



NEXT CLUB MEETING

Tote Centre Community Hall

Tuesday 11, October
100 Joynton Ave., Zetland @ 7.00pm

CONTACT DETAILS



0432 461 025



info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au



<http://sydneycitybonsai.org.au>



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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

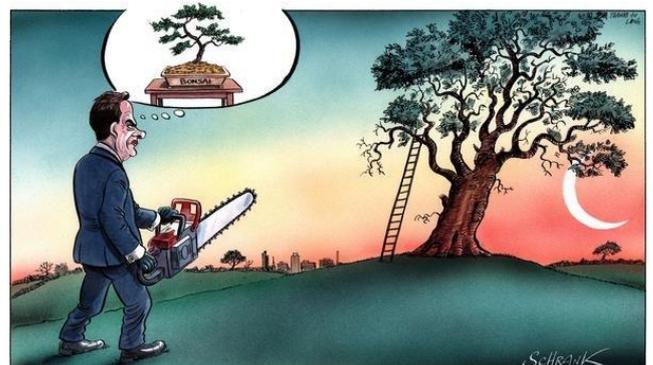
MEMBERSHIP

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.

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.



Yamadori ??



**MONTHLY MEETING FEEDBACK -
September**

The September meeting was well attended by a mixture of established and new members which was great. The meeting was a display and workshopping of trees and Chris gave a demonstration on how to create concrete pots.



Chris' demonstration showed how individual pots of any size using commonly available materials can be created. The method is addressed further in an article in this issue, but let's summarise in saying it is a relatively simple way of obtaining custom made pots, limited only by your imagination, tolerance for getting messy and strength.

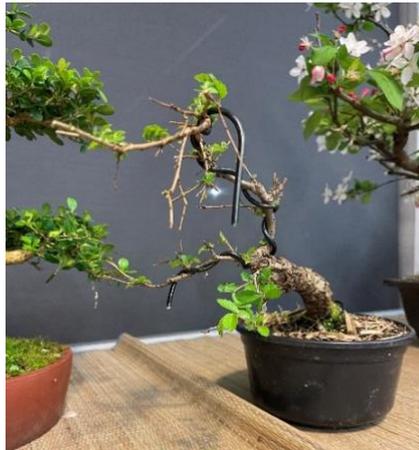
After the concrete pot demonstration members set about presenting and then workshopping their trees. There was a great turnout of trees and informative tales of their history, and where they are going. There were too many stories to relate so maybe just enjoy a collage of trees.





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OCTOBER MEETING AGENDA Spring trees

The theme for the October meeting will be spring trees (flowering and/or budding). Also how about bringing a Work-in-Progress tree or two as examples for a "Cut or Grow" discussion.

CONCRETE POTS – by Chris Follow up to Sept meeting demo

Concrete pots can transform your imaginative urges into a useful addition to your bonsai collection. The only real downside is that the pots will be heavy and create a mess during their creation. Never-the-less it is worth having a go.

The basis of the process is to make up a concrete mix and cast it in (or on) a mould of the desired shape, let it set and then finish off the end product.

The mould can be an existing flower pot as in the demonstration, or another container, or custom made e.g. from old shapely skirting boards cut to size with mitre corner joints nailed together. The only requirements are that it is fairly strong and rigid to stand up to the rigors of placing the mix, and the finished piece can be removed after it has cured. I will describe a process where the mix is placed inside the mould but similar principles apply if you



choose to place the mix over a mould. The desired texture of the pot also needs to be considered at this point. A smooth mould will give a smooth finish but added texture can be added by lining the mould with tree bark, vegetation or similar. Even crumpled paper or plastic can be used. Coating a smooth mould with a release agent (oil, grease, vaseline etc.) will assist getting the pot out. Lastly make provision for pot legs – I used suitable shaped styrofoam in the bottom of the mould for this purpose.

The concrete mix can be a bag of mortar or ready-mix concrete (from a hardware store of choice). The ready-mix concrete will require sieving to remove the coarse aggregate unless you intend to make a VERY big pot such that the aggregate size will be OK. Alternately you can make up your own mix with one part cement to three or four parts sand. If using a bagged mix it may be advisable to add a little more cement to strengthen the mix. Add water to the mix and stir with an implement to completely combine the contents. Aim for a dry “stiff” consistency so it will better retain its shape. You can add pebbles, colour (oxide powders are available from hardware stores) or other additives to make the finished product more interesting. I used pebbles in the bottom layer and two oxide colours forming the sides.

Place the mix into the mould and press it in well to fill the bottom and move it up the sides to the thickness required. Include a plastic bottle top in the bottom for a drainage hole and as a gauge for the thickness of the bottom. The thickness will depend on the size of the pot but should not be less than (say) 15mm. I used sand to fill the void in the mould to stop the mix falling in as the sides were raised. This can be poured out later. When you have reached the top, finish off the top edges as desired – squeezing a “dry” mix will give a pleasing jagged finish. Different coloured mixes can be used to build up the sides – it adds a bit of interest.

Set the mould apart, in the shade, under a cover to reduce the rate of curing and set aside for at least a week before removing it from the mould. At this stage it can be handled, with care, so have a play around with the surface finish e.g. wire brushing, water blasting etc. if you think that will improve the appearance. Let it cure further out of the sun for another week or so.

Before you use the pot (except for plants that benefit from a very alkaline environment) neutralise the alkalinity of the pot by soaking it in a solution of weak acid (dilute vinegar or acetic acid) for a day or two. If you want to seal the inside of the pot, paint it with a ceramic or bituminous sealer. Unsealed, the pot is likely to be fairly porous but will provide a great environment to grow algae/moss on the outside.

There you have it - your own hand made special.

A photo of the “demonstration” pot, after water-blasting, is shown opposite.



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. There is some good quality chat on the Facebook page and members are encouraged to join.



WHAT PEOPLE GET UP TO

I bet you didn't know we have a harpsichord builder as a member. Anita has consented to share her varied interests with us.



I made the harpsichord in 1976 and the accompanying photos are from when that was completed. I still have it, of course, but these photos are from that time.

It was made from a kit...a Zuckerman kit, and it is a double manual French harpsichord. It took several months to make, and I have to admit my father helped me along the way.

I built it in order to play baroque music with authentic baroque musical instruments....I used to play with the Macquarie Baroque Players based at Macquarie University.



I also play baroque violin...a little different from the modern ones in that it has a shorter fingerboard, it has gut strings (as opposed to metal ones) and is played with a shorter and differently shaped bow, resulting in a "softer" quality of sound.

Although I graduated at Uni with a performance degree on piano, the violin (the modern version mainly) seemed to take over, with regular work in Symphony and Opera orchestras, as well as many various gigs in shows, TV, backing for overseas artists, film scores etc. Really any job as a free-lance player!

Teaching is an obvious financial back-up for most freelance musicians, and I have been doing that since my teenage years!! Piano, violin, viola, accordion. Pretty much all my life.

Covid restricted that, and I am very happy to now consider myself retired! My examining years (25yrs) are also over, as I am not happy to examine via the internet, and think that was the push I needed to slow down and enjoy a more relaxed life including regular gardening, bushwalking, birding, cycling, and travelling... always something to look forward to ... and 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.

The Canberra Bonsai Society's newsletter contains an interesting article on river red gums, bunjin (look it up) and a few other topics – worth a look. Too late for this newsletter but their exhibition on 8th to 9th October is usually pretty good and you can take in the National Bonsai Collection while you are there – check the CBS website for details (next year).

School of Bonsai is having an exhibition at Ray Nesci's place at Dural on 15th – 16th Oct.

Nepean Bonsai Society's Newsletter has a good article on wiring.



Feedback on the recent “Magumi” Bonsai display in the Botanic Gardens has been positive.

For those wondering how to deal with Japanese Black Pines, ‘bonsaify’ has a few interesting articles.
<https://www.bonsaify.com>

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH by John

October

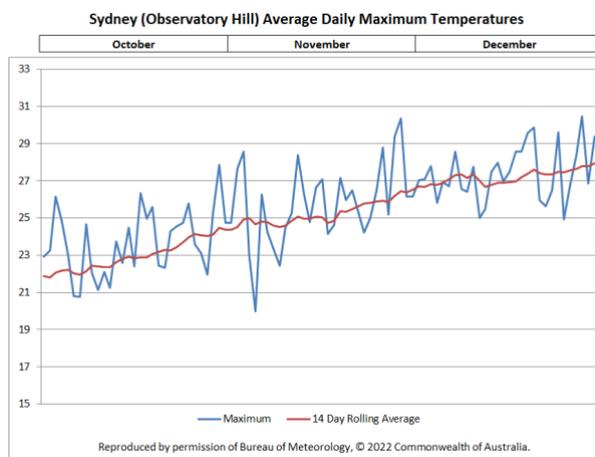
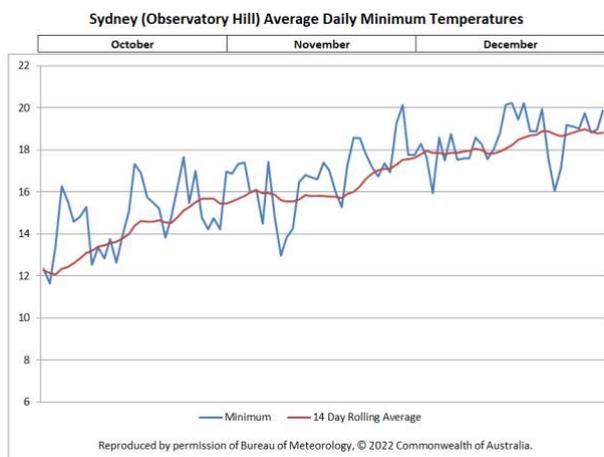
1. Fertilizing: We’re now into the growing season with most deciduous trees in full leaf. Increase fertilizing frequency. Slow release combined with organic liquid fertilizer is best. For newly repotted trees be careful not to over fertilize with chemical high nitrogen fertilizers. Best not to fertilize for about two weeks after repotting. Natives can be fed with the same fertilizers as exotics, just avoid high phosphorus fertilizers such as those recommended for encouraging flowers.
2. Maples, Elms and Crepe Myrtles need constant tip pruning to increase ramification. Don't tip prune Crepe Myrtles after the end of November to allow flower buds to develop.
3. Figs can be repotted from now until the end of November and major pruning done at the same time. Add plenty of fertilizer to the potting mix. The first defoliation can be done as well. Spray cut leaf stems with water to prevent the milky substance from dripping on leaves and leaving a stain. Place Figs in full sun for maximum growth.
4. Azaleas can be pruned heavily and trimmed after flowering. In Sydney, Satzuki Azaleas flower later (October) than others. Check for leaf sucking insects and if necessary commence spraying and continue until the end of Summer.
5. Monitor pines for candle growth and continue your candle pinching routine. Allow JBP candles to develop in spring until the green tips of the needles become just visible. As each individual candle displays the minute tips IMMEDIATELY remove the candle totally. The only exception would be where you are trying to extend the branch, then you may choose to leave some of the candle. Once the needles have expanded more than 2 - 3 mm it is not as effective.
6. Watch all trees that you have been wired through winter for wire cutting into the bark. This causes scarring and can never really be repaired.
7. Collection of [Yamadori](#) can be done.
8. Air layering of Pines and Junipers can be done now.
9. Start planning the repotting of Natives. Once the weather becomes warmer you can start repotting.
10. Keep weeds under control as they can rob the tree of nutrients.
11. Examine the soil surface to check if it moisture penetrates satisfactorily when watered.

Sources:

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



Min/Max BOM temperature forecasts (Observatory Hill) for the upcoming months including 14 day rolling average, provided by David follow:-



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	Visit their website – www.illewarrabonsaisociety.org - good content in their newsletter
	Bonsai Society of South Australia website	Website is 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.
15 th – 16 th October 2022	School of Bonsai exhibition	At Ray Nesci’s nursery. Visit their website for more details.
8 th – 16 th October 2022	9 th World Bonsai Exhibition – A VIRTUAL event Also there is a photo competition for use at the World Bonsai Convention Photo Exhibition	Put out a good newsletter - visit their website – www.cbs.org.au www.world-bonsai-convention-2022.com Close-off date for comp 15 th May see website for details

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