



NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

Green Square Community Hall
3 Joynton Avenue Zetland

7pm Tuesday 14 April 2020
CANCELLED

7pm Tuesday 12 May 2020
CANCELLED

CONTACT DETAILS



0432 461 025



info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au



<http://sydneycitybonsai.org.au>



PO Box 486
Summerhill NSW 2130

COMMITTEE

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Patron | TBA |
| President | Chris |
| Vice President | Neville |
| Secretary | David |
| Treasurer | Bryan |
| Newsletter Editor | Chris (temp) |
| Librarian | Les |
| Committee | Frank, John, Roz, 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.

APRIL, MAY AND JUNE MEETINGS

- All CANCELLED

IN THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Club News | page 2 |
| Feedback on March meeting | page 2 |
| The history of Bonsai | page 3 |
| Things to think about this month | page 3 |
| Bonsai Events Calendar | page 4 |

YOUR (INTERIM) EDITORS

Bryan, John and I continue preparation of the Newsletter. If anyone wants to take on the challenge of being the Editor, don't be shy coming forward.

Please feel free to supply any stories, articles, comments to share with other members, this is particularly relevant during the upcoming period when we will have no monthly meeting. Also, if there is a particular topic that you would like addressed, raise it with Bryan, John or myself and we will see what can be done - Chris



What a bit of attention and 120 years can achieve



CLUB NEWS

APRIL, MAY and JUNE MEETINGS

CANCELLED - Due to the Corona Virus outbreak, the April, May and June Club meetings will be cancelled. The standing of meetings after June will depend on subsequent developments. Members will be advised via the Newsletter and/or e-mail as relevant.

ROYAL EASTER SHOW et al

The Royal Easter Show and National Arboretum Bonsai Week have been cancelled which is a great disappointment but in the circumstances not unexpected.

MARCH MEETING FEEDBACK

SOURCE: CHRIS DENTON

MARCH MEETING STYLING COMPETITION

The commencement of activities was delayed for about an hour as the hall was booked for another engagement prior to our meeting.

The Club sourced three good quality stock trees for the competition. They were Junipers from Bonsai South and they proved very suitable stock for the competition. Thanks to Bryan for choosing and purchasing the trees.

Disappointingly, there was a low turnout for the meeting so only two teams were formed, each comprising four members. The terms of the competition were explained to all participants and then they were let loose for a period of 45 minutes.

The two teams (Team A- David et al and Team B- Bryan et al) worked feverishly on their projects. All team members were engaged in the styling process and each team took a different styling approach, as dictated by the basic shape of their stock plants.



Teams A and B hard at it

By mutual agreement, the 45 minute timeframe was extended by 5 minutes so final touches could be applied to the trees.

The styled trees were very impressive. The winning tree was judged by an impartial member who arrived a little late and was not one of the competitors.

Both trees were subsequently offered for sale and both were snapped up at more than the purchase price of the stock plants – as was appropriate as considerable value was added by the competition participants.

It was agreed that the exercise was beneficial to all. The more “learned” members had a chance to share their knowledge. Less experienced members had a hands-on go at styling a good quality stock plant under the guidance of more proficient members. They gained in confidence and capability from the exercise which is one of the main advantages of belonging to a Club.

Sadly the author forgot to take “before” photos but did take “after” photos, which appear below.

The third stock plant is available for sale to anyone who would like a good stock Juniper, please see Bryan.



Team A Juniper



Team B Juniper

EXHIBITION TREES

The accent was on the styling competition, never-the-less two member brought some nice exhibition trees, a Juniper and a Chinese Elm, shown overleaf. The author is still not organised enough to collect the appropriate details but, from memory the Elm, belonged to Ed and Nick tabled the Juniper.



Nick's Juniper



Ed's Elm

THE HISTORY OF BONSAI

SOURCE: JOHN BROWN and CHRIS DENTON

THE HISTORY OF BONSAI

We all know what constitutes a Bonsai, but what do you know about the history of Bonsai?

Trees grown in pots (originally stone pots) can be traced back at least 4000 years. The first documentation of "trees in pots" was made by Egyptians. They were used mainly for ceremonial purposes and in some cases food sources. Romans, Greek, Chinese, Indians, Babylonians, Persians all developed the skill to miniaturise trees grown in pots. Ancient Indians, in particular were known to cultivate trees specifically for medicinal purposes. In addition, potted plants were used for the provision of food, especially where trees were grown in non-indigenous climates. Potted trees could be moved around to cater for seasonal variations.

The Chinese were the first to develop the miniaturisation of trees for purely aesthetic purposes as recognised in written records going back to approximately the third century AD.

For two millennia before this, the art of defining the shape of trees for aesthetic purposes (topiary) had been practiced and extensively developed. However, as with other purely artistic or non-essential undertakings, it was the domain of the wealthy. The manipulation of trees' shapes, usually in a landscape setting, had various names and the practice we now know as Penjing dates from approximately the 6th century AD.

The earliest illustration of a Penjing is found in the Qianling Mausoleum murals at the Tang-dynasty tomb of Crown Prince Zhanghuai dating to 706. By the 17th Century Bonsai was a more common among the less wealthy.

Territorial, commercial, religious and cultural interactions between China and Japan have occurred for millennia. "Penjing" spread to Japan where it was termed Bonsai (Punsai or Pensai in Chinese to differentiate it from Penjing's landscape orientation). Stories referring to Bonsai began to appear in Japan by the 17th century and trees from this period survive to the present day. The oldest known bonsai, considered a National Treasure of Japan, is in the Tokyo Imperial Palace collection and is thought to be 500 years old although there are claims of older Bonsai specimens.

Bonsai became known in the West by the mid-19th century particularly through increasing colonial contacts with Japan. However, following World War II the Japanese tradition of Bonsai became increasingly available to the rest of the World and today is practiced in varying styles all over the globe.

It should be noted that different global locations apply their own interpretation of what constitutes a "Bonsai". Early Bonsai were literally miniaturised trees in pots but from about 1900 onwards, development of the "clip and grow" method turned pot plants into works of art which is now the common interpretation. However, Bonsais in, say, Vietnam, are recognisably different from those of Japanese or Chinese origin. Similarly, to the trained eye differences between typical Chinese and Japanese specimens are obvious. Bonsai in the West and specifically in Australia probably do not have a definitive style but the adaption of endemic Australian species certainly allows for distinctiveness.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT THIS MONTH

SOURCE: JOHN BROWN and CHRIS DENTON

Tasks you may want to think about this month include:-

- Repotting your evergreens.
- Styling your (black) pines – heavy branch pruning and possibly doing some needle thinning (if consistent with your chosen needle reduction strategy).



- Needle evergreens (Pine, Spruce, Fir, etc.) can be wired.
- Repot/root prune flowering Quince, Cherry and other fruit trees. Cut off any Autumn fruit, reduce root mass by no more than 30% and use less-rich potting mix. Recuperate in sunny but sheltered position.
- Monitor watering regime so the soil is not overly wet.
- Fertilize with low nitrogen, high potassium and phosphorus organic fertilizer, half strength every 2-3 weeks. As always, do not fertilize newly re-potted trees for at least 2-3 weeks.
- Leafy, semi-hard cuttings can be taken from Banksias.
- Trim your Figs that should be growing like crazy given the recent weather.

Events Calendar

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| 23-29 March 2020 | National Arboretum Bonsai Week | CANCELLED |
| 09-10 April 2020 | Royal Easter Show Bonsai exhibition | CANCELLED |
| 15-18 May 2020 | AABC Convention hosted by Illawarra Bonsai Society | Bankstown Sports Club, Bankstown – no advice about possible cancellation yet |