



NEXT CLUB MEETING

Tote Centre Community Hall

Tuesday 14 June @ 7.00pm
100 Joynton Ave., Zetland

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 (June) will be at The Tote as usual. 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.



Five little bonsai, all in a row!



MONTHLY MEETING FEEDBACK

May

We had a better attended meeting in May with a dozen or more members attending. There was a good deal of interesting discussion around the show trees and others brought in for discussion.



Simon sharing his experience with Azealias



Members pay keen attention to John



Azealias aplenty – can be problematic but still a great specimen for bonsai



Chris' Port Jackson fig in handmade concrete pot and Baeckea – both entrants at the Royal Easter Show



Sadly-out-of-focus Jacaranda
but you get the idea –
Jacarandas can be bonsaied



John's Banksia is coming
along very nicely



Eucalypt – also proving that they have good
potential as a bonsai specimen



Don't let the photo fool you – this is only about
150mm tall and grows quite nicely in a few
teaspoons of soil mix. Moss covered sandstone
stand is a bit different



Melaleuca has to be Bryan's
with the "companion"
plantings

Another of Simon's Azealias





Trying to get the right angle



A young Port Jackson fig on the way

Further to the privet that Lee rescued from the Swap Table and remodelled – it achieved a good sale price at the recent Illawarra Bonsai Society event and Lee generously donated the proceeds to the Club – many thanks Lee.

JUNE MEETING REJECTS. CAST-AWAYS & OFF-LOADS

The agenda for the June meeting will be a display and discussion of trees that have suffered rejection or obsolescence and thus been “moved” on to others. From personal experience a change of ownership sometimes results in a new “lease on life” for a tree. Lee’s recent resurrection of the privet given away at the Swap Table is an example. These trees often have an interesting story and it is these stories that we would like you to share with others at the meeting. So bring along your rejects and take the opportunity to gloat over your successes (or share a failure if that is the case).

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.

EVER CONSIDERED A JADE TREE? by Lee

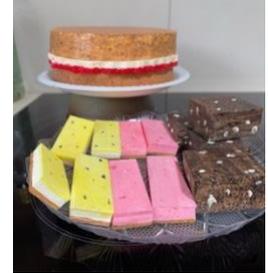
Stunning jade and superbly styled. Keep your eyes open for such a trunk and potential. They do make beautiful bonsai if you start with more than a thin stem.





WHAT PEOPLE GET UP TO

As an aside, members probably know that Lee is committed to bonsai but is also very active in the amateur live theatre scene. Opposite is a selection of cakes used as props in a theatrical production – but with a difference – they are made from Styrofoam! Clever.



FIVE REASONS NOT TO PRUNE YOUR BONSAI

(Source: Blue Sky Bonsai)

You can always find information on when to prune Bonsais but its equally important to know when NOT to prune them. Here's 5 reasons why you shouldn't prune.

1. Don't prune in Spring when the tree is putting energy into new growth.
2. Don't do major pruning at the same time as root pruning. Minor pruning is OK but don't take more than 25% of the foliage if you've done root pruning.
3. Don't prune deciduous trees in Autumn when the tree is trying to store energy before going into dormancy. If you want to prune then wait until the tree has lost all its leaves. It also makes it easier to see the structure of the tree when it doesn't have leaves.
4. Don't prune if the tree is weak for any reason. For example if the tree has a serious pathogen attack such as insect infestation. If the tree has fungal infection then make sure you remove all the affected leaves and dispose of them carefully so that the spores don't have a chance to reinfect.
5. Don't prune if your trying to fatten up the trunk. The more foliage on the tree the faster the trunk and major branches will thicken.

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.

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH – June by John

As winter take hold the weather becomes cooler and the leaves of the deciduous trees start to fall. The trees are ready for a rest.

- 1 If not already done, 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 Keep an eye on the moisture in pots. 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. A good rule of thumb is to make sure that the soil is fairly dry before rewatering but then make sure that the water penetrates and doesn't just run off. It's better to water in the morning so that the excess water has a chance to drain. Excess water, especially during the tree's dormancy over winter, can cause root rot and pest problems such as scale and bugs. Spray as required with an oil such as Eco, White or Neem.
- 3 Excessive rain will leach goodness from pots so be mindful of your feeding regime to ensure the trees get adequate nourishment. However, deciduous trees do not need a lot of feeding during winter. Consider slow release feeds during winter?
- 4 For trees that are prone to mildew (eg maples, crepe myrtles, oaks, roses and olives) it's a good idea to spray with lime-sulphur solution two or three times during Winter to kill the mildew spores and ensure healthy green growth in Spring.



- 5 Callistemon can still be collected all thru the winter months. They can be bare rooted if necessary, but cut back hard when collecting.
- 6 Old needles can be removed from JBP. Wait for the tree to become dormant when the new needles harden.
- 7 You can wire all species at this time so that the wire can be left on as long as possible. Let the tree dry out a little because moisture swells the cells and makes the branches more brittle and therefore more prone to breaking. While the trees are not actively growing the wire will not cut in and scar the tree as much.
- 8 Deciduous trees can be styled more easily once they have lost their leaves so winter is the time to do it to minimise wire cutting-in marks that can occur in high-growth periods.
- 9 Repotting can still be done on Australian natives, privets and olives but remember root growth will be slow so maybe later in the season will be more beneficial. Although repotting deciduous trees is best done in late winter (August) as buds begin to swell, if you have a lot of deciduous trees, you can start repotting and root pruning the trees as soon as they go into dormancy (lose all their leaves) as early as June.
- 10 Deciduous trees will benefit from being in the sun during winter as this helps with bud development and healthier spring growth.
- 11 If trees have developed a full coating of moss on the soil then remove some to improve air circulation and drainage through the soil. Put the excess moss in a shallow tray of soil and keep moist for use in repotting in Spring
- 12 Consider looking around for suitable rocks for “root-over-rock” styles.
- 13 Too early to start thinking about getting your soil mix ingredients organised for repotting in a few months? Some materials are a bit hard to obtain at the moment and mixes can benefit from a “settling down” period

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.
26 th -27 th August 2022	Illawarra Bonsai Society “The Tops” Bonsai Weekend	Visit their website for more details – www.illewarrabonsaisociety.org - good content in their newsletter
	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.