



sydney city
bonsai club inc.



NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

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

7pm Tuesday 13 November
Fig workshop

7pm Tuesday 11 December
Bonsai Assessment Clinic – bring in your trees for styling advice & Christmas Party, chicken, salads and dips provided by the club, please come along & celebrate another year of bonsai.

CONTACT DETAILS

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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 \$30.00
Concession \$20.00
Couples \$45.00

Welcome to the November Newsletter

November meeting workshop:

Our November meeting will be devoted to training and potting Figs
Conifers, Privet, Azaleas, Camellias & Olives can all still be worked on too



Sydney City Bonsai Club Presents Bonsai at Luna Park

ipac lifestyle expo 2007 *living colour*

IPAC, an investment/financial planning company, contacted Sydney City Bonsai to present a display of bonsai for their Member's Day held at Luna Park in Sydney on 23 October. Neville, Sue and Lee set up a lovely display of 15 trees in the Crystal Palace and spent the day talking to the public about bonsai in general and advising those who had a tree and wanted to keep it alive. We were not there for the club but for bonsai generally. There was a lot of interest in our display but little interest in bonsai as a hobby. We did only one club reference [Illawarra] but we all feel that there will be a few trees out there that have a chance for better care.

IPAC put on an excellent day for their clients. There was no charge for the IPAC clients and food, drink and fun were laid on in good style. [MLC was never that good to me!!!]. While we might not have converted anyone to bonsai, we all felt that those present got an excellent idea of what a bonsai is. As well as show trees, several of these trees were complimented by another of their species in very early stages of development so people could see that this art does not happen overnight. The fact that those interested could see the ugly ducklings into swans increased the relevance of what we were showing.

All in all it was good exposure and a very good day.

The Saotome Slasher has a message for all her victims on page 2 and espouses the virtues of Pyracanthas for bonsai

Turn to page 3 to read about two new books that have been added to our library

See pages 4, 5 & 6 for 'Natives Suitable for Bonsai – Part 3'

Turn to page 6 for the Bonsai Events Calendar

SAOTOME AZALEAS & PYRACANTHA AS BONSAI

Saotome Azaleas by Lee Wright [aka The Saotome Slasher]

To the members who have let their Saotome Azaleas be hacked about at recent meetings to eliminate unnecessary branches and focus growth to specific areas... here's positive hope for your trees.



The initial photo was taken in October 2006 just after a bushy plant was reduced to a skeleton.



The progress photo was taken in April 2007... A lot happened in 6 months. It is a matter of keeping the growth from extending too much in order to keep the tree compact, be aware of the final height you want and keep trimming as the new growth develops. Saotomes are fun because they develop quickly. This little one still needs longer to establish a better balance in the foliage but is definitely looking good.

Another great tree for bonsai is pyracantha. The thorns miniaturise in cultivation – but are still sharp so watch out – but the tree is a robust grower, needs regular trimming and shaping but can develop quickly into a tree you can be proud of.



Pyras crack easily but as long as the branch isn't broken off it will usually heal. This crack-and-live trait can be used to shape an otherwise straight branch – as long as the break isn't completely through the branch. Pyras have lovely glossy green leaves, white flowers in mid-late spring and berries in the autumn.

Pyracantha development pictures from Lee's personal album

Common berry
Colour is red but you can get yellow, orange and others as well... if you are lucky enough to find them. As for the thorns, as you are trimming just nip the tips off.

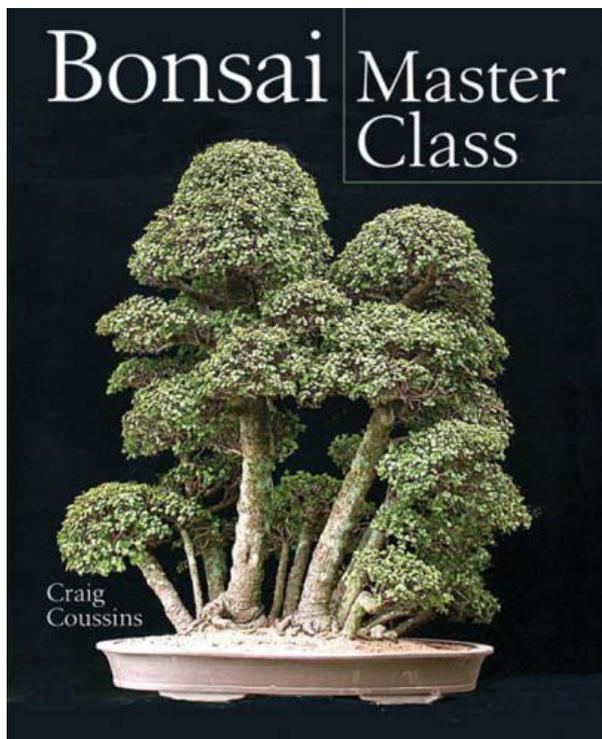


ILLAWARRA BONSAI SOCIETY 2007 EXHIBITION PHOTO GALLERY

LIBRARY BOOKS

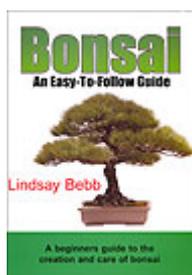
The club library is richer for the inclusion of two new books.

BONSAI MASTER CLASS by Craig Coussins



Craig is an English Master with a consummate skill in styling bonsai. His writing is clear and concise and the book is full of photographs of bonsai in process and Show Bonsai. The book also includes quite a bit on the small leaf jade and what masterpieces you can achieve with this often overlooked plant.

BONSAI An Easy-to-follow Guide by Lindsay Bebb



This little book is fantastic!!!! It is written by one of Australia's top bonsai artists and it is aimed at OUR conditions. I have seen Lindsay at work and let me tell you, he can turn a sow's ear into a silk purse faster than you could imagine. He has put his comprehensive skills and experience together to write a small manual aimed at GREEN basic beginners. Beginners who are as keen as mustard but with little knowledge [and didn't we all start that way!!!!].

This book takes you from selection to styling to wiring to root pruning to care in minimal text with maximum information – and it's FUN. Frankly, I think it should be obligatory for anyone new starting bonsai to acquire it. It is \$13.00 and that is money WELL spent.

I've only been doing bonsai for 7 years and I still picked up a few pointers from reading it. I highly recommend it to all beginners - so much so that I have purchased a second book and will have it at the next meeting. Cost \$13.00.... first in gets the copy. It is WELL worth the investment if you are keen on this hobby!!!

But if you can't afford \$13 or someone gets there first... try our library.

Aussie Natives as Bonsai? Bonza!!!

Reprinted courtesy of Our Gardens 2006 summer issue

Australian native trees and shrubs trained as bonsai are attractive, challenging & very rewarding. The information on nursery labels ('likes drier conditions') is seldom applicable when you put a native in a small pot and it would be wise, if you are new to the game, to seek advice regarding the best cultivation methods and the best natives for bonsai.

Banksia integrifolia var. *compar*
in a Japanese made pot



Some misconceptions about Australian natives as bonsai are that they are touchy and they are good because they don't require a lot of water. Yes, some plants are touchy and a novice enthusiast could be well advised to stay away from them – instead of a Eucalypt try an Angophora. Water? Natives in a pot can be high water users and many enthusiasts keep some of their native species in water trays during the summer.

Amenable trees for beginners as well as advanced enthusiasts are Banksias, Callistimons and Melaleucas. Despite a mid winter bare rooting on a very neglected plant and then three major placement adjustments when doing basic styling a month later, my *Babingtonia pluriflora* (*Baekkea virgata*) has not lost a leaf.

Kunzeas make attractive bonsai but plant selection needs to be good because some don't shoot back on old wood and you have to work with what you have. There are the ubiquitous figs that have a fanatical following and appear in practically every bonsai collection in sizes from minis to massive – have you seen a Port Jackson with healthy leaves the size of your fingernail?

Bonsai shows have specific categories for native plants & it is a good way to see what plants can be grown & how they can be styled because Australian natives tend to have different growth habits to exotics.

NATIVES SUITABLE FOR BONSAI – Part 3

The following information has been collected and summarized from the government web pages shown below:

<http://www.anbg.gov.au/bonsai/bonsai-anbg-2005.html>

<http://www.anbg.gov.au/bonsai/bonsai-anbg-2006.html>

Melaleuca quinquenervia Broad-leaved Paperbark



Melaleuca quinquenervia - Broad-leaved Paperbark

Was an old advanced nursery grown plant found in a root-bound state. The root base was buried deeply in the pot. No problems were met from severely pruning the roots but the tree is kept in a permanent water tray. The habitat of these trees is coastal and swampland.

Melaleuca styphelioides Prickly-leaved Paperbark

These trees are found near fresh-water creeks and streams from about Brisbane to Sydney. They can develop magnificent large trunks with spreading branches, all covered with shaggy papery bark. The prickles come from the sharp points to the leaves. The trees can be found as individuals on their own, or in groups, such as in this planting. It is not uncommon to find several generations of trees in the one place. I like these trees because of the texture of the bark, and the occasional and somewhat eclectic spurts of white flowers on a few branches.



Melaleuca styphelioides - Prickly-leaved Paperbark

Melaleuca thymifolia Honey Myrtle

Artist: Ray Nesci

Obtained from a Coles Supermarket some 30 years ago, it was trained as a multi-trunk tree but then neglected. It was planted in a plastic pot five years ago to regenerate its vigour. Two years ago it was styled into a windswept tree. Because of the strong movement of the trunk and root system, I feel this is a more suitable style for the tree. Rough bark develops over time and the small leaves are perfect for bonsai. The rough, round free-form pot enhances the style perfectly. It flowers from late November with mauve flower clusters on the older stems. It is re-potted annually in late August and positioned in full-sun. It requires daily watering in summer, even twice a day in extreme heat or windy days. Compact foliage pads are achieved with regular tip pruning.



Melaleuca thymifolia - Honey Myrtle

NATIVES SUITABLE FOR BONSAI – Part 3 continued

Podocarpus elatus

Brown Pine

This variety has had standard bonsai treatment and has grown without problems. It requires regular watering but is not too demanding when established.

As a rainforest tree, the style would be one of the upright ones, but around Sydney, Street plantings produce informal spreading forms, the foliage assuming soft-looking billowing cloud forms. My bonsai's style suggests that the tree has regrown after being broken in a storm – the deadwood caused by the original event rather than by continued harsh weather as is seen in Japanese bonsai and explaining the existence together, of lush foliage and dead wood!



Syzygium australe

Bush Cherry, Magenta Cherry



Syzygium buxifolium (Syn: *Syzygium cumini*)

Java Plum, Black Plum



Syzygium paniculatum

Australian Bush Cherry



Syzygium is a genus of flowering plants, belonging to the myrtle family - Myrtaceae. The genus comprises about 500 species, and occurs in tropical and subtropical regions. These plants are hardy in frost free areas of Sydney and respond very well to bonsai culture.

NATIVES SUITABLE FOR BONSAI – Part 3 finish

Tristania laurina

Water Gum

A hardy tree from Eastern Australia, the Water Gum occurs over a wide natural range. Mostly found near water courses it will grow in average soil conditions. In its untrained state the leaves of the Water Gum are 60 to 120mm long, but with bonsai training the leaves can reduce down to less than 20mm. I first saw this species trained as a bonsai in Ray Nesci's private collection at his nursery.



Zieria prostrata

Zieria prostrata grows naturally in mostly near coastal habitats in NSW. This plant was purchased from the Bonsai South Nursery in August 2004. Since then it was kept in a semi-sheltered position to acclimatise to the local weather conditions. The first styling was done in early August 2005.



REMEMBER BRING A TREE TO EVERY MEETING

Date	Event	Details
24 October to 14 November 6 - 8pm	<p>BONSAI POTS with Lynette Smith Using coil and mould techniques make exotic bonsai pots.</p> <p>This course is followed by a special event course Bonsai for Beginners from 21 November to 12 December.</p> 	<p>Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre and Liverpool Regional Museum</p> <p>Street address: Corner Hume Highway & Congressional Drive LIVERPOOL NSW 2170</p> <p>Postal address: Locked Bag 7064, LIVERPOOL BC, NSW 1871</p> <p>Phone:(02) 9824 1121 Fax:(02) 9821 4273</p>
<p>Chinese New Year January / February</p>	<p>Sydney's Chinese New Year celebrations are the biggest outside Asia and run for three weeks each January / February, attracting crowds to the street parade through the city centre and to the dragon boat races at Darling Harbour. It is one of the city's most popular and colourful cultural events.</p>	<p>Highlights include the tours of the Sze Yup Temple in Glebe and Evergreen Taoist Church in Redfern, and the Chinatown markets. The Chinese Garden of Friendship in Darling Harbour highlights the art of <i>penjing</i>, or Chinese bonsai, throughout the festivities.</p> <p>The Chinese New Year's day falls on 18 February 2007, start of the Year of the Pig. www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/cny</p>