



## NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

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

**7pm Tuesday 8 October 2019**  
Brenda Parker will talk and demonstrate plant propagation

**7pm Tuesday 12 November 2019**  
Fig workshop-repotting and pruning.  
Peter will uncover his root over rock.

## CONTACT DETAILS



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## COMMITTEE

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

## 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.

## October Meeting

- Special Event: Brenda Parker, President Illawarra Bonsai Society will talk and demonstrate on propagation.
- Members to bring in bonsai if you want advice from Brenda on what to do next.
- Bring in trees for show table



SCBC members working and discussing bonsai at September meeting

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## Reminders

Special Guest Brenda Parker Will Talk on Plant Propagation

This month President of the Illawarra Bonsai Society, Brenda Parker will talk on plant propagation. The talk will include air layering and how to propagate cuttings successfully. She has kindly agreed to provide advice on members plants following her demonstration. So if you have a plant that you want advice on, bring it in this month.

Fertiliser on Sale at October Meeting  
See Roz if you want any Hypergrow. \$10 per bottle.

# CENTRAL COAST BONSAI OPEN

## Central Coast 2019 Bonsai Open



*Silver Berry – Winner of Central Coast Bonsai Club's inaugural Bonsai Open Competition*

Central Coast put on a great show last month. An extensive collection of excellent bonsai were exhibited, great demonstrations and good sales tables. The inaugural Bonsai Open competition with its \$3,000 first prize was a huge incentive to showcase top class bonsai. Congratulations to the team that put the show together.

Here are a few more pictures from the exhibition:



*Karen Patterson's Olive won 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize in the Advanced Section*



*Whilst it did not win, this advanced native is quite stunning*



*Hugh Grant's Black Sheoak won first prize in the Advanced Section*



*A good selection of shohin.*

Making the effort to attend bonsai shows like this one is both inspiring and gives you good ideas for your own bonsai.

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# HUGH GRANT AT BONSAI OPEN

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## Hugh Grant Provides Tips on Junipers

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While styling a pot grown Juniper stock plant at Central Coast's Bonsai Open, Hugh provided some useful insights on the timing of major styling, repotting and pruning Junipers.

It is best to do major work on Junipers either at the start of spring or in late summer/early Autumn. At these times resources within the plant are being dispersed making these times the most efficient for repair. Hugh generally does the major styling work in early spring and then leaves the repotting to late summer/early autumn so as to give the tree time to recover.

In preparation for the major bends, Hugh wrapped wet raffia in the same direction as the proposed bend and then wrapped 6mm gauge aluminium wire in the same clockwise direction. When bending he rotated the branch clockwise as he bent it using pliers as an extra lever. The double movement accentuated the bend.

Early spring is a good time for structural work. However you should not tip prune Junipers at this time. Junipers are foliar dominant so if you tip prune in early spring you are effectively defoliating the plant. The plant cannot build sufficient resources and hence weakens with repeated tip pruning. Tip pruning Junipers should be done in summer. When maintaining Junipers Hugh waits until November/early December to cut back the new elongated growth and then in January examines the plant and does heavy foliage reduction to clean, assess each branch and balance the tree.

In general the timing and type of pruning depends on the plant species and where it builds and stores its resources. For example in pines the root system is dominant for storage of resources.

Many natives are vascular dominant storing reserves in trunks. It all depends on the type of environment a plant comes from. For example melaleucas and tea trees that grow in dry areas are foliar dominant whereas melaleucas and tea trees from wet areas are vascular dominant. Figs and olives are vascular dominant.

Here is a before and after shot of the Juniper styled by Hugh at the Central Coast Bonsai Open event last month.



*Before: In order to create a good line for the tree, the bottom branch will be jinned and the thick top will be given a new apex and re-positioned.*



*After: The tree now has a new top and the asymmetry of the tree is achieved by featuring the elongated main branch on one side with smaller branches compacted on the other set in such a way as to create a good viewing line up the trunk.*

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## Spotting a Very Different Pot

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*At the sales tables at Bonsai Open, I picked up this beautiful mallee root – the perfect pot for my little grevillea*

# PRUNING - WHYS AND HOWS

## Ryan Neil on the Whys and Hows of Pruning

We all know we need to prune our bonsai but what exactly are we trying to achieve when we take on this task? Ryan Neil's Mirai site has a good video on this topic.

In terms of function, when we prune we want to

1. eliminate structural flaws and/or improve structure
2. managing growth by directing the energy within so that the tree is balanced from top to bottom and in both the interior and outer branches
3. ensure photosynthesis is efficient throughout tree

In terms of aesthetics, when we prune we want to

1. cut tips to 2's for ramification of foliar pads
2. ensure even foliar distribution
3. create negative space
4. improve the "line" of the tree
5. improve taper of both trunk and branches
6. assist with the aged look of the tree by cleaning the inner branches.

In terms of development of a tree we want to

1. build branches
2. extend and thicken branches
3. expand foliar mass
4. develop interior budding
5. support root regeneration
6. help with the healing process from cuts

The best times to prune is when the tree is in an energy positive state and resources are beginning to move around. For deciduous trees, in late winter/early spring, just before the buds push out to form leaves is an ideal time to prune. At this time the accumulated sugars and starches within the tree begin moving to generate the foliar solar panels. As the leaves push out, the tree's resources are reduced until the leaves harden off. Once hardened off and photosynthesis is fully functioning, then the tree goes back into an energy positive state and you can prune again.

With Junipers, because of foliar dominance you must wait until the new growth in spring has hardened off before you start pruning. In Sydney major pruning is done in late summer/early autumn. On pruning example by Ryan Neil is a Juniper.

Cleaning Junipers should be part of yearly routine maintenance. The purpose of cleaning is for:

1. sunlight penetration
2. open up the interior for air. The plant needs carbon dioxide for photosynthesis and so good air exchange helps keep the interior buds strong.
3. to open up space for wiring particularly at junctions.

A second reason to prune is to manage growth. In the juniper the apex and tips of branches are stronger than the interior and lower branches. The pruning process redirects the strength by removing the plant hormone, auxin, that is present at the tips. This removal will then support the development of lateral buds and help you with getting the energy balanced throughout the tree.

Pruning also helps with structural improvement. It enables you to refine the branching by reducing inter node distance, develop taper along the branch line and choose the direction of a branch and shape the foliar pad. It also helps remove flaws like swellings, get rid of trio buds and create negative space.



Ryan also demonstrated pruning a deciduous tree. You need to leave a bit of length with a branch cut so that the deciduous tree can compartmentalise. You can remove this little bit of die back later. When removing branches don't cut in too far at the shoulder and treat with cut paste. Make sure you transition you pruning so that you develop taper along the branch. Particularly in spring you need to continuously check your deciduous trees to make sure the inter nodes don't get too long and that they get shorter and shorter as you go out to the tip of the branch.

# JAMIE'S SPRING JBP DIARY

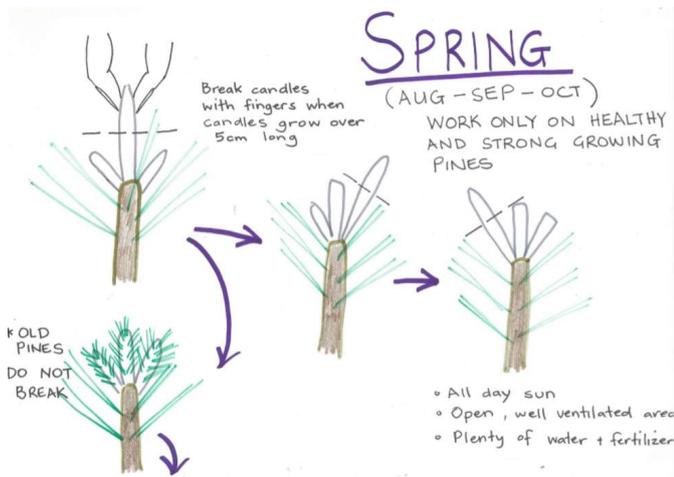
## Japanese Black Pine Diary - Spring

If you had started the pine cycle last year it should have many less old needles near its apex than on lower branches and, hopefully, you will notice a more even distribution of vigour from top to bottom as a result of the needle trimming last winter. (Don't, however, expect to rectify all the problems of the past in one growing season).

In Sydney new needles the new needle growth will appear anywhere from September through to October depending on your micro-environment and the weather. It is possible that some candles will have grown >4cms long by then. If they do, break or cut them off half way – ensuring that some of the new needle buds remain.

“But, but ...” I hear you say, “that’s not the routine I’ve followed in the past”. Correct!! It’s not!!

The reason we remove half the extra long candles is, once again, to balance the growth. We do not want extra energy being spent on a small number of vigorous branches. We want to encourage even growth through all the branches on the tree and by reducing the number of needles on strong branches by half, the vigour of that branch is also reduced and brought more into line with the rest of the tree’s branches.



From spring you should have commenced fertilising you pines (once active growth has commenced). Do not fertilise the Black Pines you repotted for 6 weeks after repotting, during which time the new feeder roots will have developed and have started to grow. Then fertilise these too.

Fertilising should be in small doses and frequent. I use small amounts of *Dynamic Lifter* interspersed with half-strength doses of *fish emulsion*.

I heard it said that a soil revitaliser product, *Seasol*, is an excellent way to rejuvenate tired soil in trees that were not repotted. Try it for yourself and see what you think.

If your pine needed repotting this year, then you should have completed it by now. The optimum time for repotting pines is late August/early September when you notice that candle growth is commencing. If you did repot your pine this year, hopefully you securely anchored it to ensure the new feeder roots do not break when the tree moves around in the wind. Healthy feeder roots are white to light brown in colour, spent roots are spindly and black.

Mealy bugs are often an invader of pines quite often carried in by ants. They some times harbour in the soil and when the new growth starts emerge from the soil and look like small white fluffy cotton wool in the needles. You should check if they are in the soil when you repot. You need to know the difference between detrimental mealy bugs and the beneficial mycorrhizal fungi. Both look fluffy and white. However, the mealy bugs will occur in patches in the soil with the eggs and juveniles within the fluff observable with a magnifying glass whereas the mycorrhizal fungi will follow along the root lines.



Usually with pines you leave some soil on the roots or put a bit of the old potting mix into the pot to transfer the mycorrhizal fungi. However if you do find mealy bugs in the soil, then you need to wash the roots to remove the infection. If your pine ends up with a mealybug infection in its needles then you need to immediately treat it with neem oil or horticultural oil. I actually have found that Yates Scale gun works well. It is a mixture of horticultural oil and pyrethrum.

# RUST IN FIGS & EVENTS CALENDAR

## Rust in Port Jackson Figs

*Ficus rubiginosa*, commonly known as the Port Jackson fig is native the Australian east coast from Queensland to Bega in southern NSW. This spring some of my figs got the fungal infection “rust”. Rust attacks a significant number of species of fig.



Rust on Fig Leaves

### Identifying Fig Rust on Leaves

Humid air or excessive rain will encourage this fig disease. Rust is a fungal growth that is rarely found in dry climates. The first sign of rust are tiny yellow spots on the underside of leaves. The rust on the fig leaf’s underside then spreads to the upper proportion and the spots become reddish brown (0.5 to 1 cm across). As the rust progresses, the fig leaves will yellow and fall to the ground.

### How to Prevent Fig Rust

The simplest way to prevent fig rust is to water only the ground under you figs. Rust fungus seeks free moisture on the leaves. Water in the morning so the sun has a chance to dry the foliage.

Careful pruning can also help by improving the air circulation through the branches, allowing the evaporation of excess water from the leaves. Rust spores remain over winter if you do not clean up any debris of fallen leaves.

### Treating Fig Rust

Separate any infected trees from your other bonsai especially other uninfected figs. Rust seems to respond best to fungicides containing copper sulphate and lime. You will need to repeat treatments every two to three weeks. Often fungicide treatment is unsuccessful for the current season. However it is important to keep removing any infected leaves and put them in the garbage (never compost) bin to reduce the spread of the infection.

## On the Bench in September



## Bonsai Events Calendar

Date	Event	Details
12-13 Oct 2019	Canberra Bonsai Society Annual Show	Canberra High School Main Hall, Belconnen Way, Belconnen
19-20 Oct 2019	37 <sup>th</sup> Annual Show School of Bonsai	9am-4pm Ray Nesci Exhibition Centre, 26 Sagars Rd. Dural
8-10 Nov 2019	Newcastle Bonsai Society Annual Exhibition	Charlestown Bowling Club, Charlestown
15-18 May 2020	AABC National Convention	Hosted by Illawarra Bonsai Society. Bankstown Sports Club, Sydney