



NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

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

7pm Tuesday 8 March 2011
Workshop on junipers, other conifers

7pm Tuesday 12 April 2011
Demonstration by Sue of bonsai wiring techniques

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COMMITTEE

Patron Dorothy Koreshoff
President Sue (acting President)
Vice President Sue
Secretary Tani
Treasurer Chris
Public Officer Max
Newsletter Editor Tony
Librarian Damian
Catering Philip
Committee Philip, Gary, Jennie, Hector

MEMBERSHIP

Full Membership \$30.00
Concession \$20.00
Family \$45.00
Pensioner \$20.00

Welcome to the March Newsletter

March Meeting

Workshop: bring Junipers and other conifers to work on. Most bonsai can still be pruned and wired so bring along any trees you want to work on.



[Sue showing club members how to style a Podocarpus bonsai!](#)

In this months newsletter:

- To see photos taken at the February meeting turn to page 2
- To see some truly tiny bonsai see page 2
- To see pictures of Sue cutting a Fig bonsai in half to create a new bonsai from old turn to page 3
- For more before and after bonsai pictures see page 4
- For a good read about using microtape in bonsai repair see page 5
- A Bunyip Fig gets restyled in pictures on pages 5 & 6
- Wire removal: arguments for cutting or unwinding - see page 6
- Events Calendar see page 6

PHOTOS TAKEN AT THE SCBC FEBRUARY MEETING



Sue's *Podocarpus falcatus* (Syn: *Nageia falcatus*) Outeniqua Yellowwood bonsai



Tony's *Ficus rubiginosa* 'Little Ruby' semi-cascade bonsai in training



Hector's Sergeant Juniper before pruning

Are these the ultimate Mame or maybe Shito Bonsai?

I don't have the web address for these amazing pictures, a friend emailed them to me. I wonder if you could get bonsai much smaller than these ones?

The plants seem to be a *Serrisa*, judging by the size and shape of the leaves



Mame (pronounced "Ma-May") and Shito are the smallest of bonsai, Mame ideally being no more than 10cm in height, however Shito Bonsai can be so small (less than 6cm) that they are grown in pots the size of thimbles.

Both terms refer to the size of the tree, so they may be seen in all styles. Creating a reasonable branch structure and trunk, with the larger Mame is no more difficult than with larger bonsai, however it is not practical with a Shito tree, so you may see a single leaf playing the part of an entire branch.

Adequate watering is one of the most difficult things to achieve with the really small trees, and most of the people I know who keep them, bury the pots in damp sand when not on display.

<http://www.bonsaiprimer.com/mame/mame.html>

BEFORE & AFTER PHOTOS TAKEN AT THE SCBC FEBRUARY MEETING



Sue's twin trunk fig before the removal of the taller trunk; so as Sue put it when introducing her pruning demonstration. "To reveal the better tree within this tree"



After the trunk has been reshaped, Sue mists the cut surface with water from a hand sprayer to 'cauterise' the wound and arrest sap flow.



The second trunk is removed and Sue uses knob cutters to nibble away the wood of the removed trunk to conform with the lines of the remaining trunk



New from Old – Sue's new single trunked fig bonsai

BEFORE & AFTER PHOTOS TAKEN AT THE SCBC FEBRUARY MEETING



Marianne's Fig – sort of before pruning, look closely you will see what I mean!



You're buying the whole before photo thing right?

Another of Marianne's figs before and after pruning



Marianne's fig after pruning

It will be very interesting to see these trees develop after such dramatic pruning. I hope Marianne brings them in to future meetings so there progress can be recorded in future newsletters.



Update on an old friend – the tree not the artist!
This *Melaleuca* 'Revolution Gold' owned & styled by Lee has featured in several previous newsletters – here it is in its latest incarnation February 2011

MICROTAPE & FIG RESTYLING ARTICLES

MICROPORE TAPE by Lee



In the bandage/bandaid section of pharmacies is a little role of tape called MICROPORE. It comes in white or beige, 1cm wide and 2 cm wide. The tape is obviously for human use but humans notwithstanding, it makes a GREAT tape for repairing cracked branches.

It is self adhesive and has some stretch so it is not going to cut in as the branch enlarges. It is very easy to apply, darkens a bit with outdoor exposure and barely alters the silhouette of the branch. Weather does not affect it adversely.

I just cracked this azalea branch. I put some sealant on the damaged area and wrapped Micropore around it. This can stay on for well over a year until the branch is healed.

It is also good to use where you might damage a branch sufficiently that future bending could put the area at risk. Wrapping some micropore tape around the damaged area serves as a great reminder of the weak spot without creating an eyesore the way grafting tape will do.

The tape is self adhesive so it is necessary to be careful when you are removing it, especially on heavily barked trees like pines or flaky or corky barks. But then again, losing a bit of bark is better than losing the branch.

This is one bonsai aid that is quite economical. Depending on where you get it the tape is about \$2 for the 1cm roll. I found the wider tape harder to apply but I am working with small trees and the additional width is not necessary.

I also prefer the flesh coloured tape as it blends a bit more with the wood than white would do.

If I were listing 'must haves' for my tool kit Micropore Tape would definitely be on the list.

RESTYLING A FIG by Lee



Bunyip Fig – November 2009

I bought this fig although I thought it extremely ugly because I saw another tree in it. The base was nice but the main trunk did not suit it and the curves in the trunk were too artificial and the tree was too tall.



Bunyip Fig – November 2009



Bunyip Fig – March 2010

WIRE REMOVAL ARTICLE & EVENTS CALENDAR

The Bunyip Fig bonsai story continues in pictures:



Bunyip Fig – September 2010



Bunyip Fig – February 2011

In most cases wire seems to be easier to put on a tree than remove and the two ways of doing it, unwind or cut, each have their proponents.

In my early bonsai years I weighed the cost of wire with the money saving advantages of unwinding and reusing and I still do that a lot. But the first few years I didn't really have trees that warranted that bit of extra care and it seemed a more sensible idea to recycle. Most gauges of wire can be straightened by holding both ends and running the wire back and forth over a bent knee.

The heavier gauges can be done in a vice or using two pairs of pliers and pulling and twisting. The fine gauges you can often simply run through your fingers to straighten. Japanese wire [dark brown] tends to stay dark brown but the Chinese wire [very light brown] quickly goes silver when it is in outdoor conditions and can be unsightly - it also doesn't have the strength the slightly more expensive Japanese wire has.

As my trees develop and become closer to my vision I am too aware of the dangers of unwinding wire and removing a necessary branch at the same time, regardless of how careful I try to be. Working inside the foliage with sometimes limited vision and access can bring about disasters and losing an important branch due to a second of inattention is a big setback.

These days, especially as I work with smaller trees, I tend to cut the wire and gently remove it without endangering the branches or foliage. This is somewhat wasteful on one hand but better for the tree.

With thin barked trees like olives and azaleas it is almost impossible to unwind wire without taking bark away. With heavily textured trees like box, pine, clerendendron, corky barks and flaky bark tridents it is too risky trying to unwind wire as it is almost impossible to do it without some bark damage.

Recycled wire never has the same holding power as new and it can be harder to apply and that brings up the possibility of damaging the tree just getting it on.

Whichever method is used, or a combination of the two, the ultimate criteria is using the best way to remove wire without damaging the bark or branches of your bonsai.

Date	Event	Details
March 19–20, 2011	8th National Exhibition of Australian Native Plants as Bonsai	A symposium at the 8th National Exhibition of Australian Native Plants as Bonsai - Australian National Botanic Gardens--Canberra
April 23-25, 2011	BENDIGO BONSAI CLUB EASTER EXHIBITION	Forest St Uniting Church Hall, Forest St, Bendigo. Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th, 10 am to 5 pm, Monday 25th 1 pm to 5 pm. Admission \$3, children free.
April 22-27, 2011	Sydney City Bonsai Club stand at the Royal Easter Show	Please see Sue if you can help on the stand – Sue is putting together a roster of helpers
May 20-23, 2011	THE 24th AABC NATIONAL BONSAI CONVENTION, PERTH, W.A.	This convention will be hosted by the Bonsai Society of Western Australia, in partnership with the Australian Association of Bonsai Clubs. The venue will be the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle. The International Demonstrators will be Min Hsuan Lo from Taiwan and Yasuko Aoki from Japan on bonseki. There will also be several Australian demonstrators. Registration (\$260) closes on 1st May 2011. Enquiries to Nigel Atkinson by phone, (08) 9330 6242, or by email to akadraft@primus.com.au