



### NEXT CLUB MEETING

#### Marrickville Community Centre

Tuesday 8 August, 2023

Unit 44, 142 Addison Rd., Marrickville

**Basics Classes @ 6.00pm**

**General Meeting @ 7.00pm**

### CONTACT DETAILS



0432 461 025



[info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au](mailto:info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au)



<http://sydneycitybonsai.org.au>



PO Box 486  
Summerhill NSW 2130

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron	TBA
President	John
Vice President	Oli
Secretary	David
Treasurer	Bryan
Newsletter Editor	Luke
Committee	Frank + above

### MEMBERSHIP

Full membership	\$40
Concession	\$25
Family	\$55
Pensioner	\$25

**Note – 2023/24 fees will be overdue.  
Payment can be by cash or electronically  
(see Bryan).**

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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.





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### MONTHLY MEETING FEEDBACK - JULY

The July meeting was very well attended despite it being an

AGM which traditionally do not attract a large following.

The meeting itself was preceded by a basics class which kicked off at 6.00pm. The class, led by John, was a practical re-potting exercise and was well attended. There was vigorous work carried out on a number of projects, the aftermath of which is shown opposite.



At the meeting proper, Bryan welcomed new and established members and proceeded straight to the AGM agenda which included President and Treasurer reports and feedback on some other Club activities. Thanks were expressed to all outgoing Committee members. Neville accepted the responsibility of the Returning Officer and all positions were declared vacant. Nominees for the vacant positions were received and approved, and the results are:-

<b>President</b>	John Brown
<b>Vice President</b>	Oli Creighton
<b>Secretary</b>	David Peirce
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bryan Everts
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Luke Tutos
<b>Committee members</b>	Frank Sartore, Chris Denton + those above

Hail the new President



The formal agenda occupied much of the available time but there was some left for people to inspect and discuss the “malignant species” trees that were

brought in. The trees demonstrated that even though some species are rightly considered



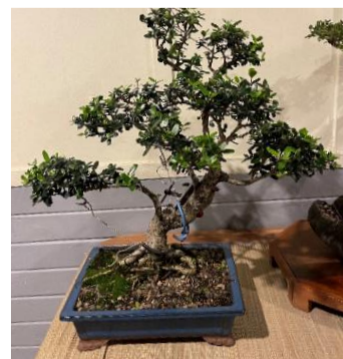




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weeds and nuisance species by various statutory bodies, they can still make good bonsais and do not pose any measurable risk to native bushland, etc. when maintained & kept in pots After presentation of the trees there was vigorous discussion among members re bonsai related topics.



African Olive



Various



Privet



Another Privet

### AUGUST MEETING AGENDA – BONSAI POTS and BARE TREES

The main agenda item for the August meeting will be a discussion, led by Lee, on bonsai pots. Symbiotic alignment of a pot to a tree (or a tree to a pot) is critical to the overall impact of a bonsai. Lee has years of experience successfully navigating this challenge and is prepared to share her expertise with club members. Be sure to bring along any pots or trees if you would like have advice on their application(s). Remember, lots of questions makes for a rewarding presentation.

Its also the right time of year to display your bare trees. With the weather we have been having they may not be bare for long so bring them along and show off their “bones”.

The Exec is looking at the possibility of a trip to Bonsai World in the next few months. Members are requested to have a think about whether they would like to participate. More details to follow.

### Bonsai Basics

The Basics lesson this month includes a discussion on fertilizers and an air layering demonstration. 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.



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### CLUB FEES ARE OVERDUE

Club Fee are due, actually overdue. There is no increase in fees - they remain the same as they have for a number of years. Fees can be paid in cash to our Treasurer John or by bank transfer. Electronic payment details are:-

**Sydney City Bonsai Club**

**BSB: 032-152**

**A/C No.: 166305**

Make sure to include your name in the transfer details so it is clear who has paid.

### 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. The Swap Table was well supported **again** at the July meeting.

To make things easy, owners should attach a price (even if its free) and their name to their offerings. Also, a donation of 10% of the sale price is expected. The donation goes to the Club.



### FACEBOOK PAGE

The private Facebook page run by John Brown is still going strong and anyone interested in participating, particularly new members, should contact John for an invitation. There is some good quality chat on the Facebook page and members are encouraged to join.

### JAMES' HOME VISIT

James offered to have people around to his residence, to have a look at his Bonsai collection. Close to 20 people were able to take up the offer – a great turnout. The weather was a bit threatening but the weather held off and James put on a great display. Like Neville's collection, James has a fine assortment of native species, proving again they make really impressive bonsais. (Australian native stock plant bargains with great potential are still to be found on the SALE racks at "Flower Power" so what's stopping you?).

James' collection featured a number of lightweight pots and features made from styrene foam, suitably tinted and textured with fibreglass resin. They were created by Neville and James.

James also had a number of very colourful Australian native parrots tucked away at the back of his property - our members often have other interests. There is more on James' parrot passion in the "What people get up to" section.



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**FEEDBACK FROM AABC CONFERENCE –  
by Bryan**

The National Bonsai Convention was recently held in Perth. The cost of flights and attending made attending in person difficult but 'live streaming' meant you could attend virtually.

While virtual attendance will never live up to being there live, I found it valuable and interesting. An extensive article in the June-July Bonsai Society of Sydney (BSS) newsletter covers the convention in more detail but I thought I would share a few general ideas I took from it.

Natives seemed to rule the day. Amongst the stock used were a number of Melaleuca, Grey Honey Myrtle, Black Tea Tree, Saltwater paperbark, Stout Paperbark, Giant honey myrtle, Swamp paperbark, etc. While a few junipers also featured the natives won out being styled more open and natural than 10 – 15 years ago.

Comments on styling natives included:

- Before I style, I like to see where the tree grows naturally and its growing style. This helps me interpret how to best style the tree so it looks natural.
- Often demonstrators worked with 'flaws and difficult growth patterns' accentuating them rather than trying to minimise them.
- Windswept Styling: In the wild you seldom see trees with no branches on one side. In this case the branch facing the wind is shortened. If the branch on the windward side is long with growth at the end and you are keeping it, try and bend it to shorten its visual length.
- Carving: To decide if carving is needed consider, will it add or detract, will it look artificial?
- Potting: Whether bonsai or suiseiki; offset against the direction. If it has a 'right' direction you set it slightly to the left of centre. Generally, put it off centre depth-wise as well.
- Stand placement: Always place bonsai or suiseiki in the centre of the stand
- Overall impression: Your immediate impression should always favour the bonsai or suiseiki first. The pot, stand, companion plant, etc. should support but not overpower the bonsai or suiseiki.



Photos from  
screenshots hence  
marginal quality







### WHY YOU POT IN SEASON – by Lee

I got this Melaleuca claret tops in June. It was the only one in the community nursery and seemed to have potential and I had a gift voucher that needed to be used. Definitely past the 'in season' time for root pruning Melaleucas, that I knew - but you can't style without investigating the roots to find the right front so I went ahead.

Well, as it always happens, one root led to another and before I knew it I had not only found the front but I had given the tree a full root prune and put it in a



bonsai pot. I wasn't ultra severe with the root prune but leaves started to grey and then fall off and this is how it ended up.

I kept watering it, put it in a sunny spot and felt positive vibes. Sure enough, in the last week tiny red leaf buds have appeared on all the branches and it won't be long before it is fully leaved again. Now I honestly don't recommend this strategy to newbies. We repot in season for valid reasons. It helps that I am quite familiar with Melaleuca claret tops and felt the tree would cope with the bad timing and it has. But not all trees are so

forgiving. It is also very true that you cannot style a tree in a black plastic pot. You need to remove the top layer of soil to reveal the sub surface roots to find the nebari. Then you can determine the front and the best angle and start styling the tree. Sometimes it works if you style a tree when it is in the original nursery pot but it is not a wise idea. You never know what lurks beneath the soil. In this case I found a nice nebari that visually anchors the tree and counters the strong right swing of the structure.

This is just the first styling and I didn't do a great deal more until I was positive that it would survive the inappropriate root prune timing. Once the leaves start developing I will refine the wiring to enhance the shape but it has already come a long way from the shaggy bush that I bought.



### WHAT PEOPLE GET UP TO

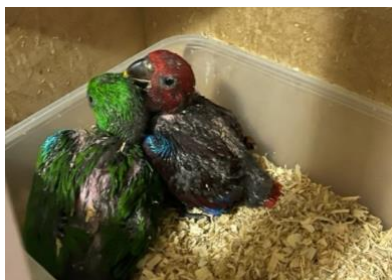
Our recent viewing of James' collection revealed that he is a keen fancier, and breeder, of parrots!

His interest goes back 13 yrs or so and it started with an Electus variety and peaked with a collection of 15 specimens. He has given some away and is now down to a mere eight birds. And they are truly spectacular as the attached photos show. Mind you, to this Editor, the youngsters are not that attractive but, like a swan, the chicks undergo a stunning transformation. As well as being an attractive bird they are also inquisitive, entertaining and very engaging.





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Plenty of potential to improve aesthetics here

The end product



### 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 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> August. See Illawarra Bonsai Society website for more details.

The Canberra Bonsai Society Newsletter "Wirrabara" has a number of interesting articles including Repotting and Group Plantings – worth a look. They are also having their annual show 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> October. They put on a good show and you can go to the National Bonsai Collection while you are down there. More details in their Newsletter.

### THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH by John AUGUST

1. August is likely to be the busiest month for repotting so you can finish repotting, branch and root pruning of deciduous trees in preparation for Spring growth. The ideal time depends on the species and local climate but is best done when the leaf buds swell but have not burst.
2. As Winter wanes, return [tropicals](#) outside from their Winter protection.
3. Ensure all trees requiring wiring have been done and prepare to monitor them all through spring to ensure they do not suffer wire cutting in.
4. Start fertilising of evergreen trees again.
5. Best time to collect deciduous Yamadori or to lift, root prune and replant trees from gardens for further growth.
6. Major redesign and work on trees can be done now. It is easier to see the 'structure' of deciduous trees.
7. Grafting of Pines and other evergreens.
8. Melaleuca cuttings can be taken now off half-ripe lateral shoots.
9. For species susceptible to mildew its worth another spray with Lime Sulphur.

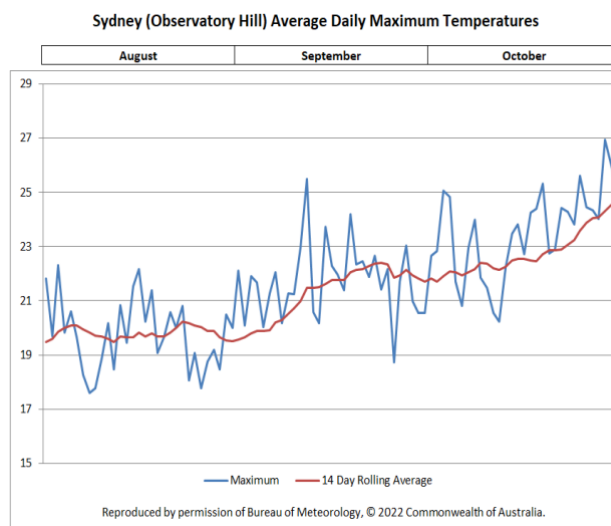
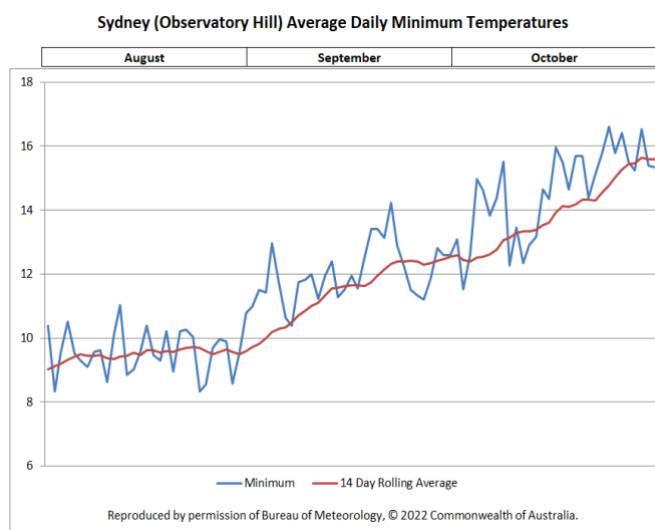
Sources:

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



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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

<b>Bonsai Society of Australia</b>	Visit their website – <a href="http://www.bonsai.asn.au">www.bonsai.asn.au</a>
<b>Nepean Bonsai Society Newsletter</b>	Visit their website - <a href="http://www.nepeanbonsaisociety.org">www.nepeanbonsaisociety.org</a> –
<b>Illawarra Bonsai Society</b> The Tops Weekend Workshops 25 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> August	Visit their website – <a href="http://www.illegarrabonsaisociety.org">www.illegarrabonsaisociety.org</a> - good content in their newsletter
<b>Bonsai Society of South Australia website</b>	Website is worth a visit – <a href="http://www.bonsaisa.org.au">www.bonsaisa.org.au</a>
<b>Yarra Valley Bonsai Newsletter</b>	Visit their website - <a href="http://www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au">www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au</a>
<b>Victorian Native Bonsai Club</b>	Visit their website – <a href="http://www.vicnativebonsai.com.au">www.vicnativebonsai.com.au</a> - Newsletter and website well worth a look.
<b>School of Bonsai</b>	Visit their website – <a href="http://www.schoolofbonsai.com.au">www.schoolofbonsai.com.au</a>
<b>Canberra Bonsai Society</b> Annual Show 6 <sup>th</sup> –9 <sup>th</sup> October	Put out a good newsletter - visit their website – <a href="http://www.cbs.org.au">www.cbs.org.au</a>
<b>Central Coast Bonsai Club</b>	For more details go to <a href="http://www.centralcoastbonsai.com.au">www.centralcoastbonsai.com.au</a>
<b>Bonsai Society of Sydney</b> BSS Exhibition 19 <sup>th</sup> August	Go to <a href="http://www.bonsaisocietysydney.org.au">www.bonsaisocietysydney.org.au</a> Check website for Exhibition 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.