



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 (October) is cancelled again. However we are trying to get something organised on-line so read on.

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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 or one of the Committee members.



Probably due for a re-pot



MONTHLY MEETING FEEDBACK -
September

John organised a Zoom on-line get together as an alternative for our programmed face-to-face meeting.

We had more success with our e-mail and website systems in September so advice of the meeting went out as "normal". We should follow the same procedure this month.

John organised a Zoom on-line get together as an alternative for our programmed face-to-face meeting.

Unfortunately it seems the participation rate was low again. Never-the-less we did have the Zoom meeting and approx. nine people logged in.

David led a discussion on options for his much troubled Melaleuca. The poor tree had suffered significant effects from drying out. It had arisen from the ashes but in a significantly changed orientation from before the event. So the discussion was what to do next. Several options were proposed but as most of the re-growth was on one side of the tree adopting a slant style seemed to provide a suitable solution. At time of going to print that seems to be the preferred direction. There was considerable deliberations on whether the jin on the underside of the trunk should stay or go. This is still to be resolved.

Overall there was a good deal of constructive discussion and banter and it was pleasing to see a member seek input from others re his dilemma. It was also great to catch up with members. The allocated time disappeared pretty quickly and after a short break, a second session was required. The session was a success and many thanks to David and John for their efforts.

We will give the Zoom meeting another go this month, at the same time slot as our regular meeting, i.e. Tuesday 12th October @ 7.00pm. The link is shown below but note it will not open automatically from the Newsletter as it is a .pdf document, but it can be copied and pasted into your browser :-

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74341067154?pwd=NWZkWTIGSOJSSEZ0eVhqa0IMT3kwZz09>

OCTOBER ZOOM MEETING
Topic – FRANK’S AIR LAYERING
EXPERIENCE

The main topic at the October zoom meeting may well seal some of the mystery around air-layering. Frank has been playing around with air layering for a few years with good success and he is willing to share his experiences with members so join for a chat.

What follows are photos of the "donor" tree, the off-spring, and the tools-of-trade. Log in to see what Frank does in his quiet time.



Donor tree



Off-spring



Tools of the trade



MEMBERSHIP FEES

Membership fees are now overdue. The Executive hope to operate as close to what used to be called “normal” from November. This being the case, the Exec has decided to collect full fees for 2021/22 and make adjustments for 2022/23 in accordance with developments in the actual availability of the venue.

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

A/c No. : 166305

Please include your name in the transaction details.

CALL FOR NEW EXEC MEMBERS

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.

SHAPING BY PRUNNING - by J Dupuich

This was quite a long article so I had to abbreviate it – I hope I have not done a dis-service to Jonas Dupuich - Ed)

When developing material for bonsai, it's best to avoid creating straight trunks and branches. Many varieties, however, naturally produce straight growth. This gives us two options: cut or wire. Cutting is often preferable to wiring as cuts can be used to create taper and angular movement. Wiring has its place too as it's a quick way to put a branch where you want it.

I've been working on some cutting-grown plums by cutting and wiring select branches once or twice a year. I enjoy this work as the idea is to give the trees qualities we appreciate in bonsai, like taper and movement, without following a specific plan. Here's what this work looks like.

A big reason to prune more than once a year is to discourage growth that doesn't contribute to the overall design. On the tree below, a new shoot emerged near the base of the trunk. Because it has no curves, I'll have to remove it. Had I noticed this earlier, the other shoots on the tree might have more vigour.



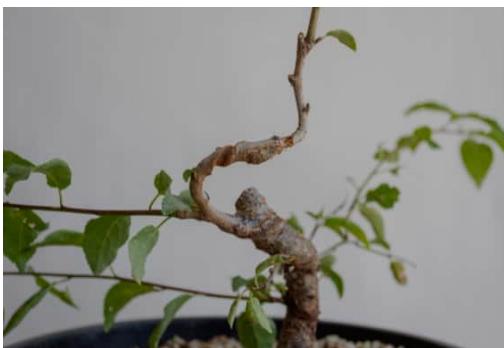
1. The start.



2. The shoot at the right is the strongest section of the tree.



4. Higher up on the trunk I found a shoot that's creating a large knuckle.



6. Near the top of the tree, a branch I'd previously wired showed unsightly swelling. This too will come off.



3. After removing the strong shoot at the base of the trunk.



5. After removing the shoot and reducing the knuckle.



7. After making a few cuts, I noticed that the remaining branches were too straight to use without wiring, so now's a great time to wire deciduous varieties. I added some movement and wired the new leader.

I'll revisit the trees again in fall, and likely in a similar fashion over the next several years. At some point I'll have to make some decisions about how large I want the trees to become, but in the meantime, I can encourage as much growth as possible and continue making periodic adjustments.



LEMON SCENTED TEA TREE – by Lee



I tend to buy trunks and the game plan is to develop the upper structure. This way I can enjoy mature trees without the years needed to develop trunks - I don't have that much time left.

I found a beautifully trunked Leptospermum and I got it with visions of creating an outstanding native. I have studied street Leptospermum and they shoot back on old wood. This one didn't. The branches were growing out at odd angles but I have restructured many trees and it seemed a realistic project.

After a year and sufficient water and regular feeding the tree responded but only by extending with healthy leaves but NO back growth. I kept the new foliage short to try to encourage it to back shoot but nothing happened. It appears this is a common problem with Leptospermums.

In desperation I contacted Marcela Ferreira, the Secretary of the Victorian Native Bonsai Club, on how to get growth closer to the trunk. Marcela has also heard a few people voicing this problem with Leptospermums. Marcela's advice was to cut back hard. So I did. I have kept one side branch and shaped it in anticipation of top growth. In her experience if the new growth is allowed to extend out too long it will lose all the foliage with only the end leaves surviving. Perfect description of my tree. She cuts back constantly to bare wood or to two leaves and [for her] they shoot back easily. My tree has extended too far with branches too bare so drastic pruning is needed. If it doesn't work I haven't lost anything, if it does work I could develop a nice bonsai.

My other lepto, bought much younger, is being closely clipped and is retaining foliage near the trunk. This one was just allowed to get away with bad growing habits. I have cut flat instead of at an angle to allow more choice for an apical shoot to emerge. Assuming this works, once it is reasonably well established I will tailor the blunt end into a more artistic and natural look but I have found in the past that if I angle cut the shoot emerges on the low side, totally mucking up the plans. The side shoot will not bend up enough to become a new apex without looking unnatural. It's a trunk with major issues but there is promise. Let's hope it comes to fruition.



THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH - October 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.
 - c. 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 – I am still waiting for you to 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. Send what you have to me via the Club e-mail and we'll put something together. So while I'm waiting for your contribution I have chosen the topic of **when do you turn off the life support apparatus to a plant** and I've chosen a few of my dubious cases to focus the discussion.

So here goes:-



Case 1. A PJ Fig cutting. When I prune my trees I often look at what is cut off and judge whether it is worth using as a cutting. This particular cutting looked promising. It is many months old but refuses to expire or advance. It is pretty well exactly in the same condition as it was when it was potted. Its not dead but had no root development last time I checked. By now it presumably has some development but I'm not game to look. So why persevere with it, especially as there is no shortage of PJ Figs at my place. Because its not (yet) dead, is my only explanation.



Case 2. A Sergeants Juniper. This tree is probably 15yrs old and it has done nothing much in that time. In exasperation, I re-potted it and cut it back as hard as I could while preserving some green foliage. To be honest it looks better (but that is not saying much). Based on previous progress, I expect to wait maybe five years or so to see if it is going to take. Note the rocks are "ballast" to hold the tree in place instead of wiring it into the pot.



Case 3. Your guess is as good as mine. This was a prize at a BSA raffle (fourth or fifth prize as I recall). I should have left before the raffle was drawn! I do not know what it is and I don't know if I care anymore. For several years it has struggled along, occasionally falling out of its pot and generally looking miserable. It never looks better than in the photo. One shoot with a bunch of leaves at the end. Why don't I chuck it? I can only think that if you pot a (living) thing, you have to take responsibility for its wellbeing or you have to make a conscious decision to kill it. If it grows as nature intended, i.e. in the ground, its on its own. I don't have the heart to end its misery.



Case 4a (left) and 4b (right). Two Lychee trees.
Both trees were grown from seed so I can positively say they are both Lychee trees but they look like the DeVito and Schwarzenegger "twins"! 4a is about two years old and its progress is as slow as a wet week. I had one of these many years ago and it progressed reasonably for quite a long time but did not survive a re-potting. The second one, 4b, is not much older but is substantially bigger.
However it has a habit of

periodically thriving and then ALMOST dying off completely, then repeating the cycle. Why, I have no idea. So why persevere? With Bonsai I am a glass half full person – you never know, some day, all the planets will line up and

I have now set the bar so low that anyone will be able to look good in comparison. So - **Next month I hope to feature one or more of your trees.**

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. |
| 12-16 Sept 2021 | Garden Clubs of Australia | National Convention – Townsville Cancelled |
| October | Laura Garden Festival | Cancelled |

Most clubs have closed down meetings for Covid compliance. With the easing of restrictions, check out their websites for re-commencement details.