



sydney city
bonsai club inc.

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

Note – 2023/24 fees are overdue.

**Payment can be by cash or electronically
(see John).**

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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.





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MONTHLY MEETING RECAP - September

The September meeting was preceded by a Basics class which kicked off at 6.00pm. The class, led by John, started with a discussion on things to do during September, followed by a discussion on development and refinement of bonsai. Class notes

were provided, as usual, and the demonstration was reported to be very informative. Remember to fertilise to push growth when developing a tree, without cutting back too much of the foliage. However, try and have a general plan for your tree, for example, JBP branch structure might cause swelling in the trunk and ruin the taper, so remove branches accordingly!

As Clinton had to cancel his talk at our September meeting, Lee very graciously stepped in at very short notice and gave a very informative demonstration of the first styling of a Nursery Baeckea. Lee had re-potted it prior to the meeting ready for the styling and whilst this might not be its final pot, Lee prefers to keep her trees in bonsai pots rather than develop them in black-plastic pots.

Lee pointed out that she often uses a bread knife (obtained cheaply at a second-hand store) to cut the bottom off the root ball when repotting rather than more conventional Bonsai tools. This gives a nice quick cut and there's no concern of damaging tools that cost far more.

Lee firstly considered the trunk taper and where the front would be. She then identified a larger branch that was out of proportion to the thickness of the trunk and removed it. In keeping the tree 'naturalistic' she stayed away from formal padding and opted for a more native look. Lee removed any heavier branches pointing straight up. Or branches that were 'aggressive.' The size of the tree was already as tall as she wanted so styling was simply a matter of removing branches that didn't compliment the broom style of a Native.



The result was a more natural looking tree rather than a classic Japanese style. A very good effort for 20 minutes work.



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Members also brought in some “buds and blooms” bonsais, in line with the September’s theme, some of which looked magnificent at this time of year:



A wonderful display of natives, azaleas and even a pine!

Oliver also gave a short recap of the yamadori dig in Canberra, which sounded like an incredible opportunity for club members to be a part. A full summary was provided in the previous newsletter.



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**OCTOBER MEETING AGENDA –
Conifers**

The theme for the October meeting will be Conifers. As their growth swells and candles shoot for the skies, now is an opportune moment to enjoy these sun-loving trees before they need to be pruned and defined back into shape.

Display trees are following the conifers focus. So, bring along your favourites, we'd also love to hear about the history of the pot you have chosen for your tree!

For the meeting, we have planned two items:

1. Ficus trunk chop - demonstration by David

David will be bringing in one of his figs that he needs to do a trunk chop. He'll explain where he's positioning the cut for the best future development / aesthetics. Ficus trunk chops are necessary on many trees that have developed too tall or have been trained to thicken the base. This will be an insightful demonstration for all levels of bonsai enthusiasts.

2. Advice circle

We will be running an 'advice circle' – where members can get specific advice on their tree in a group setting. Often, we have problematic material or need creative help, this is an opportunity to stand in front of others, ask for specific advice and let the creative juices of the group flow. Commentary should be taken constructively, and we encourage young and experienced members of the club to bring in trees. You will have approximately 3-5 minutes in front of the group, before it's the next person's turn (depending on how many trees come!)



There will also be a discussion on a trip to Bonsai World on the weekend of the 21st / 22nd of October. We will also discuss future trips to local nurseries for the rest of the calendar year.

**OCTOBER BASICS LESSON –
Pinching, pruning and pads.
(Oh, and bonsai tools)**

The Basics lesson this month will address managing pine candles, pinching and pruning tips, developing pads. There will also be a discussion around bonsai tools from the essentials to the more niche items. The Basics lessons start at 6.00 p.m. and end 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

Club Fee are well overdue. Members are requested to settle their membership payments ASAP – time is marching on. Fees can be paid in cash to our Treasurer Bryan 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. As much as we don't like to drone about it, fees are important for the club to ensure we can bring in demonstrators and provide back to the club and external communities.

BUY & 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 them along. Having some loose change available may see you with a bargain. The Swap Table was well supported at the August 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 which should be included in the sale price, goes towards Club activities which all members are a beneficiary of.



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.

NEW STUFF!

To help increase collaboration within the club, this month we are also starting a "request an item" option. If you're after a cutting, rare species, pot, tool or anything else, you can request it on the Facebook group via a pinned post – other members can then bring or sell you these items. This might save you a trip somewhere, or hours trawling the dreaded Facebook Marketplace!



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Adventures in Clay by Jason



I've always been a collector and maker. With a design background, I have always been interested in the Japanese aesthetic and work ethic, the 'shokunin'. On trips to Japan chasing the snow, I'd always pick up a handmade sake cup, Bearbrick, teapot, anime or craft souvenir to bring home.

Officially, my bonsai pot journey started about a year ago. A combination of being bored with work and frustrated that I couldn't find a bonsai pot that interested me, so I decided to flex my creative skills and take the leap to making bonsai pots.

Clay was bought, tools inherited, sketches made and lots of Google research done – Slab, not Wheel (I couldn't justify the expense). I was ready to create.

A week later, 5 pots down, I was ready, anxious even, to bisque fire these babies and show the world my potting prowess. The problem was I chose an excellent textural clay that no one likes to fire (clay is clay, right) because it ruins kiln shelves! Two days later and a few Facebook groups down, problem solved!

Forward a year, I have learned a lot of tips and tricks that have improved my process, pieces and skills. I have purchased a small kiln and starting to create my own glazes, continuing my bonsai pot journey.

For the beginner potter, here are some tips.

- Research - as much as you can.
- Experiment - Clays, Shapes, Glazes, Processes
- Join a Facebook Group
- Find your style



I'm more than happy to help any beginner potters, but I'm still constantly learning!



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**Other News!
Committee Update**

Hut 44 (our club meeting room) has had air conditioning installed in it. As we all know, el Nino is coming and the clubhouse can get a little warm at times, so this will be a welcome addition!

The committee has also raised some ideas to improve the website, sales table and future planning of club meetings. Details of which will likely be shared in the November meeting.



AABC Convention Brisbane 2024

The 2023 AABC Convention is being held 17th- 20th May next year and is being hosted by the Bonsai Society of Queensland. The show will include an exhibition and workshops with masterclass names. Early bird rates close 1st Nov 2023. Further information can be found in the flier here:

[36th AABC National Bonsai Convention](#)

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Victorian Native Bonsai Club

The VNBC has an interesting article for alternative tree containers for developing or finished trees. Options such as polystyrene boxes, wooden crates, clam shells or even hollowed logs! This is a fascinating article and should anyone want to read, please reach out to the committee for a copy.

Canberra Bonsai Society

The Canberra Bonsai Society Newsletter "Wirrabara" has a small section discussing the nebari of a tree. Some species might be set in stone from day 1, but flaring and positioning roots early in the life of a tree will only further the aesthetics long-term, so don't forget it when repotting natives this Summer!

Need a Podcast?

As suggested a few weeks ago by Simon, there is a fantastic podcast released weekly by Bonsai Matsu in Victoria. Episodes are digestible, relevant to our seasons and keep us thinking about our trees. We are not endorsed or sponsored by it but want to share the fantastic content that is released. Just look up "Bonsai Stuff" on your podcast streaming service.

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.



**THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH by John
OCTOBER**

1. Fertilizing: We're now into the growing season with most deciduous trees in full leaf. Increase fertilizing frequency. Slow release combined with organic liquid fertilizer is best. For newly repotted trees be careful not to over fertilize with chemical high nitrogen fertilizers which can damage new roots. Best not to fertilize for about two weeks after repotting. Natives can be fed with the same fertilizers as exotics, just avoid high phosphorus fertilizers such as those recommended for encouraging flowers. It's best to get advice based on species though.
2. Maples, Elms and Crepe Myrtles need constant tip pruning to increase ramification. Don't tip prune Crepe Myrtles after the end of November to allow flower buds to develop.
3. Once Figs begin to show good new growth they can be repotted up until the end of November and major pruning done at the same time. Add plenty of fertilizer to the potting mix. The first defoliation can be done as well. Spray cut leaf stems with water to prevent the milky substance from dripping on leaves a leaving a stain. Place Figs in full sun for maximum growth.
4. Azaleas can be pruned heavily and trimmed after flowering. In Sydney, Satzuki Azaleas flower later than others, usually around October. Check for leaf sucking insects and if necessary, commence spraying and continue until the end of Summer.
5. Monitor pines for candle growth and continue your candle pinching routine. Allow JBP candles to develop in spring until the green tips of the needles become just visible. As each individual candle displays the minute tips IMMEDIATELY remove the candle totally. The only exception would be where you are trying to extend the branch, then you may choose to leave some of the candles. Once the needles have expanded more than 2 - 3 mm it is not as effective.
6. Junipers should be showing good new growth. Best not to prune new growth until the end of Spring.
7. Watch all trees that you have wired through winter. As the tree begins to grow in Spring the wire will cut into the bark causing scarring which can never really be repaired. Check regularly and remove before it begins to cut in.
8. Collection of Yamadori can still be done.
9. Air layering of Pines and Junipers can be done now.
10. Start planning the repotting of Natives. Once the weather becomes warmer you can start repotting.
11. Keep weeds under control as they can rob the tree of nutrients.

Sources:

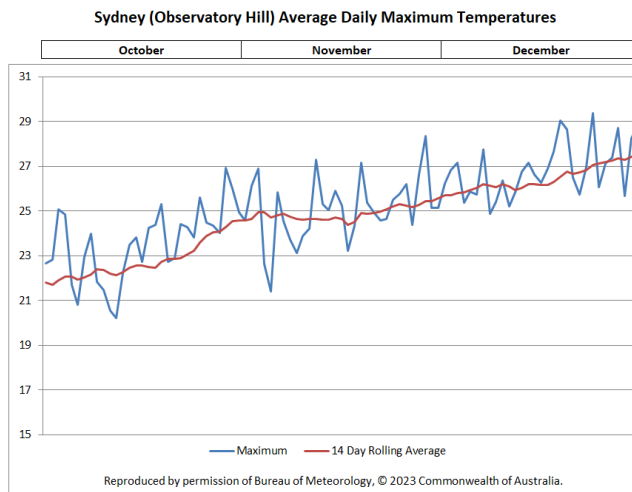
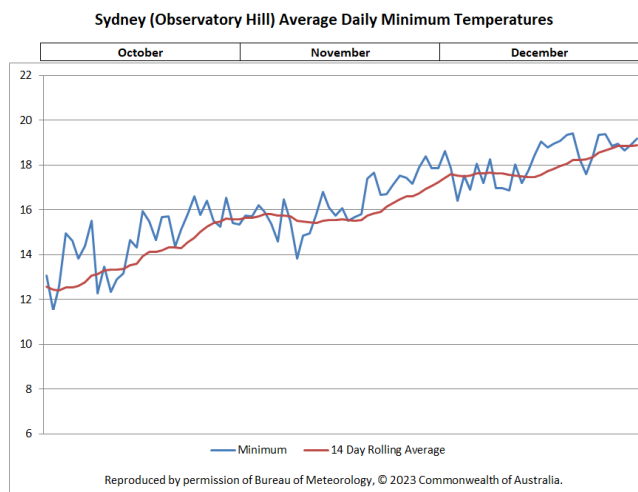
AusBonsai Wiki

"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:



The daily minimums are now perfect for repotting Figs. Do pay attention to the forecast as we are experiencing extreme maximum temperatures for this time of year. You may have to choose the days to repot and also take extra care to protect your figs immediately after repotting.

BONSAI EVENTS CALENDAR

	Bonsai Society of Australia	Visit their website – www.bonsai.asn.au	
	Nepean Bonsai Society Newsletter	Visit their website - www.nepeanbonsaisociety.org -	
Mini demonstration for rock landscapes	Illawarra Bonsai Society	Visit their website – www.illawarrabonsaisociety.org - good content in their newsletter	
Bonsai Show 14-15 th October	Bonsai Society of South Australia website	Website is worth a visit – www.bonsaisa.org.au	Head along if in South Australia!
	Yarra Valley Bonsai Newsletter	Visit their website - www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au	
	Victorian Native Bonsai Club	Visit their website – www.vicnativebonsai.com.au - well worth a look.	
Annual Show 21 st – 22 nd October	School of Bonsai	Visit their website – www.schoolofbonsai.com.au	Check website for details.
	Canberra Bonsai Society	Put out a good newsletter - visit their website – www.cbs.org.au	
	Central Coast Bonsai Club	For more details go to http://www.centralcoastbonsai.com.au	
	Bonsai Society of Sydney	Go to http://www.bonsaisocietysydney.org.au	
Bonsai Show 10 th – 12 th November	Newcastle Bonsai Society	Check out http://newcastlebonsai.org.au/	