



NEXT CLUB MEETING

Green Square Community Hall

3 Joynton Ave., Zetland

NOTE meetings have been suspended due to compliance with current Covid-19 virus requirements. Meetings will be resumed when permitted.

CONTACT DETAILS



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<http://sydneycitybonsai.org.au>



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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

Full membership \$40

MEMBERSHIP

Concession	\$25
Family	\$55
Pensioner	\$25

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

In compliance with statutory requirements, meetings have been suspended.

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EDITORIAL MATTERS

We hope this e-mail finds you well and coping satisfactorily with the Covid-19 challenges. It is a trying time and we can just make the best of the situation.

Bryan, John and I are still producing the Newsletter but if someone else wants a go, please put you hand up.

The Newsletter will be available throughout the period of the quarantine restrictions.

We always welcome any contributions from members, so if you have a project underway, have a query, want to sell/swap/buy something, or otherwise have a tale to share, please get in contact via info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au or one of the Committee members.



The tree featured last month was a mere 120 years old – this one is 200! Its time to start your version NOW.

SCBC wishes to thank Sydney City Council for their continued support for our Club by providing the meeting hall at a concessional rate.



FEDBACK ON LAST MEETING

Regrettably, an easy one this month – we did not have a meeting!

MONTHLY VIRTUAL COMPETITION

It looks like we will not be having our meetings for a while but that does not mean we cannot keep contact with our fellow bonsai enthusiasts.

To this end we will continue our monthly Newsletter.

In addition, it has been proposed that we have a virtual monthly competition to keep people interested and informed. **NOTE** this is entirely **OPTIONAL** but participation will be appreciated so we can stay in touch.

The competition will be for specified bonsai categories, which will be varied monthly. This month we will be calling for entries to

- Class A – Ficus bonsai, any style, under 400mm
- Class B – Ficus bonsai, any style, over 400mm
- Class C – Ficus bonsai, root over/under/beside/in/on rock, any size – i.e. a fig with a rock or a rock with a fig

To enter the competition just take a photo of your tree(s) and send to the Club's e-mail address (info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au) and nominate which class(es) you would like to enter.

The procedure and rules are simple. In the e-mail;-

- Include photo(s) and your name, etc. Only one photo per tree.
- Include the class you are entering (NOTE size is measured from the soil surface to the topmost part of the tree – no cheating! 420mm is NOT “close enough” to go into the less than 400mm class!)
- Provide some background points (size, type of tree, age, origin (cutting, seed, ...), or any other interesting info) – this is **optional** but it can be included for the interest of others.

- You can enter more than one class and submit more than one entry into each class – just differentiate between the entries with some sort of identifier (number, letter, etc.). Each tree can only go into one class.
- Photos of the entries will be included in the Newsletter and identified by a number, not the member's name.
- Members will vote by e-mail for the winners – one vote per member per class – and, yes you can vote for your own tree.
- Winners will be announced in the Newsletter.

Hints-

- Take photos against a plain, dark background to best accentuate the features of the tree.
- Fill the whole frame with the subject.
- Photograph the tree at eye level.
- Use a decent camera/phone and hold it still!
- Include the photos as attachments to your e-mail, preferably not embedded.

The proposed (approx.) time schedule is

- Week 2 this month, Newsletter goes out as normal with invitation to enter competition.
- End of week 4 (say **29th May**) this month, will be the closing date for members to submit entries for competition.
- Week 2 next month Newsletter goes out displaying competition entries. Members to vote on entries, preferably within a week or so to allow collation of votes. Date TBA.
- Winners announced in following Newsletter and classes for next month's classes advised.
- Repeat on monthly basis.

Happy to have any feedback and suggestions for improvements or other ideas.

The prize for the winner in each class will be \$5.00 worth of tickets in the next raffle.

Looking forward to your participation, so get photographing!

LEE'S RESTING TREES by Lee

SOMETIMES REST IS GOOD FOR A BONSAI



In 2008 I got an elm stock plant and it rapidly became a lovely bonsai. It has been in club shows and done well in the Royal Easter Show, year after year. The last two years the tree has been sick. Leaf loss, little vigour, minimal growth but the roots are healthy. The tree has a history with me, I bought it when Sue Brennan and I were on a bonsai crawl so I have always associated it with her, it has a charm and character and I don't want to lose it.

Stimulants didn't work, nothing seemed to bring it out of its funk so I moved it to a larger bonsai pot and once it settles for several months I will move it to a larger training pot. I think the tree is simply tired of being a bonsai so I am letting it grow for a year to regain the health it used to have. So far its response has been promising and I am pleased. I have other trees that are older, have always been in small pots but show no ill effects. Trees are as individual as people. I find that trees of the same species often have different needs so this tree wanted a rest and a good root run.

So consider any 'off' trees you have that might have been in a confined pot longer than its tolerance for restriction can take. Give it a rest in a larger pot, let it grow wildly for a year and then start to retrain it. Or, if you are like me, lightly prune to keep the proper skeleton but leave the branches to grow.



"Legolas' in his better days. The elm is named after the elf in Lord of the Rings, sitting on the ground with his legs crossed."

By John

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH - May

1. Lighten or remove completely the load of fruit, berries or seed on your trees. If the load is too heavy or left on too long it may reduce the energy in the tree. This may not cause die-back but is likely to reduce flowering and fruiting next year.
2. Reconsider your water regime in accordance with the changing season and weather.
3. Deciduous trees subject to mildew attack (e.g. oak and crepe myrtle) may be sprayed with a weak Lime-Sulphur solution after all the leaves have fallen.
4. Semi-hardwood cuttings of Banksia may still be taken if weather is still warm.
5. Callistemon can still be collected all through the winter months. They can be bare rooted if necessary but ensure they are cut back hard when collecting.
6. Old needles on JBP can be removed. Wait for the tree to become dormant and the new needles have sufficiently hardened.
7. Deciduous trees can be styled more easily when the leaves have fallen – wiring is less likely to cut-in during this dormant period.

SOCIAL MEDIA PAGE

It has been proposed that we establish a social media page e.g. on Facebook or other platform. Can members indicate their preferences – i.e. **YES/NO, PREFERRED PLATFORM**. Reply via Club e-mail info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au.

BONSAI EVENTS CALENDAR

Essentially, all events have been suspended/cancelled due to the Covid-19 virus statutory requirements.