



NEXT CLUB MEETING

Tote Centre Community Hall
100 Joynton Ave., Zetland @ 7.00pm
July meeting cancelled due to lockdown

CONTACT DETAILS



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<http://sydneycitybonsai.org.au>



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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron	TBA
President	Chris
Vice President	Vacant
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

The theme of this month's meeting (July) was going to be the AGM plus work-shopping trees. However, **COVID has raised its ugly head again and the July meeting has been cancelled.** Questions, comments, ideas? Keep in touch via Facebook/email.

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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.



Love a decent nebari



MONTHLY MEETING FEEDBACK - JUNE

There was a disappointing attendance at last month's meeting – only about 10 rolled up again. It was a bit cold and miserable but remember inside is warm and dry!

Never-the-less David led a discussion on wiring that is a topic of interest at this time of year. Most members participated in the discourse. There were a number of opinions put forward and members related their experiences. It was an inclusive and informative dialogue.



Anyone who missed out and would like to know more should contact one of the Exec members. As announced in the last newsletter Bryan populated the Swap Table with a healthy number of pots donated to the Club from a deceased estate. That proved a bonanza for members and many of the pots were snapped up. There are still some left-overs that will be on the Swap Table again at the next meeting.



A number of interesting trees were tabled and some workshopped. Photos of the meeting and trees are attached at the end of the Newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

We have reached the end of our membership year (June 30th) so **membership fees are now due**. As we expect to operate as what used to be called "normal", we will revert to full fees for 2021-22 as listed on the front page. While cash is always welcome, it is preferred that the fees are paid electronically. The relevant details are:-

Sydney City Bonsai Club
BSB : 032-152
A/c No. : 166305

Please include your name in the transaction details.

CALL FOR NEW EXEC MEMBERS

With the conclusion of our operating year, all Exec positions will be vacated and nominations to fill the positions called. They will be filled by voting at the AGM which will probably be part of the August meeting agenda. There are currently vacant positions and all positions are up for grabs so have a serious think about nominating – we need members to take on positions to keep the Club operating. You do not need to be a bonsai "expert" but should be prepared to come to the monthly Exec meeting and participate in management decision making.

Have a go!

SWAP TABLE

There will be a Swap Table at the next scheduled meeting which will be stocked with what pots remain from those kindly donated by Betty Forsyth's sister.

Members are also encouraged to contribute to the table. Bring some loose change along and grab a bargain.



ON-LINE MATTERS



John Brown

FACEBOOK PAGE

The private Facebook page run by John Brown is still going and anyone interested in participating should contact John for an invitation – just look for this handsome gentleman.

NURSERY CRAWL – BONSAI WORLD

As stated in the last Newsletter, SCBC is planning a Bonsai World nursery crawl for Sunday August 15 (time TBA). There was strong support for this adventure at the last meeting and details are being sorted out. This is a great opportunity to pick up stock and learn new techniques. Set aside the day and let us know your interest in coming. If you require more information please contact one of the Exec members or go through the Club e-mail account. We will try and co-ordinate travelling arrangements at our next scheduled meeting, hopefully in August.

CLASSY BONSAI POTS – by Lee

Who is Helen Montfort you might well ask? And with good reason as she has kept a low profile up until now. That needs to change as this lady makes seriously good bonsai pots.



Helen started potting in 1969 by working with earthenware, learning from an apprentice of Bernard Leach in Hobart. She had to stop for a number of decades due to time restraints and work commitments but she re-entered the game in 2015 and left earthenware behind and started with Midfire to make stronger pots. Her trademark is well finished pots both inside and out and she takes the time necessary to create a well-made pot that is different from the better known potters.

After a workshop with glazes she is working on a signature glaze and making her own mixes for beautiful effects. Helen's potting philosophy is to make pots that suit various types of tree foliage and trunks and to produce pots that have her own distinctive style, setting her work apart from other potters. Helen makes accent pots, shohin and large pots, a nice selection of sizes and refined styles to suit feminine and masculine trees, natives and exotics. She does work on commission as well as selling at Nepean Bonsai Society and Illawarra Bonsai Society shows.



You can find her on Facebook at [Facebook.com/SnowFireCeramics](https://www.facebook.com/SnowFireCeramics). If you love handmade bonsai pots this is a potter whose work you need to add to your collection.

Editors Note: This article provides a brief insight into just one of the small scale potters who can provide unique and stunning pots to complement your



trees. There are others who can provide similar products. By supporting these artisans, members and potters are both winners. Consider a custom pot for a special present (to give, or receive, or just for you).

ESCAPE OF THE CURL GRUBS by Chris

While I am sympathetic to most life forms, on a live and let live basis, I have no empathy for curl grubs. They are a bonsai practitioner's worst nightmare. The often fatal damage they inflict on defenceless bonsais usually goes un-noticed until it is too late. Unfortunately they are endemic to my backyard and near environs. It seems their most favoured haunt is my compost heap.

I had occasion to remove some of the compost recently and came across a thriving colony of these silent killers. Meticulously, I scoured each spadeful of compost for their presence and in short time had a collection of 20-30 specimens interned in a small plastic pot on a shelf near the heap. I was torn deciding on the most satisfying method to dispose of them. The options included:- (a) squashing them – simple and effective messy, (b) drowning them – again simple and effective, (c) putting them out in a

container for the birds to feed on – a win-win situation, or, (d) leaving them on the concrete driveway for the ants to find and finish them off – slow and torturous. (a) is messy, (b) is time consuming and not that satisfying, and (d) is a bit sadistic, even for me. So (c) it was to be.

Prior to laying out the feast I moved the wheelbarrow and removed an accumulation of weeds that had taken root on the path leading to the compost heap. Then, having located a suitable escape-proof container, I returned to my cache. Horror! – the pot had fallen off the shelf. I frantically looked around and found the pot but no grubs, not one. Apparently the pot must have fallen into the weeds that I shovelled back into the compost heap along with other additions. "Darn" I said, or words to that effect.



It reminds me of the folly of the Phantom's numerous arch enemies (oldies will remember the classic Phantom comics). They regularly snared the Phantom and always came up with some elaborate plot to dispose of him, only to be thwarted by Devil (his dog) or Hero (his horse).

In the old days, the good guys always won. On that logic, are the curl grubs the good guys??? Whatever, I plan to get my revenge and option (d) is looking good.

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH - July

By John

1. Ideally most of your trees should be re-potted prior to bud swell. However if you have many deciduous trees to be re-potted, time constraints can make this ideal approach near impossible, so you may want to start re-potting some early shooting or Winter Flowering trees in July. Trees that should come under consideration for early re-potting are; Mulberry, Chinese Elm, Japanese Flowering Cherry, Japanese Flowering Apricot, Japanese Flowering Quince, Chinese Quince, Pomegranate and pears.
2. Heavy prune and trunk chop deciduous and evergreen trees while dormant (except [Japanese Maples](#) and [Pines](#). Energy stored in the roots will help accelerate the new growth in Spring).
3. All species of trees can be wired at this time so that it can be left on as long as possible while the tree is dormant.
4. Assess and gather together sufficient materials for repotting.
5. Any deciduous trees that you have in the ground can be dug up, root pruned and return to the ground for further growth. Alternatively if they have developed sufficiently they can be potted. (leave evergreens until early Spring)
6. Pines and evergreens can be grafted now.
7. Melaleuca cuttings can be taken now of half-ripe lateral shoots.
8. Root prune and repot cedars.
9. Spray trees that are prone to mildew (eg maples, crepe myrtles, oaks, roses and olives) with lime-sulphur solution two or three times during Winter.
10. During re potting work you may have the misfortune to find Curl Grubs in some of your pots. For those of you who are not familiar with this destructive pest they have a white body an orange brown head and strong mouth parts and usually rest in a "U" shape. They chew on the tree's root system robbing it of its fibrous roots. I feel the best prevention of major damage is early detection. Detection can be made by noticing a lack of growth on your tree or inconsistent growth, die back on the tips of branches, loose unstable trunks or if you push your finger through the soil surface and it moves down too easily. Unfortunately a lot of the time you only realise when you sight them during re potting of a tree. When you do find them remove every single one of them large or small. They can get wedged tightly right up into root systems so you may have to shake all the soil out to get them all. If you suspect that some may be in your tree but it is not the right season for re potting I would suggest you try and drown them in a weak solution of Condy's Crystals. Totally submerge your tree for a day or two and some will crawl out of the pot and others will just drown in the root system. After re potting a dose of Seasol will help the root system get back into full swing at a much faster rate as well.

Sources:

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



BONSAI EVENTS CALENDAR

	Nepean Bonsai Newsletter	Available on request or visit their website
	Illawarra BS Newsletter	Available on request or visit their website
15 August 2021	SCBC Bonsai World Excursion	Details at our August meeting
20-22 August 2021	Illawarra BS sponsored event	Stanwell Tops – see IBS website for details
	Yarra Valley Newsletter	Available on request or visit their website
	Victorian Native Bonsai Club Newsletter	Available on request or visit their website
12-16 Sept 2021	Garden Clubs of Australia	National Convention – Townsville

Most clubs have recommenced meetings so check out their web-sites for information.

DEMONSTRATION and TREES – June



Early days for a PJ Fig multi-trunk



Junior Maraylya showing some good form



Trident maple



Chris' Juniper – again. It is the second time taken to a meeting for re-styling!



So I took it home and did it there!



Taking notes



Not taking notes