



## NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

### Green Square Community Hall

3 Joynton Avenue Zetland

#### 7pm Tuesday 13 Nov 2018

Peter's root over rock "unveiled".

Roz- spagnum moss walls adapted for root over rock

#### 7pm Tuesday 11 Dec 2018

Christmas Party with fun team styling "competition".

## CONTACT DETAILS



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## COMMITTEE

Patron	TBA
President	Bryan
Vice President	Neville
Secretary	David
Treasurer	Chris
Newsletter Editor	Roz
Librarian	Les
Committee	Frank, John & Ed

## MEMBERSHIP

Full Membership	\$40
Concession	\$25
Family	\$55
Pensioner	\$25

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

## November meeting

- Peter will unveil the "root over rock" he did last November.
- Roz will show how the technique of spagnum moss walls can be adapted to root over rock.
- Member styling hotspot and work on your own trees.



*This powerful Japanese Black Pine estimated to be 150 years old was on exhibit at the Omiya Bonsai Art Museum when I visited it earlier this year. If you are ever in Japan, the Omiya Bonsai Art Museum is a must visit.*

Photo source: <http://www.bonsai-art-museum.jp/en/collection/>

## In this Issue:

- Jamie Milner Talk on Japanese Black Pines– page 2-3
- Stimulating Japanese Black Pine Back Budding -page 4-5
- Japanese Black Pine Time Series from Sue's Pine Book– page 6
- Bonsai Events Calendar – page 6

## 32nd AABC National Bonsai Convention



Have you ever wondered how the unique flora of Australia can be adapted to the ancient Japanese art of Bonsai? Come and learn how this is done and see some of the best native bonsai in Australia on display.

Join the **Victorian Native Bonsai Club Inc** with guest **headline demonstrator Ryan Neil**, when it hosts the **32nd Australian National Bonsai Convention**.

The theme of the Convention is **Australian Natives Breaking Through The Bonsai Ceiling** and that is exactly what will be emphasised during the Convention. Find out more by downloading the [information booklet](#) and great [promotional video](#) from Ryan Neil who is well known for adapting bonsai styling to native flora in other countries.

# JAMIE MILNER TALKS ON BLACK PINES

## Jamie Milner Talks on Black Pines

In September SCBC enjoyed a most informative talk on Japanese Black Pines by Jamie Milner from Illawarra Bonsai Club. Jamie has specialised in Japanese Black Pines as well as Junipers. At the talk Jamie explained the key steps in the Black Pine diary and most importantly he explained why each major action should be taken. Although this article will provide an overview of the process, we will set aside a small portion of our monthly newsletter entitled "Monthly Black Pine Diary" to remind members of what action should be taken on JBPs for each month, particularly young pines up to about 10 years.

Jamie's technique relies on carrying out all components to be successful. So do not skip a component if you are expecting to achieve excellent results. The main components are:

- Candle pinching
- New growth pruning
- Bud thinning
- Winter needle pulling



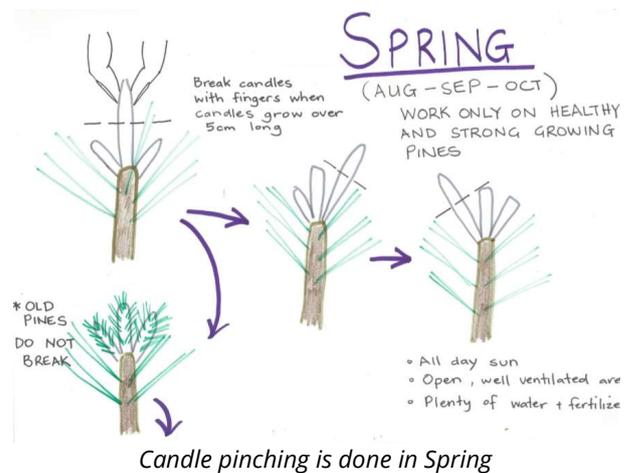
*Jamie identifies the strong, medium and weak growth zones of the Japanese Black Pine. Note the lower part of the cascade has longer needles because Jamie left this weaker zone untouched last season in order to help balance the energy of this tree.*

### Spring

Starting with Spring, Black Pines will commence extending their candles and opening their new needles. It will depend on your micro-climate and the vigour of your tree as to exactly when this extension will

commence. So look for this accelerated candle growth from mid-August, September and October. If you need to repot, then you should do the repotting as soon as the candle growth begins to accelerate.

Black Pines exhibit apical dominance. This means that the top area of the tree will be more vigorous (strong growth) than the middle sections of the tree (medium growth) and the lowest branches (weak growth). Much of this apical dominance is related to the amount of direct sunlight each branch receives. So in Spring it is important to balance the energy of the tree with respect to the new growth. You can do this by regularly observing each candle extension and twist off leaving a couple of centimetres any candles that exceed 5cm in length.



During this rapid growth phase give the pine all day sun; keep in an open well ventilated area; and give it plenty of water and fertiliser. Fertilising should be in small doses and frequent. Jamie uses small amounts of Dynamic Lifter interspersed with half-strength doses of fish emulsion. If the plant has been repotted that year, don't start the fertilising until 6 weeks after repotting – otherwise you will burn the developing roots.

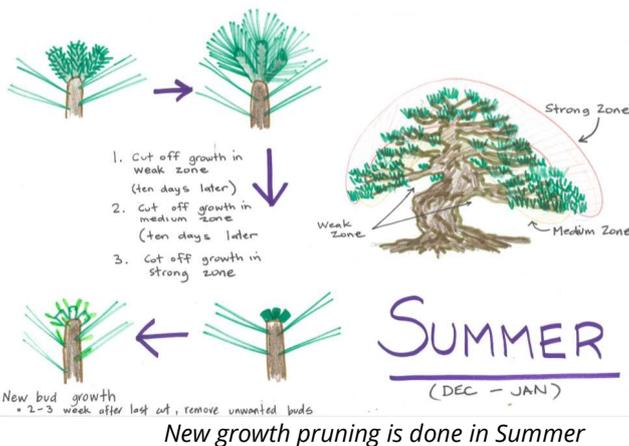
### Summer

For very young small pines, stop fertilising at the beginning of December but for medium sized pines continue fertilising until the end of December.

At the end of December (This suggested timing is for Sydney. Take your timing from the tree and ensure that the new needles have hardened off. You need to leave enough time for the next set of shorter candles to form).

# JAMIE TALKS ON BLACK PINES *CONTINUED*

- Leave the new candles in the **weak growth area**.
- In the medium growth area of the tree, use very sharp scissors to make a clean, up-wards facing, cut. Cut off all new branch growth (this year's candles), right back to the terminal pair of the last year's needles leaving about 1.5mm for the buds to form. I suggest this type of cut so that the majority of new buds that will form a little later will be positioned better than if the slope of the cut were down-wards facing.
- In ten days after that, repeat the process in the **strong growth area**.



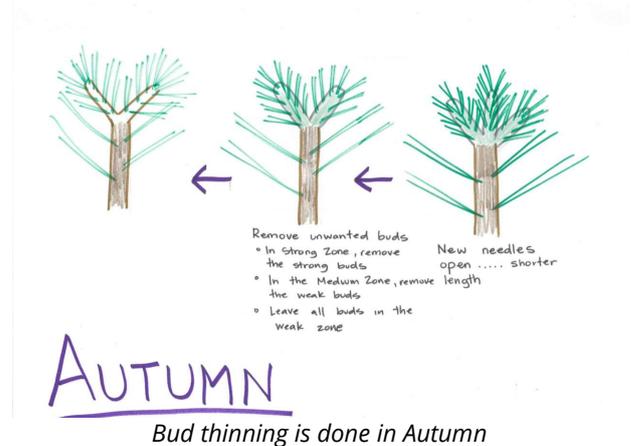
The reason for the staggered cutting of new shoots is to give the weakest area a head start in order to get even growth. If the tree is extremely healthy, and the "lower branches" are growing vigorously, **then 10 days before you cut the medium zone**, you can cut the weak zone.

In really old trees (20-30 years) you may choose to only select the buds that you want to keep and cut off the rest of the new buds.

## Autumn

Several weeks after the last cut you will notice new buds forming at the cut points. From February to March you can select the buds that you want to keep. Select the two buds that best suit the direction you want the new branches to grow in and remove the rest carefully using tweezers. Work carefully because the new buds are not yet very firmly attached to the branch and can easily be damaged.

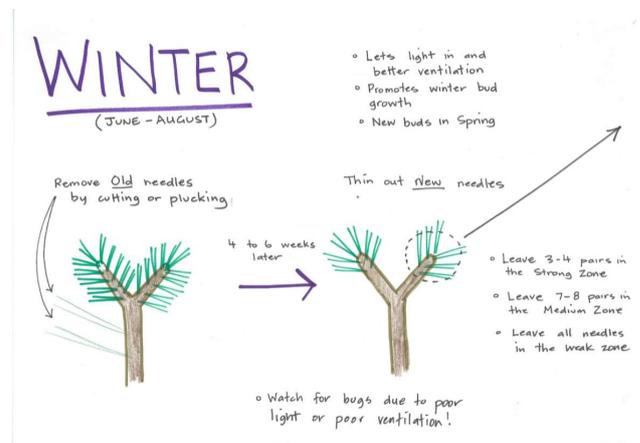
For ramification you will want remove all but two buds. For the **strong zone** select the strong buds for removal; for the **medium zone** select the weak buds for removal; and leave all the buds in the **weak zone**. This will help keep the energy balance of the tree.



From March you should begin your fertilising regime again so that the tree can build up its resources before winter.

## Winter

June to August is the time for winter needle pulling – that is where you thin old needles and 4-6 weeks later thin out the new needles.



Winter is also a good time for heavy wiring and bending as the tree is growing much slower which equates to less sap flow.

There are many pine methods that have been published. If you choose one method, make sure that you follow it for at least 2 years. Do not chop and change nor combine methods.

# STIMULATING JBP BACK BUDDING

## Stimulating back budding in JBP

Japanese Black pines have three types of buds: terminal buds, needle buds and adventitious buds. Terminal buds form at the apex and on the tip of each branch. Needle buds form between a set of needles. Adventitious buds are buds that form elsewhere, typically directly from branch or trunk tissue.



*Terminal bud on tip of branch*



*Needle bud formed between a set of needles*

There are two kinds of buds on JBP that can backbud. Dormant adventitious buds, and dormant needle buds. Needle buds are usually very weak, and even when they pop they often don't survive.



*Adventitious bud formed on inner trunk.*

Dormant adventitious buds are the ones we want to stimulate in the normal decandling process. These are the buds that lie at the base of every spring candle. They are usually suppressed by the vigorous spring candle because the actively growing tip produces a hormone called auxin that suppresses them from growing.

However, when you remove the spring candle in summer, the sudden removal of auxin from the tip of the branch stimulates the dormant adventitious buds to form at the cut point. This mild jolt in removal of auxin by the normal decandling process sometimes also stimulates other dormant adventitious buds further back along the branch.



*Vigorous growing branch -light green needles 1 year and dark needles previous year's growth.*



*Normal decandling cut and you will expect adventitious buds to form at the stub*

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# STIMULATING JBP BACK BUDDING *CONTINUED*

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## Stimulating JBP Back Budding *continued*

If you have a vigorously growing branch with long internodes and you want to reduce the legginess of the tree then you can cut past the spot where you normally decandle pines.



*The tochuu-kiri method is when you cut back into the previous year's needles during the normal decandling time and hope that you will stimulate some needle buds at the tip.*

If you cut back to a spot where the previous year's needles are growing, you can stimulate needle buds. The large jolt of suddenly removing the auxin of the vigorous growth which was suppressing the buds will awaken them, and the tree should bud back. The Japanese term for this technique – cutting into the previous year's needles – is called "tochuu-kiri". The closer you make the cut to the middle of the growing season, the better the odds that the tree will develop needle buds.

However, you must be very careful because this technique of cutting back past the current year's growth weakens the tree. **So do not use this technique on a weak or unhealthy pine and don't use it very often** (e.g. once every ten years).

So if you want greater branch division in a relatively healthy pine, you can decandle to stimulate adventitious buds – the normal summer decandling process.

If you want to strongly reduce a branch's vigour or shorten the gaps between branches, you can cut into the previous year's needles at decandling time in an attempt to stimulate needle buds.

However, because decandling reduces vigour, only want decandle healthy pines that have been fertilised well and a strong second flush will grow with shorter needles.

Because cutting into old needles can greatly reduce a branch's vigour, you can only use the tochuu-kiri technique sparingly. Old pines do not respond well. The tree's response to cutting into last year's needles will depend greatly on the relative vigour of the branch that has been cut. Strong branches growing near the apex are much more likely to produce needle buds than weak branches in the tree's interior.

### Sources

Bonsai Tonight – Jonas Dupuich

<https://bonsaitonight.com/2018/08/17/stimulating-back-buds-on-japanese-black-pine/> and

Bonsainut

<https://www.bonsainut.com/threads/black-pine-back-budding.13780/>

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## On the bench at SCBC October

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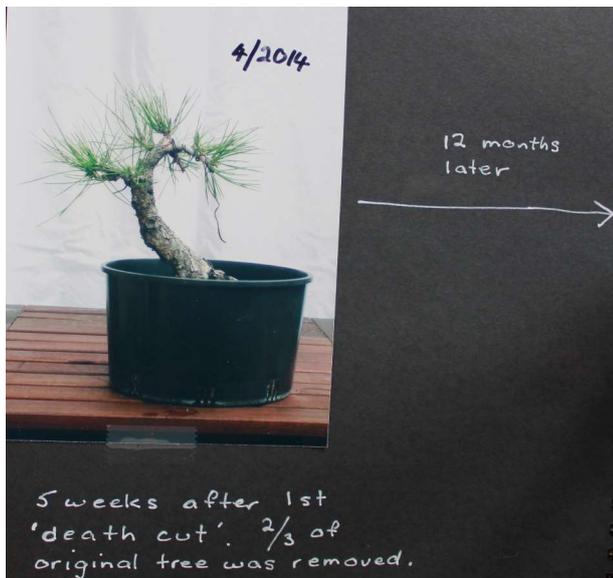
*4 of the pines benched by members at the October meeting.*

Many SCBC responded to our special pine night bring in their trees. A big thank you goes to Jamie Milner, our speaker for the night for looking at all member's pines and offering advice on how to improve their tree.

# JBP TIME SERIES & EVENTS CALENDAR

## JBP Time Series from Sue's Pine Book

I was fortunate enough to borrow Sue's Pine Book and photograph its pages. Sue often used this book in her demonstrations on how to get short needles in Japanese Black Pines under Sydney environmental conditions.



*JBP 5 weeks after "death cut"*

This is a tree that Sue began working on in March 2014 where she gave it her famous "death cut" removing two thirds of the original tree.

Using the technique clearly described by Jamie in his talk last month, Sue took shots of the tree over its next 2 years showing how quickly she could achieve a compact tree and short needles.

After allowing the tree to grow for twelve months (April 2014-April 2016) in order to recover from the "death cut", Sue commenced the process of shortening the needles by cutting off the new spring 2015 growth.



*JBP progression from April 2015 to February 2016*

Note how healthy the tree has become. After the trim, in November, you will note that she left the previous year's needles on.

After ten weeks the new second season growth emerged with much shorter needles. The old long needles were removed as the new growth was very healthy and balanced throughout the tree.

## Bonsai Events Calendar

Date	Event	Details
23-24 Feb 2019	Australian Native Plants as Bonsai Exhibition	Australian Botanical Gardens ACT <a href="http://www.cbs.org.au">www.cbs.org.au</a>
17-20 May 2019	32 <sup>nd</sup> AABC Convention	Mantra Bell City, Melbourne. Hosted by Victorian Native Bonsai Club