

**Public Officer** Max

**Newsletter Editor** Tony

**Librarian** Chris

**Catering** Philip

**Committee** Philip, Gary, Jennie,  
Damian

## MEMBERSHIP

**Full Membership** \$30.00

**Concession** \$20.00

**Family** \$45.00

**Pensioner** \$15.00

## Welcome to the January / February Newsletter

### March Meeting:

It is Junipers and other Conifers at this months workshop – bring your trees along, last months workshop in groups was a great success

The SCBC would like to welcome Chris Denton who has taken the post of club librarian and to thank Philip for all his hard work in the past, Philip is now taking care of catering at our Club Meetings



The Sydney City Bonsai Club members hard at work at last months workshop

### *An invitation from the Illawarra Bonsai Society:*

*Illawarra Bonsai Society has issued a formal invitation to the members of the Sydney City Bonsai Club to attend their next meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March as their special guests.*

*The members arrive 7pm for a 7.30pm start, the meetings are held at the Gynea Community Centre, Gynea Bay Road, Gynea. NSW*

*Our secretary; Jennie is organising a car pool for those members who would like to attend the Illawarra Bonsai Society meeting and would like to car pool*

### In this months newsletter:

Members trees on display at the February Meeting see pages 2 & 3

For a series of interesting articles on English Bonsai Master  
John Danby see pages 4, 5 & 6

Tony Bebb's new workshop & Events Calendar on page 6

# MEMBERS TREES IN TRAINING ON DISPLAY AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING



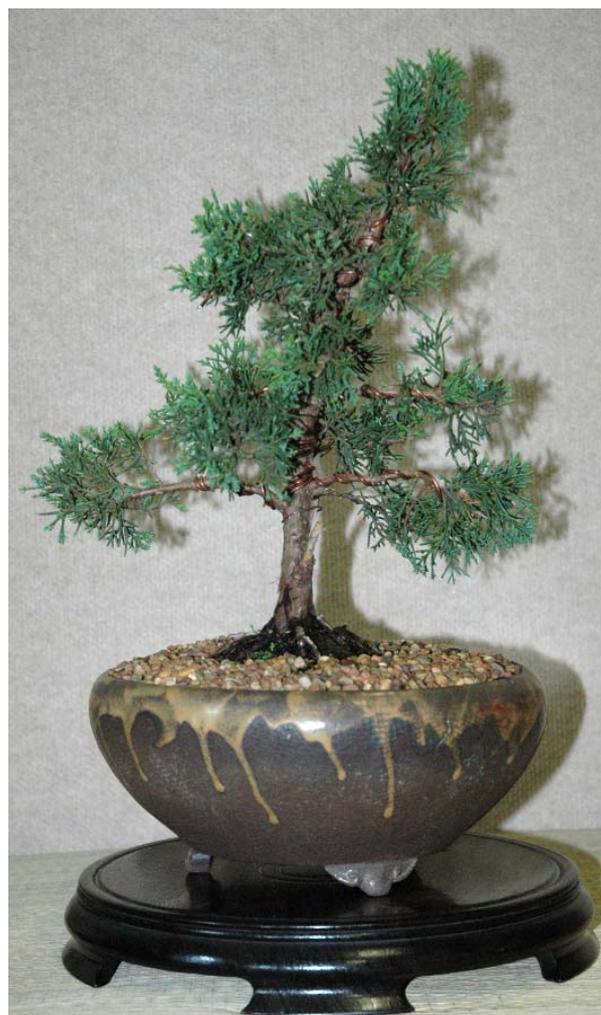
Alan's *Ficus rubiginosa* bonsai



Jenny's Olive bonsai



Neville's *Metrosideros*, New Zealand Christmas Bush bonsai

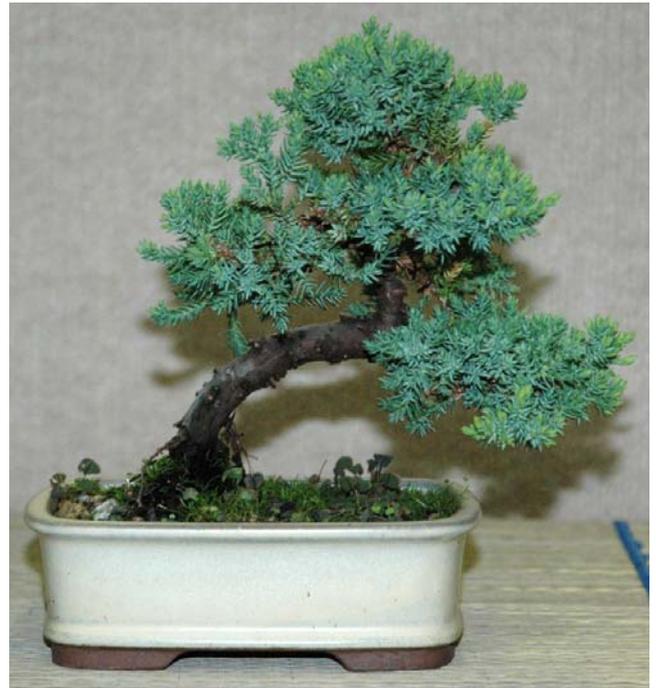


Paul's Shimpaku Juniper bonsai was one of the bonsai created at the Christmas meeting Team Styling Competition

## MEMBERS TREES IN TRAINING ON DISPLAY AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING



Chris's *Ficus rubiginosa* 'Little Ruby' bonsai



Sue's *Juniperus procumbens* bonsai



Another of Sue's *Juniperus procumbens* bonsai



Sue's *Ulmus parvifolia* bonsai

### 2010 Program for Meetings at Sydney City Bonsai Club

- May - Guest Speaker (Sue Brennan)
- June - Guest speaker (Chris Di Nola)
- July - Team styling
- July - Nursery crawl - venues to be decided
- August - Repotting deciduous, junipers, pines, natives & nursery crawl finds
- September - repot and style azaleas, buxus, olives & pyracanthas
- October - figs
- November - natives
- December - Santa steam styling and Christmas Nibbles



*Serissa foetida* Banyan Style Mame bonsai

## JOHN HANBY – ENGLISH BONSAI MASTER by Lee

John Hanby, a prominent English Bonsai Master, gave a one day seminar on 1 November 2009 sponsored by the Australian National Bonsai Club.

John has a quiet, laid back approach and a keen eye and insight into bonsai styling. Rather than have John spend the day styling a tree, the organisers asked attendees to bring problem trees for discussion and rectification. This proved to be an excellent way to covering styling problems on a lot of trees and proved to be a great showcase for John's talents.

For in depth information you can access John's website:

[www.johnhanbybonsai.co.uk](http://www.johnhanbybonsai.co.uk). He owns and runs the large Newstead Garden and Bonsai Centre in Wakehurst. The first part of the morning was spent with a Powerpoint presentation showing the extensive nursery, some of John's work, a few of the wide range of bonsai classes available at Newstead and the large bonsai show the nursery puts on annually. Once it was apparent that John is indeed a Master of the art, our problem trees hit the demonstration table.

From John's presentation...

You have to decide what commitment you want to make, how far you want to go, how involved you want to be. There is nothing wrong with dabbling but if you are keen you can only improve with good stock and good tools and time. Time is money – the more you pay for a tree the more time you buy. A \$5 or \$10 sapling means you have to work grow it for years. A \$50 stock plant means you have saved years.

Respect your trees. Bonsai is all about what you can do with your trees. Bonsai is a partnership – you work with the tree to develop it to its best. Watch and wait – some people work trees too much. Don't be afraid to let your tree grow. You have to learn to work with the health and vigour of your tree.



Working a Shimpaku Juniper

Clean the juniper, removing all dead needles and branches, before shaping and wiring. Remove all downward growing foliage and any upwards foliage that cannot be wired horizontally. Inside, remove dull coloured foliage and weaker branches. There is a lot of work involved in cleaning out a tree. If you are not sure – leave it on. You can always take it off later but you can't put it back on. The inside shoots are usually not getting enough sun and air so the tree itself starts shedding weaker foliage. If the tree is weak, let the shoots grown long – several inches.

When you start refining and the tree is strong let the shoots grow only 1 inch. Don't grab clumps of foliage and pinch wholesale. Select the areas to pinch to ensure the tree has enough growing tips to feed itself to keep growing.

**Junipers have flaky bark** that can be removed with a soft wire brush to bring out the smooth rich red bark. The combination of the smooth red-brown trunk, deep green foliage and the white of the jins gives great contrast and interest.

**Juniperus procumbens don't like wire.** Don't wire anything green and try to use as little wire as possible.

**Feeding junipers...** sprinkle food around the edges of the pot – that's where the feeder roots are. Feed the roots the first of the month, feed the foliage mid month. Feed this way 52 weeks of the year. *[When I queried this feeding regime – especially in England with cold winters - John restated that this was the way he fed his trees – 52 weeks of the year.]*

**Repotting** – root pruning is major surgery. Too many people are blaze' about repotting. When you repot a tree, respect the roots. When repotting LOOK at the roots, don't just remove willy nilly without really seeing what the roots are saying. Work the chopstick through the soil / roots around the base – clean out the area under the tree to allow roots to grow there. Don't just cut the roots around the edges.

**Pruning** – When you are working a tree and you are not sure what to remove – look at the branches. Start removing branches that simply won't work – heavy branches at the top, spindly branches at the bottom, stiff branches at awkward angles – bar branching. Select branches that are horizontal or downward growing. Branches growing up will end up with a 'cup handle' curve at the join that is not attractive.

Keep the tree under control because if you are trying to develop branches you need to channel energy down. Anything growing up or down should be removed; outward growing branches can be wired for foliage pads and will allow leaves to supply energy to the tree. When you cut a tree back you can't just let it go – you have to control the growth. Remove what new growth you don't want and direct the growth you do want. You can't do heavy pruning and then let the tree grow as it wants.

**Trident Maples** – let Tridents leaf out freely so they are growing really strongly - more like a bush. Then take 60% of the leaves away. When the tree starts to come back again let the areas extend where growth is wanted and keep the apex under control to balance the energy. Cut the leaves with scissors and leave the petiole on [the stem between leaf and branch]. It will drop off naturally and you don't risk damaging the bud at the base. If internodes get too long you need to take them back straightaway as they won't get any better. When you are refining remove any leaves that are outside the tree's profile.

In England it is preferable to remove larger leaves as they develop instead of defoliating because of the climate. With selective pruning the tree should be going all the time. When you are pruning it is good to leave some growth long to ensure good health. This can be removed prior to a show.

**Wiring** – When wiring a tree if you are not sure which gauge to use always go for the heavier gauge. It is a common mistake to use wire of insufficient strength.

# JOHN HANBY – ENGLISH BONSAI MASTER by Lee

## It's Not Working

John ended a very informative and entertaining day by implanting three words in my brain. 'It's not working'. I have been working on an olive for 1.5 years and while it is doing what I wanted it to do the magic wasn't happening.

John looked at the tree from all angles and simply stated – 'It's not working'. The bottom line was that the tree was never going to be anything with the extended branch plan I had in mind. It has now been severely cut back and I will have another year before I can start styling new growth and probably removing yet another branch but I learned something really important.

A tree must have a focal point and branches and foliage aren't arranged just to hang nicely on the plant... they need to emphasise the focal point, to draw the eye to the focal point. John spoke of 'mass' where we use 'foliage pads' and it is good way of stating it.



After massacring the olive I went over my benches and studied a number of other trees that 'were not working' and a lot of major pruning went on. It was a major setback to my plans for these trees but there's no point in persevering with a bad plan – you only waste more time before you eventually come to the realisation. Better to do drastic things now.

John was somewhat in awe of our weather and the fact that the 1.5 year growth of a local bonsai'd elm branch would take 4 years for the same development in his part of the world. He definitely envied our growing season.

It is really important to rework your plans when a club brings out an international Bonsai Master so you can attend because you can pick up so much information, so many ideas and increase your knowledge by so much if you are really keen on bonsai.

## ADVANCED JUNIPER RESTYLE

One of the trees at the JOHN HANBY DAY was a large Juniper procumbens that was somewhat neglected. After studying the tree John clipped the three downward hanging branches back to jins [still to be refined] and started cleaning the tree. He then gave the partly worked tree to the owner to finish the cleaning and wire the majority of the branches.



Once that was done he explained about an angle change when it was repotted and arranged and refined the branches.

What was a wild and woolly yamidori [collected from the wild] became a future bonsai of stature and quality.



# ADVANCED DESERT ASH YAMIDORI & EVENTS CALENDAR

**ADVANCED DESERT ASH** - Another tree brought in for help on the JOHN HANBY DAY was a large yamidori Desert Ash with a trunk about 14cm wide with magnificent bark as only an ash can produce.



The tree had been allowed to grow freely after collection and bore two large cut off branch stubs at the top and a large area of dead wood.



Instead of cutting the deadwood away John preferred to take advantage of it by incorporating it in the design and doing extensive carving to lighten and increase the interest and make the area a focal point.



**Mingara Recreation Club**  
**Mingara Drive, Tumbi Umbi NSW 2261**  
 (Tasman Rooms - Ph 4349 7799)

**Come and see Tony Bebb from Qld in action**

- Ray Nesci Bonsai Nursery Sales table
- Pat Kennedy - Mirkwood Forest Bonsai Pottery Sales table

**Saturday 20th March, 2010**      **Sunday 21st March, 2010**

9.30-12.30pm	Workshop 1	9am	Rego
12.30-1.30pm	Lunch (BYO)	9.30am	Welcome
1.30pm-4.30pm	Workshop 2	9.45am	Tony Bebb Demo 1
		11am	Morning Tea (Provided)
		11.30am	Tony Bebb Demo (cont)
		12noon	Slide Show Presentation
		12.30	Lunch (Provided)
		1.30pm	Tony Bebb Demo 2
		3.30pm	Raffles/Auction

**Enquiries**

Denise Allen - 0434 940 580



BONSAI SOCIETY of the Central Coast Inc.

**Tony Bebb - Central Coast Demonstration REGO FORM**

Saturday 20th March - Morning Workshop	\$30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 20th March - Afternoon Workshop	\$30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 21st March - All Day Demonstrations	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morning Tea & Lunch(Sandwiches,Fruit,Cheese,Drinks) Included	<b>Total</b>	_____

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT - (Cheque) Bonsai Society of the Central Coast Inc  
 POST TO - Treasurer Po Box 3676, Wamberal NSW 2260  
 with a stamped self addressed envelope for receipt if required



BONSAI SOCIETY of the Central Coast Inc.

Date	Event	Details
13 - 14 March 2010	Canberra Bonsai Society 7th National Exhibition of Australian Plants as Bonsai	Australian National Botanic Gardens, Clunies Ross St ACTON, Crosbie Morrison Building ( Open 9:30am - 4:30pm) . There will be Bonsai demonstrations 2.00pm each day.
8 May 2010	Bonsai Study Group Show - West Pymble	Pat Kennedy will be there with a selection of his Mirkwood pots
14-17 May 2010	23rd AABC National Convention hosted by Illawarra Bonsai Society Inc.- "A Bonsai Celebration"	
17-19 September 2010	Illawarra's Eleventh Weekend Workshop at Tops Conference Centre, Stanwell Tops	Friday night - registration & bonsai demonstration with a twist Saturday - morning & afternoon workshop, happy hour, major demonstration Sunday - morning & afternoon workshop, lecture / demonstration
29 September 2010	Bonsai & Suiseki Tour of China Bonsai Clubs International is conducting a travelling convention of 14 days through China for bonsai and stone enthusiasts, beginning 29 September 2010.	Glenis Bebb, Executive Director BCI, is handling the Australian section of the tour, and any person interested in participating is invited to contact her at: <a href="mailto:glen@bonsainursery.com.au">glen@bonsainursery.com.au</a>