



sydney city
bonsai club inc.

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Marrickville Community Centre

Unit 44, 142 Addison Rd., Marrickville

Tuesday 9 May @ 7.00pm

CONTACT DETAILS



0432 461 025



info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au



<http://sydneycitybonsai.org.au>



PO Box 486
Summerhill NSW 2130

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 tree hugging tree



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MONTHLY MEETING FEEDBACK APRIL

The April meeting was very well attended with a mix of longer established members and an expanding group of new members. Great to see a good turnout and members actively contributing to the event.

The meeting itself was again preceded by a learners class which kicked off at 6.00pm. The class, which included 7 attendees, was led by Bryan and John. The feedback remains positive.

At the meeting proper, Bryan welcomed new and established members. There was a call for trees and resourcing the Club's Bonsai cart during the upcoming Royal Easter Show. Members were encouraged to consider a trip to the show to support our cart and join one of the biggest audiences in the state for a showcase of Bonsai. A separate report on the Show is included in this edition of the Newsletter.

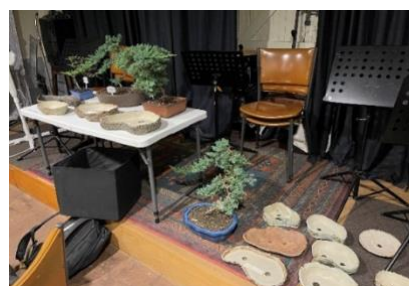
The theme of the meeting was a show-and-tell of small (Kumono or smaller) trees. And there were a healthy number of impressive specimens tabled, including some that would find their way to the Royal Easter Show. It seemed most participants had something to contribute which was great to see.

There was also time for a workshop session and members demonstrated considerable gusto bringing their trees into order. Judging by the amount of prunings on the benches, there will be a number of new-look bonsai this coming Spring.





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MAY MEETING AGENDA – “The Unusual”

The theme for the May meeting will be “The Unusual”, i.e. less common tree species, shapes, styles or whatever is a bit out of the ordinary.

Also, there will be a feedback session on radical bending with updates on more severe trunk or branch bending experiences. Definitely not for the faint hearted.

Members are requested to bring their Lilli Pilli tubestocks distributed last year in for viewing – Dead or Alive.



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 so if you have surplus tree(s) or materials bring it along.

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.

REPORT ON THE ROYAL EASTER SHOW By Chris

As normal, the turnout for the Bonsai competition was a complete unknown until the exhibits are actually benched, which can be JUST prior to judging.

All the bonsai competition trees were located together in the one room on the Western side of the Flower and Garden pavilion. Our cart was located just inside one of the doorways to the room, similar to last year. This is a positive location to oversee the exhibits and liaise with the public.

The number of trees entered was down compared to last year – nearly 70 compared to approx. 100 last year. The actual numbers of exhibitors was also lower. Generally, the benches were laid out well but those who had their trees against the western wall were disadvantaged slightly by the blinds in the background. There was some suggestion that the quality of competition exhibits was marginally “lower” than last year. Another interpretation was that there were fewer truly outstanding trees benched. Having said that, the reduced number meant that the trees were generously spaced and virtually every tree was of “Show” standard. Feedback from the public was very positive.

Our humble cart was well patronised despite the size and layout of the cart not being conducive to presenting bonsai to its best advantage and the display that formed the background to the cart was a distraction. The star of the cart was Chris’ Jacaranda which consistently received positive comments. It was a shame more of the trees nurtured by Club members could not be featured. Club representatives (Bryan, Chris, Frank, John and Lee) were consistently kept busy with interesting questions and comments.

Our two club members who entered the competition did well.

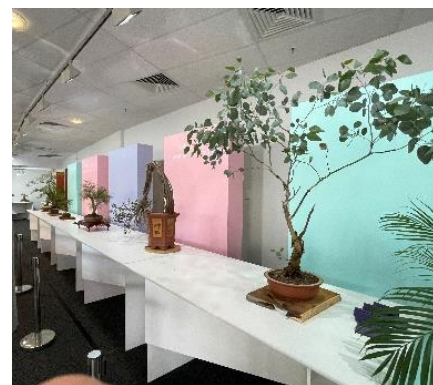
Under 400mm

- Informal Upright - 2nd & 3rd Lee
- Root over Rock - 2nd Chris
- Cascade and Semi Cascade - 2nd & 3rd Lee
- Ficus - 1st Lee, 2nd Chris
- Native - 2nd Lee
- Any Other Style - 1st Lee

Over 400mm

- Ficus - 3rd Chris
- Any Other Style - 1st Chris

Well done to the competitors and representatives on the cart – all jobs well done. Other Club members should consider taking part in some capacity next year.





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REPORT ON INNER WEST SENIORS DEMO by Chris

As a follow-up to the bonsai potting session for seniors organised with the Inner West Neighbourhood Aid group in November last year, Frank and Chris were invited to review how the trees had progressed (or not). It was most pleasant to observe that nearly all of the trees have survived, and most have positively thrived. What a great effort. One attendee brought her Fig that she has nurtured for **60** years. As freely confirmed by the owner, the tree has successfully sustained itself using its own survival strategies. A bit of bonsai TLC would not go astray as the tree had amazing potential but for now it will go back to its established environment – maybe for another 60 years?

With the active participation of the owners, the trees were duly trimmed, styled and given a decent feed in anticipation for winter. Our next meet will be in a couple of months and it will be great to see what further progress has been made.



THINGS PEOPLE GET UP TO

One of our newer members Ty has undertaken a diversity of experiences for his very modest age. He has agreed to share his current passion(s) with us. Note - anyone taking him up on his offer will also be signing up for a Newsletter article, if you survive.

With over 50 job roles in the past decade, I have experienced a wealth of different work environments and opportunities. Currently I am working/studying conservation in Sydney and do the graphic design/marketing for the same group. I hope to make a more positive impact on the natural world. I first became a bonsai fanatic while salvaging some removed plants in a landscaping role 2019. I've acquired many more bonsai experiments over the years and love to observe all the different paths these specimens can take or survive. I have found this both a positive creative outlet and mentally therapeutic for myself. After several injuries and life changes, I've found my happy medium in my love for nature, adrenaline sports and wellbeing. My partner and I really enjoy bouldering at a few local gyms and adventuring with our dog as much as we can. Currently trying to achieve my first V7 climb. If anyone in the club is interested in joining us for a climb indoors or outdoors, we'd be more than happy to have some company!

Ed. note:- V7 is serious climbing/bouldering, not for the faint hearted.





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 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>.

The current Yarra Valley Bonsai Society Newsletter has an article on Cotoneasters as bonsai. It is a species well worth considering.

The Bonsai Society of Sydney will have their annual show on 16th August 2023 at the Forest Community Centre, Forestville - see the BSS website for more details. Also the current BSS Newsletter has an article on Sticky Wattles as bonsai – only true optimists need to read this.

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH by John MAY

Autumn is the time of year when our trees are preparing for winter.

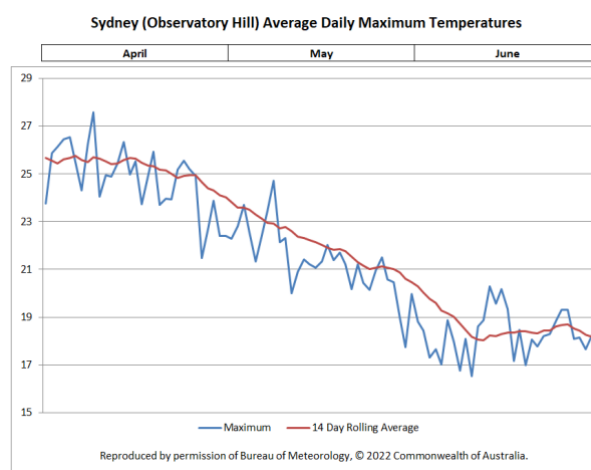
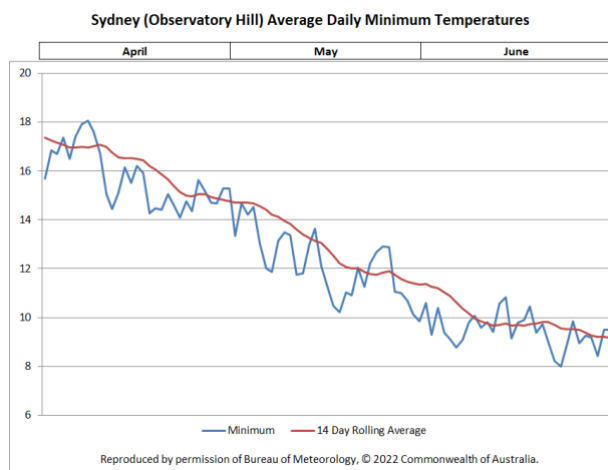
- 1 Any remaining fruit, berries or seeds can be removed to conserve the tree's energy. Also remove leaves that have fallen onto the soil surface as this will deplete the nitrogen from the soil.
- 2 Deciduous trees prone to mildew (eg oak and crepe myrtle) can be sprayed with a weak solution of lime-sulphur once they have lost their leaves. Remove moss from the trunks with an old toothbrush. Leaving moss on can rot the bark.
- 3 Deciduous trees can be styled more easily once they have lost their leaves.
- 4 With all the recent rain, be careful not to overwater. Excess water, especially during the tree's dormancy over Winter, can cause root rot. The continuous wet weather can also lead to pest problems such as scale. Spray once a week with oil such as Eco, White or Neem.
- 5 Excessive rain can leach goodness from the pots so keep up the feeding regime on evergreens and deciduous trees that still have leaves to ensure the trees get adequate nourishment going into winter. Use half strength liquid organic fertilizer rather than slow-release feeds so that the tree takes it up faster.
- 6 While the weather is still warm semi-hardwood cuttings of Banksia can still be taken.
- 7 Callistemon can still be collected all through the winter months. They can be bare rooted, if necessary, but cut back hard when collecting.
- 8 Old needles can be removed from JBP. Wait for the tree to become dormant when the new needles harden.
- 9 Repotting can still be done on Australian natives, privets and olives.
- 10 Sprinkle a small amount of Dolomite on the soil surface of olives and junipers to keep them green. Fruiting olives can be fed liquid potassium until the end of May to improve flowering in spring.

Sources: AusBonsai Wiki:
"Bonsai, Its Art, Science, History and Philosophy" by D R Koreshoff
Dennis McDermott, School of Bonsai



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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 | Has an article on Cotoneasters as bonsai |
| 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 | For more details go to www.centralcoastbonsai.com.au | |
| 19 th August 2023 Bonsai Society of Sydney | Go to www.bonsaisocietysydney.org.au | Annual Show in Aug. and has an article on Sticky Wattles as bonsai |
| 19 th – 22 nd May 2023 AABC National Bonsai Convention | Virtual tickets available 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.