




NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

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

7pm Tuesday 11 September
Styling and repotting workshop


7pm Tuesday 9 October
Fig workshop

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 September Newsletter

There are still library books that have not been returned – please return them at the September meeting.

Our September meeting is devoted to repotting any deciduous bonsai trees that are still dormant.

Conifers, Privet, Azaleas, Camellias & Olives can all be potted or worked on at this time of the year

See page 2 for trees in training shown at the August meeting

Page 3 has a pictorial summary of Sue Brennan's potting of a deciduous tree

See page 4 for pictures of some of the trees that were repotted and reworked at the August meeting

Ficus rubiginosa 'Little Ruby'

This was one of the 'original' cuttings of the first "Little Ruby", discovered as a seedling in 1987, by Noel Summerell.

Noel was not able to get any to strike as cuttings until 1990 when he removed branches with a bit of aerial roots running down the side of the trunk and into the ground. These struck easily and were the first eight original cuttings.

The one on display is one of these eight. It's a beaut little tree, though only a small one.



See pages 5 & 6 for more of part one of native plants that are suitable for bonsai training

Page 6 for the Bonsai Events Calendar

Membership Fees due – no fees & this is your last newsletter

TREES IN TRAINING SHOWN AT THE AUGUST SCBC MEETING



Sue Brennan's Crab Apple with beautiful red new growth



Sue Brennan's Chinese Elm



Neville Althaus's Flowering Quince



Tony Wilson's Fukien Tea; *Carmona microphylla*.
This plant was incorrectly identified as an Okinawa Holly in the July newsletter, it has since flowered and fruited and has now been correctly identified

← Neville Althaus brought in the beautiful Wattle in full flower. Neville said it is not a great example of a bonsai Wattle, but he thought he would bring it in to show everyone the beauty of the flowers

The most common question about bonsai is "How old is it?", but a bonsai can be any age. Since the techniques are meant to develop and emphasize age, the actual age of a tree is not important- .

Ask instead. "How old does the tree look?"

From the bonsai fact page at:

<http://pabonsai.org/bonsaifacts.html>

SUE BRENNAN'S REPOTTING DEMONSTRATION



← Sue showing the dense mat of feeder roots on the Elm bonsai



← The final pruning of the root ball

A close up of the finished root pruned elm ↓



Sue removes the outer layer of feeder roots with a bonsai rake →



← Sue uses a chop stick to make sure the bonsai potting mix is worked in amongst the roots of the tree. This also ensures there are not air pockets in the potting mix.



← Sue removes the useless anchor roots, they take up space that is better used by feeding roots,

Sue says if the tree is unstable in the pot then it can be wired into the pot for support

The Elm after repotting →



WORKSHOP PICTURES FROM THE AUGUST SCBC MEETING



← Rebecca Irving's Sautome Azalea before pruning



Rebecca Irving's Sautome Azalea after pruning →



Glen's Crepe Myrtle before and after repotting & pruning



↑ Sue root pruning Glen Tindall's Crepe Myrtle



Lee Wright & Tony Stokes examining the Sautome Azalea for possibilities



← Sue & Glen deep in conversation over the future directions this bonsai might take



↑ Tony's Sautome Azalea before and after the initial pruning →



NATIVES SUITABLE FOR BONSAI – Part 1

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

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



Acacia longifolia

The plant was purchased from a general nursery about 20 years ago. It was rather neglected but had an interesting base and trunk which was the catalyst for the purchase.

I have played around with various styling options but feel the literati style utilises the best feature of the tree which is the visually-pleasing, twisting trunk.

I have had numerous problems with borers, which have unfortunately killed off some of the branches. The pot is a very old Japanese freeform pot which I feel, with its irregular shape, compliments the styling of this plant **really well**. It has a very attractive yellow flower spike of 5cm in Spring. If you can keep the borers away from acacias, regularly replot on an annual basis, keep in a full sun position and provide them with regular watering, they can be successful long lived bonsai.

Backhousia myrtifolia

Grey Myrtle

This tree was purchased as a collected bonsai stock plant. When it was transferred from the original pot to a training pot one extended root was cut off and the cut off end, with roots, was planted to make a smaller bonsai. The myrtle has been in training for 2 years and has developed very well in that time. It is a rewarding native to work with as the leaves are very attractive and nicely in proportion with the plant.



Banksia integrifolia

Coastal Banksia



Banksia marginata

Silver Banksia

This tree is modeled on a Banksia growing in a garden near the cliff tops at Avalon, NSW. I was struck by its heavy lowest branch sweeping down to the ground then growing upwards at the tip. I often wondered if children playing had helped shape that tree. I have found this particular tree, at least as a young plant, does not like having its branches wired strongly down unless the tip is allowed to grow up strongly.

Specimens I have grown on in the garden as bonsai material developed a mixture of upward and downward growing branches, so perhaps the garden inspiration was a natural shape after all.



Banksia serrata

Saw Banksia



Soon after purchasing, this tree was cut back hard and has since been developed by a combination of wiring and clip and grow.

Banksia serrata

Saw Banksia

I bought this tree as small nursery stock during a visit to family in Melbourne for Christmas 1984. It was left in the care of my mother-in-law until we returned two years later. It had grown well and was too tall to fit in the car, so I cut the top section off and sealed it with some gum my son was chewing. see how I treated the plant she had tended so carefully.

A few years later I very nearly cut it back just above the first branch to create a more interesting trunk line. The tree was a lot thinner then and this would have worked quite well in conjunction with changing the planting angle. I was persuaded to leave it, but have since grown the branches out to make a better mature tree form.



NATIVES SUITABLE FOR BONSAI – Part 1 continued

Callistemon sp.

Bottlebrush

The 'Lizard's Lair' is the hide away in the hollow of a bottle brush tree for my "Serpents". The tree was dug by Mick Balzary 15 years previously from Wee Jasper. I bought the stock plant at the Wagga Wagga AABC Seminar in 2001. It has undergone massive alteration, especially concentrating on the central split. Only now, I feel; it is beginning to become a presentable bonsai. Dorothy Koreshoff



Eucalyptus meliodora

Yellow Box

In training for 18 years, this tree has gone through crises not unlike those that afflict trees in nature.

Here, drought killed the main trunk, stimulating regrowth from the lignotuber. The unkempt look of the crown and branches is reminiscent of a tree growing in a challenging environment. The stoniness of the ground shows through, despite the green flush from spring rains.

The raw awkwardness of the pot echoes the sense of a difficult habitat.



Callitris glaucophylla

White Cypress Pine



This tree was dug from my father in-law's property in West Wyalong in approx. 1997. This was my first cypress pine and I was unsure how it would react

bonsai techniques. It was a gradual process over 3 years to reduce the root ball size so as it could be potted into a bonsai, which was done in 2000. The trees I have seen in the paddocks of western NSW

inspired the shape of this tree, although I have been unable to reproduce the incredible twists and turns of the branching. The current pot is Australian made by Pat Kennedy.

Eucalyptus nicholii

Narrow Leafed Peppermint



The tree was found at south Canberra dump in the Revolve section in the summer of 1995. It was in very little soil and full of disease (mealy bug and sooty mildew). Over the following months I removed the pests, re-potted, cut back and trained a new leader. It was kept as an experiment, I was unsure how a eucalypt would react to bonsai techniques.

In 1999 I potted it into a bonsai pot and continued shaping into a gum tree style. After the 2001 show I carved the lower and mid sections of the tree and then re-potted it. Since then I have repotted twice and it is now in an Australian pot made by Pat Kennedy.

Elaeocarpus reticulatus

Blue Berry Ash

The blueberry ash is a medium tree to 15 m. It has lanceolate, toothed leaves, pink or white flowers, and blue berries.

The setting on display is referred to as 'billabong'. The tree was purchased from Cambewarra Nursery 6-7 years ago. They acquired it from a bush dig.

I kept it in a growing pot for 12-18 months before I could decide what to do with it. Then one day I saw a billabong in the arrangement of the trunks. The original tree, in the centre, has died and rotted away, leaving the suckers (trunks). The leaves reduce when defoliated. When they get old, they turn bright yellow and dark red.



Ficus macrophylla – Moreton Bay Fig



This is an example of what is probably the native plant species most frequently grown as bonsai.

REMEMBER BRING A TREE TO EVERY MEETING

Date	Event	Details
8 – 9 September	Bonsai Society of Sydney Annual Exhibition	Checkers Resort, Terrey Hills
8 – 9 September	Illawarra Bonsai Society Show	Community Centre, Stapleton Ave, Sutherland
21 – 23 September	Bonsai Society of Australia Show & Sale	Baulkham Hills Council Chambers, Showground Road, Castlehill, NSW
13 – 14 October	School of Bonsai Annual Show	Ray Nesci's Nursery, Kenthurst