



### NEXT CLUB MEETING

#### Tote Centre Community Hall

Tuesday, 9 November

100 Joynton Ave., Zetland @ 7.00pm

### CONTACT DETAILS



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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

This month's meeting (November) will be face to face again!!!! Welcome back! In accordance with our hire agreement with the City of Sydney:

- Attendees must use the City of Sydney QR code to enter. If you don't have a smart phone we will be able to record your details in an electronic format as required under the NSW Department of Health guidelines.
- Attendees must provide proof that they are fully vaccinated. This can be via the covid-19 app, smart-phone record or paper certificate.
- Attendees must wear masks
- Attendees must maintain 1.5m social distancing when entering and leaving the meeting and inside the venue.
- We will have hand sanitiser on hand if attendees do not have their own.

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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](mailto:info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au) or one of the Committee members.



**Bonsai during Covid work-from-home**



**MONTHLY MEETING  
FEEDBACK - October**

John organised a Zoom on-line get together as an alternative for our programmed face-to-face meeting, again.

We have more success with our e-mail and website systems so advice of the meeting went out as "normal". Unfortunately it did not result in a greater turnout. Approx. nine people logged in.

Frank led a discussion on aerial layering. He displayed the tools and material required and explained the technique involved. Frank related specific experiences with his trees and reported an enviable success rate. The technique looks quite "do-able" and has inspired me to have a go at an impressive full-size Melaleuca in my backyard that has defied many efforts over the years to propagate from it. Now all I have to do is find (or make) some muck!

Others contributed their experiences with the technique and overall it was a very interesting session. There was also plenty of general conversation.

It was also great to catch up with members. The allocated time disappeared pretty quickly and after a short break, a second session was required. Many thanks to Frank and John for their efforts.

We will say good-bye to Zoom and re-commence our regular face-to-face meetings in November. Please put a big tick in your calendars against Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November, usual place, usual time. Looking forward to seeing you there.

**NOVEMBER  
MEETING**

The Exec has decided there will not be a specific topic for the November meeting. It will be a general catch-up session and everyone is requested to bring a tree (or two) and share some of your experiences with the tree with other members, or seek some input on what possibilities your tree possesses.

There should also be time to do a bit of workshopping on your trees, if that is your preferred option.

**MEMBERSHIP FEES**

Membership fees are due. While cash is always welcome, that is impractical in the current situation, so it is preferred that the fees are paid electronically although cheques, remember those, are acceptable but you will have to make arrangements with Bryan. The relevant transfer 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**

The Club still has to have its AGM but the Executive has decided to put it off until the December meeting so you are spared the voting duties for another month or so. As stated before, 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.

### 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 participate.

### I HAD TO LAUGH - by Lee

I have to laugh at myself. I have never been partial to elms or semi and full cascades. It's like children... great when they belong to someone else but things I never wanted. Lockdown has had more than its share of moments... always trying to keep my trees around 40 I find that I have acquired 7 new ones since June, bringing my total to 54. That now includes 9 semi and full cascades and 6 elms.

It's one of those things. One elm semi cascade was a root cutting, developed for experience and to sell. It was growing well and still on the sale list when it threw out 'that branch' and suddenly the magic happened and I bonded. Bonded deeply enough to incorporate it into my permanent collection and name it 'Bounce' because every time it moves it bounces. Cute. Another elm that was hideously ugly but had an interesting trunk was purchased for styling experience and to eventually sell. After two disappointing years it is starting to shape up and I am finding it wobbling on the sale list and more than likely to fall off.

Several trees acquired to be trained as informal uprights decided that their joy in life was to cascade and refused to be styled artistically any other way. And up went the cascade ratio. It's all very well to have decided preferences but some trees are more than capable of changing opinions. Cascades are hard to transport safely but affection makes safely securing them in the car a point of pride. Elms, well you just spend more time shaping an elm – but I have to admit they are rewarding.

I'm now in my 24th year of doing bonsai and it is a great feeling looking over my collection and seeing trees that I have developed from ugly nothings to more than satisfactory bonsai. Some trees are extremely special because I learned so much styling them, and restyling them, and yet again restyling them until I found the right path and developed a lovely bonsai. It's a great feeling - "I did that". Those of you who haven't experienced that feeling yet keep working at it and it will come. Sometimes it is slow, sometimes it is fast but it will come.





**ECONOMICAL  
TRAINING POTS**  
– by David

I tend to buy trunks and the game plan is to develop the upper structure. This way I can enjoy mature trees without the years of waiting for them to look like anything other than a shapely stick. But while getting a head start on the basic structure doesn't mean training pots are not needed while the upper branch structure develops.

We have all struggled to find training pots particularly as our trees get bigger. Ceramic pots are often too heavy or too expensive to use. Standard plastic pots are usually too tall as we try to create a shallower root ball.

Orchid pots are better but the drainage holes are too big. Plastic Bonsai Pots are available but my experience is that are often poor quality. In addition we may not want to immediately put a tree in a bonsai pot if it is still being grown out.



The solution I have found is inexpensive, functional and colourful.

My local variety store stocks a range of plastic bowls. For this exercise I chose 29cm (Green) and 37cm (Red) wide bowls.

The process of converting them into pots is straightforward. I drill a hole in the base with a hole saw. Make sure you support the base of the bowl – I rest it on a sheet of plywood. I drill a 68mm hole – bigger is better. I then use a piece of 6mm Gutter guard to screen the hole. This can be

glued in place, held in place by wire or simply held down by the potting mix. Drill some holes around the edge as anchor points and you are ready to go.

**Cost:** Bowl \$3.00 - \$4.00. Gutter Guard around \$20 for 20m.

**Durability** - I have found these pots to be durable and reasonably UV resistant. I've had some fade a bit but they are still solid. In contrast I have some plastic bonsai pots of the same vintage that are breaking.



The finished products.



### DEVELOPING ADDITIONAL TRIDENT MAPLE ROOTS - by Lee

Lovely trident, upper structure well

developed and ramification coming along very nicely. But the nebari looked like two legs doing the splits. A couple of years ago I cut a path all along the front nebari, brushed on rooting hormone and covered it up. A few roots developed but grew straight down. Which, while understandable, was not the best outcome. I'm green at this so this sort of thing so I tried another tack.



This time I prepared my rooting equipment, made the cuts, applied rooting hormone and set pre-cut pieces of cork and chopsticks just under the cuts. They were short pieces to allow eventual easy removal once the roots were stronger but the plan was for the roots to develop and grow out and over the add-ons and become more acceptable surface roots - before diving underground.



Soil on top and then sphagnum moss to maintain moisture. I checked on progress after a couple of months and was delighted to see the strategy seemed to be working.

I quickly covered them up again to enlarge, stabilise and increase the attractiveness of the nebari, breaking the monotonous line of two spread roots. A couple more years for them to mature and I think I have solved the missing factor - a lack of surface roots. I have done the same to the back but I have not checked that as yet. Time enough. But for now the roots have developed, maybe not as widespread as I was hoping, but with development of the new lot plus the older lot, the nebari should soon acquire the same attractiveness as the rest of the trident.



### THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH – November

- by John

1. Figs can be actively worked on now and right through Summer until mid-Autumn.
2. Most natives can be repotted throughout the summer months. Watch for bud movement and then repot and root prune.
3. Observe closely any wired trees to ensure it is not cutting in to the bark. On deciduous trees, this will cause irreparable scarring
4. Heavily prune wire and trim Azaleas after flowering. Remove all finished flower remnants.
5. Collection of [Yamadori](#) of deciduous and pines.
6. Candle pinching of pines continues.
7. Satsuki Azaleas should be flowering now. Pinch off spent flowers as they deteriorate rather than leave them on the tree.
8. Regular tip pruning of Crepe Myrtles through Spring, however since they flower on terminal tips pruning should cease by the end of November to allow flowering buds to develop.

#### 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 - see what the mountain people get up to.
Illawarra BS Newsletter	Available on request or visit their website – good content.
Bonsai Society of South Australia website	Worth a visit
Yarra Valley Newsletter	Available on request or visit their website.
Victorian Native Bonsai Club Newsletter	Available on request or visit their website – well worth a look.

Most clubs are now re-commencing meetings with the easing of restrictions. Check out their web-sites for re-commencement details.