



### 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](mailto: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

### MEMBERSHIP

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

Note: fees have been halved for the 20-21 year due to Covid-19 restrictions.

### AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

In compliance with statutory requirements, there will be no October meeting.

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### EDITORIAL MATTERS

Hoping this e-mail still finds you well and coping satisfactorily with the Covid-19 challenges. The end of restrictions is unknown. 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](mailto:info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au) or one of the Committee members.



**Definitely overpotted**

*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!

### SPRING COLOURS AND BLOOMS

Attached at the end of this e-mail are photos of spring colours and blooms provided by members.

### MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE OVERDUE

Collection of membership fees have been delayed due to the COVID situation but they are now overdue. 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:-

<b>Full membership</b>	\$20
<b>Concession</b>	\$12.50
<b>Family</b>	\$27.50
<b>Pensioner</b>	\$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](mailto:info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au)

### ON-LINE MATTERS

#### **TIM HALL's PROPOSED WEB SITE**

One of our club members, Tim Hall, is keen to start a bonsai web site, targeting bonsai related topics of interest to Club members and the wider bonsai community. He would like some feed-back on what topics etc. the web site should address so has

developed a short survey that he would like members to complete. If you would like to participate in this interesting adventure, please log in to <https://timmyhall.typeform.com/to/zZiJtDxb> and provide your thoughts. As a shortcut, cut and paste the above link into your browser. Note this web site is not an "official" SCBC website but it sounds like it has good potential.

#### **FACEBOOK PAGE**

The private Facebook page run by John Brown is progressing steadily and anyone interested in participating should contact John for an invitation – just look for this handsome gentleman.



**John Brown**

#### **EXPERIENCES WITH EUCALYPTS by Chris**

Eucalypts seem such an enticing tree to bonsai – what could be more "Australian" than a gum tree! Or put another way, what could be more idiosyncratic, unpredictable and just plain unco-operative, than a gum tree!

As an example, consider one of my gums that will be called Gertrude (unspecified species – could be a Blackbutt). Gertrude came to my attention on the throw-out rack at Flower Power, probably 15 years ago. She was looking pretty sick so was in good company on the rack. But at \$2 she was a bit expensive given her precarious condition – probably worked out to be \$0.50/leaf!

I took her home and put her aside to recover. She was in "recovery" for about 10 years. Not much happened in that time other than a few re-pots and



occasional serious hacks when she got too tall. The trunk developed nicely but that was it. Gertrude refused to do anything other than throw out a single shoot after each height adjustment. On more than one occasion I looked at Gertrude with the intention of dispatching her to the big compost heap in the sky but I thought, what a waste of \$2 that would be. After many years of frustration I eventually put my nice trunk with a few leaves into a bonsai pot to give her some legitimacy – but did that kindness pay off? Not immediately is the short answer, No is the long answer.

Eventually, after persistent attacks with branch cutters et al, Gertrude made a concession and put out more than one shoot – progress I thought. Were the shoots in the right place – No, did they last – No, could you wire them – No, could you prune them – No, but at last there was more than one source of leaves!

Over the ensuing years I pursued the many, many false paths Gertrude led me down until a few seasons ago I had finally achieved a tree that look something like a gum tree in miniature, except by this time it was not that miniature. So I decided another dramatic height adjustment had to be made. There was a fork in the trunk that was going to provide a lower, expanded canopy – so I thought. The saw came out and after admiring my handiwork I sat back to await spectacular results.

Gertrude was coy at first and did not respond, but eventually bunches of new shoots emerged and my hopes were raised. Gertrude entertained me for a while and waited until my expectations were well developed before she struck. Without warning she dropped all the new shoots and the whole forked section of the trunk. What deception, I could sense her pleasure at my displeasure.

Gertrude did have to develop some new shoots to sustain her miserable life so proceeded to put out new shoots in the most awkward locations. And that is what I have today – a tree with a great trunk capped by an ugly array of sparse foliage.



While the lure of condemning Gertrude to the Green Bin is near overpowering, I will not be humbled by a mere tree. As she is confined to a pot I do occasionally remind Gertrude that ultimately I have the say on whether she lives or dies. Unfortunately she knows how much I value a \$2 investment so I fear she will persist in her ways on that understanding.

I could relate experiences I have had with other Eucalypts as bonsai but I have not had as much success with them as I have had with Gertrude. And that just about says it all, as far as Eucalypts as bonsai are concerned.

#### WISTERIA AS BONSAI from John





Seeing that Wisterias have been in flower lately I thought that this article by Jeff Bray from Bonsai Australia might interest club members.

The article has been posted in the SCBC Teamroom in Facebook.

For those who have Wisteria which won't flower the most important thing to consider is getting the correct species to start with. I hope that this brief summary helps.

Firstly start off with the correct species of Wisteria. Most reliable to flower every year in Southern Gold Coast are:

**Species Number 1** is *Wisteria sinensis* (Chinese Wisteria) and any of its cultivars which can be various shades of purple, mauve or white, all single flowers. Very reliable. Flowers in spring before the foliage. Leaflet count is 9 to 13 per leaf and is bronze coloured when it first emerges

**Species Number 2** is *Wisteria brachybotrys* 'shiro-kapitan' (a white cultivar) or the blue one if you can get it. Very reliable. Flowers in spring before the foliage. Large velvety flowers on a shorter raceme. Fuzzy leaves.

**Species Number 3** is *Wisteria floribunda* (Japanese Wisteria) and any of its cultivars. Flowers in spring with foliage emerging at the same time. Leaflet count is 11 to 17 and is green when it first emerges. *Wisteria floribunda* may flower better in colder climates. It grows very well but is shy to flower under ten years, if at all.

**Species Number 4** is *Wisteria frutescens*, commonly known as American wisteria, including the cultivar Amethyst Falls, a compact flowering cultivar. Reliable but hard to achieve a good Bonsai shape. Flowers in the summer while in full leaf.

These species have been tested in sub-tropic climates.

### HANDY TOOLS by Lee and Chris

Clever tool if you do both large and small trees.

Tape 3 chopsticks together with 2 ends pointing one direction and lined up evenly and the third chopstick between the two but pointing the other direction. Tape together. Now you have a potting stick that is ideal for larger bonsai or shohin and

mame. Using a bright coloured electricians tape makes it easily found when you need it. So simple and yet so effective.



Another handy tool – a mini weeding fork made from a piece of round steel bar hammered flat at one end and shaped with a hacksaw and file. Other end was set into a wood handle. Great for weeding in bonsai pots.



### THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH - August

By John

1. Increase fertilizing frequency. Slow release combined with organic liquid fertilizer is best. For newly repotted trees be careful not to over fertilize with chemical high nitrogen fertilizers. Natives can be fed with the same fertilizers as exotics, just avoid high phosphorous fertilizers such as those recommended for encouraging flowers.
2. Maples, Elms and Crepe Myrtles need constant tip pruning to increase ramification. Don't tip prune Crepe Myrtles after the end of November to allow flower buds to develop.



3. Figs can be repotted from now until the end of November and major pruning done at the same time. Add plenty of fertilizer to the potting mix. The first defoliation can be done as well. Spray cut leaf stems with water to prevent the milky substance from dripping on leaves a leaving a stain. Place Figs in full sun for maximum growth.
4. Azaleas can be pruned heavily and trimmed after flowering. In Sydney, Satzuki Azaleas flower later (October) than others. Check for leaf sucking insects and if necessary commence spraying and continue until the end of Summer.
5. Monitor pines for candle growth and continue your **candle pinching** routine. Allow JBP candles to develop in spring until the green tips of the needles become just visible. As each individual candle displays the minute tips IMMEDIATELY remove the candle totally. The only exception would be where you are trying to extend the branch, then you may choose to leave some of the candle. Once the needles have expanded more than 2 - 3 mm it is not as effective.
6. Watch all trees that you wired through winter for wire cutting into the bark. This causes scarring and can never really be repaired.
7. Collection of **Yamadori** can be done.
8. Air layering of Pines and Junipers can be done now.
9. Start planning the repotting of Natives. Once the weather becomes warmer you can start repotting.
10. Keep weeds under control as they can rob the tree of nutrients.
11. Beware of the drying effects of windy days – even if the temperature is not high trees can dry out very rapidly during high winds

**Sources:**

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

**BONSAI EVENTS CALENDAR**

17-18 October 2020	Wauchope Bonsai Club Show	Lauriton
	Illawarra BS newsletter	Available on request or visit website
	Yarra Valley Newsletter	Available on request or visit website

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



**SPRING COLOURS and BLOOMS**



#1  
English Oak in full new foliage, 15 years old,  
600 mm tall



#2  
Desert Ash, 10 years old,  
300mm tall



#3  
Swamp Cyprus just getting  
started, 10 years old, 300mm  
tall



#4  
Pine candles – lots of them



#5  
Can't remember what it is, 12  
years old, 350mm tall



#6  
Persian Ironwood –spectacular  
spring foliage, 10+ years old,  
400mm tall



#7  
English Oak getting into full stride



#8  
Desert Ash, 10 years old,  
250mm tall



#9  
Box Elder starting off, 12+  
years old, 400mm tall



#10  
New Bay tree foliage, 20 years old (Sue  
Brennan reject), 450mm tall



#11  
Small peach (?) tree that  
grew in the garden



#12  
Swamp Cyprus just kicking off