



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 December – read on.

CONTACT DETAILS



0432 461 025



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

December meeting –

- Annual General Meeting
- End of Year gathering

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EDITORIAL MATTERS

Hoping this e-mail still finds you well and coping satisfactorily with the Covid-19 challenges. The Tote venue remains closed but we have an alternate location 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 or one of the Committee members.





FEDBACK ON LAST MEETING

At last a meeting to report on!!!

The Club's first meeting for many months took place at a temporary location i.e the Little Bay Coast Centre for Seniors facility. The facility was a multi-room venue which in days past was tied to the Prince Henry Hospital.

Mandated Covid restrictions were enforced and people generally responded well to the Covid requirements. A QR code and manual log-in sheet were available for registration of attendees. People wanting to attend the meeting were required to pre-register so numbers could be controlled to comply with the applicable Covid requirements. Approx. 16 people including a couple of potential new members attended. The meeting commenced at approx. 7.00pm.

The meeting was opened by the President and all members and non-members introduced.

Attendees were requested to bring a tree along and provide a few words in regard to the tree and it seems everyone brought a tree. There was a diversity of species including Breccia, Jacaranda, Port Jackson Fig, Buxus, Callistemon, Juniper, Melaleuca, Maple, Pine and others.

People were encouraged to say a few words about the trees they brought along. What ensued demonstrated the affinity people had with their trees and a willingness to share their experiences with others. The conversations were informative and well received.

After the discussions re the trees, people were encouraged to partake of refreshments provided by the Club and generally mix. Some attendees sought specific advice on their trees from more experienced Club members.



Interest was also shown in the Swap table that had a diversity of plant species and other bits and pieces.



The dialogues proceeded until the meeting was closed at approx. 9.00pm

The

MEETING VENUE for DECEMBER

Tote is still not available so we will have the December meeting at the Little Bay Coast Centre for Seniors, 1 Darwin St., Little Bay 2036 on Tuesday 8th December at the usual time of 7.00pm. This is the same location as last month.

We are proposing that we combine the AGM and our traditional Xmas party for this meeting as it will be the last one until February 2021.

The AGM will require a belated election of officers for this year (1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021). Please consider nominating – a nomination form is included at the end of the Newsletter. Your nomination can be endorsed at the meeting.

There will be no formal demonstrations and the formalities will be kept to a minimum. However, we would request members to bring a decorated tree to add to the occasion.



If you have a tree that you would like someone to have a look at please bring it along. If you want to work on your tree(s) that's fine but bring all your own material, tools, etc.

There will be coffee, tea, soft drinks and light refreshments provided, under Covid-safe procedures, by the Club. Sadly we are asking people **NOT** to bring a plate this year.

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, hence,
- All attendees will have to register their intention to attend by Monday 7th Dec via the Club e-mail info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au. or contacting Bryan direct.
- A record of all attendees is required by QR code.
- Social distancing will be maintained or where this is impractical, facemasks will have to be worn. Please bring your own mask.
- 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 and still being collected. Discounts apply this year due to Covid impacts. Membership fees for this year (2020-2021) are:-

Full membership	\$20
Concession	\$12.50
Family	\$27.50
Pensioner	\$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 December 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://timmyhall.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



SWAP TABLE at DECEMBER MEETING

There will be a "Swap" Table at the December 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.

QUALITY BONSAI FOR SALE

A well-known RAS bonsai judge and member of the BSA club, is downsizing her bonsai collection. She has established bonsai trees for sale. High quality trees like these come up for sale only infrequently. If interested, contact Ingrid direct on 0409963438.

ONE PERSON'S TRASH IS ANOTHER PERSON'S TREASURE by Chris

Have you formed an opinion whether it is wise to take on, or pay to take on, another person's bonsai "failure"? We are talking about second-hand bonsai. I think it's a bit like second-hand cars. There are gems out there but there are also a lot of lemons. I think I had experience of both ends of the spectrum. Consider:-

Case #1 Tree – Port Jackson Fig, Source - SCBC member

Overall a great success. The tree was given away by a source that did not like figs. That meant immediately something was wrong – don't like figs???? The tree was a couple of years old and had a few serious scars, undeveloped foliage etc. But now it has developed a great trunk, good branching and nice leaf coverage. It is one of my favourite trees.

Case #2 Tree – Deodar Cedar, Source - SCBC member

Overall another great success. The tree was again several years old and trained as a bonsai by a very competent source. I purchased it at a discount price of \$10 or \$15 at the end of a club meeting after no one else had shown interest. I had it at home for a while and then inadvisably put it in the ground for a

year or two. Despite all predictions, it grew well and was taken out and re-potted as a bonsai in the pot it is still in, from memory. It has continued to grow and now is about 15-20 years old and looking quite imposing.

Case #3 Tree – Red Maple, Source - Other club sale day

Catastrophic failure. The tree looked a treat on the sale table. Comprehensive red foliage, nice size but (for me) a daunting price of \$70. I have never paid that much for a tree, but I wanted it. I bought it the third time I went back to look at it. The purchaser knew I was hooked and did not move on the price. I took it home and indulged it but to cut a long story short, it went to the big compost heap in the sky in very short time. Nothing to do with my management of the tree ...

Case #4 Tree – Forgotten, Source - Other club sale day

Ongoing saga. The tree was attractive and cheap (\$10?), but the other word that goes with cheap is nasty. It was purchased for its attractive trunk and "potential". It kept the trunk but I am still waiting for the potential! Bits and pieces of it inexplicably die off at (its) will, usually in inconvenient locations. But it persists in lingering on. A bonsai novice visitor made a positive comment about it recently and I am annoyed I did not off-load it to him immediately.

Case #5 Tree – Callistemon, Source - SCBC member

Ongoing fight. This tree was offered by a well-regarded source and did not look quite right but as they say, it had potential and the price, in my opinion, was a bit high but affordable (\$30+?). It plugged on OK but I was no better realising the potential of the tree than the previous owner who is way more talented than me. It was attacked by golden rust and snatched from the jaws of death by much hard pruning and chemicals. It reverted to its lay-back ways until another golden rust attack a year or so later. More hard pruning and chemicals. Between and after the rust attacks the tree proved



prone to multiple scale outbreaks. Between onslaughts the tree goes OK but the multiple setbacks means it has not developed as well as originally hoped.

Case #6 Tree – Natal fig, Source - SCBC member Slow lingering death. The tree was offered at a competitive price (free) to anyone stupid enough to take it. It had my name all over it! It came with the advice that the previous owner (a horticulturist) could not get it to thrive. Ha, what did he know? Several years later, despite my best attention, the tree looked pretty much the same as when he gave up, i.e. pathetic. I was beaten. Towards its twilight years the tree shared its pot with a small bird's nest fern. I decided to let the two plants fight it out. It was a prolonged battle and even when the fern had reached a metre or so in height, the stump of the fig, with a few leaves intact, could be seen defiantly emerging from its base. In the end the fern won and the trunk of the fig, although still visible does not sustain life.

So what is the overall verdict? The term "Buyer beware" comes to mind. Other than in unusual circumstances e.g. deceased estates, people don't dispose of their trees unless they have a reason to, and the first to go will be the least valued, usually for good reason(s). Having said that I have had great success with hand-me-downs and if you get them for the right price, what have you got to lose?

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH - DECEMBER

Tasks that can be undertaken throughout the summer months include:

- Watch for very hot days. Remember, excessive heat does not kill Bonsai, a lack of water does. Water often enough to ensure the soil never dries out. This may mean watering 2 or 3 times a day. Mulching of the top of the soil can help reduce evaporation through the day. Moss on top of the soil can be a good indicator of soil dampness.

- Continue a Fertilizing regime through the summer months.
- Monitor trees through the warmer months as the warmer, humid weather can encourage pest and disease.
- Most natives can be repotted throughout the summer months. Watch for bud movement and then repot and root prune. Alternatively cut back hard then wait for the new buds to start to appear, then repot. You can root prune very hard at this time.
- Summer is the time to perform large chops on Japanese Maples and many other deciduous trees. The wounds will heal faster and not bleed as much as they would if cut during winter.
- Pinching tips and pruning new growth should continue on all trees through the summer.
- Some species need considerable moisture through summer including Wisteria, Banksia, Swamp Cypress, Callistemon and Melaleuca. They may need to stand in water trays.

Specific tasks for December include:

1. Late in the month you can defoliate Elms and Maples so they will produce new smaller leaves.
2. Defoliate Figs
3. Continue monthly spraying of Azaleas for Lace Bug
4. Repot Banksia, fertilize with Osmocote or similar added to the soil, and liquid feed every 2 weeks.

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

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



**NOMINATION FORM FOR ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP
OF THE COMMITTEE**

POSITIONS TO BE FILLED; - President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Librarian, and Committee Members

Name:	Phone:
Address:	
I hereby nominate for the position of :	
Signature:	
Nominations to be endorsed by two financial members	
Signature #1:	Signature #2: