



## NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

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

**7pm Tuesday 8 May**

Workshop: bring your trees to work on.

**7pm Tuesday 10 June**

Workshop: bring your trees to work on.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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

 PO Box 486  
Summerhill NSW 2130

## COMMITTEE

**Patron** Dorothy Koreshoff  
**President** Neville Althaus  
**Vice President** Sue Brennan  
**Secretary** Lee Wright  
**Treasurer** Neville Althaus  
**Public Officer** Max Blanco  
**Newsletter Editor** Tony Wilson  
**Librarian** Philip Bell  
**Committee** Philip Bell  
Gary Graham

## MEMBERSHIP

**Full Membership** \$25.00

**Concession Membership** \$15.00

## Welcome to the May Newsletter

### All Hail the Chief – Congratulations to the President

Neville Althaus wins Champion Bonsai at the 2007 Royal Easter Show



There is a time to brag, thanks to the talents for Neville Althaus, Lee Wright & Sue Brennan (& G. Kennewell a friend of Sue Brennan's) as representatives of our club the following awards were achieved:

Champion Bonsai  
Champion Native Bonsai  
4 x First Prizes  
3 x Second Prizes  
2 x Third Prizes  
1 x Highly Commended

See page 2 for a list of prizes winners and a picture of the SSBC stand

See pages 3 & 4 for pictures of the award winning bonsai & answers to common bonsai questions

Meet bonsai artist: [Michael Persiano](#), on page 5  
Michael Persiano will appear at [AABC in Melbourne](#), in May 2007, with Marco Inverezzi  
Also on page 5 handy hints from the editor of the Illawarra Bonsai Society Newsletter

Turn to page 6 for an offer to join the Suiseki Club and for the list of coming Bonsai events

# ROYAL EASTER SHOW 2007

## SYDNEY ROYAL FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW: BONSAI

**CLASS: 207 One Bonsai, any style, under 30cm.**

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1                       | 2038 MS L WRIGHT - LEWISHAM NSW 2049      |
| 2                       | 2039 MR N ALTHAUS - MARRICKVILLE NSW 2204 |
| <b>Highly Commended</b> | 2037 MS L WRIGHT - LEWISHAM NSW 2049      |

**CLASS: 208 One Bonsai, informal, upright style.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2047 SUE BRENNAN - SUMMER HILL NSW 2130 |
|---|---|

**CLASS: 209 One Bonsai, cascade or semi-cascade style.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2054 SUE BRENNAN - SUMMER HILL NSW 2130 |
|---|---|

**CLASS: 211 One Bonsai, group planting (3 or more trees).**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 3 | 2056 MR N ALTHAUS - MARRICKVILLE NSW 2204 |
|---|---|

**CLASS: 214 One Bonsai, ficus, any style.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 2 | 2072 MR G KENNEWELL - MARRICKVILLE NSW 2204 |
|---|---|

**CLASS: 215 One Bonsai, native, any style.**

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 3 | 2080 MS L WRIGHT - LEWISHAM NSW 2049 |
|---|--------------------------------------|

**CLASS: 216 One Bonsai, any other style.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2092 MR N ALTHAUS - MARRICKVILLE NSW 2204 |
| 2 | 2087 MS L WRIGHT - LEWISHAM NSW 2049      |

**CLASS: S217 CHAMPION BONSAI.**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>Winner</b> | 2092 MR N ALTHAUS - MARRICKVILLE NSW 2204 |
|---------------|---|

**CLASS: S218 CHAMPION NATIVE BONSAI All Exhibits from Class 215 are eligible.**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>Winner</b> | 2092 MR N ALTHAUS - MARRICKVILLE NSW 2204 |
|---------------|---|



Michael Persiano's 'White Dragon' bonsai; see page 5 for an article on Michael & his work

Awarded to  
Sydney City  
Bonsai

**THIRD**

For an  
Outstanding  
Pavilion Display  
at the 2007  
Sydney Royal  
Easter Show

Sue Brennan answering questions on the Sydney City Bonsai Club stand at the Royal Easter Show. →

Thanks to all those members who worked at the stand during the Easter Show.

We got many enquiries about bonsai, their culture and training and we gave contact information for the many different bonsai clubs throughout Australia.

We found there was a lot of interest in bonsai from the general public



# ROYAL EASTER SHOW 2007 PRIZE WINNERS



Sue Brennan's *Acer palmatum* – Japanese Maple



Lee Wrights Olive



Neville Althaus's Olive



Sue Brennan's Cascade Banksia



G. Kennewell's *Ficus*

## ROYAL EASTER SHOW 2007 PRIZE WINNERS



Lee Wrights Melaleuca



Lee Wrights Olive

### The right answers:

The following advice was provided to volunteers who worked on the Sydney City Bonsai Club Stand at the Royal Easter Show. I thought it would be useful information for all our members if they were asked any of the usual bonsai related questions, happy reading:

Unless you feel confident to give specific advice regarding the growing of bonsai the following general advice will help you feel comfortable about talking to the public.

- 01:** A bonsai is a tree and must be kept outside. The seasonal changes in trees are triggered by the soil temperature at night.
- 02:** A bonsai should be checked every morning and watered if necessary. This could mean every day in the hotter months. On days of extreme heat (over 36.C) it is advisable to bring your tree inside. A bonsai needs water during the day when the sun is on the leaves.
- 03:** A bonsai will behave the same way as the trees growing in the ground and some species will lose their leaves in winter. Trees without leaves need less water, and the soil must be kept damp rather than wet.
- 04:** A bonsai is kept small by cutting the top and healthy by pruning the roots.
- 05:** Root pruning is usually done once a year when the tree is dormant. The exceptions are figs which are root pruned at the beginning of summer.
- 06:** Before applying fertiliser or spraying for pests make sure the bonsai has been watered first.
- 07:** Trees don't drink fertiliser; they take it up at night with air as a gas as the roots are growing. Never fertilise a sick or dormant tree.
- 08:** Bonsai trees need air in the soil at night. Without air the roots are unable to grow and the tree will eventually die (there are exceptions to this rule, but not many).
- 09:** The trees on display are changed every 4 to 5 days as any longer inside could be detrimental to the tree.
- 10:** Soil from the garden or potting mix is not suitable for bonsai.
- 11:** Join a bonsai club and learn more about soil types, growing and styling techniques and suitable varieties for bonsai.

### Plant Profile: *Serrisa foetida* - Tree of a Thousand Stars

This shrub is native to subtropical areas of India, China & Japan, it has tiny smooth dark green leaves and tiny white, pink or purplish flowers in summer; the bark is creamy and quickly becomes fissured and flaky, giving the bonsai the appearance of great age. The bark and roots have a foul odour when bruised.

This plant is easily grown in sunny (not west) or part sun positions, it prefers some humidity and to be kept evenly moist during the warmer months of the year and given with fortnightly fertilising. Keep the soil a bit dryer in winter – protect from frost.

Wiring is possible but be careful the plants are a bit brittle, especially older wood. Responds well to tip pruning. Serrisa is suitable for all bonsai styles except Formal Upright and Broom.

#### There are several varieties:

- 'Kyoto' – small green leaves & single white flowers,
- 'Mt Fuji / 'Variegata' – yellow edged leaves, single flowers,
- 'Flore-Pleno' – green leaves & double white flowers



← 'Flore Pleno'

### HANDY HINTS

If at this time of year you do not have any repotting to do, look at your tool kit. Clean, sharpen and oil your cutters especially to remove the residue of sap from all those figs you repotted in summer.

You can either clean them with wet-and-dry fine sandpaper which has been moistened in water, dry thoroughly and use a thin smearing of an organic base oil e.g. lanolin, which can be purchased in a pump-spray bottle from Bunnings.

The other way is by using a dampened 'crean' block to rub the metal clean of sticky marks. Again a thin smearing of lanolin oil will keep your tools in top condition.

- Clean out the bottom of your toolbox of soil that has been deposited there during repotting. With your tools bouncing around all the grit will only blunt and damage the cutting edges.
- Collect all the short bits of wire and put into a small container to use later for making 'hairpins' to anchor down moss or wayward roots.
- Sharpen scissors and knives with a small sharpening stone and then again smear with lanolin oil.
- Put some sort of mark or tie some tape around the handles so in a workshop situation you will readily recognize your own equipment which saves any embarrassment when claiming your own property.
- Keep wire in an orderly bundle making it easier to unroll and apply to the branches. If you don't have a wire-tidy, place the appropriate sizes in sturdy plastic bags and store in flat empty boxes.
- When all of your tools are cleaned and oiled, place them in a tool roll that can be secured by tying up to protect them. These can be easily purchased at most bonsai nurseries, good hardware shops, or if you are handy you could run one up on a sewing machine out of an old thick flannelette shirt or the like. Make the pockets to suit your own tool sizes. Secure with a couple of lengths of tape to secure - like a handyman's tool roll.
- When all of these have been sorted, cleaned and sharpened, add miscellaneous bits and pieces like a chopstick(s) for dibbing soil around the roots, a stiff handled brush and toothbrush for cleaning the moss and algae off trunks and cleaning old pots. A few wine corks for spreading branches and roots apart, tree sealant, a roll of grafting tape (to repair those accidentally snapped branches), a pair of disposable rubber gloves for when the going gets rough and mesh for covering drainage holes in pots. See what other interesting items you can add to your tool kit. Let us all know if you have a good and handy idea.
- When all your tools and accessories are in order, keep them altogether in an inexpensive plastic toolbox so they will be in order ready for your next workshop.

An extract from the April issue of the Illawarra Bonsai Society Inc Newsletter

### Meet the Artist:



Michael Persiano is an internationally recognized bonsai artist and author, currently residing in the suburbs of Philadelphia, PA. He has recently completed a collaborative work with the publishers of *Bonsai Today* titled: *Master Techniques for Japanese White and Black Pine*. The book will be available in December of 2003.

Over the years, Michael has published articles in *Bonsai Today*, *Bonsai France*, *International Bonsai*, *Bonsai Germany*, *Bonsai Denmark*, and *Bonsai Sweden*. In 1995, *Country Living Gardener* magazine featured Michael's work in an extensive article that reached 1,000,000 readers and promoted awareness of this magnificent art.

In 1999, Michael collaborated with the Federation Francaise de Bonsai and conducted an extensive 3-week lecturing and demonstration tour that began in Paris and ultimately touched all parts of France.

During 2001, Michael's scheduled appearance at the French Bonsai Congress in Rouen, France for the Federation Francaise de Bonsai was cancelled as a result of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centers.

Michael, born in the *Year of the Dragon*, resides in Pennsylvania with his wife Sarah, Doberman 'Duke', and parrots Tortellini and Sake. He is always creating new trees and developing new articles for his favorite publication, *Bonsai Today*.



Michael's trees incorporate both traditional and contemporary design elements in what are viewed as extremely detail oriented bonsai creations. He is also known for his deadwood carving, advanced wiring, drastic branch bending, and ability to generate remarkable ramification with evergreen and deciduous bonsai through a combination of pruning techniques and 'superfeeding'.

← Michael's Cork Barked Elm  
2003

For more of Michael's work go to:

<http://hometown.aol.com/aisnob/>

# Suiseki Australia & Events Calendar

## Suiseki Australia

By Brenda Parker, President Illawarra Bonsai Society Inc

What is Suiseki?

*Well, it's an art form similar to bonsai - except that there are no trees involved. It uses rocks to create scenes of distant mountains, ravines, cliffs and other landscape features. It draws on the imagination of the creator and observer - similar to bonsai.*

Apologies Suiseki experts for the above abbreviated description.

Brenda Parker (President of Illawarra Bonsai Soc Inc) has just taken over the role of President of Suiseki Australia Inc and is offering free membership for 2007 to anyone interested in this art form.

To join, you must complete a survey form which requests basic joining information such as name and address, but also seeks to gather more information about your expertise in areas related to Suiseki - like are you a geologist by any chance.

You can obtain a copy of the survey form by visiting the web site - [www.schoolofbonsai.com](http://www.schoolofbonsai.com) - and select [Suiseki Australia](#) at the bottom left. You can read more about Suiseki Australia and print the survey form from there.

If you have some questions that you would like to ask about Suiseki Australia, you can contact Brenda by e-mail - [brendap7@bigpond.com](mailto:brendap7@bigpond.com) or by home phone - (02) 9547 2157 or mobile - 0421 384 834.

The following information was downloaded from the School of Bonsai Webpage: [www.schoolofbonsai.com](http://www.schoolofbonsai.com)

## SUISEKI AUSTRALIA

Collecting stones of all shapes and sizes throughout Asia is centuries old.

Today in this area, it is estimated that over 6 million people are involved in this wonderful hobby.

Stones can look like any manner of objects from mountains, islands, people or animals, the range is endless.

Suiseki Australia is a specialist group within The School of Bonsai Inc.

It was formed 5 years ago and has members throughout Australia, with affiliations in Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia, South Korea, China, Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia, Germany and France.

There are 8 meetings per year, at 7pm for a 7.30pm start; at the Don Moore Centre, North Rocks Road, North Rocks.

**REMEMBER BRING A TREE TO EVERY MEETING**

**AS YOU CAN SEE WE HAVE AWARD WINNING EXPERTS TO OFFER YOU ADVICE ON DEVELOPING YOUR BONSAI**

**SEE YOU ON THE 8<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY**

Date	Event	Details
18-21 May 2007	20th AABC National Bonsai Convention	Featuring Michael Persiano & Marco Invernizzi. Clocktower Centre, Moonee Ponds, Melbourne, Victoria. For more info visit <a href="http://www.bonsainorthwest.com.au/AABC2007">www.bonsainorthwest.com.au/AABC2007</a>
2 - 3 June	Bonsai by the Harbour	Presented by Bonsai Federation of Australia, Shore Church of England Grammar School's Rowing Facility, Gladesville
15 - 17 June	Timber & Woodworking Show	Fox Studios, Moore Park, Sydney
30 June / 31 July	Ideas Summit - School of Bonsai	Contact Ray Nesci Nursery for info Senior Citizens Centre Drummoyne
27 - 29 July	The Tops Bonsai Workshop Weekend	Tops Conference Centre, Stanwell Park
24 - 26 August	ABC Gardening Australia Expo	Sydney Showground Homebush Bay
8 - 9 September	Bonsai Society of Sydney Annual Exhibition	Checkers Resort, Terrey Hills
8 - 9 September	Illawarra Bonsai Society Show	Community Centre, Stapleton Ave, Sutherland
21 - 23 September	Bonsai Society of Australia Show & Sale	Baulkham Hills Council Chambers, Showground Road, Castlehill, NSW
13 - 14 October	School of Bonsai Annual Show	Ray Nesci's Nursery, Kenthurst