



**NEXT CLUB MEETING**

**Tote Centre Community Hall**  
100 Joynton Ave., Zetland @ 7.00pm

**CONTACT DETAILS**



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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Patron	TBA
President	Chris
Vice President	Simon
Secretary	David
Treasurer	Bryan
Newsletter Editor	Bryan/John/Chris
Librarian	Vacant
Committee	Frank, John, Ed

**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 meeting hall at a concessional rate.*

**AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING**

This month's meeting (March) will be face to face again!!!! However we are subject to ever-changing Covid restraints but there should be few. Meantime, read on

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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.



**Inspiration for a bonsai**



**LIFE MEMBERSHIPS  
LEE and NEVILLE**

Before moving onto other matters I would like to announce that two long-serving members of SCBC – **Lee Wright and Neville Althaus** - have been awarded Life Memberships. The Executive Committee and the general membership were most pleased to witness the presentation of inscribed Janet Selby pots to commemorate the occasion. Many thanks again to Lee and Neville for their decades of tireless efforts on behalf of the Club. On a personal basis, I am indebted to each of them as are many other members of the Club and the wider bonsai society.



**MONTHLY MEETING FEEDBACK -  
February**

Even though our e-mail and website systems seemed to work OK the turnout again was a bit disappointing. Never-the-less the theme of “minatures” seemed to be taken up by members as everyone brought one or more trees and were prepared to share their experiences with the tiddlers. Entertaining and informative discussion ensued. The trees species’ and styles were varied and demonstrated how adaptable bonsai is, even with smaller specimens. We were also treated to another reveal of Bryan’s exposed root over rock experiment. The results are significantly more advanced since the last “unveiling”. Still, there is some way to go and the roots of that much inspected Port Jackson fig have again been buried for further development. There will be another reveal in the not-too-distant future and since the meeting Bryan has given an update which follows:-

*Just a short follow up to last meetings experimental root development reveal. For those unable to attend, in March 2020 I undertook an experiment in root development. I planted a young fig in the top of a 25cm section of PVC pipe which was in turn set in bonsai mix. The idea was to encourage long root development for subsequent use in either exposed root or root over rock.*

*Last year I attempted the first reveal with minimal success. A few long roots had begun but they were few in number and not large enough. In packing up at the end of the meeting I replaced the fig in the tube this time with a pumice mix rather than sand.*

*At last month’s meeting I broke the tube open for the second time to see how roots were developing. I had more development with 3 or so roots of 5 mm in diameter and a number of much finer roots starting to grow. I also chopped off the tree which had grown a approximately a meter in height. I ended up with a tree about 20 cm with a few thin branches. Not 100% satisfied, I again re-potted the tree in the tube but this time after stretching the long roots over a rock which I buried in bonsai mix.*

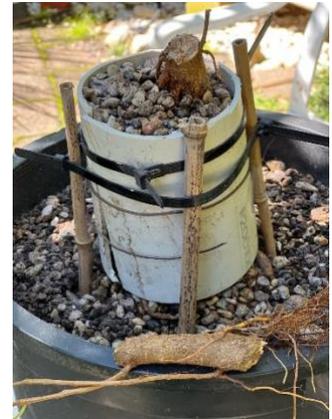
*In line with ideas raised at the meeting, as follow up I:*

- 1. Recut the trunk shorter  
By shortening the trunk, I am hoping to reduce the height of the lowest branch. Cutting also removed the lower branches which will encourage buds to develop direct from the trunk as opposed to the small thin branches growing longer.*
- 2. Shortened the tube filled with pumice.  
Lowering the tube should allow more light to hit the top of the trunk encouraging budding.*



*The cut back trunk is already starting to bud out in several places.*

*While I don't know if this technique was more successful for growing roots than just planting the fig in a big pot and letting it grow; I had fun experimenting, learned a few things and have the start of what may become an interesting root over rock.*



Bryan re-potting his fig after its second unveiling. Note the generous growth that was removed, in the foreground.

An overall view of the tiddlers and individual photos follow. Species included a couple of varieties of Figs, Chinese Elm, Azalea, Melaleuca, Black Pine, Lavender Star, Buxus, Serrissa (?) and Bottle Brush – see if you can identify them. Thanks to all who brought trees (i.e. everyone).







### MARCH – BRING A SHOW TREE

With the Royal Easter Show looming, it seemed timely that Bryan, as a past 1<sup>st</sup> Place exhibitor, is prepared to share tips re preparing a tree for showing with members. A number of other members have placed trees in competitions and it is hoped they will add to the discussion.

Show and Tell will focus on “Show Trees”, i.e. trees that are a bit special to members. This is an occasion when you can put them on display in a non-judgmental setting. It is your big chance to roll out your specials – there is no restrictions on size, style etc., but you may wish to refer to judging classes used at the Royal Easter Show for inspiration. We all know the parking problems at the Tote. If you can find parking near-by, great. But if not, check out access from the street adjacent to the front door and use that access to drop-off your trees and then seek parking elsewhere. Please be careful of pedestrian movements.

### SWAP TABLE

There will be a Swap Table at the next meeting which will be stocked with whatever is brought along. Members are encouraged to contribute to the table. Bring some loose change and maybe grab a bargain. Note there was a Swap Table at the February meeting and it had a number of free offerings including a Privet and a Chinese Elm “with potential”. There were no takers and eventually Lee snapped them up. The story of the Privet is included in this issue under the “SOW’S EAR TO SILK PURSE by Lee” heading, just goes to show beauty is more than skin deep (or should that be bark deep?). This tree will be offered to members by auction at the next meeting so come prepared to bid.

### FACEBOOK PAGE

The private Facebook page run by John Brown is still going strong and anyone interested in participating should contact John for an invitation. I am getting feedback that there is some good quality chat on the Facebook page and members are encouraged to join.

### ROYAL EASTER SHOW BONSAI COMPETITION

Entries to the RAS bonsai competition will have closed by the time this Newsletter is distributed but “Showing” type information will be the topic of the March meeting. So come along and be prepared for next years’ competition.



**SOW'S EAR TO SILK PURSE by Lee**

Oh yee of little faith, Chris put two trees on the giveaway table at the February meeting hoping to get rid of them. The privet LOOKED straight trunked, an ugly oversized root and and seemed to offer an improbable transition to bonsai status. The elm was ordinary. Unfortunately I didn't take a photo of the rejected privet. I ask Chris if I could take it and sell it at the Illawarra show in May. He gratefully thrust it into my hands. Half an hour after I got home from the meeting I had removed a lot of the concealing foliage and revealed a trunk that was a bit straight but containing heaps of character and subtle movement that gave it grace. The root was an issue. Removing it would leave a big scar and an unbalanced tree. It had to be lightened and made into a feature.

Stage One.... more foliage was removed and the faults, a straight trunk, large scar, backward leaning top apex and root were highlighted. Young branching was good and well positioned. I turned the tree around.



Here is the start of the bonsai. Subtle trunk movement, character trunk, smaller scar and still that arching root. Next step was to find out what was under the soil and how the root could be utilised.

Excavation done and the underground portion was revealed and a beautiful arch was uncovered. Now, to incorporate that into the design. The privet was repotted into a larger tray, leaned backwards to expose the bridge and correctly position the apex and the ground under the rootless centre hollowed so the two outer ends with plenty of roots are solidly supporting the tree. There's a rootless heel in the front that is now part of the bridge.

The once rejected privet will have the carving refined and naturalised once the roots stabilise. The carving will improve when it ages and greys but that takes time. In March, or April, depending on when I can get the carving finished, the privet, now named "The Bridge", will be brought to the club for an auction. It has everything going for it. Character trunk with age, quirky root that now highlights the tree, good branching that needs only to develop. But all the requirements for an outstanding bonsai are there.



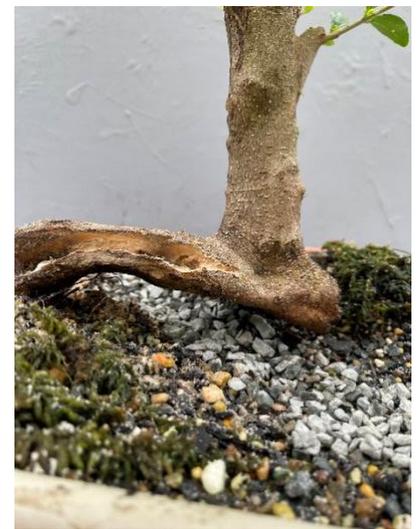


The Bridge will be auctioned at the SCBC when it is ready. The reserve will be \$70. If it does not sell it will be put on the sale table at the Illawarra Show in early May for \$120, and well worth that. So someone, keep it in the club [and out of my hands because I'm bonding with it] and bid strongly. The tray it is in is a square outside plastic 'saucer' that has been holed for drainage. It is good quality and when this tree is put in a bonsai pot [nice oval] the tray can be used for training other trees.

What started as just trying to make an ugly tree a bit more attractive to increase sale chances has revealed an upcoming bonsai of great character and charm. Marvelous what happens when you start flashing the branch cutters. The elm, also worked on, is a bit ordinary but with saleable qualities. It will be at the Illawarra Show for \$35 and I'm sure I won't be taking it home.

And finally.....

Here she is - just needs a couple of months for the carving to age and grey down. Now tells a story - wash away left root suspended but growing firmly from each end. Throwing out lots of new growth.



#### 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.

#### THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH by John March

**Autumn is the time of year when our trees are slowing down, changing colour, losing leaves and preparing for winter. Tasks that can be undertaken throughout these months include:**

- Maintain fertilizing through Autumn, but reduce the frequency as the trees slow down growth into winter. This will harden the foliage off so it will be prepared for winter. Use low N fertilisers such as "blood & bone" and Epsom salts.
- Deciduous trees will be turning colour (hopefully) and then dropping leaves. Do not leave the spent leaves on your soil as it can keep it too wet and root rot can result.

#### March

1. Most natives can be re-potted. Watch for bud movement and then repot and root prune.
2. Repotting of all evergreens can start now, but if you are experiencing hot weather, then delay till next month.
3. Wire can be placed on evergreens as they will be slowing down growth for winter.
4. Now is a good time to take hardwood cuttings from trees.

#### Sources:

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



**BONSAI EVENTS CALENDAR**

<b>20 March 2022</b>	<b>Club outing to Bonsai World</b>	<b>Meet at Bonsai World at approx. 10.30 am</b>
	Bonsai Society of Australia	Visit their website – <a href="http://www.bonsai.asn.au">www.bonsai.asn.au</a>
	Nepean Bonsai Newsletter	Visit their website <a href="http://www.nepeanbonsaisociety.org">www.nepeanbonsaisociety.org</a> - see what the mountain people get up to.
	Illawarra Bonsai Society Newsletter	Visit their website – <a href="http://www.illewarrabonsaisociety.org">www.illewarrabonsaisociety.org</a> - good content.
	Bonsai Society of South Australia website	Worth a visit – <a href="http://www.bonsaisa.org.au">www.bonsaisa.org.au</a>
	Yarra Valley Bonsai Newsletter	Visit their website <a href="http://www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au">www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au</a>
	Victorian Native Bonsai Club Newsletter	Visit their website – <a href="http://www.vicnativebonsai.com.au">www.vicnativebonsai.com.au</a> well worth a look.
March 2022	Bonsai reshaped 2022 at the national Arboretum	Go to <a href="http://www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au">www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au</a>
	Bonsai Society of Sydney	Visit their website – <a href="http://www.bonsaisocietysydney.org.au">www.bonsaisocietysydney.org.au</a>
8 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	9 <sup>th</sup> World Bonsai Exhibition – A VIRTUAL event Also here is a photo competition for use at the World Bonsai Convention Photo Exhibition	<a href="http://www.world-bonsai-convention-2022.com">www.world-bonsai-convention-2022.com</a> Close-off date for comp 15 <sup>th</sup> May see website for details

Most clubs are now re-commencing meetings with the easing of restrictions. Check out their web-sites or give them a call for meeting details.