



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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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

MEMBERSHIP

Full membership	\$40
Concession	\$25
Family	\$55
Pensioner	\$25

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

In compliance with statutory requirements, there will not be a June meeting.

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EDITORIAL MATTERS

We hope this e-mail still finds you well and coping satisfactorily with the Covid-19 challenges. It is a trying time but let's hope the end is nigh and we can resume our meeting schedule in the near future. 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 youngster at 200 years old – this one is 450! I am not sure I can better this.

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, again!

MONTHLY VIRTUAL COMPETITION

Virtual competition #1 has closed and the trees are ready to be judged. They are grouped and displayed at the end of the newsletter. Have a critical look at them and place your vote(s) by e-mail to (info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au). All that is required is to nominate your preferences by quoting the Class and Entry number in that class.

The judging criteria is very flexible. Give some thought to technical excellence, amount of effort put into the tree, age and just how it appeals to yourself. One vote per class and you can vote for your own tree if you wish. Winners will be announced next Newsletter but **votes should be in by 15th June**.

As we will not have a meeting in June, we will run another competition. This month we will be calling for entries to

- Class A – Upright (formal, informal, ...) any species, any size.
- Class B – Cascade, any species, any size.
- Class C – Group setting, any species any size.

As before, 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 same procedure and rules as last time apply, ie. In the e-mail;-

- Include photo(s) and your name, etc. Only one photo per tree.
- Nominate the class(es) you are entering and name the files so I can tie the tree to the class you wish to enter and any background points
- If you wish, provide some background points (size, type of tree, age, origin (cutting, seed, ...), or any other interesting info)

- You can enter more than one class and submit more than one entry into each class – just differentiate between the entries
- Each tree can only go into one class.

Hints-

- Most people seem to have got the photo thing right but maybe mix up the backgrounds so it is not so obvious which trees are “related”.
- Include the photos as attachments to your e-mail, preferably not embedded.
- Smaller file sizes are preferred – high resolution is not required

The proposed time schedule is

- Closing date for Virtual competition #2 will be **26th June**)
- Display of entries for Virtual Competition #1 are attached and **voting closes 15th June**
- Winners for Virtual Competition #1 will be announced in the July Newsletter.

We're happy to have any feedback and suggestions for improvements or other ideas on things we can do as a club. We are still looking at Facebook or like options for e.

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!

LANDSCAPE ARTICLE from BRYAN

WHEN YOU HAVE SOME TIME ON YOUR HANDS ...



Mystery Bay NSW South Coast

I love exploring the southern NSW beaches so my idea was to try and capture their essence. I am no



expert at creating bonsai landscapes, but here is how I created mine.

What you need

1. **Base or tray** – I converted an old surfboard
2. **Material to create an artificial landscape** (Rocks, pottery, faux landscape) – I used a few ceramic/pottery pieces I made.
3. **Planting material** (smaller bonsai stock, tillandsia, small succulents, small ground covers, etc)
4. **Soil** – I used a light weight mix.



Base

I began by converting the surfboard into a tray. I filled in the dips, covered the top and bottom with sand paint and created a small inlet in the front corner for accent and to give the impression of the oceans' edge. Details on converting a surfboard to a tray can be found on the [Sydney City Bonsai website](#).

Landscape Material

I created planters to reflect the rocks and cliffs of the South Coast (other options include building a landscape out of high-density foam (see [March 2018 Newsletter](#)), builders bog, rocks or get creative with what you have on hand). Consider the landscape you want to evoke. Nooks, crevices, hidden pockets and areas that are not immediately visible all create interest. Leave empty areas to balance your landscape mass and highlight your trees. Include different size openings to plant into and don't forget drainage.

Planting, styling and soil

In the design, I wanted to ensure there was enough negative space between the different pieces of the landscape so that they supported each other and didn't compete. This meant that I needed to consider the mass of trees and plants once they settled in. I also wanted to create a scalene triangle, reflecting and supporting the asymmetric look that creates interest and dynamism in bonsai.

Unlike a bonsai group planting, landscapes use a variety of different plants with different foliage shapes. This allows for a more natural look. I started with a few Serissas. Their small leaves worked well in proportion to the landscape. I also used a cascade juniper I had around from one of the Christmas club styling competitions and a number of small plants to fill out the small holes in the side of the planter. By using different plants and styles, I hoped to create a natural look reflecting the range of plants that hang off and grow up the beachside cliffs.

I started by styling each of the bonsai separately. In planting into the landscape, I did a second styling, adjusting the trees to aspects of the planter. Finally, once everything was combined and arranged on the base, I did a final styling considering spacing and the positions of different landscape pieces.

For soil I used a mix designed to minimise weight and ensure water holding and drainage. I also considered heat transfer as I have found overheating can be an issue when tall enclosed pots are exposed to hot summer sun. I am hoping this mix and lighter coloured pot will minimise overheating.

My experimental mix was roughly in the following proportions: vermiculite (2 parts), pumice (1.5 parts), expanded perlite (4 parts), coir peat (3 parts) and plain dynamic lifter or composted chicken poo pellets (1 part). While I haven't used this mix long enough to attest to its suitability for bonsai, I am appreciating the fact that I am able to lift and move the planter with relative ease.



When planting in the trees I also embedded a couple of small weeper hose rings in different areas of the planter. This will allow me to plug the planter into my automatic watering system as well as using external sprayers when I am on holidays.

I still need to trim the resin piece representing the water of the bay. I will also repaint and seal the board to eliminate the developing water stain. As I check it each day, I will enjoy tweaking the positioning of the different stones until I am satisfied that each is correctly positioned. As with all bonsai I see it as a project to be reworked, restyled and replanted as it grows and develops.



THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH - June

By John and a bit from Chris

1. Winter is the time for shaping your trees, in particular deciduous trees are best shaped while you can observe their structure and form without leaves to obscure it. Heavy pruning of all trees, wiring and needle plucking of pines.
2. Cut back on the watering of all your trees to ensure they do not stay wet and develop root rot. A good rule of thumb is to make sure that the soil is fairly dry before rewatering but then make sure that the water penetrates and doesn't just run off. Its better to water in the morning so that the excess water has a chance to drain.
3. For trees that are prone to mildew (eg Maples, Crepe Myrtles, Oaks and Olives) it's a good idea

to spray with lime-sulphur solution two or three times during winter to kill the mildew spores and ensure healthy green growth in Spring.

4. Repot deciduous trees in late winter as buds begin to swell in preparation of the new spring growth. However if you have a lot of deciduous trees, you can start repotting and root pruning the trees that went into early dormancy during June.
5. You can wire all trees (all species) at this time so that it can be left on as long as possible. Let the tree dry out a little because moisture swells the cells and makes the branches more brittle and therefore more prone to breaking. While the trees are not actively growing the wire will not cut in and scar the tree.
6. Trees will benefit from being in the sun during winter as this helps with bud development and healthier spring growth.
7. If trees have developed a full coating of moss on the soil then remove some to improve air circulation and drainage through the soil. Put the excess moss in a shallow tray of soil and keep moist for use in repotting in spring.
8. Because we don't get frosts or ice in eastern Sydney we don't need to protect tropical trees (Ficus, etc.) but consider the native conditions your trees are used to and lookout for weather extremes.
9. Keep an eye out for caterpillar attack on some species such as Callistemons. They can defoliate a tree in 24hrs

References

AusBonsai Wiki

"Bonsai, Its Art, Science, History and Philosophy"

by D R Koreshoff

SOCIAL MEDIA PAGE

It has been proposed that we establish a social media page e.g. on Facebook or other platform. The Exec is still looking at options – thanks to those who have provided feedback.



BONSAI EVENTS CALENDAR

Now	Bonsai South is open for business	
Now	Ray Nesci is open for business	
Now	Virtual competition: vote May and Photograph for June	May Virtual Competition #1: Voting deadline 15 June June Competition #2: Photos due by 26 June

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

VIRTUAL COMPETITION #1 ENTRIES

Class A - Ficus, any style, under 400mm



Entry 1
PJ fig, shop purchased 5 yrs ago,
280mm tall



Entry 2
Willow leaf fig



Entry 3
PJ fig – seed 2010, 300mm tall



Entry 4
MB fig – 250mm tall



Entry 5
PJ fig – raffle prize a couple of
years ago, 190mm tall



Entry 6
PJ fig – seed 2008, 300 tall



Entry 7
PJ fig – seed 2006, 290mm tall



Entry 8
PJ fig



Entry 9
PJ fig – seedling 4 years ago,
260mm tall



Entry 10
PJ fig – 15? years old - purchased a
couple of years ago, 150mm tall



Entry 11
PJ fig – seedling 10 years old,
190mm tall



Entry 12
PJ fig – club member reject 10?
years old, 400mm tall

Class B Ficus, any style, over 400mm



Entry 1
PJ fig – seedling 20+ years
ago, 500mm tall



Entry 2
PJ fig – since 2006, 400mm tall



Entry 3
PJ fig – seedling 25 years old, 600mm tall



Class Ficus, root over/under/beside/in/on rock, any size



Entry 1
Benjamina fig – 10 years
training, 660mm tall



Entry 2
PJ fig – seedling from wild 20 years ago,
520mm tall



Entry 3
PJ fig – seed 2006, 390mm tall



Entry 4
PJ fig - seedling 15 years old,
520mm tall