



## NEXT CLUB MEETING

### Tote Centre Community Hall

100 Joynton Ave., Zetland  
7 PM Tuesday 9th. March

**NOTE** – no dedicated parking for the venue but parking in adjacent streets is usually available. If dropping off, there is normally parking near the entrance that can be used temporarily.

## CONTACT DETAILS



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## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<b>Patron</b>	TBA
<b>President</b>	Chris
<b>Vice President</b>	Vacant
<b>Secretary</b>	David
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bryan
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Bryan/John/Chris
<b>Librarian</b>	Vacant
<b>Committee</b>	Frank, John, Ed

## MEMBERSHIP

<b>Full membership</b>	\$40
<b>Concession</b>	\$25
<b>Family</b>	\$55
<b>Pensioner</b>	\$25

## AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

The theme for the March meeting is Australian Natives so bring along an Australian native tree and share your experiences with club members. Chris will pot a eucalypt that has been growing in a pot/ground – it may be the last opportunity to see the tree alive so don't miss it.

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## EDITORIAL MATTERS

Hoping this e-mail still finds you well. Give thanks that we are allowed to 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.



**Gin with a bit of Juniper foliage** BoredPanda

*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

The theme of last meeting was root-over-rock or anything to do with a rock and a tree. There were ten or so attendants and a bevy of trees. It seems as though everyone has one (or more) root-over-rock specimens. Each exhibitor gave a short history of their plant(s) and generally an interesting discussion ensued. It is encouraging to see that members are bringing their trees along and are prepared to have a talk about them.

Attached at the end of this e-mail are photos of root-over-rock examples provided by members.

After the “show and tell” Bryan gave us an update on progress of his attempt to achieve an exposed root look by encasing the roots of an fig in a plastic tube. He started this process about a year ago at one of the club meetings. The great unveiling showed there had been progress but not as much as expected. The roots had moved down but not that far and had not thickened as desired. There was much discussion as to why and the consensus was that the material in the tube was probably too “good” in that the roots were content to feed there and not go looking for better prospects further down the tube. However all was not lost as the tube could be replaced and conditions adjusted to get the desired result. Thanks to Bryan for the demo and we look forward to another update in a year or so.

***Can I mention that a number of regular meeting attendees have not been sighted since the Covid restrictions were introduced. The meetings are now re-established and operated in Covid-safe conditions so all members are encouraged to come along – we have missed your company.***

## ONLINE MATTERS



### 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**

## A CHANGE OF ANGLE by Lee

I got this kunzea ambigua from the native nursery in Heathcote and lost any styling ideas when I looked at it at home. In the end, after cutting away what I didn't feel I could use, I decided to plant it at an acute angle and let it grow a bit. It delighted me with starry flowers in the spring but I could not get comfortable with the position of it. This was all complicated by the fact that twice I lost important new branchlets and the styling options kept changing.



Unlike my 12 year old kunzea, this one threw out shoots everywhere which increased options... if only I didn't keep knocking off the important ones. The extended branch on the left wasn't working but I left it grow.



As it grew madly in the humid summer I did a radical angle change - trying to bring that sense of correct styling to it. It was an improvement and I let it grow for awhile.



I finally did the second serious styling and it seems a bit more on track. The jins need to be refined, they are too heavy. At this stage, having just changed the angle, I don't want to use the Dremel to work on them but that will come in the next month or so since Kunzeas are not



backward in growing roots. The stub on the right has a new shoot that could be a right branch [if I don't knock it off yet again.] I will wait to see how that develops before I start refining the stub. Whether the rock stays or not depends on what the next repotting brings and how it works when I lower the soil level a bit.



It now has a better balance and with more growth and styling and a bit of carving, could become a nice tree.

I still need to work on the area from the thick right stub to the partial jin but once more foliage develops and the top fills out the trunk faults will not be so apparent.

I started out wrong with

it but I think this positioning is better and the tree can develop from here. I am hoping to see it covered with flowers in the spring and once it has developed a bit better I will put it in a bonsai pot.

Changing the angle of your planting can often help improve your styling - just listen to the tree and feel if the styling is working or not.

### VALE #43 from Chris

It is with the deepest regret that I have to report the demise of tree #43 from my collection. #43 you say? Well, the tree did not have a name so I have estimated it was probably the 43<sup>rd</sup> tree I acquired so let's call it #43. It was a small leaved eucalypt of unknown species that I picked up many years ago as a small tubestock. It just hung around for several years taking up space – occasionally it was put into a larger plastic pot. It grew steadily with a twin trunk which did not add to its desirability so I decided to reduce it to one trunk. It did what many eucalypts are inclined to do, that is grow straight up. I

eventually tired of its “lankyness” and cut it off. It retaliated by putting out **one** shoot 90° to the trunk at the cut point and only re-grew that one shoot. I observed its “progress” for a time and decided it was not going to get the better of me and I cut it off again, above the first cut. #43 proceeded to put out one shoot from the cut point at 90° back in the other direction! Over the ensuing years this tit-for-tat carried on until many cuts later, #43 blinked first and put out more than one shoot. It had finally got the message but by this time it was quite tall and had a zig-zag trunk.

For some reason it became a cherished tree, possibly due to my admiration for its toughness. One very hot summer day #43 was blown out of its pot and landed upside down so its roots were exposed all day to the savage sun and westerly wind. That's the end of that I presumed. Not so. #43 was a bit punch-drunk for a while but fought back valiantly. Over the years it was defoliated by bugs, scorched by the summer heat, blown over several times, attacked mercilessly by curl grubs and generally copped a beating. Every time it clawed his way back.

It may be my biased view but from time to time, between setbacks, it look quite respectable in a literati sort of way.

Alas, some time ago I noticed a bit of dieback. Nothing to worry about, there had been a bit of hot weather and it was nothing I had not seen numerous times before. Also, new regrowth on #43 was quite attractive. The anticipated new growth emerged but something seemed wrong. It died off without fully establishing. I stepped up the water and Seasol but things seemed terminal. Eventually, an inspection of the bark revealed #43 had gone to the big compost heap in the sky.

A post-mortem was carried out and the results were inconclusive, i.e. there was still a viable looking root system, no sign of curl grubs, etc.

#43 was with me for many years and it was sad to see it go ingloriously and without apparent reason. I still have heaps of other trees to distract me but only a few of them match the attachment I had to #43.



## THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH -

By John

1. Most natives can be repotted throughout the summer months. Watch for bud movement and then repot and root prune.
2. Repotting of all evergreens can start now, but if you are experiencing hot weather, then delay till next month.
3. Wire can be placed on evergreens as they will be slowing down growth for winter.
4. Now is a good time to take [hardwood cuttings](#) from trees.
5. Maintain tip pruning of the Figs. If you dislike aerial roots which can quickly form in the moist conditions of autumn then remove them.
6. If any trees display early autumn colour it is because the plant has run out of vigour for the season. Trees that are pot bound or that missed re potting the previous season will have a shorter growing season. Going into early autumn colour won't do the tree any harm but it will have a reduced development period for the season.
7. Trees with autumn colour can make some truly stunning displays. If you don't have a lot of trees that produce Autumn colour then you might consider adding some of the following to your collection. Maples, Liquid ambers, Miniature Virginia Creeper,
8. American Hornbeam, Pin Oak, Pear, Chinese Tallow, Chinese Pistachio, Nyssa, Chinese Quince, Zelkova, Gingko.
9. Some species can be repotted during March including Australian Natives, Conifers and other evergreen plants. Re potting of Pyracanthas and Cotoneasters is best left until after their berries have past their peak in late April. Another option is just to wait till late August early September.
10. Maintain fertilising of plants throughout autumn. Plants store plenty of energy at this point of time and you can assist by giving them regular nutrient uptake. Elms which commonly have some die back coming out of the winter can have that reduced if they don't go into winter under nourished.
11. If you are looking at putting some deciduous trees into a forest, autumn is an ideal time to select your specimens. A lot of deciduous trees used for forest plantings such as Maples, Liquid ambers etc. are seed grown, thus you will get seedling variations. One variation you will always get in deciduous trees is the type amount of colour of foliage each tree produces in autumn. So hunt around for the look you want and have them ready for planting in winter.

### Sources:

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

## BONSAI EVENTS CALENDAR

19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Victorian Native Bonsai Show	Preston (Vic)
	Illawarra BS newsletter	Available on request or visit their website
	Yarra Valley Newsletter	Available on request or visit their website

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



**ROOT-OVER-ROCK  
MARCH MEETING**



Trident Maple, 600 mm tall



PJ Fig, 400mm tall



Trident Maple, 400mm tall



Pine showing a bit of leg, 200mm tall



PJ Fig, 500mm tall



Benjamina Fig, 400mm tall



Boganvillia, 350mm tall



PJ Fig, 500mm tall



PJ Fig, 500mm tall



PJ Fig, 450mm tall



Callistemon in hand-made pot,  
400mm tall



PJ Fig snuck in for a trim