



NEXT CLUB MEETING

Marrickville Community Centre
Unit 44, 142 Addison Rd., Marrickville
Basics Classes @ 6.00pm
General Meeting @ 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

Note – 2023/24 fees will be due from 1st of July. Payment can be by cash or electronically (see John).

NEWSLETTER CONTENTS

• Monthly Meeting Feedback	Page 2
• June Meeting Agenda	Page 4
• June Basics Lesson	Page 4
• Swap Table	Page 4
• Facebook Page	Page 4
• Plaiting a Maple	Page 5
• Home visit	Page 5
• What people get up to	Page 5
• Articles of Interest	Page 6
• Things to do this Month	Page 6
• Events Calendar	Page 7

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.



That's what I call a Nebari!



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MONTHLY MEETING FEEDBACK - MAY

The May 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 beginners class which kicked off at 6.00pm. The class, which included 7 attendees, was led by John. The feedback remains positive.

At the meeting proper, Bryan welcomed new and established members.

The theme of the meeting was a show-and-tell of Unusual trees – and that could include almost anything (unusual), i.e. shape, species, size, history ... you name it. And the response did not disappoint. There was also a show and tell for the Lilli Pilli tubestocks that were distributed to members many months ago. Sadly many seem to have gone to the large compost heap in the sky, but some survive and there will be another reunion in a couple of months

There was also time for a demonstration, by Frank, of severe bending. Some months ago Frank made a number of incisions in the thick trunk of a Chinese Elm to achieve a considerable bend. Despite some doubters at the time, the tree survived the trauma and is thriving. Time to revisit the bend and attempt another bend in the opposite direction above the previous bend. Talk about pushing your luck! Frank and helpers took to the task with gusto and the result was a bend even sharper than the original bend. Again there were doubters but time will tell. I have a feeling it will survive.



Les and his flowering Quince

Decisions, decisions



Plenty of discussion



A variety of trees waiting for advice
were benched

There is always a better angle





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Neville and James never fail to impress. Neville's Swamp Cypress (left) and James' fig (right)



Some of the less well represented species in Bonsai made a show, including Camphor Laurel, Brunfelsia, a Japanese red-berried species (identity only known to Simon), Cestrum, and others.



Frank and friends at work – now that's what I call a bend (it was much tighter when it was fully pulled up!)





**JUNE MEETING AGENDA –
Cascades**

The theme for the May meeting will be Cascades (or as close as you can get to a cascade), of any species and type so bring along what you have.

There will be a presentation from Rod Donegon (representative of Hyper Grow and Ausperl). He will address soils and how the different components of bonsai soils affect the mix. He will also have bottles of his all-purpose and native fertilisers for sale.

Also, from now on, we will have two distinct display categories for trees. There will be a designated area for bonsai display trees that are styled, trimmed, in bonsai pots, weeded and prepared for display. On the centre tables will be the workshop trees, any trees in plastic pots and other works-in-progress. The two categories will no longer be mixed in one area.

We hope this division will give members examples of bonsai as inspiration. The display bonsai can be discussed and members can ask more detailed questions of the owners if they want more information. The owners of trees on the centre tables can discuss and work on them with or without input from other members, as desired.

The ultimate aim is to increase our bonsai knowledge by displaying members' trees that epitomise what we are trying to achieve, and allowing up and coming plants to be visible, to be discussed and to be worked on until such time as they have advanced enough to be put in the bonsai display category.

Note that due to the talk by Rod at the June meeting, there may be limited opportunity for workshopping trees.

JUNE BASICS LESSON - Repotting

The Basics lesson this month is re-potting so be prepared to get a bit dirty. The Basics lessons start at **6.00 p.m.** and ends at **7.00 p.m.** in time for the General Meeting, so best be on-time. NOTE - financial

members can join in the Basics lessons if they wish, but, as a courtesy, please let John or Bryan know in advance via the Club e-mail.

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. Having some loose change available may see you with a bargain.

This was a \$5 bargain on the Swap Table at the last meeting.



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.



PLAITING A MAPLE

By Lee

Ever considered plaiting a Trident Maple or any other species, for that matter? Read on.

I bought this trunk from the grower who had plaited a number of trident shoots together. His words of wisdom - you have to let some shoots grow out of the body, otherwise you end up with a trunk with no taper. Gradually reducing the number of shoots gives the trunk a pleasing taper and gives the enthusiast a good basis to develop a pleasing tree.



The trident maple as I purchased it. Some shoots have been allowed to leave the parent bunch and left to grow and help the trunk to thicken before being lopped. If I had been growing this I would have worked the tree harder and wired some of the free shoots to form branches. However, the potential is there though the top is clunky and needs refinement.

My first styling. I have removed all the stubs and a lot of the branches as the trunk has the development that I want. The apical area has been lightened considerably to get taper and now the tree can recover and start to develop the necessary branching. I am hoping a shoot grows to the left of the apical trunk so I can get the apex back over the trunk but if it doesn't future foliage will minimise this side effect. Larger branches have been removed since their thickness was out of keeping with the size of the trunk. Now the tree is in balance and the major element needed is time.

The bark is still bearing traces of the various seedlings used to start this bonsai but they will graft together in time and even if they don't, they give the trunk some character. Once the tree starts growing I will score the base to encourage nebari growth. The trunk is about 20cm high and the plant will develop into a nice shohin.



HOME VISIT

Neville has made the kind offer to have people around to his residence, to have a look at his Bonsai collection, on Sunday, 18th June. Neville's bonsai are very high quality so taking advantage

of this opportunity is recommended. He lives in the Inner West and the viewing is likely to be about the middle of the day. If you are interested please indicate your intention to attend via the Club e-mail info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au. Details will be forwarded by e-mail.

WHAT PEOPLE GET UP TO

Simon has been a member of SCBC for some time and is a bonsai enthusiast, but has other interests, as he will now relate.

Hi, I'm Simon Tran, I've been a club member of Sydney City Bonsai Club for a few years. I first got into bonsai close to 15 years ago but only had

3 or 4 trees in my collection but I was always on the Ausbonsai forum and I am still active on that platform today. I now cannot count the number of trees in my collection.



My addiction to propagate everything has come from my previous hobby of Marine Aquariums where I was propagating Zoanthids. Every time a new polyp would show up I'd pull out the razor blade and super glue to create a new frag. Little did I know they were extremely poisonous and if I got any of that poison in my bloodstream I'd be dead.

Other things I get up to are collecting rare indoor plants, Squid fishing, Kendo, Orchids, Carnivorous plants and cooking.



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 IBS June Newsletter has a short article on re-potting deciduous trees.

The Tops Weekend Workshops is scheduled for 25th – 27th August. See IBS website for more details.

There is an "Earth and Fire" Bonsai Potters Exhibition and Sale at Baulkham Hills on 29th July – could be interesting.

Don't forget Neville's kind offer to view his collection.

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH by John JUNE

1. Winter is the time for shaping your trees, in particular deciduous trees are best shaped while you can observe their structure and form without leaves to obscure it. Heavy pruning of all trees, wiring and needle plucking of pines.
2. Cut back on the watering of all your trees to ensure they do not stay wet and develop root rot. A good rule of thumb is to make sure that the soil is **fairly dry** before rewatering but then make sure that the water penetrates and doesn't just run off. It's better to water in the morning so that the excess water has a chance to drain.
3. For trees that are prone to mildew (eg maples, crepe myrtles, oaks, roses and olives) it's a good idea to spray with lime-sulphur solution two or three times during winter to kill the mildew spores and ensure healthy green growth in spring.
4. Although repotting deciduous trees is best done in late winter (August) as buds begin to swell, if you have a lot of deciduous trees, you can start repotting and root pruning the trees as soon as they go into dormancy (lose all their leaves) as early as June.
5. You can wire all species at this time so that the wire can be left on as long as possible. Let the tree dry out a little because moisture swells the cells and makes the branches more brittle and therefore more prone to breaking. While the trees are not actively growing the wire will not cut in and scar the tree as much.
6. Deciduous trees will benefit from being in the sun during winter as this helps with bud development and healthier spring growth.



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- If trees have developed a full coating of moss on the soil then remove some to improve air circulation and drainage through the soil. Put the excess moss in a shallow tray of soil and keep moist for use in repotting in spring.

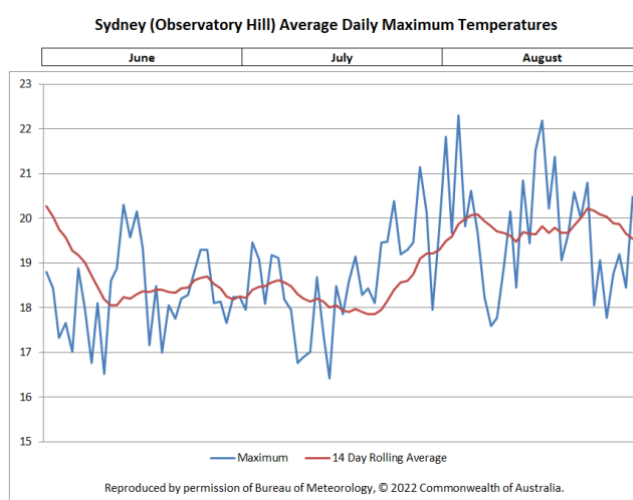
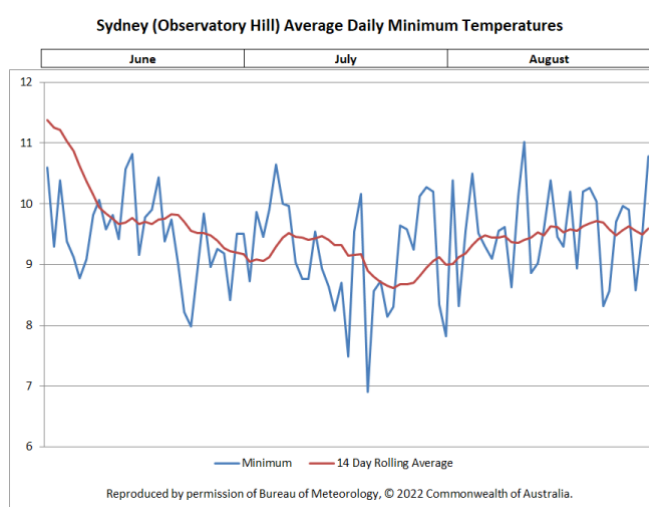
Sources:

AusBonsai Wiki:

"Bonsai, Its Art, Science, History and Philosophy" by D R Koreshoff

Dennis McDermott, School of Bonsai

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	See what the mountain people get up to - www.nepeanbonsaisociety.org
Illawarra Bonsai Society	Visit their website – http://www.illawarrabonsaisociety.org
<i>The Tops Weekend Workshops</i> 25 th -27 th August	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	For more details go to www.centralcoastbonsai.com.au
Bonsai Society of Sydney	Go to www.bonsaisocietysydney.org.au
<i>Earth and Fire Bonsai Potters Exhibition and Sale 29th July</i>	Balcombe Estate, Baulkham Hills See IBS June newsletter for more details

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.