



## NEXT CLUB MEETINGS

**Green Square Community Hall**  
3 Joynton Avenue Zetland

**7pm Tuesday 13 Feb 2018**  
Club workshop & Easter Show  
discussion

**7pm Tuesday 13 Mar 2018**  
TBA

## CONTACT DETAILS



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<http://sydneycitybonsai.org.au>



PO Box 486  
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## COMMITTEE

Patron	TBA
President	Bryan
Vice President	TBA
Secretary	David
Treasurer	Chris
Newsletter Editor	Roz
Librarian	Les
Committee	Frank & John

## 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 hall at a reduced rate.*

## February Meeting

- Club workshop – bring in your trees to work on.
- Member styling hotspot
- Easter Show discussion – Chris



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## 2018 Easter Show – We need your help

Chris is organising the SCBC RAS Easter Show Stand which runs 6 days from Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March to Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Chris needs to finalise the volunteer timetable so he can organise your free rail travel & entry to the Show. Chris also needs to finalise arrangements with those members who will be supporting the stand with their precious bonsai – including how to get your trees to Chris's place at Croydon.

Our club is committed to being present at the Show for 6 days from 8.30 am through to 8.30 pm. There are 2 separate shifts per day – so that means we really need you all. We try to have 2 or 3 volunteers each shift. So if you are a new member and think that you would not know how to answer a question on bonsai – you won't be left alone because we try to organise at least one experienced person to share the time with newer members. This way newer members get to learn as well as to support the club. It is really a lot of fun at the stand and in your breaks you can wander around looking at other exhibits.

# LANTANA YAMADORI BY LEE

## Lantana Yamadori

BY LEE

My hairdresser had a substantial lantana in a pot in his garden and I when I mentioned that it could make an interesting bonsai he gave it to me.. even delivered it. Nice man!! Mind you, I tried to dissuade him.. too big for me- but he would not hear of a refusal. So what do you do... you start doing. [and if you saw his backyard it is 'wild' so this is definitely a yamadori – a tree collected from the wild].

There was a lot of branching and shoots and the deadwood was really rotten. It had been cut from the soil where the roots had grown down through the pot and pulled out, put in a plastic bag and delivered. No moisture.



*Lantana as delivered to me*

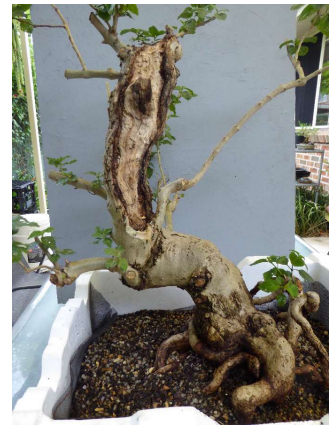
I trimmed off all roots that had no feeders and got the root structure as flat as possible and then put the base into a container with EcoSol and water, wrapped a wet towel around the top of the roots and soaked it for 24 hours.



*Lower trunk and nebari soaking with towel wrapping roots*

A great many of the branches were inappropriately placed or too awkward and they were removed. A big knob was removed at the top to reduce the visual weight. The trunk was rotten in the shape of the tree so I picked at the deadwood to remove a lot to get it concave instead of convex.

The big styling disadvantage of the tree is the large upright trunk that is too visually heavy and dominant for an effective design. But still I like the wild feel of the deadwood. It is a balancing act to try to keep it in the design.



*Upper trunk with rough deadwood removed*

I made a styling error in removing the branch crossing right to left just at the bend. That should have been left as a possible new header with the entire upright above it removed. But I removed it before I saw that. The long right branch will either be a horizontal branch or the new header depending on the decision about the upper trunk.

That was Day 2. Assuming it survives and flourishes I will have to cut the flowers off when they are finished. This is Chelsea with the red/yellow flower heads but there were a number of berries. As a hybrid the berries are supposed to be infertile but a horticulturalist warned me that there's always the chance that one will be able to produce.

Day 3 and I could not help myself as I can see the tree when I am working at my computer. The foliage has remained hydrated and that is a great sign. So I got out the Dremel and got stuck into the rotten wood. I would NOT have done this had I been working with a tree that had hard wood but I could pick the deadwood out with my fingernails and I held the trunk as I worked so I would not jar the roots.

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# LANTANA YAMADORI *CONTINUED*

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## Lantana Yamadori *continued*

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*Upper carved structure*

A lot of the deadwood went easily to sawdust and I reduced the branch stub and redirected it so it was not aggressive and I was pleased with the result but still, the top was too heavy. Doesn't matter what I want... it is what suits the tree that must be the prime consideration. Next a large slab of the top right corner went and that has greatly softened the visual weight. I could take more but there are two shoots lurking at the back that I don't want to lose at this stage. One could be a new header!

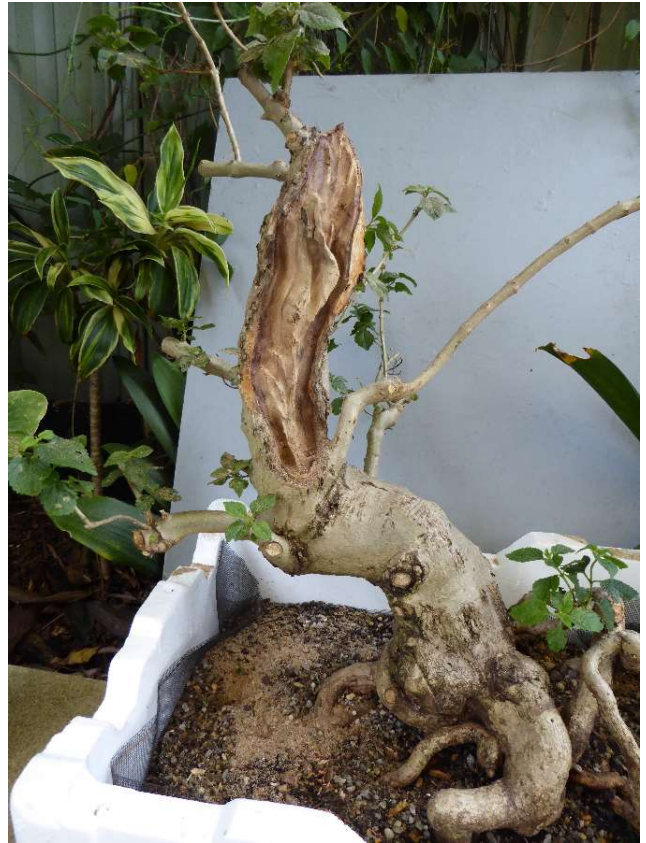
So now at the end of Day 3 there is more harmony between the upper and lower structures, the right branch is still hanging in there until its future position is decided. Yet more thick branching has been removed and the tree is looking better balanced.

This time I will let it rest, recover from the trauma and start shooting before I do more. I don't like the lower left branch – I find it uncomfortable. But it's too soon to remove it. Better to wait until branchlets and foliage have developed to soften and hide its sausage like feel and then decide whether it can stay or has to go.



*Chelsea Gem is a hybrid lantana with red/yellow flowers. Unlike wild lantana its berries are considered to be non-viable.*

I did remove a number of the wild curvaceous surface roots but they add to the eccentric feel of this tree and I kept as many as didn't clutter the styling. They also help to visually stabilize the lean of the thick, chunky lower trunk and add more character to a tree already flaunting heaps of character.



*Entire tree with its carved top*

The tree is still too big for me but it will sit on the bench once it is out of the intensive care section and I won't be moving it about. I can put it on a turntable so I can work on it easily and it will be great fun to develop this unique tree. Then I can sell it.

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## Note from Lee on Tribute to Sue

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Thanks to Roz for her sterling work in getting the idea for Sue Brennan's Tribute and then going through all the SCBC newsletters to get photos of Sue Brennan and relevant articles. She then presented a hard copy and all the photos to Inez Brennan.

For my part I am very grateful to Roz's efforts and the final outcome. It went some way to showing her family how much Sue was loved and respected and it would not have happened without Roz's dedication to the task.

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# PRINCIPLES OF PRE-TRAINING BONSAI

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## Using Principles of Growth to Manipulate Plants for Bonsai

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BY BRENT WWALSTON

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Brent Walston has a specialist bonsai nursery in the US. His website <http://www.evergreengardenworks.com/> contains many bonsai articles. I found the following article extremely useful for knowing how to develop bonsai in the **pre-training phase**.

“Growing plants for bonsai means developing a nursery plant to the point of final styling and placing it in a pot. These plants have a variety of names, i.e. pre-trained or pre-bonsai, etc. The idea is to grow a plant specifically for bonsai rather than landscape. Since our ends are very much different than landscapers the techniques are also very much different.”

“The approach that I would like to take is that of explaining and applying plant growth principles so that you may apply these principles and concepts to your particular situation. Once understood, these principles are a very powerful tool for manipulating plant growth. And bonsai is probably the epitome of plant growth manipulation.

**Principle 1:** *Leaves (needles) increase the size of the woody parts of the plant and the size of the roots.*

Well, that seems obvious. But most of us fail to use this concept to its maximum advantage. If you want a really large trunk, don't prune your plant. The removal of leaves will only slow it down. This is of course oversimplified but nonetheless true. If you root prune a plant, leave as many leaves as the roots can support to generate new roots as quickly as possible. If you do this while a deciduous plant has its leaves, you must reduce the foliage comparably to prevent overtaxing the root's ability to supply water. It is imperative to keep the plant cool while new roots are being regenerated.”

“Leaving the entire stem of deciduous plants works particularly well for bare-root plants or severely root-pruned **dormant deciduous plants**.” Then in Spring, “the remaining roots will only stimulate as many buds as they can support, so do not top prune the plant.” See the article "Root Pruning Bare Root Seedlings": <https://www.evergreengardenworks.com/rootprsd.htm>

**Principle 2:** *Leaves manufacture plant food, roots store plant food.*

OK, obvious again, but what are the ramifications? Top pruning a plant at the end of the season (fall or winter) leaves all of the food intact to stimulate new growth in the spring. A full complement of food with no where to go will stimulate new buds and the new growth will be explosive and coarse, some deciduous plants may send out an eight foot sprout one inch thick in a single season (or more!). Severely top pruning a plant just after it leafs out in the spring uses up most of the stored food because the roots must send out a second burst of food to stimulate even more buds. This depletion will cause very weak new growth and will slow the plant down.

Not pruning a plant in winter or spring leaves the maximum number of buds to be stimulated into flowers and leaves and twigs, this taxes the roots to the fullest and will produce the smallest leaves, and the closest internodes (spaces between the leaves) on the new stems. Confining roots, as in a bonsai pot, limits their ability to store food, which in turn will diminish the leaves and internodes even further. This is the basic mechanism for dwarfing a plant in bonsai.

**Principle 3:** *Small twiggy growth will always remain small and twiggy.*

This principle is not so obvious and is in fact frequently overlooked by bonsai folk. What I mean is that, when a small twiggy branch appears as the result of restricted growing conditions it will always keep this character, even if the plant is rejuvenated by repotting or planting in the earth. New growth will be coarse and vigorous with long internodes and large leaves, but the twiggy branch will be unaffected. Thus you can grow a bunch of nice small branches low on the tree, plant it in the ground and grow a sacrifice branch or leader to increase trunk size enormously, come back and cut off the sacrifice branch and have a big trunked tree with nice small branches. However this will only work if you do not allow buds from the small branches to break into a water sprout or coarse growth. The branch will remain twiggy but its diameter will increase until it is unusable.

These few principles may sound simplistic, but they are the entire basis for manipulating plant growth in bonsai. You will need to think about them carefully to be able to apply them effectively. “

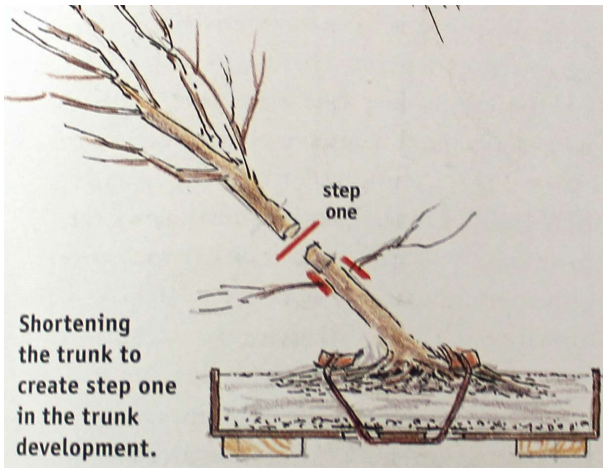
# TRUNK DEVELOPMENT - DECIDUOUS

## Developing an Informal Upright Trunk for Deciduous Trees

So you have either purchased a relatively advanced nursery plant or lifted a field grown deciduous tree such as a Trident Maple. Although the trunk girth is nice and big but it is likely the trunk has relatively little movement, not much taper if any and is far too tall.

Using the famous John Naka's styling guidelines, the final tree height should be six times the trunk diameter and the first branch should be approximately one third of the overall height.

Late winter or early spring make a horizontal cut at 1/3 the ultimate height if you have a very straight trunk and plant tree at an angle say around 50°. This is Step 1.

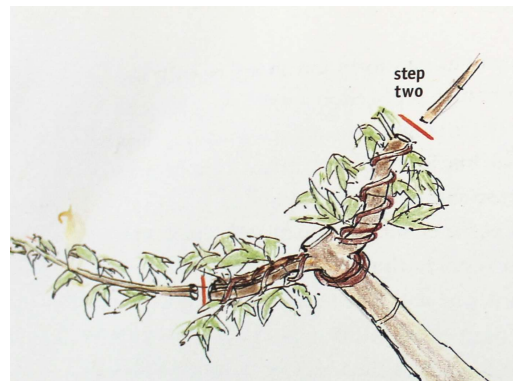


*Cut at 1/3 ultimate height and plant at angle.*

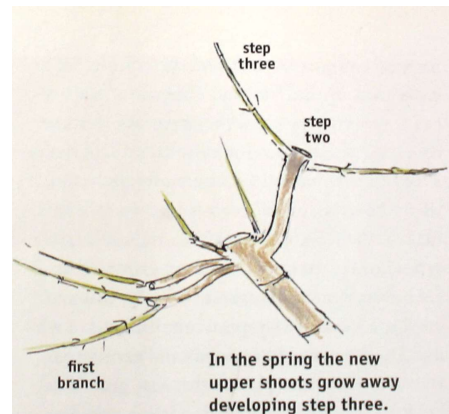


Lower branch trimming and development can be done from this point onwards.

You can go to step two, that is create the next trunk bend if the new trunk line has thickened sufficiently. This can be done either in autumn or early spring.

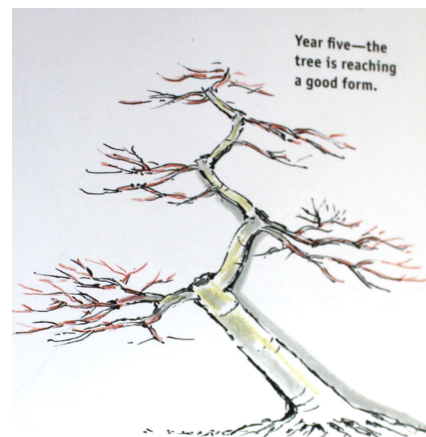


*Here Step 2 is being done in Autumn.*



*Here Step 3 is being conducted in Spring.*

At each step continue developing the side branches. Your ultimate aim is to get a graceful informal upright but don't expect this form before 5 years and 5 more years to get smooth trunk lines and full branch development and get smooth trunk lines.



Source: "Bonsai with Japanese Maples by Peter Adams

# BONSAI WORLD, RAS COMPETITION ENTRY & CALENDAR

## Club visit to Bonsai World 10.00 am Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2018



Get ready for a wonderful visit to Bonsai World, located at 51 Watagan Forest Road, Jilliby on Sunday 18 February.

We are planning a 10.00 am start at Bonsai World as the owners are planning to give us a special workshop demonstration on wiring for trees in early training and also techniques on carving.

Then we will be given the opportunity to explore the extensive bonsai nursery for plants, pots, tools and rocks at amazingly low prices.

We want to finalise the numbers coming from our club next Tuesday so be sure to let Frank or Bryan know if you plan to come. It will probably be better for you to bring your lunch or buy some lunch at Wyong shortly after our sojourn.

I can guarantee it will be a great opportunity to get some excellent stock plants as I went about 6 months ago and had a field day. I could not believe the prices.



## Easter Show Competition Entry

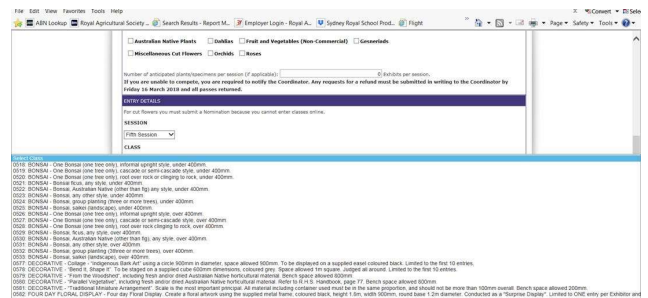
Why don't you have a go this year by entering the RAS competition for Bonsai. Our club has some excellent bonsai that could really stand a chance in the RAS competition. You can enter on line and no matter how many bonsai you enter the total entry fee is \$34.

Start with the RAS Flower and garden link- <http://www.rasns.com.au/sydney-royal-competitions/competitions/flower--garden/>

Then down load the Key Dates and Schedule. Here you will find all of the info you need to know about entry. For example the final entry registration is 5.00pm 28 February.

Once you have read all of this, you can then click the box "Enter Competition". First you will need to "Create a New Exhibitor" if you have never entered before – essentially this is just an email & password log in which gives you an exhibitor number.

Once this is done you just follow the prompts to enter. For the bonsai competition you need to select "Session 5". Here is a screen shot listing all of the bonsai categories.



It is important in the bonsai competition that you specify the measurements of the pot/plant so that the organisers can provide enough space for your exhibits. You cannot enter using an iPad – must be a computer and call 02 9704 1210 if you need assistance with your on line entry.

## Bonsai Events Calendar

Date	Event	Details
19-25 March 2018	NBPCA Bonsai Week 2018	National Bonsai & Penjing Collection Australia, National Arboretum Canberra.
20-23 July 2018	31 <sup>st</sup> Australian National Bonsai Convention – Bonsai Exposed	Mantra Bell City, Melbourne. <a href="http://www.abcltd.org/next-convention/">http://www.abcltd.org/next-convention/</a>