



### NEXT CLUB MEETING

#### Tote Centre Community Hall

100 Joynton Ave., Zetland

**NOTE** meetings at the Tote remain suspended due to the current Covid-19 virus requirements.

**However, we have alternate temporary venue for November – read on.**

### 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	Chris
Vice President	Neville
Secretary	David
Treasurer	Bryan
Newsletter Editor	Bryan/John/Chris
Librarian	Les
Committee	Frank, John, Ed & Lee

### MEMBERSHIP

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

### AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

There will be a get-together meeting in November – read on.

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### EDITORIAL MATTERS

Hoping this e-mail still finds you well and still coping satisfactorily with the Covid-19 challenges. The Tote venue is still closed but Bryan has become aware of a location for a get-together as detailed later on. 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 e-mail at [info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au](mailto:info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au) or one of the Committee members.



*SCBC wishes to thank Sydney City Council for their continued support for our Club by providing the meeting hall at a concessional rate.*



### FEDBACK ON LAST MEETING

No October meeting to report on

### TEMPORARY MEETING VENUE for NOVEMBER

Bryan's partner has made us aware of a venue that sounds appropriate for our needs. It is the Little Bay Coast Centre for Seniors, 1 Darwin St., Little Bay 2036. It is part of an old hospital ward, I think, and has a couple of rooms we can use.

We are proposing that we have a get-together meeting on the second Tuesday of November (Nov 10<sup>th</sup>) at the usual time of 7.00pm.

There will be no demonstrations and few formalities. However, we would like every member to bring a tree and take a few minutes to share their experiences with the tree with other attendees. If you want to work on your trees that's fine but bring all your own material, tools, etc.

There will be coffee, tea and probably a piece of cake provided, under Covid-safe procedures.

The meeting will be conducted in compliance with current Covid restrictions which will include:-

- The number of attendees will be limited to the capacity of the premises (currently being finalised), hence,
- All attendees will have to register their intention to attend by Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Nov via the Club e-mail [info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au](mailto:info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au).
- A record of all attendees will have to be taken by QR code (if it is issued in time) or manually.
- Social distancing will be maintained or where this is impractical, facemasks will have to be worn. Please bring your own mask.
- Surfaces will be disinfected and hand sanitiser will be provided.
- If you intend to work on your trees you will need to provide your own equipment and tools – sharing is not recommended.

**If you are feeling unwell, exhibiting ANY Covid related symptoms or have been in contact with people in isolation or affected by Covid, please act responsibly and do not attend the meeting.**

The Club has to pay \$3.00/head for rental of the hall. If you are a financial member this fee will be waived but non-financial members will be requested to contribute \$3.00 at the meeting.

### MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE OVERDUE

**MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE OVERDUE.** Collection of membership fees have been delayed due to the COVID situation but they are now overdue. The Exec has decided to **HALVE** the fees for this year due to the lost meetings etc. Membership fees for this year (2020-2021) are:-

<b>Full membership</b>	\$20
<b>Concession</b>	\$12.50
<b>Family</b>	\$27.50
<b>Pensioner</b>	\$12.50

(Concession rate is for students, juniors and those experiencing financial hardships).

Electronic transfer payment is preferred using the following account details:-

#### **Sydney City Bonsai Club**

**BSB** - 032 152

**A/C No.** - 166305

Remember to include your name in the transfer details.

Membership fees can be paid at the November meeting (cash only).

### ON-LINE MATTERS

#### **TIM HALL's PROPOSED WEB SITE**

The opportunity to provide feedback to Tim Hall is still open, so have your say at

<https://timmmyhall.typeform.com/to/zZiJtDxb>.

Note this web site is not an "official" SCBC website but it sounds like it has good potential.



### FACEBOOK PAGE

The private Facebook page run by John Brown is progressing steadily and anyone interested in participating should contact John for an invitation – just look for this handsome gentleman.



**John Brown**



First styling and the left trunk was substantially reduced to eliminate visual competition between the two and to get a nice balance. The left trunk is slightly more dominant but the apical structure on the right branch more interesting and workable.

### SWAP TABLE at NOVEMBER MEETING

There will be a “Swap” Table at the November meeting so if you have Bonsai related articles to sell, swap, give away or otherwise trade, bring them along - 10% from sales goes to the Club.

### MELALEUCA – A WORK IN PROGRESS by Lee

Melaleuca claret tops, a beautiful Australian native that is easy to develop and brightens your bonsai bench with the new claret tipped foliage. Pruning is a delight due to the aroma of the leaves. It's a great tree for bonsai.... as are so many natives.

March 2017 I picked the stock plant up from a regular nursery. I was attracted by the interaction of the twin trunks and could see the creation of a shohin bonsai. I dug in the soil around the trunk to confirm that the trunks were joined at the base.



In 2 years it is shaping up nicely. The rock sits on the surface of the soil but it has wires glued to it that go down and out the drainage hole to secure the rock to it won't fall off and won't be 'lifted' - it's a lovely rock. The pot was chosen for the softness of its shape to compliment the tree and the slight blue colourations and sandy base mimic a billabong where the tree might grow. The stand is the side of an old fruit box, complete with rusty nails and adds an elegant rustic bush feel to the composition.



I enjoy the challenge of getting a pot that compliments the tree and in this case the pairing of the three elements is ideal. With some judicious styling in a short period of time I have a lovely Australian native bonsai that delights me every time I see it.

#### SEARGENTS JUNIPER - next best thing to plastic by Chris



Amongst my many uninteresting trees I have one that is less interesting than most. Let's call him Bruce. Bruce is an appropriate name for he is probably the most boring tree I know. As you will see from the photo he is also one of the least motivating to look at.

Bruce is a Sergeants Juniper, a species not known for exuberant growth rates. That's fine, but in the case of Bruce, his progress is not "slow", more like glacial. I have had Bruce for quite a few years (15+ ??) and from what I remember he came to me as a specimen not that much different from his current state of development. He is so non-descript that I cannot even remember how he and I became acquainted – I think a few dollars were exchanged at a nursery somewhere. On a \$/yr basis Bruce may be a bargain

but in terms of Return-on-Investment, he is a very poor performer!

He has spent most of his life (?) in a variety of bonsai pots which have been generous enough to support decent growth but he is content just to exist. And that's Bruce's best attribute – he has never died, not even once. He gets regularly watered and fed, the same as his peers, and from time to time I check whether his vital juices are still circulating. And that's good enough for Bruce.

So if you are a cat fancier as well as being a bonsai tragic, i.e. you tolerate things that take a lot and give back a little, consider a Sergeants Juniper for your next challenge. It will cost less to maintain than a cat.

#### TO WIRE- IN OR NOT TO WIRE- IN by Lee

The good books tell us and show us how to wire the hole covers and the tree into a pot. Yes, this is a necessary practice IF you are dealing with an odd shaped tree [windswept or cascade] where the roots are insufficient to support the tree in position. It is necessary if your growing situation is very windy. But I don't feel it is necessary a good many times.

I wire the grating in the pot ONLY if I am working with a group setting that I will be shifting and adjusting - adjustment that could cause the gratings to be shifted. Planting a single tree in a pot, especially a tree that has been regularly root pruned and has a neat trimmed, flat rootball makes wiring the grating in a waste of time and effort. Or so I think. I have, over the course of 20 years, wired a couple of trees in their pots. One because the weight of the literati foliage was such that the tree needed to be supported until sufficient roots redeveloped to hold the tree. Another because the cascade was so heavy that it would pull the trunk out of position in the pot during repotting.



My growing situation is very protected and if there are strong winds I move the three major cascades back into the protection of other pots so if they are knocked over they will not fall off the benches. I have never had such an issue but it is wiser to take steps to protect trees then take a chance that the wind won't be that strong. But none of them is wired in the pot.

This is an issue that confront newbies and can waste time that is not necessarily well spent. In certain situations it is definitely necessary to wire the grating over the holes or the tree in the pot but generally speaking, to me it is a waste of time.

**THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH - November**

**By John**

1. Figs can be actively worked on now and right through Summer until mid-Autumn.
2. Most natives can be repotted throughout the summer months. Watch for bud movement and then repot and root prune.
3. Observe closely any wired trees to ensure it is not cutting in to the bark. On deciduous trees, this will cause irreparable scarring

4. Heavy pruning wiring and trimming of Azaleas after flowering. Remove all finished flower remnants.
5. Collection of [Yamadori](#) of deciduous and pines.
6. Candle pinching of pines continues.
7. Satsuki Azaleas should be flowering now. Pinch off spent flowers as they deteriorate rather than leave them on the tree
8. Regular tip pruning of Crepe Myrtles through Spring, however since they flower on terminal tips pruning should cease by the end of November to allow flowering buds to develop.
9. With this current rain, it can become difficult to know how much water actually gets to the each pot. It is possible for your trees to dry out even when its raining, especially if they are even partially sheltered.

**Sources:**

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

**BONSAI EVENTS CALENDAR**

	Illawarra BS newsletter NOTE Illawarra have re-commenced their meetings, with restrictions	Available on request or visit Illawarra website
	Yarra Valley Bonsai Society newsletter	Available on request

Essentially, most club events have been suspended/cancelled due to the Covid-19 virus statutory requirements.