



NEXT CLUB MEETING

Tote Centre Community Hall
100 Joynton Ave., Zetland @ 7.00pm
Tuesday 10 May, 2022

CONTACT DETAILS



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info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au



<http://sydneycitybonsai.org.au>



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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron	TBA
President	Chris
Vice President	Simon
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 (May) will be face to face again!!!! 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.



Now that's what I call moss!



MONTHLY MEETING FEEDBACK

April

We had a low-key meeting in April with only 6 members attending. Put it down to Covid and prior commitments. While the group was small there was a good deal of interesting discussion around preparation for showing trees. Look for an article on displaying trees in an upcoming SCBC Newsletter.

In addition, Lee brought in a privet tree she picked up at a previous swap table from Chris. Given the 'Lee touch' it had been transformed from a small bush to an engaging tree stretching gracefully across a small stream. With lots of potential for future development Lee's tree was offered to club members at a bargain price for \$70 with funds going to the club. Check with Lee if interested, there is a small chance that it is still available (See Swap Table news for an update).

Benched were a few natives, many of which were co-opted for the Club's table at the show.

MAY MEETING SHOW TREES and DEMO

The agenda for the May meeting will be a talk by Simon on that nemesis of species, the Azaleas. Lots to recommend them as a bonsai species but they prove a challenge to many. So maybe Simon can improve our chances of success.

As a theme for the display trees, exhibitors at the recent Royal Easter Show will bring some of their trees, hopefully to inspire others to exhibit. Everyone else is encouraged to bring a tree or two, maybe to be appraised for next year's Show?

SWAP TABLE

There will be a Swap Table at the next meeting which will be stocked with whatever is brought along. Members are encouraged to contribute to the table. Bring some loose change and maybe grab a bargain. As an update, on the Privet Lee rescued from the Swap Table and subsequently re-modelled, it was snapped up for a cool \$120.00 at the recent Illawarra Bonsai Society show. Members did have the opportunity to have it for \$70.00

FACEBOOK PAGE

The private Facebook page run by John Brown is still going strong 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 join.

ROYAL EASTER SHOW REPORT by Bryan

It was another great year out at the Royal Easter Show. Over 100 bonsai trees were arranged throughout the room allowing good viewing of all. With the number of entries down across various other horticulture displays, bonsai stood out for the number of entries and quality of trees. It was good to see a number of full classes of trees both over and under 40 centimeters.

The number of club members entering trees was up this year with Lee, Simon, Chris and Bryan all entering. All in, the club had over 20 entries in competition.





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Everyone who entered was a winner as comments from the public indicated. That said, Lee did particularly well with a champion as well as a slew of firsts and seconds. Chris with four placings/‘highly commended’ and Bryan with three, both had a good year.



The stall was again a highlight with a number of individuals asking informed questions (i.e. other than where are the toilets and what is the age and cost of a tree). Despite Covid isolation and health issues impacting those able to help out, the display cart looked great. Thanks to John, Neville, Lee and Chris for some popular trees and John, Frank and Bryan for helping to resource the stall and field questions. The incredible moss on one of Chris’ trees and Lee’s Pyracanthas with berries were great draw cards for comment.



The Sue Brennan Annual Trophy for Supreme Champion bonsai went to Paulette for her black pine group. John gave a great overview when presenting the award explaining the role Sue played for our club and her contribution to the RAS over the years.

YET ANOTHER LEPTO by Lee

I went back to the Bayside Garden Centre [in my LGA, only 0.5 km from home]. I was after a white azalea that could be trained as a semi cascade but



no luck. I did not want another leptospermum, I have a bad habit of killing them after root pruning so one was enough of an investment. However, I saw one first in the line-up and it was very interesting. Having discovered the good trunk on my first one, I dug a bit, found the same development and bought it.



It was in a huge pot and again buried deep under the mulch so the first thing was to get it out of the pot and reveal the trunk. You cannot style a tree until you have revealed the trunk to the nebari so you can start to assess front side/back side and the best position to get the best features. The front on this was a pretty dead cert though it can be styled to have two fronts. But I’m not worrying about that.



There was a 'poke in your eye' lower branch that was quickly removed leaving a short jin that will be shaped once the tree is stable. The trunk has fissures and character but the strong branches were going left and right with no direction. I discovered that the middle branch going straight back was dead so that was cut to a jin as well. Strong trunk with stout veins - wild feel about it. It was exciting.



A crossing branch from back to front on the right side. I evaluated the two branches - the crossing one was young and characterless, the more mature branch had nice movement so the back branch was removed. The thin front branch was confusing the line and would conflict with the major right branch so it was removed.



Now, cleaned up but doing the splits - not attractive. The branches were amenable to some movement but the thicker the stiffer so I had to take care.



A strong direction had to be established so I started working on the two left branches. The right ones were more mature and bending was out of the question. This is getting an idea of how the tree would look as a right windswept.



At the conclusion of the first styling I had my windswept. Now - there are issues. The trunk and the character branches are growing to the right. The upper trunk is going left. My decision was to go right. The style looks contrived, I agree. The two left branches don't quite meld the design. I am hoping that a couple years foliage growth will ease this look to a more natural feeling. I was prepared to cut the two left branches off BUT the thick vein that supports them is the entire left side of the trunk and I don't want to lose any of the trunk.



The tree would be greatly diminished if I did this. I have balanced the two styling possibilities, right or left, gone with the right one and I'll see how the tree develops. More wiring can be done but I prefer to wait to see if it is going to survive the root pruning before I put any more effort into it. I have cracked a major branch and sealed it - I am waiting to see if that ensures its survival. There is no point in doing more at this stage. Assuming it starts to shoot I will then reduce the length of the branches and do a placement adjustment.

This lepto has the possibility of being a very pleasing native but it all hangs on its initial survival and how I can modify the design over time. In the meantime, it has brought a good deal of pleasure to another lockdown day.



ARTICLES OF INTEREST

If you become aware of any articles on the web, or elsewhere, that may be of interest to members you can use this space to pass on the word. Just send an e-mail to the Club's address with the contact details for the article and we can put it in this section.

Illawarra Bonsai Society put on a good show recently. The Club puts a great effort into this undertaking and from my observation and feedback I received, it was a great success. Its an annual event so keep an eye out for it next year. The exhibition trees are impressive and there are stalls for trees, stands, pots, making a bonsai, etc, which offer good value.

Illawarra's newsletter contains articles on Suiseki and Formal Upright designs.

Similarly Nepean Bonsai Society had a show not that long ago and it is also worth a trip up the M4 to have a look and take a bit of cash. Their stalls are well stocked and also very good value.

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH by John May

As autumn draws to a close the weather gradually becomes cooler. The leaves of the deciduous trees start to acquire their autumn tones prior to their leaf fall. The trees have completed a year's growth and are ready for a rest.

- 1 Lighten or remove completely the load of fruit, berries or seeds on your tree so that the tree's energy will not be overly depleted. Also remove leaves that have fallen onto the soil surface as this will deplete the nitrogen from the soil.
- 2 With all the rain lately over-watering is more of a problem than usual so watch the amount of watering that your trees are getting. Excess water, especially during the tree's dormancy over Winter, can cause root rot. The continuous wet weather can also lead to pest problems such as scale. Spray once a week with an oil such as Eco, White or Neem.



- 3 Excessive rain can leach goodness from the pots so keep up the feeding regime to ensure the trees get adequate nourishment going into winter. Use half strength liquid organic fertilizer rather than slow release feeds so that the tree takes it up faster.
- 4 Deciduous trees prone to mildew (eg oak and crepe myrtle) can be sprayed with a weak solution of lime-sulphur once they have lost their leaves. Remove moss from the trunks with an old toothbrush. Leaving moss on can rot the bark.
- 5 Semi-hardwood cuttings of Banksia can still be taken now if still warm.
- 6 Callistemon can still be collected all thru the winter months. They can be bare rooted if necessary, but cut back hard when collecting.
- 7 Old needles can be removed from JBP. Wait for the tree to become dormant when the new needles harden.
- 8 Deciduous trees can be styled more easily once they have lost their leaves.
- 9 Repotting can still be done on Australian natives, privets and olives.
- 10 Sprinkle a small amount of Dolomite on the soil surface of olives and junipers to keep them green. Fruiting olives can be fed liquid potassium until the end of May to improve flowering in spring.

Sources:

1. AusBonsai Wiki
2. "Bonsai, Its Art, Science, History and Philosophy" by D R Koreshoff
3. Dennis McDermott, School of Bonsai

BONSAI EVENTS CALENDAR

Bonsai Society of Australia	Visit their website – www.bonsai.asn.au
Nepean Bonsai Society Newsletter	Visit their website www.nepeanbonsaisociety.org - see what the mountain people get up to.
Illawarra Bonsai Society Newsletter	Visit their website – www.illewarrabonsaisociety.org -good content.
Bonsai Society of South Australia website	Worth a visit – www.bonsaisa.org.au
Yarra Valley Bonsai Newsletter	Visit their website www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au
Victorian Native Bonsai Club Newsletter	Visit their website – www.vicnativebonsai.com.au - well worth a look.
Bonsai Society of Sydney	Visit their website – www.bonsaisocietysydney.org.au
8 th – 16 th October 2022	9 th World Bonsai Exhibition – A VIRTUAL event Also here is a photo competition for use at the World Bonsai Convention Photo Exhibition www.world-bonsai-convention-2022.com Close-off date for comp 15 th May see website for details

Most clubs have re-commenced meetings. Check out their web-sites or give them a call for meeting details. Attending another club is usually worth the effort.