



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



0432 461 025



info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au



<http://sydneycitybonsai.org.au>



PO Box 486
Summerhill NSW 2130

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	\$40.00 (\$20.00 for 2020/21)
Concession	\$25.00 (\$12.50 for 2020/21)

MEMBERSHIP

Family	\$55.00 (\$27.50 for 2020/21)
Pensioner	\$25.00 (\$12.50 for 2020/21)

Reduced fees for 2020/21, in Brackets, are applicable due to Covid-19 impacts.

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

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

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EDITORIAL MATTERS

Sadly, Covid-19 restrictions are still applicable. We hope this e-mail still finds you well and coping satisfactorily.

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.

**NOTE Membership fees for 2020/21, at reduced rates, are due. Electronic transfer is preferred –
Sydney City Bonsai Club
BSB – 032 152
A/C No. 166305**

Contact Bryan via the Club e-mail for other options.

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



FEEDBACK ON LAST MEETING

Regrettably, there is no previous meeting to report on.

SPRING BLOSSOMS

We will not be having a Virtual competition this month. However, a request has been made for members to share photos of their plants in all their spring glory. This may be foliage related or flowers or buds ... the choice is yours. They will be shared in the next Newsletter.

Looking forward to your participation, so get photographing!

ELM – A WORK IN PROGRESS by Lee



I bought the elm in March 2019. I liked the lower trunk and the bark although the twin apical trunks were a horror story - growth gone totally wrong. Elms shoot back on old wood, develop quickly and are resilient with good care. My original design idea was to remove the horns, wire the left horizontal branch up for the new apex. Unfortunately, the adjustment was too great and the branch died in a couple of months. In the meantime, I had stripped the bark off the main trunk stub - but not well enough and a shoot quickly developed on the underside.



I left the shoot, expecting it to die but it robustly grew and for want of branches I left it. In the cleft between the original designed apex and the jin a shoot developed and I left it to grow into a new apical branch. It has been slow to grow but spring growth in 2020 is promising and it should be fairly substantial by the end of the current growing season. In the meantime, the design keeps changing. The two lower horizontal branches are developing too rapidly, thickening too keenly. The lower one was a shoot that developed at the front of the tree and I left it because there was no other option. It looks uncomfortable - the position is not the best. The back branch that grew from under the jin is thickening too rapidly and too much visual weight is occurring at the top of the tree and there are too many major branches in close proximity.



Next alteration to the design idea is to let the two shoots on the lower trunk grow. They are offset so they won't be bar branching and these could



become the new lower branches and I can remove the strong lower right horizontal and get a better trunk line. The lower left branch is really too near the apical development and that area will thicken and could become an eyesore. So leaving the lower shoot to develop means I can quite possibly eliminate the major left horizontal at the end of the season, removing the clutter from the upper trunk.



This is not what I planned in my original design idea when I got the tree but nature rules and we have to go with nature and work with the materials that develop on the tree. This tree hasn't been as straightforward as some of my trees but it keeps my design ideas in motion and it is good to get a tree that makes you work to transform rough nature into a nice bonsai.

A TALE OF TWO FIGS by Chris

Let me relate the history of two of my (many) Port Jackson figs.

I do not usually name trees but in this case, for ease, let me call them Eddie and Cecil.

Eddie is my **very first** bonsai. I saw Eddie as a seedling happily residing in a gutter on a low-hanging awning in Woodstock Park, Burwood, way back in 1992. While Eddie seemed to be thriving in the ignorance of youth, I determined he did not have a great future in that location. I had thoughts about getting into bonsai from time to time and for unknown reasons I determined this was the time to start. Hence, I plucked the tiny seedling out of the mush in the gutter and carried it back home

between my fingers. It had a trunk a few centimetres high and the size of a matchstick. Eddie was adorned with about 4 leaves. Clearly there was considerable potential. I put Eddie junior in a pot and waited for the potential to be realised ... and waited ... and waited. Eventually after years of indifferent care, and limited enlightened styling, Eddie eventually bulked up and started to develop a bit of character. He looked a bit lonely so I adopted other bonsai candidates to keep him company over the years.

I met Neville at the bonsai stand at the Royal Easter Show (in 2007?) and he persuaded me to get in contact with a bonsai club. SCBC was the nearest to me, and, at that time, it met in Collins St. Alexandria. It took me some time to get the courage to take a tree to a club meeting but eventually Eddie made the trip to Alexandria. The usual suspects congregated around Eddie and the fate of the top half of his main trunk was sealed – it had to go.

The main trunk was “shortened” about eight (?) years ago and repair of the significant wound is still occurring. The remaining branches, foliage and nebari have developed to give a quite reasonable specimen. The piece removed was large but it was successfully treated as a cutting. So this became my first family in my collection. Father and son are shown below.



Eddie is by no means a show piece, and the cutting is less so, but he is a reminder of when I started. Taking care of him gives me some pleasure, so I owe him (and he owes me).



Cecil is a different story. Those of you who have worked on the Royal Easter Show should recognise Cecil. His is the end product of the progression of “seedling to bonsai” we have had on the stand for a few years. Cecil was rudely pulled from a rotten hollow fence post on a friend’s property on the Shoalhaven River, west of Nowra. The seed he grew from was located well down in the post so the main root went down and the trunk went up. The local cows did the initial shaping. When I extracted Cecil he had about 1000mm of tap root and 250mm of straight trunk, with a ball of fluff at the top. He went home in the boot of my car wrapped in wet newspaper. It seemed Cecil was destined to be associated with a rock somehow so in my ignorance I obtained a piece of sandstone (about the size of a brick) and wrapped the root around it a couple of times and put it in a pot where it stayed for several years. Cecil proceeded to swallow the rock and grow a very straight, long trunk, capped with a flat-top of foliage. Time to get the saw out. The trunk (maybe 50mm in diameter) was cut just above the root/rock/nebari and below the flat-top. The middle was discarded and with most of the branches removed, the top became a large cutting.

Naturally, all the new growth occurred on one side of the trunk – does it ever grow where you want it! After a year or so when the new branches had thickened a bit, I successfully used two of them as through grafts to get foliage on all sides of the trunk. These grafts took a couple of years to take. Full of pride, I took Cecil to one of our meets to show off my grafts and get some feedback on future directions. The usual suspects again came forward but included amongst their number one we will just call “Con the Cutter” (not with us at the moment). I left Cecil with “Con” un-guarded with permission to make (minor) adjustments. I returned a few minutes later to find “the Cutter” had removed virtually all the growth INCLUDING one of grafts. I do not know who was more shocked, Cecil or me. I cannot precisely recall my initial reactions but I think tears were involved, then dark thoughts.

Cecil has since recovered, but I am not sure I have. Like Eddie, he is a nice specimen but not a show-stopper, although patrons at the Royal Easter Show seemed to take a shine to him. The cutting is quite a presentable bonsai, proudly featuring the scars of its early life (sadly as photographed, the “son” was still recovering from a bad “rust” attack earlier in the year). This father and son family is shown below.



They are all valued inclusions in my collection for their history and memories rather than their excellence.

SEPTEMBER -THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

By John

1. Spring is when trees will quickly grow and can get out of hand if you do not continually monitor and maintain them. You should have repotted your deciduous trees by now.
2. Trees require continual tip pruning to keep compact growth and develop ramification and shorten inter-nodes. New growth on deciduous trees will be vigorous and the way they are trimmed depends on what stage the tree is at. For younger trees the trunk will thicken more if you allow shoots to lengthen before trimming back to one or two leaves. Don't worry if leaves are large and internodal length is long because you are trying to establish strength and bulk. For medium age trees, allow first leaf to open and remove the next leaf only after it becomes fully opened. For mature trees, the pinching process



- changes. The first leaf remains and then the emerging leaf is nipped out before opening.
3. Pines are actively growing, and the candle reduction must be performed to balance the growth around the tree.
 4. When planning to repot Natives prune as necessary a week or two before repotting. That way the buds get a head start on regrowth before repotting.
 5. As the overnight temperatures get above 15 degrees C, you can return Tropical trees to outdoors from winter protection and start work on them.
 6. Start fertilizing evergreens again heavily but not for about two weeks after they've been repotted to avoid burning the new root growth.
 7. Evergreens that have been in the ground for growth can be lifted and be potted, or root pruned and replanted for further growth.
 8. Pines, and in particular Japanese Black Pine, prefer their roots cut back this month.
 9. Flowering trees such as Apricot, Cherry and Quince should have flowered in late winter. Foliage develops quickly after flowering so trim back early aggressive growth to increase branching volume.
 10. In Sydney Azaleas are regularly attacked by leaf sucking insects. A spray program should be commenced mid-September and continue until the end of Summer. High humidity will result in diseases destroying the flowers. As soon as the buds begin to open place the tree under cover and hand water the soil only.

11. Wisteria can be spectacular in flower. Remove spent flowering heads as soon as the flowering is finished. Long thin canes (whips) will develop. They will be unlikely to flower and should be cut back leaving the 2 or 3 unopened buds located where the whips emerge from the plant. These remaining buds will produce compact growth and particularly flowering material.
12. Yamadori can be collected now.

Sources:

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

FACEBOOK PAGE

The Facebook page is growing. It is a private page and you can join by sending John Brown a 'friend request' he'll send you a team room invite. Just look for this photo and address.



John Brown

//////zooSCBC

BONSAI EVENTS CALENDAR

	Illawarra BS newsletter	Available on request
	Yarra Valley Newsletter	Available on request
Canberra Bonsai Society	CBS have published a history of their club if people are interested – no details on its cost	Contact CBS direct through their website

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