



sydney city bonsai club inc.



NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

7pm Wednesday 9 November
Repotting & root pruning figs & olives workshop

7pm Wednesday 14 December
Christmas festivities

CONTACT DETAILS



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sydneycitybonsai.org.au



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COMMITTEE

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Welcome to the November newsletter

For those who missed it, last month's club meeting focused on styles and wiring. Max Blanco did a great talk on the different styles in bonsai and how they are inspired from nature. Afterwards there was some hands-on practice to demonstrate correct wiring techniques. For the beginners, this was certainly a great learning experience.

Welcome to our newest member, Brett! We had the pleasure of several new visitors, who saw us at Sydney in Bloom and Gardens R Us. Great to have new people to share the passion!

Don't miss November meeting! We'll be working on Olives and Figs. Need to repot your root-bound Port Jackson? You couldn't find a better opportunity! So come along and join in the fun!

COMING UP

"Carnivale 2005" November 2005

Sydney City Bonsai club will be setting up a display as part of the Chinese-themed Carnivale festival held at the Bowen Library. There will be many fun things happening throughout the month of November including things like Chinese Calligraphy, Bonsai Display, Chinese Health Care Talks, Chinese Knots, Bi-lingual story-time party and a big gala night! Be sure to come along on the Gala Night on the 25th November 2005 to enjoy all the festivities

WHERE: Bowen Library, 669 Anzac Parade, Maroubra

WHEN: Various times in November

MORE INFO: Call Bowen Library (02) 9314 4888 for event details or bookings.

COMING UP

"Bonsai by the beach" 26-29 May 2006

The biggest bonsai event of 2006 has now been announced! If you love bonsai and you love the beach, you can't miss this! The AABC Seminar will be held in the sunny Gold Coast for 2006 and will be featuring special international guests and local demonstrations. Entry forms will be available at the next club meeting or you can download it from our website. Be sure to book early to get the early bird rates.

IN REVIEW

"Bonsai in the City" 9 October 2005

Our Gardens R Us event was a lot of fun and created a lot of interest. Thanks to Max, Sue, Lee, Gary and William who were working on their trees as part of the demonstration. Also thanks to Anick, Philip, Michael and Marika who were helping out on the day. Lots of people stopped by and asked questions about bonsai and the club! Thanks to all the volunteers for their dedication and hard work to raise public awareness about our club!

Timely Tips For November

*Ficus**

Towards the end of October the repotting of many of the other species of bonsai is finished and in Sydney our next focus is the *ficus* species. The warm temperate varieties require consistent night-time temperatures not falling below 12 to 15 degrees for optimum results.



Results can differ if work is done prior to the above temperatures. This will depend on how drastic the pruning of roots and how much potting mix is removed. To root prune out of season i.e. when night temperatures are too cool: removing very little of the root ball is a waste of time. It is far better to wait and bare root. Figs can be treated as deciduous plants. Pruning back branches to bare wood and the shortening of thicker primary roots will not kill figs, but the setback restricts their vigour. Figs repotted at a later stage regrow more vigorously than those repotted earlier.

The more tropical figs i.e. *F. macrophylla*, *F. benjamina* sp. definitely respond to even warmer nights. Pruning during lower night temperatures can result in total or partial dieback of the branches so pruned.

Pests.....

At this time of year in the Southern Hemisphere, soft tender shoots are often accompanied with aphids and other sap sucking, rasping or chewing insects, which can cause havoc to one's bonsai. Not only is the beauty marred but the vigor is retarded.

As foliage manufactures 'food' (complex carbohydrates) at night for plant stamina, removal of their source of supply can weaken a plant if it is not in vibrant health. The point of this statement is the remarks of some growers, and the printed material, advising people to spray the relevant insecticide to bonsai plants at half strength. Does this mean the insects that attack bonsai are weaker than others, a special breed perhaps? NO! It is not so. Full strength insecticides do no harm to bonsai, only to the 'bugs'. Often an oil spray used in the heat of the day may burn the leaves. The broad leaves of some Australian Native Plants (*Eucalypts*, *Angophora* and *Lophostemon confertus* formally *Tristania*) become blotched after spraying insecticides, especially pyrethrum, in sunlight although unsightly, it is not harmful to the plant.

**Thank you to Dorothy Koreshoff for her kind permission to reprint these articles. (Timely Tips October 1998; Timely Tips November 1998)*

www.bonsai.asn.au

*Azalea tips***

- ❖ Repot azaleas in spring or after flowering and cut branches back to a fork.
- ❖ Use some gravel in your azalea mix as they require air to develop fine roots.
- ❖ When repotting remove heavy roots.
- ❖ Remove dead flower buds immediately.
- ❖ Don't trim leaves or branches after about March, as you may destroy buds that have forms for Spring flowering.
- ❖ Use *Baycor* for *Petal blight* and keep a lookout for *red Spider Mite* that should be treated with *Kelthane*.
- ❖ No *jins* or *sharis* as the wood is too soft and will rot.

**Thank you to Dave Kiernan from Newcastle Bonsai Society for his kind permission to reprint this article.*

www.newcastlebonsai.org.au



Events Calendar 2005 - 2006

4-6 Nov: Newcastle Bonsai Society Show - Club Macquarie, Argenton vist www.newcastlebonsai.org.au or call (02) 4932 0440 / 0414 853 952 for more info.

12-13 Nov: Urimbirra Bonsai Society Show - Figtree Community Hall, Figtree

19-20 Nov: Central Coast Bonsai & Suiseki Show - East Gosford Arts Centre, Gosford

19-20 Nov: All Australian Native Bonsai Show - National Botanic Gardens, Canberra

26-29 Mar: 19th AABC National Bonsai Convention - Hosted in Queensland's Gold Coast is the biggest bonsai event of the year with international demonstrators Robert Steven and Budi Sulisty and much more. For more information call Carole on (07) 5530 5452 b/h or (02) 5525 1428 a/h.