



NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

Green Square Community Hall

3 Joynton Avenue
Zetland

7pm Tuesday 12 May 2015

Sue will demonstrate repotting of a Japanese Black Pine. Bring in pines and junipers.

7pm Tuesday 9 June 2015

Feature Tree: Olives. Lee will give a talk on olives.

CONTACT DETAILS



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COMMITTEE

Patron Dorothy Koreshoff

President Bryan

Vice President Sue

Secretary tba

Treasurer Chris

Newsletter Editor Roslyn

Librarian Naomi & Les

Catering Philip

Committee Lee, Naomi & Tony

MEMBERSHIP

Full Membership \$40.00

Concession \$25.00

Family \$55.00

Pensioner \$25.00

SCBC wishes to thank Sydney City Council for their continued support for our club by providing the hall at a reduced rate.

Welcome to the May Newsletter

May Meeting

- Repotting of Japanese Black Pine demonstration by Sue.
- Member workshop: Bring in your pines and junipers.
- Don't forget to contribute to the short Member Styling Hotspot led by President Bryan. One or two trees are needed each month for open discussion.

In this issue:

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Reminders!

- Each year at our Annual General Meeting we spill all Committee positions and elect the following year's Committee Members. When Constantine left during last year, we have struggled with Chris and Lee sharing the load for the Secretary position. We would love to have someone in the club formally fill this role for next year. Take it from me, a relatively inexperienced bonsai person – I have learned so much about bonsai at these Committee meetings and it is a good night out once a month – just for a couple of hours. Newer members are extremely valuable to the Committee as they bring new ideas and help with what less experienced members really want to know.



- For only \$10, you can experience a demonstration by the international bonsai artist Mauro Stemberger at the 45th Year anniversary of the Illawarra Bonsai Society. This event is at 7.00, Monday 15th June, Community Centre, Gynea Bay Road, Gynea.

BOTTLE BRUSH GROUP PLANTING AT ILLAWARRA AUTUMN SHOW

Doug Harris demonstrates a group planting of Bottle Brush (Callistemon)

Doug Harris is a horticulturist who commenced bonsai around 1992. He is a past president of the Campbelltown Bonsai Club and is currently a member of the Illawarra Bonsai Society. Doug's demonstration of a group planting of Bottle Brush was provided both useful horticultural and artistic ideas for bonsai this Australian native.

The most suitable Callistemon cultivars for bonsai are dwarf hybrid cultivars of *Callistemon viminalis*: "Little John" with small blue-green leaves and a profusion of red flowers (2.5-3.5 cm long) and "Captain Cook" which has larger leaves (3 -7 cm in length), a proliferation of bright red flower spikes (4-10 cm in length) and a slightly weeping habit.



Callistemon viminalis "Little John"



Callistemon viminalis "Captain Cook"

The trunks of Callistemon give the illusion of old looking bark; they grow in most soils as long as it is free draining; they can be chopped hard but don't chop them later than autumn. You should fertilise them at the beginning of spring with half strength slow release native fertiliser and if you are preparing for a show you can use a liquid fertiliser such as "Aquasol for Natives". Peak flowering time is late spring and early summer and it is common for them to bear small numbers of flowers all year.

For bonsai, it is important to remove the flowers/seed pods if you want to keep branching compact.



"Captain Cook" cultivar at the Bonsai Society of Western Australia Annual Show

Doug generally sources his bonsai from old stock in gardens. You should take this stock from the ground at the end of winter (June-July). He explained that he has also been successful in aerial layering on old Callistemon as well as striking cuttings. For cuttings wait until it flowers and then the new shoot to harden off and then take that new shoot.

Using 5 potted Callistemon of about 30 centimetres in height and with trunks around 2.5cm diameter Doug began to choose how he would place these trees saying that it is important to use your imagination and work with what material you have in order to create a landscape that you may possibly see naturally in the bush.



Doug chooses trees for his landscape

Before adding soil to the pot he covered the drain holes with "gyprock" tape explaining that this was an easy cost effective alternative to wire mesh. He then added fresh soil as a base for the plantings.

After raking out the roots, Doug chose the dominant tree – which was actually the tree with the thickest trunk but not the tallest. He then placed a tree on either side but had to cut off some of the thick roots on the dominant tree to enable the trees to fit closer together to give the illusion that they had been growing closely together. He then left a small space between the three trees and another two clumped together. He explained that it was important to step back and look to ensure that the trunks, branches and general angles of the trees "made sense" in nature. (continued page 3)

PICTURES FROM RECENT BONSAI SHOWS

It's great to see that more and more Australia native bonsai at bonsai shows. Below are some pictures of what can be achieved.

4th National Symposium on Australian Native Plants as Bonsai



As the entrance to the Symposium, this bonsai with backdrop really has a "wow" factor in what can be achieved with Australian natives.

Illawarra Bonsai Club Autumn Show



Red Forest Gum, also often called Queensland Blue Gum (Eucalyptus tereticornis).



Who would have thought you could experiment with an artistic design like this literati on a Melaleuca 'Revolution Gold'.

Callistemon Group Planting (continued from page 2)

In order to create a rock shelf, Doug had broken up a sandstone rock he had in his back yard and carefully positioned the pieces.

Doug decided to steer away from moss planting and use Corsican mint which adds a lovely smell to the setting and drapes over the rock providing a more natural edge. He then added a couple of tiny variegated gazania and some dwarf dianella, a reddish native grass. He explained that you should experiment with the position of these accent plantings and don't overdo it.

He then topped up the landscape area with soil making sure that every crevice was full. The front area of the scene was finished off with gravel; the rocks were cleaned with a toothbrush and then Doug added some fun additions – a door, chimney, window, tables with mini bonsai on them and "Oscar". Oscar and the mini bonsai sculptures were out of proportion – but it added a "fun" element to the setting.



Doug's completed Callistemon landscape

Interested in Native Bonsai?

Check out our new folder of newsletters from the Victorian Native Bonsai Club. Each month a copy of the latest issue will be put on our sign in/raffle table for viewing. Please do not take this single copy.

A folder copy of all back issues will be stored in the SCBC library which can be borrowed through our librarians Naomi and Les.

WATCH OUT FOR MYRTLE RUST!

Watch out for Myrtle Rusts on Melaleucas, Eucalypts and Callistemon!

Myrtle rust is a plant disease caused by the fungus *Uredo rangelii*. Myrtle rust is a serious threat to all plants in the Myrtaceae family including common myrtle, willow myrtle, melaleuca, callistemon (bottlebrush), turpentine, water gum, tea tree and lilly pilly.



Within a 24 hour period Chris's melaleuca quinquenervia bonsai went from just looking dehydrated to massively infected with the yellow to orange Myrtle rust spores

Myrtle rust was first detected on the Central Coast of New South Wales in April 2010. How the rust fungus entered Australia is unknown. Myrtle rust belongs to a fungal complex collectively known as the Eucalyptus/guava rust group. Despite initial attempts at quarantine by the Department of Primary Industries, it has now spread right down the east coast of NSW and into both Queensland and Victoria invading backyards, nurseries, bushland and national parks.

Symptoms to look out for:

Myrtle rust is distinctive in that it produces masses of powdery bright yellow or orange-yellow spores on infected plant parts. It infects leaves of susceptible plants producing spore-filled lesions on young actively growing leaves, shoots, flower buds and fruits. Leaves may become buckled or twisted and may die as a result of infection. Sometimes these infected spots are surrounded by a purple ring. Older lesions may contain dark brown spores. Infection on highly susceptible plants may result in plant death.



Myrtle Rust on young shoot of Melaleuca quinquenervia
(Photo from NSW DPI)



Older lesions on Melaleuca quinquenervia. (Photo from Industry and Investment NSW)



Turpentine with severe lesions of Myrtle Rust (Photo from NSW DPI)



Young Turpentine showing leaf distortion from Myrtle Rust (Photo from NSW DPI)



Myrtle Rust on Callistemon
(Photo by Dr Angus Carnegie from Industry and Investment NSW)

See <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/plant/myrtle-rust/image-gallery> and http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/338721/Myrtle-rust-Uredo-rangelii.pdf for pictures and descriptions of myrtle rust on a range of Myrtaceae species.

MAINTENANCE OF JAPANESE BLACK PINE

Some sources of information on maintenance of Japanese Black Pine bonsai

Autumn maintenance of Japanese Black Pines was the main topic of last month's club meeting. Whilst there are a plethora of different advices on what to do and when on the topic of the Japanese Black Pine, the following three web/YouTube articles are particularly informative:

1. Ryan Neil's (from US) Lecture on Pines Part 1 (42 minutes) is excellent on clearly explaining that the Japanese Black Pine has two flushes of growth per year and steps through the process of why, when and what you should do to a Japanese Black Pine to create and maintain an effective healthy bonsai. It is a brilliant introduction to the basic principles of working on a Japanese Black Pine.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yn1FiRw2JBo&list=PLo3rYYKTG1nGTMx4n5-rDT0s45665H&index=22>
2. Harry Harrington (from UK) has a good article with relevant diagrams on "Pine Bonsai Pruning". He clearly summarises shoot trimming, hard pruning, needle plucking, wiring, improving pine ramification, candle pinching and needle reduction. Please note that the Northern Hemisphere pines are generally one flush growths per year and thus in terms of timing of activities Harry explains:
"My personal opinion is that it is easier to learn to prune pines by observation of the growth pattern of your own tree in your own environment. This ensures that your tree is pruned correctly, at the right time, when your tree is ready; and not simply because it is a certain time of the year." See <http://www.bonsai4me.com/AdvTech/ATPine%20Pruning.html>
3. After presenting to the Canberra Bonsai Society in April 2012, Scott Roxburgh wrote some notes on "Japanese Black Pine Autumn Needlework" which he posted on the following website: <https://aijoubonsai.wordpress.com/2012/04/10/japanese-black-pine-autumn-needle-work/>. In terms of advice, the only inconsistency with Ryan Neil's Lecture and these notes by Scott are that Ryan advises NEVER to remove all of last year's old needles as they are the needles that control the hormones in the pine and this year's shorter shoots provide the main energy to the tree.

Watch out for Myrtle Rust (continued from page 4)

What do you do if you detect Myrtle rust?

1. Fungicide

Fungicides have been effective in the control of Myrtle Rust. Rotation of fungicides between products containing different active ingredients is recommended to ensure fungicide applications remain effective.

2. Removing diseased plants or their parts

- The objective is to minimise the spread of the fungal spores.
- Spray both infected and unaffected plants with fungicide or if the fungicide or if the fungicide treatment is not possible wash off any spores that are likely to be dispersed during removal.
- Cover the plant or plant part that is to be removed with a plastic bag before pulling it out or cutting off an affected branch.
- Seal the plastic bag and place it in the normal waste bin – NOT the green waste bin.
- Ensure that equipment and clothing used are cleaned before moving onto other bonsai activities that may infect further plants.

3. Move healthy plants away from risk areas

If you have any other susceptible native bonsai, it is a good idea to move them away from the origin of infection.

Adapted from NSW Government biosecurity and Department of Primary Industry websites with additional photos by Dr Angus Carnegie. © State of New South Wales through Department of Industry and Investment (Industry & Investment NSW) 2010

Oldest Bonsai



This 550 year old Japanese White Pine is believed to be the oldest bonsai in the world.

SCBC APRIL DISPLAY BENCH AND EVENTS CALENDAR

On the display bench this month

Sue's Callistemon progression

Commencing from collecting seedlings in her garden, Sue first grew these Callistemon separately, then pruned them and repotted them as a small group setting.



Before and after photos of Sue's Callistemon

Lee's Pyracantha in fruit:

As usual, Lee is meticulous in her presentation of bonsai. Here this beautiful pyracantha is featured on an elegant stand with appropriate accent plant.



Pyracantha in fruit

We can all learn from this example of using imagination in order to create accents for our bonsai. Lee's little frog and orchid clinging to this rock mounted on wood really impressed SCBC members this month.



BONSAI EVENTS CALENDAR

Date	Event	Details
15-18 May, 2015	Bonsai – A growing Art. 28 th Australian National Bonsai Convention	The Hotel Grand Chancellor Adelaide on Hindley. 65 Hindley St, Adelaide
6-7 June 2015	Bonsai By the Harbour	Bonsai Federation of Australia Northern Inc, Sydney Church of England Grammar School's Rowing Facility, 86 Wharf Rd, Gladesville NSW
15 June, 2015	Open Invitation to all Clubs to Celebrate 45 th Anniversary of Illawarra Bonsai Society	Demonstration by Mauro Stemberger & bonsai display, Gymea Community Centre, Gymea Bay Rd, Gymea. Doors open 6.30 pm.
18-19 July, 2015	Wauchope Bonsai Workshop Group – "Bonsai by the River"	Panthers, Port Macquarie
28-30 August, 2015	16 th Annual Illawarra Bonsai Society Tops Weekend Workshops	Tops Conference Centre, Stanwell Tops