



sydney city
bonsai club inc.



NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

Green Square Community Hall
3 Joynton Avenue
Zetland

7pm Tuesday 13 November 2012
Fig bonsai trees workshop.

7pm Tuesday 11 December 2012
Christmas Party, bring a decorated tree, Group styling contest, bring a plate to share

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COMMITTEE

Patron Dorothy Koreshoff

President Bryan

Vice President Sue

Secretary Alan

Treasurer Chris

Public Officer Warwick

Newsletter Editor Tony

Librarian Marianna

Catering Philip

Committee Richard

MEMBERSHIP

Full Membership \$40.00

Concession \$25.00

Family \$55.00

Pensioner \$25.00

Welcome to the September Newsletter

November Meeting

- Workshop for figs
- Horticultural Tips (Tony)
- Raffle



Richard's bonsai win in the Novice Section at the Bonsai Society of Sydney 2012 Annual Exhibition – Congratulations Richard

Beginners Styling Class at this Month's Meeting

The club has bought 6 x Junipers that beginners can buy to use in the Styling Class that will be led by Sue Brennan. Beginners will be taught the Basic Styling Guidelines. Pots will be available too. Sue will provide bonsai potting mix for free. So for around \$20 a beginner will leave this month's meeting with a new bonsai they have designed and can continue to develop

In this month's newsletter:

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- Events Calendar page 6

PICTURES FROM THE OCTOBER MEETING



Sue's class for bonsai beginners



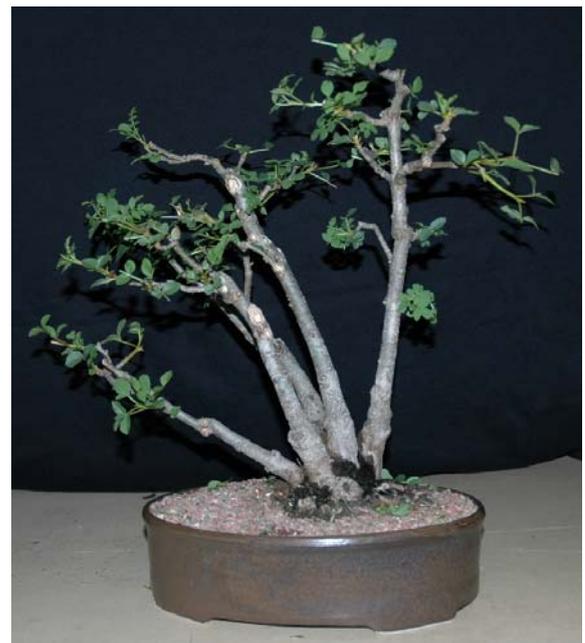
Lee's beautiful little Serrisa bonsai



Neville's Desert Ash before pruning

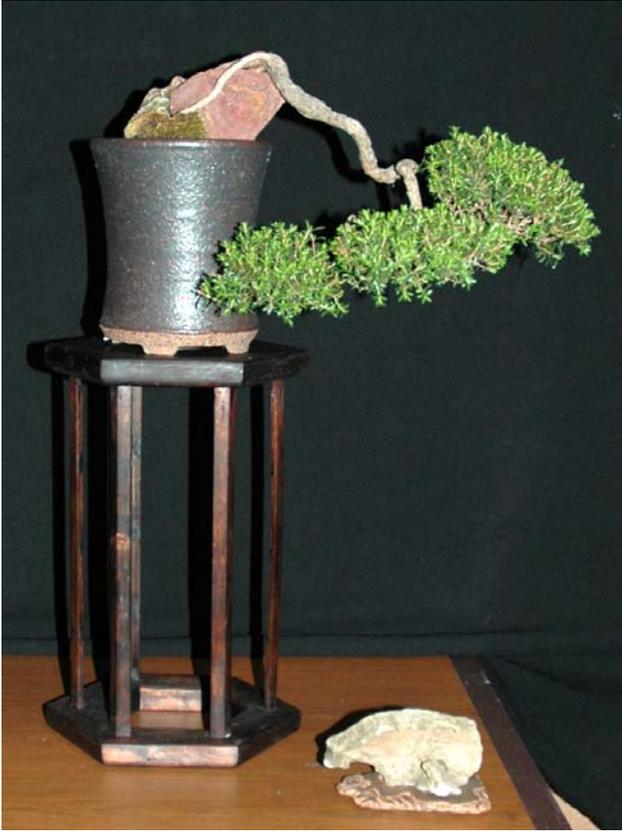


Anthony showing the almost completed pruning of his Cascade Juniper bonsai



Neville's Desert Ash after pruning

PICTURES FROM THE OCTOBER MEETING



*The oldest looking tree in the shortest amount of time,
 Grandest proportions in the smallest scale
 A priceless treasure for the least amount of money
 The hardest looking tree with the most intensive care
 The most natural look with meticulous manicured style
 Organic, not artificial, shrunk to miniscule size.
 We dont need much to make us happy.*

Doug Evans



Instead of a companion plant for her bonsai; Lee brought this wonderful lizard on a rock



An elegant Elm bonsai at the October meeting



Naome's Elm bonsai group before pruning



Naome's Elm bonsai group after pruning

AN HISTORIC SYDNEY PLANT USED AS A BONSAI

At a recent bonsai meeting there was a selloff of a member's stock plants and I was intrigued by the beautiful flowers on one plant. The plant was neglected but had enough charm to induce me to add another tree to my collection. No one could identify it but the feeling was wattle.



The next day it got a well deserved root prune and repot into fresh soil. At this stage I am just going to wait and see how it copes with the change in living style before I wire it.



There is a decent nebari, there will be some small jin on two

dead lower branches and since I don't know the plant it was very interesting when Tony Wilson sent me the history on it in response to my email with photos.

It is a *Callicoma serratifolia* and it is an important plant in Sydney history. *Callicoma serratifolia* is a plant of historic interest as the first timbers used for the wattle and daub huts of the early settlers were cut from these trees.

This plant was common at that time around Sydney Cove. Because of the close resemblance of its flowers to those of Acacia it was then known as black wattle, a name which is now applied more appropriately to some true Acacia species.

This genus is in the small family Cunoniaceae and contains only one species which is confined to Australia. It grows naturally as a bushy shrub or small tree to 12 m high in protected moist gullies usually in close proximity to creeks. It occurs along the coastal areas of New South Wales from the Braidwood district to south-east Queensland. In cultivation it is an attractive ornamental small tree reaching a height of 6-10 m with a diameter of 3 m.

The bark of Callicoma is rough and dark brown with a pinkish-brown inner layer. The serrated leaves which are a distinctive feature of this plant are 50-130 mm long, broadly lance-shaped and sharply pointed. They are smooth and shiny on the upper surface and pale with whitish or rust coloured hairs below with prominent raised veins. Additional interest is provided by the pale bronze colouring of the young foliage which is covered with fine rusty hairs.

The numerous small, pale yellow fluffy flowers are produced in dense globular heads on stalks 10-25 mm long, usually at the ends of the branchlets. It flowers in October and November. Individual flowers do not have petals but are composed of 4 or 5 small hairy sepals and numerous spreading stamens giving them a superficial resemblance to Acacia. The fruits are small hairy capsules produced in globular clusters. Each capsule contains a number of small seeds which are released when ripe, usually between December and January. The seeds germinate readily especially when fresh.

This plant is frost tender when young and grows best in a shaded position in well composted soil. It requires plenty of moisture. Excellent specimens are growing in the Rainforest Gully at the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

[Description by Effie Mullins, ANBG (1989)]



BLACK OLIVE SCALE & OTHER BONSAI PESTS



The plant doesn't look like much now but I have developed a number of natives into nice bonsai starting with a lot less so if it survives the long overdue root prune I have high hopes for a lovely native bonsai, especially in the spring flowering season. It is always fun to take a chance.

SUN, WEEDS, SCALE and PRUNING

I am sadly reminded of the need for the amount of sun that bonsai require to grow well. My new yard gets far more winter shade than the trees prefer and while some trees are loving it, some are having development problems and scale is having a field day.



Black Olive Scale

Olives and scale have as much an affinity for each other as pastries do with me and in both cases this is not a good thing. I'm a bit wimpy with insects but with scale I rub off all that I can see.



Black Olive Scale on a European Olive

This means looking under, around, over, through and literally checking every branch and leaf. Once I feel I have removed all that I can see I spray with Eco Oil.



NEVER use White Oil on your trees. Pest Oil is okay, Eco Oil is better. White Oil will smother the scale AND the tree which rather defeats the purpose of the exercise. I lost an 'On Its Way to Greatness' olive when I thought it had scale and ensured the scale would never breath again. Neither did the tree. Not a good scenario.

A long time enthusiast has now suggested spraying part of the tree and then spraying the other part a week or so later. Tedious possibly but if it keeps the tree alive and the scale dead, go for it.



Adult female Black Olive Scale with eggs and emerging Crawlers

When you are removing scale be sure to wash your hands and any tools before touching another tree. No sense getting rid of it from one and moving the infestation to another.

BLACK OLIVE SCALE & OTHER BONSAI PESTS & CALENDAR

A sure sign of scale is ants running up and down the trunk as they feed on the honey dew (a sugary liquid the scale produces as a by product of their sap sucking)



Anytime you see ants I recommend 'Ant Fix', a product available at major hardware stores and nurseries. Sprinkle it on the soil and water it in. Ants gone in hours, tree happily alive. This is also wonderful to have in your kit as many stock plants come with a tribe of ants in the soil. I have never had a problem with any species of tree and this product.



You can't always rely on ants to notify you about scale. None of my trees have ants but a number have scale. It is a case of checking every tree every time you water which is why I have never used a watering system. Every time I water I check for webbing insects in some trees, scale in others, any other oddity that I see AND pick out any sprouting weeds at the same time.

If you have to stand in front of a tree watering it is easy enough to utilize the time removing a weed here or there. Far better than having a tree almost obscured by weeds. Weeds take up root room and nutrients that your tree needs. There is no room for weeds in a bonsai pot. Most especially wicked are Star Weed and Liverwort.

Star Weed is very attractive and forms a lovely mat over the surface of the pot and left unchecked can extend to 5 plus centimetres in height.



It spreads like wild fire and its greatest claim to fame is blocking moisture from penetrating into the soil.



Liverwort looks like rich dark green ruffled lily pads and does the same thing. It grows best in very moist areas and is difficult to eradicate and much better to get it out as a new shoot than wait until it covers the pot. I'm death on liverwort and star weed. If I buy a plant and either of these are present I ensure I remove all the soil that has been in contact with the weeds and bin it. I normally dump old soil in the garden bed but never if these two weeds are present.

It is too easy to water and walk away but bonsai need to be trimmed regularly. Trimming not only keeps the tree in shape, keeps development on your plans and not nature's random ways but removes excess foliage and allows light and air to get to the centre of the tree.

This increases health, minimises insect attack and keeps your trees from getting too shaggy and also helps control an excessive need for water. Yes, we all 'grow on' trees but even these should be regularly tended to correct inappropriate growth and allow sun and air to get to all parts of the tree. I let my growing-on trees grow on but, at the same time, keep an eye on the growth as I don't see why the tree should waste energy supporting a branch I don't want when it could put that energy into working on a branch I do want.

Pruning is also necessary to help ramification.



I like calling bonsai my 'horticultural pets' as they require just as much daily care as my four footed companions with an eye always out for their welfare and their styling. Bonsai is not a Sometime Thing, not if you want nice trees.

Date	Event	Details
24-25 November	Campbelltown Bonsai Society Annual Show	Campbelltown Arts Centre, Campbelltown