



### NEXT CLUB MEETING

**Tote Centre Community Hall**  
100 Joynton Ave., Zetland @ 7.00pm

### CONTACT DETAILS



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### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

### MEMBERSHIP

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

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

### AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

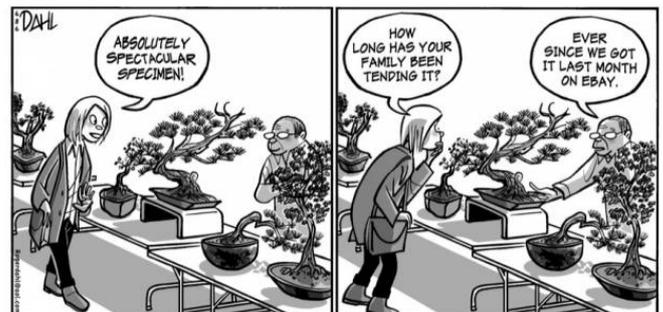
This month's meeting (September) is again cancelled. We will however have an on-line meeting. Read on to see how you can join in.

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### EDITORIAL MATTERS

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.





John organised a Zoom on-line get together as an

**MONTHLY MEETING FEEDBACK - August**

alternative for our programmed face-to-face meeting.

We have had some difficulties with our e-mail and website systems so advice of the meeting was included in an e-mail under the name "z\_edo2006" which you should have received. The e-mail also included the August Newsletter. Unfortunately it seems the hit rate was low. Never-the-less we did have the Zoom meeting and approx. nine people logged in.

Simon prepared a presentation on grafting which was very informative despite there being a few technical issues. They can be sorted out, I'm sure. It was really good to see what Simon gets up to and catch up with members. There was plenty of chat and the allocated time disappeared pretty quickly. Personally I thought it was a success. Many thanks to Simon and John for their efforts.

**SEPTEMBER ZOOM MEETING**

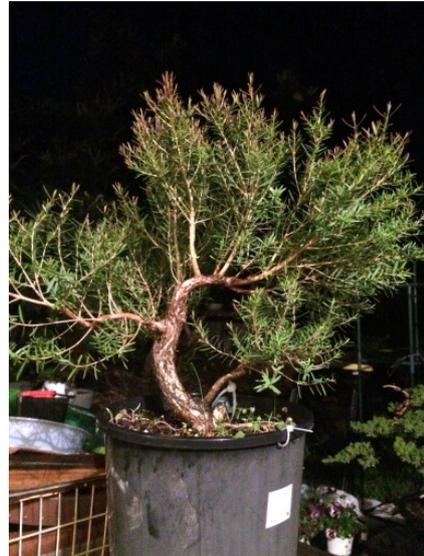
**Topic - DAVID's DILEMMA**

We will give the Zoom meeting another go this month, at the same time slot as our regular meeting, i.e. Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Sept @ 7.00pm. The link is shown below but note it will not open automatically from the Newsletter as it is a PDF document.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77859059410?pwd=MkhqWGMyL0RUSzh2dEgwUXdkVEEdCZz09>

Bryan will try and get the September Newsletter out via the regular method. **If that fails**, he will send an e-mail under the Club's e-mail address with the link and a reference to the e-mail address he will use to distribute the Newsletter, so you can look out for it.

The main topic at the zoom meeting may well seal the fate for David's Melaleuca which despite reports of its demise, is still with us. Its story goes something like this:-



I bought this tree from a local nursery 2014 for \$25. It was the "rattiest" in a collection of plants – probably the least desirable to the general public. It went through a few ideas before settling on the final style.



This is the tree in June 2015. I can't explain what I was trying to do with the tree at this time- maybe some sort of windswept style. You can see I wasn't sure because while I had bent it I hadn't shaped it. Luckily it was very flexible and forgiving



By August 2016. I had settled on this as the design. It was subsequently put into a Janet Selby pot and was a popular exhibit in the club display at the Royal Easter show. This is the tree in May 2017.

Disaster struck in the summer of 2020. A fault in a sprinkler on a hot day meant the tree dried out. I was worried that I had lost the tree. All the branches and the daughter trunk died. I continued to water it and slowly it started to shoot.



It is healthy and I have thinned out some of the new growth.

I will overpot the tree for a year or so to let it grow out. In that there are some decisions to be made, including -

- Should I leave the tree as is and build on the regrowth to recreate the tree?
- Should I reduce the tree in height and build a new structure?



I have decided that there are three options to reduce the height of the tree at the locations shown with red lines on the photo above.

We will discuss these in our next virtual club meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> September. Everyone is encouraged to Zoom in and participate in the conversation.

This will be an opportunity to swap ideas about bonsai style and development without fear – after all it's not your tree.

Please log in and express an opinion.

#### MEMBERSHIP FEES

**Membership fees are now due**, and as it was expected we could operate as close to what used to be called "normal", the Exec decided to apply full fees, as listed on the front page, for 2021-22. Given the situation, the Exec will re-visit this decision. Any downward adjustment of fees paid will be credited to members as a refund or carried over to next year. While cash is always welcome, that is impractical in the current situation, so it is preferred that the fees are paid electronically although cheques, remember those, are acceptable but you will have to make



arrangements with Bryan. The relevant transfer details are:-

**Sydney City Bonsai Club**

**BSB : 032-152**

**Acct No. : 166305**

**CALL FOR NEW EXEC MEMBERS**

Please include your name in the transaction details. As stated before, all Exec positions will be vacated, nominations called and positions filled by voting at the AGM.

We need members to take on positions to keep the Club operating. You do not need to be a bonsai “expert” but should be prepared to come to the monthly Exec meeting and participate in management decision making. **Have a go!**

**SWAP TABLE**

There will be a Swap Table at the next scheduled meeting which will be stocked with what pots remain from those kindly donated by Betty Forsyth’s sister.

Members are also encouraged to contribute to the table. Bring some loose change along and grab a bargain.

**FACEBOOK PAGE**

The private Facebook page run by John Brown is still going and anyone interested in participating should contact John for an invitation. I am getting feedback that there is some good quality chat on the Facebook page and members are encouraged to participate.

There are 3 basic considerations when constructing

**CONSTRUCTING BONSAI GROWING STANDS -  
by Bryan**

bonsai display tables; their purpose, their location and the way you care for your trees.

**What do you want the stand to do?**

What do you want the space for? If you’re looking for a practical base on which to grow bonsai, the

space can be as simple as few boards spread between some bricks or a stiff metal mesh attached to a metal frame. You may however want to add extra versatility by building in storage or watering systems. Stacking the tables at different heights by making them multi-level can increase the display area in relation to their ground space, useful in small gardens. The larger the table space the better individual trees will be displayed.

**Where will they sit?**

The location in which they sit is also important. You may need to consider the position of the sun and locate them, as much as possible, to suit your tree’s needs. If you have a paved backyard you may wish to put your table on rollers so that you can easily move your trees around to maintain the best conditions.

By creating microclimates to suit your trees you can improve their survival advantage. Building in moisture catching trays can help trees cope with hot dry conditions, wire racks can maximise air circulation and help with mildew and pests.

**How will they assist you to care for your trees?**

The way you care for your trees also needs to be considered. Are you able to water multiple times on a hot day? Do you rely on a watering system when away for weeks at a time? Is wind a problem, or is your garden dark wet and damp and mould an issue? By designing with your locale in mind, you can adapt conditions to suit your and your tree’s needs.

You also need to consider aesthetics vs utility. A wire growing table may suit a large bonsai lot but may not be appealing in a small decorative garden.

**Apply these principles**

I have divided my small backyard into three growing areas. Space is a premium.

The oldest area, in the back of the garden, I now use largely for trees in training. This area is situated under a large grapefruit tree and gets only a few hours of sunlight in winter. My stands here are stepped with relatively narrow shelves. There is space underneath for a water pump, pots, a spare compost bin and growing a number of experimental



cuttings and transplants. To fit in more trees, and provide access for watering, I split these shelves into 2 sections one with three steps and the other with two. Trees are packed and it looks messy, but the two platforms provide space for over several dozen trees and bonsai in training. The front of it gets more sun and the back works well for recovery after repotting and plants needing a bit more shade.



Advantages include storage, hose and water pump access, and a fair deal of space for growing. The packed in nature helps maintain moisture on hot days.

Disadvantages include shallow display areas (35cm-45cm deep, making it difficult to display large pots and trees) and the stepped arrangement of growing shelves make reaching the middle shelves difficult (particularly in the 3-level section) with the back only reachable from behind. In order for it to get any sun, the display section in the back is quite high. With a number of trees packed in, keeping an eye on individual trees and wiring is difficult. Excess moisture can be an issue and ferns and small plants love it.

The second section is newer and consists of 3 interlocking L shaped tables. These are deeper than the original displays (50cm-60cm) so offer more space for larger trees. The interlocking nature allows me to pull them apart if needed for better access to heavy trees.



Advantages: The extra space allows for a bit of space around trees, allowing you to better appreciate individual trees. On the negative side the benches are somewhat squashed in to my small garden. The pull-apart sections though offering access are bulky and moving them is cumbersome.



I recently reconstructed the 3<sup>rd</sup> area (after the former rotted away and collapsed, luckily, with no major damage to trees). This area is in the middle of the backyard and somewhat of a garden focus. As such the stand attempts to balance available space, display area and aesthetics. It gets the most sun of any area (though in winter this is only 3 or so hours). It, like the others, consists, of shallow plastic lined trays filled with pebbles. The trays have drain outlets in the bottom so water doesn't build up but the pebbles hold moisture which works well with my lax watering routine and can be a great help on hot dry days. When I am away for any length of time, I use an automatic watering system and I find this moisture retention adds peace of mind. The trees



are positioned on top of the pebbles to allow airflow around and under. The lowest deck is 80cm off the ground, the middle shelf 95cm and the top shelf 110cm. This positions them at a good viewing height and above the surrounding low shrubs. The individual trays are as deep as possible to maximise display space and range in depth from 35cm to 65 for the top shelf and 65cm to 75cm for the lowest. The middle shelf has a useable area of around 38cm x 40cm. The whole construction is roughly a metre at the widest point. By having the top tray to extend 20 cm over the bottom and leaving a 13 cm gap between, I can position pots in the lower tray partially underneath the top tray. This allow for a larger display area without increasing the overall depth.

**Advantages:** allows better display of more mature trees.

**Disadvantages:** only room to display 6 medium to large size trees without overcrowding

**UGLIEST TREE IN THE WORLD – by Lee**

Editor's note – Lee has not seen some of mine.

Yesterday I did a fourth major styling on the 'ugliest tree in the world', one I almost ditched in the Otto bin after realising how hopeless it was, and now it is turning into a beautiful tree. A kunzea.



As I bought it at Heathcote Native Nursery Aug 2020 for \$25. I thought I saw some promise in the trunk.



**1st styling - WRONG.**

I was after a mini but the tree wasn't interested.



**2nd styling - WRONG!!!**



**3rd styling - February 2021** In desperation I changed the potting angle and let her grow - hmmm.... definite possibilities emerging.



**4<sup>th</sup> and latest styling** August 2021 - I have removed the gin on the trunk... no longer needed with the increasing dominance of the lower right branch. But this Kunzea is changing into a kinky tree with quality. It emanates a real bush feel. The sphagnum moss is covering rooting hormone to improve surface roots. It will go into a Janet Selby freeform earthy brown pot come native repotting time.

From a possible Otto bin discard this has become a firm part of my permanent collection. What a difference a year makes... and better styling! When it goes into a bonsai pot I will try to incorporate the rock as it adds to the ambiance of the tree.

#### THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH - September

**By John**

- 1 You should have repotted your deciduous trees by now.
- 2 Spring is when trees will quickly grow and can get out of hand if you do not continually monitor and maintain them. 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.
  - a. 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.
- b. For medium age trees, allow first leaf to open and removing 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 tropical trees can be returned 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.

13 Yamadori can be collected now.

**Sources:**

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

**CHRIS' BACKYARD (again)**

Team - join me in a tour around your backyard, sharing your treasures with other Club members. Take a few minutes to photograph a tree or two and provide a paragraph of text to accompany them, e.g. type of plant, origin, size, age, interesting features, ... whatever. They can be included in an upcoming Newsletter edition for sharing with others. Lots of text or anything flash is not required.

I "did" my bare trees last month – this month I have focussed on my Eucalypts (a number came from tubestock which were given to me in one package from a Nelson Bay nursery – for free!). This should put you off trying to bonsai Eucalypts for life.

So here goes:-

**Eucalypt #1** Species unknown - indigenous to Nelson Bay area, 850mm tall, maybe 10+ yrs old, from tubestock. Lesson - don't cut back too close to offshoots (see half way up trunk) – looks weird but re-locating in the pot should hide it – or maybe it will callous over.



**Eucalypt #2** Species unknown - indigenous to Nelson Bay area, 950mm tall 10+ yrs old, from tubestock. Note old twigs have been used to hold branches

apart in lieu of wiring – seems to work OK.

**Eucalypt #3** Species unknown - indigenous to Nelson Bay area – 858mm tall, from tubestock. Looks better than in the photo.

**Eucalypt #4** Species unknown probably Argyle



Apple, 550mm tall, 10 yrs old from tubestock – delightful foliage but always very sparse. Lots of new growth after recent radical cutback so hopes are high.

**Eucalypt #5** Species unknown, 100mm tall,



maybe 10 yrs old, from nursery. Cut back dramatically to encourage

shooting and only got one shoot from an inappropriate location – typical Eucalypt.

**Eucalypt #6** Species unknown, 1150mm tall 20 yrs old, \$2 reject from Flower Power – great trunk and has provided determined





resistance to all my styling plans for decades – so far it is winning but this year could see the tide turn.

**Eucalypt #7** Species unknown - indigenous to Nelson Bay area 1400mm tall, 10+yrs old, from tubestock. Got its roots into the ground and took off. Just proves how fast they can grow in the ground. Presentable but now too large to transport or drag out for a photo!



**Eucalypt #8** Species unknown - indigenous to Nelson Bay area 950mm tall, 10+yrs old, from tubestock. Great foliage that gets eaten regularly by bugs, but is totally out of control. An hour after this picture was taken, it was dramatically reduced.



**Next month I hope to feature one or more of your trees.**

**PRODUCT REVIEW**

Most can attest to the virtues of **Seasol** as a plant tonic and root stimulant. Some know of **Seamungus** which is another effective plant stimulant. Now Lee has discovered an additional product she considers worth trying (as a stimulant, not a fertilizer). It's a Nutrog product called **Go Go Juice**. Lee has tried it successfully with impressive results particularly on a previously unco-operative specimen which will be reported on next Newsletter. It is a probiotic that seems to do its job of encouraging growth pretty well. At approx. \$15/Litre from Bunnings (which makes up 250 litres), you would not be putting too much at risk by giving it a go. The fact that you cannot go to Bunnings is a bit of a pain but surely that situation will pass ... sometime soon ... maybe not too far off ... at least before winter ... next spring for sure ... or there is always the web!

**BONSAI EVENTS CALENDAR**

Nepean Bonsai Newsletter	Available on request or visit their website - see what the mountain people get up to.
Illawarra BS Newsletter	Available on request or visit their website – good content.
Bonsai Society of South Australia website	Worth a visit
Yarra Valley Newsletter	Available on request or visit their website.
Victorian Native Bonsai Club Newsletter	Available on request or visit their website – well worth a look.
Garden Clubs of Australia September 12-16 Sept 2021	National Convention – Townsville - Cancelled
Laura Garden Festival - October	Cancelled

Most clubs have closed down meetings for Covid compliance. Check out their web-sites for re-commencement details.