



NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

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

7pm Tuesday 12 May 2009

Guest Speaker. Brenda Parker, presents the glory of decorative stones.

7pm Tuesday 9 June 2009

Anna Lee will present a talk on Back Care with Bonsai. Lee will demonstrate pruning Saotome Azaleas for Bonsai. Tony will lead a discussion on root pruning.

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COMMITTEE

Patron Dorothy Koreshoff

President Neville

Vice President Sue

Secretary Lee

Treasurer Tani

Public Officer Max

Newsletter Editor Tony

Librarian Philip

Committee Philip, Gary, Jennie, Damian

MEMBERSHIP

Full Membership \$30.00

Concession \$20.00

Family \$45.00

Pensioner \$15.00

Welcome to the May Newsletter

May Meeting: Our guest speaker is Brenda Parker - as well as being a top bonsai artist and President of the Illawarra Bonsai Society, Brenda is a keen enthusiast of SUISEKI, viewing stones. Suiseki is as many faceted and intriguing as bonsai. Come and learn about this fascinating art form and see some of Brenda's superb collection. Learn about the beauty of 'story rocks' and hear some tales of rock crawls and great finds. Brenda is an enthusiastic speaker and her talk will be entertaining and informative.



CONGRATULATIONS TO SUE

Many prizes and two Champions at this years Easter Show Bonsai Competition

In this months newsletter:

The SCBC at the bonsai competition at the Easter Show, see pages 2 to 4

For an article on Urban Yamidori turn to page 5

For an article on Azaleas suitable for bonsai in Sydney turn to page 6

Bonsai Events page 6

SYDNEY CITY BONSAI CLUB AT THE EASTER SHOW BONSAI COMPETITION

2009 ROYAL EASTER SHOW Bonsai Classes

There was a bumper turnout for the 2009 Royal Bonsai Classes with some trees of superlative quality on show.

Show Results

Under 30 cm

- 1st – Lee Olive
- 2nd – Lee Chinese Elm
- 3rd – Doug Ficus Nerifolia

Informal Upright

- 3rd – Sue – Japanese Maple
- Highly Commended – Lee – Saotome Azalea

Fruit & Flowering

- 1st – Lee – Lillypilly
- 2nd – Sue – Pyracantha

Root Over Rock

- 2nd – Lee – Ficus

Ficus

- 1st and Champion Native – Sue

Native

- 1st – Lee – Baeckea
- 2nd – Sue – Callistimon Group

Any Other Style

- 1st & Champion Tree – Sue – Privet

Group Setting

- 1st – Sue - Elms
- 2nd – Sue – Liquidambar

Seikei

- 1st - Sue – Elms
- 2nd – Sue – Elms

Lee misbehaving in the background



Sue & Neville looking very professional at the SCBC stand



The 2009 Bonsai Competition

The bonsai display was extremely well attended and those who had any interest in bonsai were amazed to see trees of such quality and such a high standard.

The SCBC display area in the main hall was popular and again handed out many referrals to clubs in Sydney, regional NSW, Queensland and Victoria as well as bonsai fact sheets. A lot of 'saving' information was given to members of the public who had questions about the tree on display or trees they had.

It was a strenuous 14 days, most especially for Sue who organised the SCBC's participation, did the roster and was in attendance all 14 days.

This stint involved two extremely late nights to deliver and pick up the show trees as cars cannot access the show grounds until after 10:30 pm and the hall was not ready for exhibits until after midnight. And despite that, the next day Sue and the morning support crew were up and at the show before 8:30 am.

These are all legitimate factual honest-to-god comments from the public:

A member of the public looking at a collected bonsai:

“Was it alive when you dug it up?”

“How do you attach the branches to the tree?”

“How do you get the roots to grow up the rock?”

Lee explaining the method of training a bonsai to members of the public

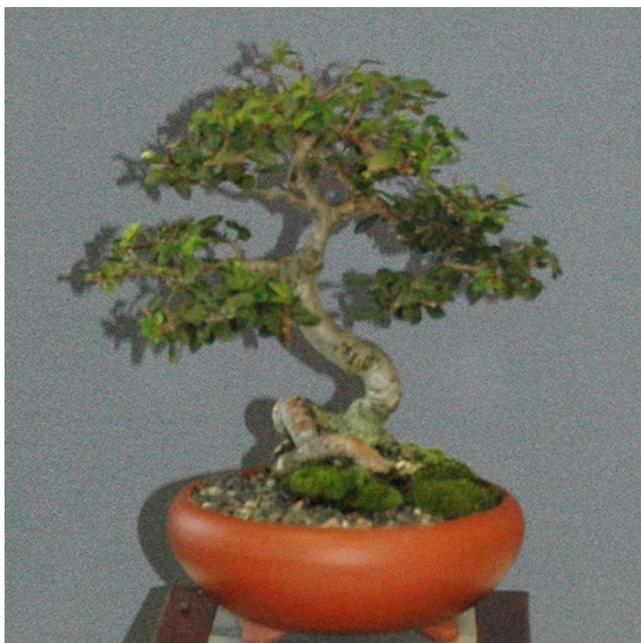


The SCBC raised awareness of bonsai, bonsai clubs and nurseries at one of Sydney's major events and that's what it is all about – to fully promote this art we love.

SYDNEY CITY BONSAI CLUB AT THE EASTER SHOW BONSAI COMPETITION



Lee's First Prize winning Lilly Pilly bonsai



Lee's Chinese Elm was awarded second in the Under 30cm Section

'There really should be no final goal for the development of your bonsai, for, if you were to achieve it, there would be nothing to strive for, and for the bonsai student, striving is the goal.'

'There is a proverb that says to travel well is better than to arrive.'

Khan Komai



Lee's Olive bonsai

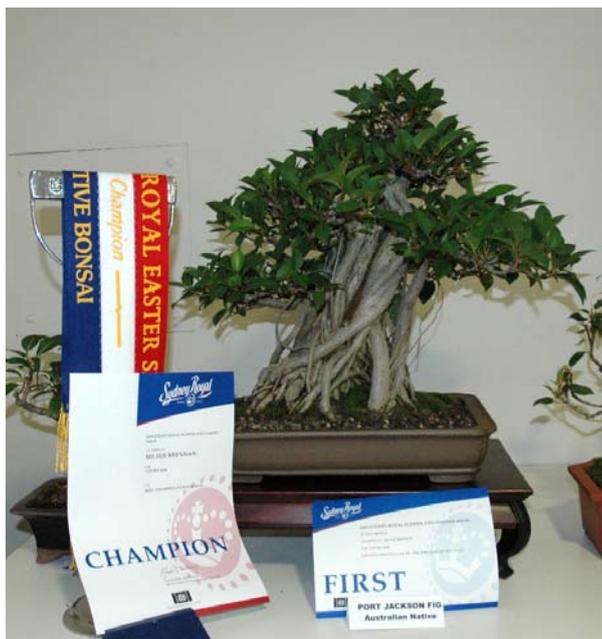


Sue's Liquidambar bonsai in the Group Section of the Competition



Sue's Callistemon Group in the Native Section of the Competition

SYDNEY CITY BONSAI CLUB AT THE EASTER SHOW BONSAI COMPETITION



Sue's First & Champion *Ficus rubiginosa* bonsai in the Native Section of the competition



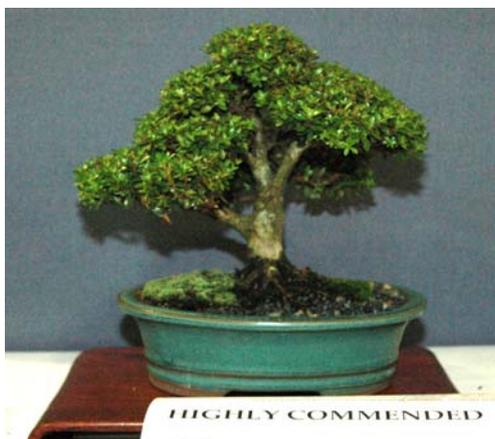
Chris Di Nola's First prize winning Privet bonsai – he is not one of our members but did do a great presentation for us last year



Sue's Privet bonsai



Doug won third prize in the under 30cm category with this beautiful *Ficus nerifolia* bonsai



Lee's Saotome Azalea bonsai



Lee's Baekea bonsai got a first in the Native Section of the Competition

URBAN YAMIDORI by Lee

You are quite right... as this is a bonsai newsletter, Urban Yamidori is not a thinly sliced yuppie, marinated in pollution and served with a light dusting of wind borne litter at a streetside café ... regardless of how attractive that sounds.

Yamidori is the Japanese term for trees collected from the wild.

Urban Yamidori is therefore collecting plants from a garden or similar approved location.

A practical prerequisite is to have lots of friends with houses with established gardens. This is not always easy to achieve, especially in this day and age of unit balconies, but one can still hope.

An alternative source is OPGs [Other People's Gardens] and these can be easily perused at the end of a leash, giving the assessor a legitimate excuse for peering in the shrubbery and a happy well exercised dog. Even without a dog there is no crime in walking around the suburbs observing garden plants.

Presume a suitable possibility is found lurking inside a front gate. Trespassing is not encouraged, especially if you are caught with dirt on your finger and an investigative trench dug around the base of the plant. Therefore have your resources at hand.

- 1) Is it the right time of year to dig up this particular species?
- 2) What can you replace it with – check out the nearest garden centre and take notes on what is available at a reasonable price.
- 3) Have all your collecting tools and containers in the car boot.
- 4) Have your home work area ready and the immediate time to care for the plant.

Approach the occupant and prepare to spin a story as to why you want the plant, a story not involving the 'B' word. If the garden looks neglected a replacement might not be necessary but it is still good to have information on available plants as another resource in your bargaining. If the garden is well tended your preparations have to be good.

See if you can spin a 'removal benefit' to the occupant.... 'The plant is obstructing the drive or walkway and you will remove it and take it away for them'. How good is that?

Assuming the occupant is agreeable to your taking the plant, either for gratis or a price, have the money you would be willing to pay for the plant ready and not requiring change. Once the okay is given get to work. Trim back the foliage and branches to allow easier removal as well as minimising hydration stress when it loses a lot of roots.

Take as many roots as you can manage, keeping in mind you need to leave the area filled in and levelled when you are done, with all rubbish removed, so you will have to get extra dirt from somewhere else in the garden. Once the tree is lifted wrap the roots in damp newspaper and then plastic to keep them from drying out. The actual wrapping depends on how far you are from home. Be courteous and leave the collection area pristine.

Once at your work area, trim back as much foliage and branches as you can, trim roots removing as many heavy roots and leaving as many fine roots as possible. Plant the tree in a training pot, soak in Seasol or similar preparation and let it sit quietly for a year growing new roots. You will know your acquisition is successful when the plant sends out new shoots and the regrowth starts in abundance.

Collecting on country lanes requires permission from the local council or the property owner.

My Urban Yamidori azalea was spied lurking just inside a front gate when I was walking the dog. The next day I stopped at a nursery and noted 7 flowering plants selling for just under \$20.

The Azalea Lee spotted on her 'walk' →



The newly removed Azalea before the initial styling

My collecting gear went in the boot, the dog and I took a drive to the house and I knocked on the door. The place looked rented, the occupant was not a gardener and my monetary offer was interesting but the deal was clinched when I rattled off the possible replacements. I offered to supply and plant the choice but the occupant wanted to do the actual choosing and took the money.

When I was asked why I wanted the plant I replied that I had four of them, one had died and a replacement from a garden centre would be very small and ruin the look of the hedge.

For my cheek and efforts I got an azalea that needs several years of work to move from a neglected garden plant to a bonsai but for all that, I have a stock plant that is over 50 years old. You don't get those in nurseries.



Initial pruning - side one



Initial pruning - side two

It can be hard to get the courage to knock and ask but what the hell, a 'No' isn't life threatening and the benefits can be very worthwhile.

AZALEAS FOR BONSAI IN SYDNEY & EVENTS CALENDAR

Azaleas are generally small evergreen Rhododendrons (there are deciduous Azaleas but these are better in areas colder than Sydney) Azalea was a botanical name for a while but they are now botanically part of the genus Rhododendron.

The Azaleas that do well in Sydney tend to come from warmer climates. The plants we call Rhododendron in Sydney are mostly from cold climates and most do not grow well in Sydney. The most common Azaleas for bonsai in Sydney are:

- Kurume Azalea (*Rhododendron obtusum* cvs)
- Satsuki Azalea (*Rhododendron indicum* cvs)
- Saotome Azaleas (these are generally non flowering types)

If the scale of the bonsai is large enough Indica Azaleas with their larger leaves and flowers will make good bonsai.

All these Azaleas have many cultivars / hybrids so you should be able to find a leaf size and colour and a flower size and colour you like with a bit of research.



← Satsuki Azalea bonsai

REMEMBER BRING A TREE TO EVERY MEETING

Azaleas are easy to grow in Sydney:

- Morning to midday sun is usually best (avoid hot westerly sun)
- Keep the plants moist at all times (drying out kills Azalea bonsai) Some bonsai artists recommend keeping Azalea bonsai in slightly deeper than usual pots as they do better with the larger soil mass.
- The pH has to be around 5.5 to 6 as Azaleas are acid lovers and cannot absorb minerals in neutral or alkaline soils.

Pests & diseases can be a problem for Azaleas in Sydney – a healthy plant & a healthy growing environment is the best defense against pests & diseases.

Common Azalea Pests are: Two Spotted Spider Mite, Thrips, Lace Bugs, Aphids, Scale insects, Azalea Leaf Miner.

Common Azalea Diseases are: Petal Blight, Powdery Mildew, Botrytis Blight, Phytophthora Root Rot, Armillaria Root Rot.

If all this pest and disease talk makes keeping Azalea bonsai sound dire, keep in mind a good growing environment and **regular feeding** will keep most of the pests and diseases at bay – the others can be controlled even cured with proper treatment.



Saotome Azalea Bonsai

Date	Event	Details
16 May	Bonsai Study Group Annual Show	Community Hall, Lofberg Rd, West Pymble
22-25 May	22nd National Bonsai Convention	Royal on the Park, Brisbane City. For more info download the flyer , program and registration form .
13 & 14 June 2009	Bonsai by the Harbour \$60 for 2 days plus \$25 for Saturday night BBQ	Shore Church of England Grammar School's Rowing Facility 86 Wharf Road, Gladesville NSW Enquiries: Ric 02.9953.1931 (email bonsairic@bigpond.com) or Jan 02.6585.3995 (email jan.briggs2@bigpond.com)
4/5/6 July	Ideas Summit	Dural Country Club - Peter Adams [English Master] will be demonstrating plus Monday workshop at Ray Nesci's
15-16 August	Bonsai Society of Sydney Annual Show	Chequers Resort, Terrey Hills
29-30 August	Illawarra Bonsai Society's Annual Show	Boys Club, Box Road, Sylvania
18/19/20 September	The Tops Weekend	Illawarra Bonsai Society's annual weekend workshop in Stanwell Tops
18/19/20 September	Bonsai Society of Australia's Annual Show and Marketplace.	Baulkham Hills Council Chambers, Carrington Rd at Showgrounds Rd, Castle Hill
24/25 October	School of Bonsai Show	Ray Nesci Bonsai Nursery 26 Sagar Rd, Kenthurst [plus sausage sizzle]