



sydney city  
**bonsai club** inc.




## NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

**Green Square Community Hall**  
3 Joynton Avenue  
Zetland



**7pm Tuesday 9 October 2012**  
Workshop, broad leaf evergreens  
and fig bonsai.

**7pm Tuesday 13 November 2012**  
Fig bonsai trees workshop.

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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

### October Meeting

- Workshop for broad leaf evergreen bonsai
- Horticultural Tips (Tony)
- Raffle



Display at the Bonsai Society of Australia Annual Show

Looking for a [new editor](#) for the SCBC Newsletter, please contact Tony if you are interested in being the new editor

**Club Nursery Visit Saturday October 20**  
meet at **Bonsai South Nursery**  
114-116 The Boulevarde, Caringbah at 10.30am

### In this month's newsletter:

- Pictures taken at the September Meeting pages 2 & 3
- Bonsai tools one handed & scar treatment pages 4
- A Privet makeover pages 5
- Live Veins Article & Events calendar page 6

PICTURES FROM THE SEPTEMBER MEETING



Neville's Montezuma Cypress bonsai



Philip's Wisteria bonsai



Anthony's Chinese Elm Bonsai



Naomi's Elm Group Planting



SCBC members working on their trees



## PICTURES FROM THE SEPTEMBER MEETING



Constantine (on the right) discusses with Alex the possible future directions for his Nepal Juniper bonsai *Juniperus squamata prostrata* 'Pingii'



Alex's Juniper after pruning, we will get Alex to bring this tree back to a future meeting so we can see how it develops



Naomi's Elm Group Planting



Warwick's *Eucalyptus nicholii* bonsai

*"...and the tree must look as if you never even touched it. As if it grew out of wind and sun and time, pelting rain and soft mist, dark nights and silent owls wings."*

- Joanie



# BONSAI TOOLS ONE HANDED AND SCAR TREATMENT

## BONSAI TOOLS ONE HANDED

You CANNOT use bonsai tools effectively trying to do it with two hands. You lose focus, force and clarity and the risk of cutting too much and damaging the tree is very high.



This is the correct way to hold side-cutters

Most people do use tools with only one hand but some of the newer enthusiasts still find it awkward and don't realise that the real awkwardness is trying to remove a branch using a side-cutter in two hands.

Imagine trying to eat with a chopstick in each hand. It can't be done well.

## NATURALISING A SCAR

Too often a scar from a branch removal is glaringly obvious from the front of the tree and tends to rob the tree of a natural look.



There is also the very real possibility that when the callous forms it will end up being a raised unsightly lump on the trunk as it spreads over the cut area.

The best treatment for a scar is to naturalise it.



A Dremel is an excellent tool to have in your kit if you are really keen on creating good bonsai. With a Dremel and an appropriate sized bit the surface of the scar can be lowered and grooved to give an impression of age and weathering.

By lowering the level of the cut to below the level of the trunk the callous that forms will roll into the depression and heal flat. To try to naturalise a scar without the aid of a Dremel would be difficult since the area being worked would be small and precision is necessary.

Wisdom for Uncle Doug:

*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 don't need much to make us happy.*

*Doug Evans*

## PRIVET MAKEOVER

Just because you buy 'a bonsai' it does not necessarily mean that the bonsai does not need improvement and styling refinement.

This is the privet when it was purchased. It has a lot of attributes including the thickness of the trunk, the trunk movement, the scar and the general layout and movement of the branches.

This tree was trained as a bonsai but was allowed to grow out and it was not root pruned sufficiently. The pot was chockablock with roots and that restricted the tree's growth and development and there were a lot of dead branchlets.



Natural scar on the front of the privet when it was purchased. The roll of the healing callous is wonderful and gives a lot of age to the trunk. The actual scar wood is rotted and needs attention. As well, it is protruding a bit beyond the callous and the viewer sees the scar rather than the callous roll.



After an hour session with the Dremel the rotted wood was removed and the trunk partially hollowed. It needs a bit of refinement and probably more wood removed but this was enough for one session.

The finish will have to wait a couple of months until the roots strengthen after a massive root prune. By that time the new scar will have greyed and will look more natural. Once any fresh wounds to the cambium have healed wood hardener will be applied.

Privet is a soft wood and care needs to be taken to ensure the exposed wood does not rot. Then again, if it rots then more can easily be removed leaving just the shell and an even nicer tree could result.



The top has had a lot of conflicting, crowding and crossing branches removed. Once the tree starts to shoot again the silhouette will be reduced by at least 2 cm to take away the leggy look. Some wiring needs to be done to reposition some branches but this will wait until the roots have recovered and the tree is stable in the pot



Take another look at photo #1 and compare the tree to this last photo.

The emphasis has been taken away from the over heavy top and put back to the trunk. The tree has been "liberated" from a pot that was too heavy and too constrictive for the fluid lines of the tree. The tree might be a bit high in the pot after adding more and more soil to ensure the roots had no air pockets.

It will put out a lot of roots and in 2-3 months can be repotted and will be repotted to sit lower in the pot but I quite like this casual, relaxed pot - its curvy lines suit the curves of the tree. The dark colour is earthy, gives a feeling of rolling hills and puts the visual emphasis on the tree and not on the pot.

For the next couple of months the tree will be allowed to rest and recover and the next round of work will resume when it is putting out a lot of new growth. This will include refining the carving, wiring and repositioning some of the branches and starting to compact the silhouette to reduce the expanse of the crown. Then, and only then, will it be back to being considered a Bonsai.



# LIVE VEINS & CALENDAR

## LIVE VEINS



This *Eucalyptus microcorys* – Tallowwood, shows dramatic swelling where the veins (xylem & phloem) carry water and nutrients up and down the plant. The xylem veins moving water and nutrients up and phloem veins moving manufactured food from the leaves down to the rest of the plant.

When you are working with bonsai and removing branches or doing carving you will often hear mention of 'live veins'.

Each root nourishes a particular branch (usually the branch directly above the root) but in the majority of trees this is not obvious. Some trees species have quite smooth trunks, some have heavy bark and some live veins don't swell.



You can fairly readily see them on Casuarinas and this Tallowwood literally flaunts its live veins. It is easy to follow the tree's feeding paths from the root to the branch. The swelling of the live veins gives an elegance and movement to this trunk and is a great illustration for tree development.

*Bonsai is an artistic representation of a natural tree  
It is an image, an illusion of nature. It is  
smoke and mirrors that defies the senses. The best  
bonsai are magicians' tricks that have  
fooled the eye into seeing a far off place in the  
distant past, or the side of a craggy cliff. We  
all have to strive to be the magician. - Al Keppler*

Date	Event	Details
20-21 October	School of Bonsai Annual Show	Ray Nesci Bonsai, Dural
27-28 October	Urrimbirra Bonsai Society Annual Show	Ribbonwood Centre, Dapto
2-4 November	Newcastle Bonsai Society Annual Show	Charlestown Bowling Club
24-25 November	Campbelltown Bonsai Society Annual Show	Campbelltown Arts Centre, Campbelltown