



NEXT CLUB MEETING

Marrickville Community Centre

Unit 44, 142 Addison Rd., Marrickville @ 7.00pm

CONTACT DETAILS

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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 previous support for our Club by providing a meeting hall at a concessional rate.

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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 feminine tree?



**MONTHLY MEETING FEEDBACK -
December**

The December meeting was attended by established members and a couple of new members which was encouraging. The meeting had a Xmas theme and was a time for reflection on the past turbulent year or so and a challenge! A nice Juniper was sourced from Bonsai South and the challenge was to restyle it. First thoughts were to form a number of groups and each would have a timed period to "make their mark" before handing on to a subsequent group. That morphed into having individuals allocated a short time, in turn, to work their magic. The final version was a free-for-all with many hands, often simultaneously, groping, bending, wiring and pruning various branches and other bits of the tree. The end result was not too bad but the treatment seemed a bit brutal.

After the carnage, members enjoyed the treats brought along for the occasion and presented their trees with the usual innovative tales of their history and future. A collage of trees follows.

P.S. to the styling story – the tree was relocated to the Editor's place for recuperative purposes but the heavy handed treatment seems to have taken a toll. The "styled" branches are not looking that healthy – maybe a reminder that trees have to be treated with due respect.



Bryan's alternate interpretation of a bonsai Xmas tree I suppose no-one said it had to be alive(?)



John's Swamp Cypress was well decked out



Bryan's ongoing "Lilly Pilly from tubestock" experiment



Pity Chris did not bring batteries for the lights.

Lots of good intentions but (in reality) not much chance of success – Chris' somewhat ambitious Peppercorn



Work Table - David's Umbrella Figs showing luxurious growth



Chilling out for Xmas

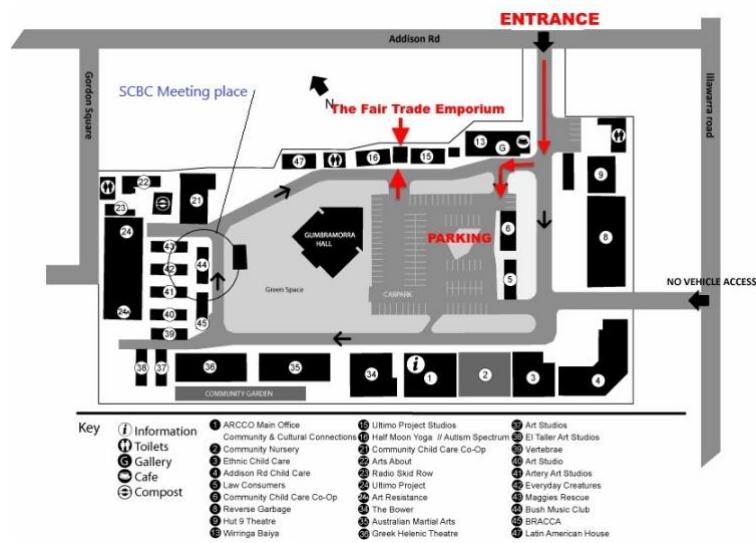


Lots of good material on the Swap Table



CHANGE OF MEETING VENUE

NOTE - THERE WILL BE A CHANGE OF VENUE FOR OUR NEXT MEETING, AND, THEREAFTER. In response to the parking problems at "The Tote" we have located an alternative venue with lots of parking. We will use Unit 44 (Bush Music Club), in the Marrickville Community Centre site. Enter the complex at 142 Addison Rd Marrickville and proceed towards the North-west corner and look for Unit (shed) 44. It is a weatherboard/corrugated iron structure. There is road and ramp access to the front door and parking in the vicinity. Thanks to Gracy, David, Bryan etc. for their efforts in finding a new venue.



FEBUARY MEETING AGENDA – STOCK TREES AND FIGS

The theme for the February meeting will be experience with "stock" trees i.e. something sourced at a nursery. So bring along an example of a "stock" tree or a tree that originated from that source.

Our feature tree will be Figs – given the weather we have had, they should be in full flight. Everyone has a Fig or two so let's see yours.

SWAP TABLE

There will be a Swap Table at the next meeting which will be stocked with whatever is brought along **AND** surplus trees from our street stall. Members are encouraged to contribute to the

table. Bring some loose change and maybe grab a bargain. Last meeting there was a lot on offer.

FACEBOOK PAGE

and members are encouraged to join.

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

SPRING STYLING by Bryan

Somewhat belatedly I have included Bryan's Spring styling undertakings. Take it away Bryan.

If you are like me you have a number of trees early in their development and in need of major development and ramification. At this point they don't look fantastic but with luck they may grow into something worthwhile. While I am no expert, here are a few of my trees with thoughts on what I was thinking as I tried to make them the best they can be at this stage in their development.



General considerations when styling:

- Is the tree fast growing?
Can I get away with more radical trimming?
- What style suits the way the tree has grown to date?
What style brings out the best aspects of the tree?
- What size is envisioned for the mature tree?
Given the branching, space between internodes, height of the lowest branch how tall do you see the mature tree?
- How does the tree respond to cutting and styling?
Does the tree bud back readily? Can I get away with cutting it back to bare wood or do I need to leave a bud, needle or leaf?
- How does the spacing of the internodes affect trimming?
Does the spacing between nascent buds allow for tight trimming or is it risky to cut too much?
- Do the branches take to wiring easily or are they stiff and brittle?
Will they break with wiring so it is best to wire when they are very thin or can I let them thicken a bit before trying to style?
- To a lesser degree, is now the best time to trim?
While I generally find that I trim when it suits me rather than when might be the best for the tree, survival chances and recovery are improved by trimming at the appropriate time. Trimming out of season may be possible but requires extra monitoring of recovery.
- How can I improve the way the tree looks now?
What can I do now to make the tree look as good as possible?
- How can I improve the way the tree will look when fully developed?
Are their styling decisions that are needed which may leave the tree looking worse at present but pay off in the long run with a better tree?
- Should I consider changing the trees style or its position in the pot?
Does it need to be repositioned to hide some flaw or improve its look?

Japanese Maple



Pre Styling



Branching



Post styling



At this point in development I am looking to develop ramification and create foliage pads. I took off branches growing down and those growing straight up. I thinned out small branches, and as the branches are as long as I want them to be, I generally removed the largest new branches to prevent them from getting too lanky. I know that spring growth will bring an over-abundance of new growth so this is not an issue. I will try to pinch back and keep on top of spring branching to minimise this and encourage more ramification. I am hoping the unsightly reverse taper will be partially obscured by the developing pads.

Multi trunk pear



Before styling

After styling



The branching style of the multi-trunk flowering pear (above) is much less vigorous than the maple and growth is much slower. This makes it easier to bring under control but more difficult to get branch ramification. The branches have visible bud nodes. I trimmed to ensure at least one or two of these were left on each branch. Branches were then wired to provide movement. I try to think in three dimensions when positioning branches so they have horizontal and vertical movement and look natural. Branches often look best if they rise slightly from the trunk before levelling off.

English Oak



Pre styling



Post styling



Rejected rotation



The English Oak (above) is challenging as the internodes are quite far apart and branch growth is slow and limited. As such I kept as much branching as possible when styling. To maintain compactness, I wired the branches in a bent formation and trimmed the branches.

I considered rotating the trunk to bring it into a more vertical alignment but that further emphasises the large unsightly 'V'. If I were to replant in this manner, I would need to shorten the lower branch to the small back bud (pink mark) to bring it in balance. Instead I decided to tip the tree forward to try and counter the similar height of the upper branches and keep the slanting style.

Pin Oak

To the right is a pin oak that has recently been restyled with comments explaining what was done and why.





KUNZEA TRANSFORMATION by Lee

I have had this Kunzea Ambigua since 2007 and it went through many styles, providing wonderful learning curves as I tried to find the best in the tree. It has been a workshop tree several times as the style evolved and it has won at the Sydney Royal Easter Show and been in a number of Sydney exhibitions. It was also featured in the masthead of the SCBC newsletter for a number of years in an earlier style.



Imagine my distress when I came home from a fortnight away to find myrtle rust on the two foliage pads. I sprayed and prayed. The infestation was controlled but 98% of the tree was gone. But this little tree is game, it is a real survivor so I left it alone and hoped. The 2% left was a thin shoot on each now all but leafless pad, each about 2 cm long, one growing right one growing left as if they didn't want to know each other. After several months of imperceptible growth it started to move. I am thrilled at its latest style. Part of me says to cut it back, part of me says to leave it be. Yes, I will nip the longer extensions a bit but overall I like the free flowing look of it. I am delighted to have it back as one of my favourite trees. Very Aussie and much more in character with bush trees than the tight foliage pads.





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 Central Coast Bonsai Club is putting on its annual "Bonsai Open" with decent prizemoney and trophies in the offering on the 4th and 5th March 2023. Plenty of time to get organised.

The National Bonsai Collection at Canberra has a "coffee table" publication of trees from its collection. The Collection can be viewed at the National Arboretum Canberra and the book purchased through The Curatoreum - go to <https://bit.ly/3RYRqzx>. They also have their annual workshops over 24th-26th Mar 2023 – go to nationalarboretum.act.gov.au for more details.

Entries for the **Royal Easter Show** bonsai competition close on 28th February 2023 so it is time to focus on getting your trees organised and your entry in. There is only one entry fee for as many trees as you like and a free show admission ticket is included. So, its good value and a chance to show off your trees to the largest viewing audience of any bonsai show in the state, possibly Australia.

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH by John FEBRUARY

Specific tasks for February include:

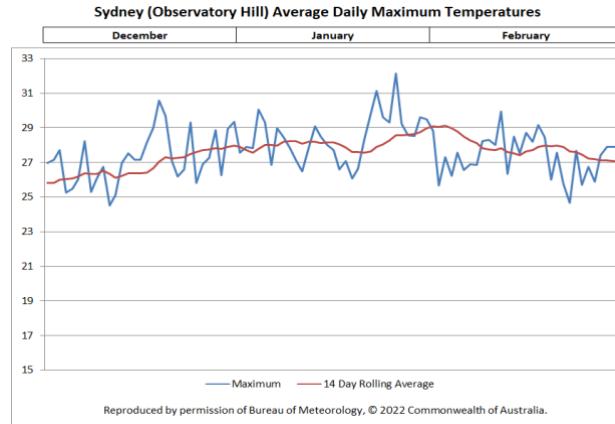
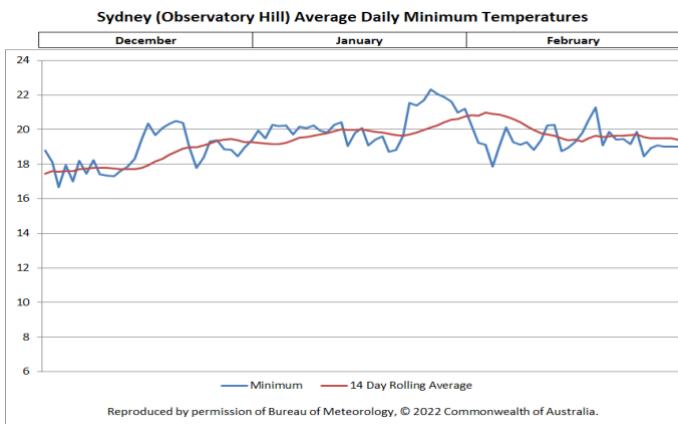
1. Watch for very hot days. Remember, excessive heat does not kill Bonsai, a lack of water does. Water often enough to ensure the soil never dries out. This may mean watering 2 or 3 times a day. Mulching of the top of the soil can help reduce evaporation through the day. Moss on top of the soil can be a good indicator of soil dampness.
2. Some species need considerable moisture through Summer including Wisteria, Banksia, Swamp Cypress, Callistermon 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



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.	
School of Bonsai	Visit their website – www.schoolofbonsai.com.au	
Canberra Bonsai Society	Put out a good newsletter - visit their website – www.cbs.org.au	
Central Coast Bonsai Club 4 th and 5 th March 2023	Bonsai Open exhibition. For more details go to www.centralcoastbonsai.com.au	Good cash and trophy prizes
Bonsai Society of Sydney	Go to www.bonsaisocietyofsydney.org.au	There is a root over rock article in the latest Newsletter
National Bonsai Convention 19 th – 22 nd May 2023	Check the web for details	Convention is in Perth this year

Check out other clubs' meeting dates via their web-sites or give them a call for meeting details. Attending another club is worth the effort.