



NEXT CLUB MEETING

Tote Centre Community Hall
100 Joynton Ave., Zetland @ 7.00pm
Tuesday 8th of February 2022

CONTACT DETAILS



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<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 (February) will be face to face again!!!! However we are subject to ever-changing Covid restraints. This month's show and tell will focus on small, mini or 'mame' bonsai. Do you have a tree that is under 20cm? Bring it or another tree you wish to discuss.

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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.



A view you are unlikely to find in a bonsai collection



**LIFE MEMBERSHIPS
LEE and NEVILLE**

Before moving onto other matters I would like to announce that two long-serving members of SCBC – **Lee Wright and Neville Althaus** - have been awarded **Life Memberships**. The Committee and general membership would like to think that Life Membership of SCBC can in some way recognised the outstanding contributions both these members have made over many, many years. Lee and Neville have vast Bonsai experience and knowledge that they have been prepared to share generously with members and anyone who sought their expert advice. Lee is a regular and long-term contributor to this Newsletter and has influenced the direction of SCBC from various Executive positions in the past. Neville has held several Executive positions in the past, spanning over several years. His input to the success of the Club is significant. Both have been prepared to mentor and support members of the Executive, and the general membership. On a personal basis I am indebted to each of them.

**MONTHLY MEETING FEEDBACK -
December**

Even though our e-mail and website systems seemed to work OK the turnout was a bit disappointing even though it was in the Xmas period and the AGM was on the agenda. Never-the-less most of those enthusiasts who attended brought a tree and gave a short talk about it – and there was entertaining discussion and Xmas snacks afterwards.

First topic on the agenda was the AGM. After a short President's Report and Treasurers Report, thanks were due to the outgoing Executive members and all positions were declared vacant. Frank took on the duties as the Returning Officer and went through the nominations list. All positions were filled unopposed and the results are shown below:-



President – Chris Denton
Vice-President – Simon Tran
Secretary – David Peirce
Treasurer – Bryan Everts
Newsletter Editor – Chris/Bryan/John
Librarian – Vacant
Committee – Frank Sartore, Ed Hatrick-Smith, John Brown

After the rigors of the AGM it was over to admiring David's thrifty stand and the trees that members tabled.

David has been scouring Reverse Garbage and exploiting other low-cost opportunities (again). The result of the marriage between an old swivel chair, the end of a cable reel, a piece of board and possibly his wife's yoga mat is a substantial swivel stand that will be especially good for demonstrations. Just as well he has a vehicle big enough to transport it. Great job David.



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Overall views of the display trees.



David showing off his Radiata Pine in full bloom on his new stand.

Blue Cedar or Spruce? Its been a long time between the meeting and the write-up so I cannot recall who owns what – apologies – it's a very nice tree.





John's Xmas tree – I wish I had success with these!



Chris' unidentified Xmas offering – it grew in the backyard and it's species is still a mystery – probably some sort of Juniper.



Can you guess the theme?



John and his glowing Swamp Cypress.

Nice Black Pine – has a Simon look about it, but it's Bryan's.
The weeds give it away.



It was great to catch up with members, especially given we would not see them for a while due to the Xmas break. Not so good (for the waist) were the chocolates and soft drink.

Hopefully we will be back to regular face-to-face meetings henceforth. Please put a big tick in your calendars for the February meeting, 2nd Tuesday of the month, usual place, usual time. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Bryan has volunteered to do another reveal on his exposed root



**FEBRUARY – BRING A TREE AND
BRYAN’S REVEAL**

experiment. This will be the second instalment on progress of this project. The first reveal was, well, less than overwhelming. Bryan is hopeful he will have more to show this time (so to speak).

Show and Tell will focus on ‘miniatures’, i.e. trees less than (say) 200mm high. This is your big chance to roll out the tiddlers. No excuses about them being too big, too awkward, won’t fit in the car, etc. Figs should look particularly stunning given the time of year and the recent weather, especially if you have been following John’s “What to do this month” advice.

Bring a tree (or two) along for display. They are only small so you should be able to transport plenty. Note - Covid requirements current at the time of the meeting will be observed.

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.

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 BONSAI
COMPETITION**

The RAS has just called for entries for the Bonsai competition for this year’s Royal Easter Show. Have a thought about putting an entry in. It is a bit of a process to get the plants to and from the site but competitors can group together to transport trees and reduce the hassle. The entry cost (last year) was \$35.00 but for that you can have one or as many entries as you want **AND** an entry ticket, so its not really expensive as you get a day at the Show thrown in. Entry is on-line through the RAS website and it is not too complex. It is a good competition and your trees will be appreciated buy the biggest audience you can hope for. Interestingly the public do not always think that the official winners are the best trees! Entries close on 22nd March and the exhibition days are the 14th and 15th April so there is time to get your trees in order. Have a serious think about it and talk to a past exhibitor (Lee, Bryan, Neville, Chris etc.) if you want more details.

CLERENDENDRON RE-STYLING by Lee

This has been a disappointing clero... it just has not developed with the rapidity the species usually does. I got two at the same time and the other one is well on its way to being suitable for display but this one has dragged the chain... or the branch, whatever. I re-potted it into a commercial pot to sell it but after really studying it I decided that that was foolish. It is difficult to get a small tree with such a nice trunk and the potential is there. I just had to find it. I put it on the whirligig and slowly turned it round.

Faults... heavy on the top, far too light on the bottom. Branches too thick high up, balance wrong. Structure too high and nice trunk obliterated by the visual weight of the upper branches. Out came the branch cutters.





First I determined which horizontal branch I could reshape to the new leader. The entire restructuring depended on that. The tree had to be brought back into balance and a proper weight distribution. A massacre followed but the tree now has a better skeleton and better proportion. The back has become the front although the tree could be styled to be double sided. I have determined that this is a better front.

I will keep up my fertilising regime to push it to strong growth. Once new shoots start developing I will probably remove the top right branch to one better positioned... lower would be much nicer. But you have to work with what you have and now the trunk has regained its importance. There's a bit of reverse taper in the mid-section but once foliage develops that will no longer be so visual. The trick will be to keep the height where it is now and allow the foliage growth to fill out the top two thirds of the tree. I am pleased with this. The clero looks exceedingly naked but a couple of seasons growth should see a big difference.

It's important not to get complacent with the style of your trees. Anytime you look at them look for possible styling improvements. Often they are not as extreme as this but even little changes can create better bonsai.

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.

- There is a short article on Leptospermums in Yarra Valley Bonsai Society's current Newsletter – ref www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au
- There are various bonsai related articles on the BSA website – www.bonsai.asn.au

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH by John February

Tasks that can be undertaken this month include:

1. Watch for very hot days. Remember, excessive heat does not kill Bonsai, a lack of water does. Water often enough to ensure the soil never dries out. This may mean watering 2 or 3 times a day. Mulching of the top of the soil can help reduce evaporation through the day. Moss on top of the soil can be a good indicator of soil dampness.
2. Some species need considerable moisture through Summer including Wisteria, Banksia, Swamp Cypress, Callistemon and Melaleuca. They may need to stand in water trays.
3. Warmer, humid weather can encourage pest and disease. Some species such as Oak and Crepe Myrtle are susceptible to mildew. Spray with fungicide.
4. Summer is the time to perform large chops on Japanese Maples and many other deciduous trees. The wounds will heal faster and not bleed as much as they would if cut during winter.
5. Pinching tips and pruning new growth should continue on all trees through the Summer.



6. Most natives can be repotted throughout the summer months. Watch for bud movement and then repot and root prune. Alternatively cut back hard then wait for the new buds to start to appear, then repot. You can root prune very hard at this time.
7. Many trees will slow down growth in late summer but keep up the feeding until start of Autumn and then reduce the amount on deciduous trees, This will assist in achieving nice colour later in the Autumn.
8. Babingtonia which may be in flower can also be pruned back straight after flowering late in the Summer and re potted.

Sources:

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

BONSAI EVENTS CALENDAR

12 March 2022	SCBC outing to Bonsai World	Details TBA
	Bonsai Society of Australia	Visit their website – www.bonsai.asn.au
	Nepean Bonsai 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.
March 2022	Bonsai reshaped 2022 at the national Arboretum	Go to www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au
	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 are now re-commencing meetings with the easing of restrictions. Check out their web-sites or give them a call for meeting details.