



NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

Green Square Community Hall

3 Joynton Avenue Zetland

7pm Tuesday 11 September 2018

Each member bring in a tree for display and/or discussion

7pm Tuesday 9 October 2018

Special guest Jamie Milner will present on pines

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.

September Meeting

- Each member needs to bring in a tree for display and/or discussion.
- Club workshop – bring in your trees to work on.



Azalea indica 'red wings' -stunning when in flower

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Reminders

October Meeting

At the request of SCBC Committee, guest speaker from Illawarra Bonsai Club, Jamie Milner, specialist in pines, will now present at the October meeting. After a short talk, Jamie has agreed to discuss your individual issues on pines. So bring in your pines for the October meeting.

Membership Fees

A few members have not yet paid this coming year's dues

SCBC Library

Ask Les, our librarian if you want to borrow from our library.

TONY'S Q&A'S ON HORTICULTURE

Q&A's on Horticulture – Tony Wilson

Last month our guest Tony Wilson answered a wide range of horticultural and plant identification questions. Here are a few notes on three of the areas he covered.

Wisteria – Why won't it flower?

As Tony had been responsible for the Wisteria Section in the Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens when he worked there, he explained that the usual reason for Wisteria not flowering is feeding it too much nitrogen which just makes the leaves grow.



Japanese Wisteria, from Tobie Kleyhans Collection, South Africa. Source: BCI website: <https://www.bonsai-bci.com/index.php/component/tags/tag/tobie-kleyhans-collection>

Particularly in late summer and autumn you should feed your wisteria potash, that is salts that contain potassium in water soluble form. (The name “pot ash” refers to plant ashes soaked in water in a pot which was the primary means of manufacturing the product before the industrial era).

The flower buds on wisteria, like those of many spring-flowering plants start to develop in late summer of the previous year. Adverse conditions like low levels of soluble potassium and/or dry soil occurring between January and March can cause buds to abort. So feed high in potash [NPK high P scale] in the autumn as the plant is putting on wood and commencing bud formation for the oncoming season and make sure the plant is receiving adequate water.

The second most common reason for wisteria not flowering is incorrect pruning. Wisteria needs to be pruned twice per year. The removal of growth in summer allows better air circulation and more sunlight

to reach the base of the young growths, encouraging better ripening of the wood and improving the chances of flower and bud formation. Restricting the amount of vegetative growth and encouraging short, flowering spurs will result in more flowers.

In summer (January or February) cut back the whippy growth (leave extensions) to 4-5 buds then in winter (June or July) when there are no leaves to 2 to 3 buds. This winter pruning tidies up the plant so that the flowers will not be obscured by leaves. With bonsai, often the plant is cut back too far cutting off the flower buds that were developed on last year's wood.

Another reason for wisteria not flowering is that the plant is too young. It can take up to twenty years for a plant from seed to flower and even then the results may be disappointing. When acquiring a nursery plant, buy it in flower. However do not be alarmed if such a plant is reluctant to flower in the first year after planting as the initial large root disturbance into a small pot may cause the buds to abort for that year. Repot wisteria bonsai every couple of years.

Use of Confidor for difficult systemic diseases.

In Europe Confidor has been banned as it kills bees. Recently Bunnings has stopped supplying Confidor to its outlets. However some nurseries still stock it.

Healthy plants generally get very few plant diseases. The first thing you should look at is the environmental conditions that your plant is growing in. Sometimes a plant fungus arises from too much shade; or a plant is having problems because it is constantly stressed from being too dry or too wet; or it is sitting under large tree which may be infected or the plant is being invaded by ants which is causing scale or other infections.

However, if a plant has succumbed to an infection you must make sure you know the culprit. If you are unsure then take a sample of the problem or the plant to the local nursery to have the problem identified and the correct action taken e.g. pest oil for scale

Sometimes you may have a plant infection e. mealy bug that can only be eliminated by a systemic insecticide. The term means that the chemical is soluble enough in water that it can be absorbed by a plant and moved around the tissues through the plants vascular system.

Continued on Page 3

GREAT AZALEA FIND

I Struck it Lucky! – Great Azalea Find

BY LEE

The morale... ask... all they can say is No.

I have been dog walking Bryn past this small azalea by a front fence 3 blocks from me and eyeing it off for many months. Lovely trunk, small leaves, don't know the flower. I picked up an azalea in Woolies and decided to knock on the door and offer a swap. My azalea was full of flower- always an inducement, and the one in the ground only had tight buds. Saturday I knocked on the door, explained what I wanted to the bloke who answered. He knew the azalea, had no interest in a swap, he went out with me to look at it and just said- TAKE IT. I'm redoing the garden in a few months and it is better with you than ending up in the otto bin. He was very pleased I was taking it.

Happily the crap garden soil was soft and I easily removed the azalea and took it home. Roots are in dreadful condition... a lot of dead roots- I honestly don't think it would have lasted much longer in the ground without regular watering and watering obviously wasn't a household chore there. It has had a fairly decent first prune to remove or lower unwanted branches, dead thick tap root cut back as high as I could and now its soaking in Eco-seaweed for the next 24 hours. I washed all the sandy soil off and will pot it in a good bonsai mix.



The short fat trunk with movement and grace make this a shohin with great potential

I am really delighted with it... a short, fat trunk with movement and grace. It will be interesting to see what

the flowers are like as there are a few buds remaining after my pruning. Leaves are small and it will make a lovely shohin if it survives and I will give it all the after care I can to give it the best chance. It is rough after my first pruning but when it recovers and starts shooting branches will be reduced more to create an under 25 cm tree. Just imagine the lower trunk and a much reduced canopy. Nice, I reckon.

So, if you see something interesting don't hold back asking. A replacement plant, money, whatever inducement necessary. I didn't tell the bloke I wanted to bonsai it until the deal was struck. He even offered to remove it for me the next day but in my mind when you have the go ahead just go ahead.

It is pleasing to know that this plant now has a 100% better chance at surviving and its always a treat to get something good for nothing more than a bit of audacity and elbow grease.

Q&A's on Horticulture *cont from page 2*

Confidor is one such systemic insecticide which kills a wide range of sap sucking insects. However bees can be also killed by it when they ingest nectar from flowers. If you have to use Confidor on an infected bonsai and the bonsai is in flower, then spray it in safe area such as a garage perhaps place it under a shade cloth for at least 3 days so that the bees cannot go to the plant.

Managing powdery mildew secondary infection

A *Melaleuca quinquinervia* had a massive mealy bug and scale infection last year which resulted in powdery mildew making the entire trunk and branch area a horrible black colour destroying the presentation of the plant. It was treated for the scale and mealy bug and at this point a few scale still remained on the plant. Although the black colour was less than before, the plant still looked "dirty". Tony suggested getting rid of the remaining scale with pest oil, control the ants with an ant sand and wash the bark to remove the mildew. After following his instructions, I am happy to say that the scale is gone and most of the mildew has been removed and the plant back is looking much brighter.

Members thoroughly appreciated Tony's wealth of knowledge and look forward to another opportunity for him to visit our club.

WHAT TO DO & WHEN

What to do and when

This table is sourced from Paul Lesniewicz book: -
 “Bonsai - The complete guide and technique”. Only a selection of species has been reproduced.

Depending on the health of your tree and your after care, and your local environment, these timings provide a rough guide for what to do and when. The book is excellent and if still in print is worth purchasing.

Species	Branch Pruning	Pinching out	Wiring
Trident & Japanese Maple (<i>Acer palmatum</i>)	before new shoots appear; also fine branches in early autumn	after shoots have appeared reduce back to 1-3 leaf pairs until early autumn	after leaf pruning
Box (<i>Buxus microphylla</i>)	before shoots appear	prune new shoots back repeatedly to 2-3 buds	at all times except when very cold
Camellia (<i>Camellia japonica</i>)	before shoots appear	throughout summer continually prune to 1-2 buds	mid summer
Chinese Quince (<i>Chaenomeles chinensis</i>)	spring	after flowering period prune all shoots back to 1-2 buds, and again in autumn to 4-5 buds	no
False Cypress (<i>Chaemaecyparis</i>)	spring & autumn	nip off new shoots continually to leave 2-3 buds, until autumn	late winter, early autumn
Cotoneaster	spring before shoots appear	prune back new shoots in early summer to leave 2-3 buds; trim long shoots in autumn	at all times
Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus</i>)	spring before new shoots appear	in summer reduce new shoots once to 2-3 cm, then in autumn trim over long shoots again	mid summer

Repotting	Siting	Feeding	pH
before shoots appear; young plants every 1-2 yrs, older once every 2-3 yrs	slightly shaded in mid-summer and out of high wind	after shoots have appeared, pellets or liquid fertilizer every 4 wks	5.8- 5.8
before shoots appear, every 2 years	tolerates full sun and shade	every 4 weeks throughout the summer	5.5 - 6.0
after flowering every 2 years	semi-shade	spring and early summer with organic fertiliser	4.4 - 5.5
only in early autumn, every 2 years	full sun	after flowering to early autumn every 14 days	5.8 - 6.0
spring every two years	slightly shaded	throughout summer every 4 weeks	5.5- 5.8
before new shoots appear; young plants every 1-2 yrs, older 2-4 yrs	full sun	after new shoots appear until early autumn	5.5- 5.8
before new shoots appear in spring; young-every 1-2 yrs; older -3-5 yrs	full sun	after new shoots appear until late summer, once a month	5.5- 5.8

WHAT TO DO AND WHEN *CONTINUED*

Species	Branch Pruning	Pinching out	Wiring	Repotting	Siting	Feeding	PH
<i>Ginkgo (G. bilboa)</i>	spring before new shoots appear	young plants prune new shoots back to 4-5 leaves; 1-2 in older	mid- summer but bark is very soft	before new shoots appear in spring, young plants every 1-2 yrs; older 3-5 yrs	full sun	throughout spring and summer every 4 wks.	5.8- 6.0
<i>Juniper chinensis</i>	spring; beginning of autumn	nip off new shoots by 2/3 continually until autumn	early spring; early autumn	before new shoots appear every 2 yrs	full sun	every 4 wks from spring to autumn	5.8- 6.0
Crab Apple (<i>Malus halliana</i>)	spring before new shoots appear	prune back new shoots in mid-summer to 1-2 cm; long shoots in early autumn back to 1 cm	mid- summer	annually when dormant	full sun	After flowering until early autumn every 4 wks. Use low or zero nitrogen and high potassium	5.5 – 6.5
<i>Pyracantha (P. angustifolia)</i>	before new shoots appear in spring	prune back new shoots in spring to 2 buds and trim overlong shoots in early autumn	mid- summer	before new shoots appear, in spring every 2 yrs	full sun	From late spring to the beginning of autumn, every 4 weeks, except during blossoming periods	5.5- 5.8
<i>Serissa (S. foetida)</i>	at all times	after blossoming, prune back all shoots to 1-2 leaf pairs	at all times	before new shoots appear, every 1-2 years	slightly shaded	once per month from spring throughout summer	5.5 – 5.8
Japanese grey-barked elm (<i>Zelkova serrata</i>)	before new shoots appear in spring	prune back new shoots continually in early summer to 1-3 buds	mid- summer	Before new shoots appear; young plants every 2 yrs; older 3-4 yrs	full sun	after flowering to early autumn, every 4 wks or pellet fertiliser	5.5 – 5.8
Figs (<i>Ficus spp</i>)	mid- summer	prune back new shoots repeatedly to 2-3 leaves; can defoliate early to mid-summer	at all times but only for 3 months at the most	mid-summer	full sun; semi-shade on hot days	spring and mid summer every 4 wks	5.5 – 6.0
Japanese Black Pine (<i>2 flush pines only</i>)	early spring & autumn	decandle (remove all new shoots) in mid to late summer	autumn & winter	early spring or early autumn, every 2-3 yrs	full sun	heavily from early spring until decandle time then only half strength to autumn	5.8 - 6.0

CHERRY BLOSSOM & EVENTS CALENDAR

Sydney Cherry Blossom Festival

BY BRYAN



It was cool and crisp as a Japanese spring morning when the crowds for the Sydney Cherry Blossom Festival started streaming past. They had come for Cherry Blossom viewing in the adjoining Japanese Garden but many were sidetracked as they passed the Sydney City Bonsai Club booth. Neville's *Azalea indica* 'red wings' with its mass of red first caught their eye and Amanda's *Pieris japonica* with its weeping cascade of white drew them in. The compliments around the trees were many as were the queries around age, variety and price.

For a raffle, Chris organized a good preliminarily styled fig and one of Les and Peter's buxus filled out a 'make your own bonsai' basket. We sold a number of pots and a few trees to avid beginners. Between commissions from sales and the raffle the club made a little over \$100.



Very eye-catching Azalea indica 'red wings' bonsai displayed on SCBC's stand at the Sydney Cherry Blossom Festival

The Festival was enjoyable with Japanese music performances, talks and a bonsai styling demonstration. At the stall we provided a few styling demos of our own and drew the raffle around 4 PM. We tried to get Costa Georgiadis (from the ABC Gardening Australia show) to draw the winner but he was too busy with a podcast so we went with Cumberland Council staff from the nearby stall. Luckily both first and second prizewinners were nearby- no delivery was needed – and everyone went home satisfied.

Bonsai Events Calendar

Date	Event	Details
8-9 Sept 2018	Central Coast Bonsai Annual Show	Erina Room, Erina Fair (next to the library)
15-16 Sept 2018	Bonsai Soc. of Australia Annual Show	Harvey Lowe Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground, Castle Hill, 10am-5pm (4pm Sunday)
18-20 Sep 2018	Universal Penjing Conference, Canberra Arboretum	For details and registration go to https://www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au/universalspenjingconference
20-21 Oct 2018	School of Bonsai Annual Show	Ray Nesci Nursery, 26 Sagars Rd Dural
20-21 Oct 2018	Wauchope Bonsai Annual Show	Laurieton United Service Club, 2 Seymour St, Laurieton
8-9 Sept 2018	Central Coast Bonsai Annual Show	Erina Room, Erina Fair (next to the library)
17-20 May 2019	32 nd AABC Convention	Mantra Bell City, Melbourne. Hosted by Victorian Native Bonsai Club