



NEXT CLUB MEETING

Tote Centre Community Hall

100 Joynton Ave., Zetland

NOTE meetings have been suspended due to compliance with current Covid-19 virus requirements. Meetings will resume when permitted. **NOTE the change in venue**

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

In compliance with statutory requirements, there will not be an August meeting.

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EDITORIAL MATTERS

We hope this e-mail still finds you well and still coping satisfactorily with the Covid-19 challenges. I thought the end of restrictions was nigh but I was wrong. We do not know when we will resume our meeting schedule.

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.



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

This is getting monotonous - we did not have a meeting, again!

Virtual competition #2 has closed and judged. The

MONTHLY VIRTUAL COMPETITION

winners are Class A **Lee Wright**, Class B **Neville Althaus** and Class C **Neville Althaus**.

Congratulations – all winners will get \$5 worth of tickets in our next raffle. Thanks to all who voted but again, most did not take the opportunity to have a say. Let's hope for a better voter turnout next time. The entries to Competition #3 are in, 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. One vote per class and you can vote for your own tree if you wish. Winners will be announced in the next Newsletter but **votes should be in by 21st August**. We will not have a competition this month. However members are encouraged to supply a bit of text and a photo or two about a specimen or experience or other bonsai related matter they would like to share with other members. Don't be shy – have a go. Other members will be interested. It's your chance to be "published".

Looking forward to your participation, so get writing/photographing!

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE. Collection of membership fees have been delayed due to the COVID situation but they are now due. The Exec has decided to **HALVE** the fees for this year due to the lost meetings etc.

Membership fees for this year (2020-2021) are:-

Full membership	\$20
Concession	\$12.50
Family	\$22.50
Pensioner	\$12.50

(Concession rate is for students, juniors and those experiencing financial hardships).

Electronic transfer payment is preferred using the following account details:-

Sydney City Bonsai Club

BSB - 032 152

A/C No. - 166305

Remember to include your name in the transfer details.

For payment by other means please contact Bryan via info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au

DEVELOPING ROOTS by Lee

Ever had a problem with unsightly nebari? Lee may have an answer...



This is a trident maple, about 30 cm tall, with a lot of potential and coming along very well BUT the wide spread roots are not attractive and diminish the quality of the tree. I accepted this for several years [when I should have done something about it straight away] but eventually could not ignore the need to improve the nebari.



An incision was made from one end of the left extended root to the right end and hardwood rooting powder applied to the wound. Dirt was piled up and then wet sphagnum moss put on top to keep the area constantly moist. The tree was repotted into a seedling tray to give it room to grow and develop roots. A year later during June's root prune and repotting, it was pleasing to see a number of new roots growing strongly. If I do this again I feel it would be better to put a flexible tube or a roll of clay under the area to encourage the roots to grow outwards before growing downwards. However, with a couple more years of development and thickening the nebari should be far more satisfactory and improve the quality of the trident.



The maple has been put back in a bonsai pot [because I'm the impatient sort] but sphagnum moss piled over the root area to maintain the moisture and allow the roots to develop faster. This way I can remove the sphagnum moss if I want to display the

tree and still keep up the growing regime. It is looking better after this work and this proves that it is just as important to tend to the nebari as to the upper structure of your trees.

AND SPEAKING OF MODIFYING ROOT STRUCTURES.....

RECIPE FOR EXPOSED ROOTS by Bryan



Recipe for exposed roots

Ingredients:

- 1 x Fig or another young tree with the potential good root growth
- 1 x 30cm length of PVC pipe (length and diameter can vary, I chose 30 cm x 10 cm)
- 2 x lengths of bonsai wire (long enough to wrap around PVC tubing with a bit extra)
- 2 x 30 cm lengths of tape
- 1 x small bag of river sand
- 1 x pot filled with bonsai soil (I used a training/orchid pot)

This technique was suggested at the club's 2018, Bonsai World nursery crawl. Mid-summer (for figs) or early spring for most other trees may be the best time for this project. Having extra time on my hands with the COVID lockdown, I decided to have a go at planting for exposed roots.



Start by cutting a PVC pipe to the length of the root you wish to expose, adding a few cm for depth of planting. I cut my pipe to about 30 cm. Cut the tube in half lengthwise, splitting it in two. Cutting it now helps prevent damaging the roots when removing them once they have grown and developed.



Re-join the two halves with bonsai wire and seal the split with gaffer or other tape to help hold in the sand. Place the empty tube upright in the pot of bonsai soil.



Holding the cutting or young tree in the top of the tube, fill it with dry washed river sand. If it is too wet it can create air pockets in the tube. Pull the tree up to the desired planting depth.



Water from the top aiming to keep the sand moist. Initially feed from the top with a bit of slow release fertilizer to encourage root growth. After a couple of months gradually cut back fertilizing from the top and fertilize only from the bottom.

I expect to grow the fig in this pot for a couple of years before exposing the roots. The idea is that the plant sends down roots through the sand to get nutrients from the potting mix below. The sand unlike the potting mix doesn't hold nutrients or organic material from which to feed. Once the roots reach the potting mix you can split your watering to both the top (sand) and bottom (potting mix). You should be able to tell when it has reached this stage by checking how tightly the tube is anchored in the pot. In a year or two open the container to check the root growth. You will need to replant into the tube if the roots need to develop further. Once the roots develop to the size you want and you are ready to expose them, gradually cut back watering from the top to allow the roots to begin hardening off.

This is the first time I have tried this but expect it will allow me to develop an 'exposed root' or 'root over rock' style tree. After they are exposed, the roots may need initial support to shape them and allow them to further harden off. Once I have exposed the roots, I plan to chop back the top and start work on development of the upper section.



THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH - August

By John

1. Finish repotting, branch and root pruning of deciduous trees in preparation for Spring growth. The ideal time depends on the species and local climate but is best done when the leaf buds swell but have not burst.
2. As Winter wanes, return *tropicals* outside from their winter protection but be careful of any late frosts.
3. Ensure all trees requiring wiring have been done and prepare to monitor them all through spring to ensure they do not suffer wire cutting in.
4. Start fertilizing of evergreen trees again.
5. Best time for deciduous Yamadori or to lift, root prune and replant trees from gardens for further growth.
6. Major redesign and work on trees can done now.
7. Grafting of Pines and other evergreens.
8. Melaleuca cuttings can be taken now off half-ripe lateral shoots.

Sources:

1. AusBonsai Wiki
2. "Bonsai, Its Art, Science, History and Philosophy" by D R Koreshoff

BONSAI EVENTS CALENDAR

29 September 2020	Garden Clubs of Australia AGM	
12-13 September 2020	Central Coast Bonsai Club Annual Show	Cancelled
17-18 October 2020	Wauchope Bonsai Club Show	Lauriton
	Illawarra BS newsletter	Available on request
	Yarra Valley Newsletter	Available on request

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



VIRTUAL COMPETITION #3 ENTRIES

Class A – Bare, or trees in Winter foliage, any species



Entry 1
Catlin, 15 years old, 250 mm tall



Entry 2
Manchurian Pear, 10 years old,
600mm tall



Entry 3
Trident Maple, 6 years old,
300mm tall



Entry 4
Privet, 15 years old, 1000mm tall



Entry 5
Elm, 8 years old, 250mm tall