



NEXT CLUB MEETING

Tote Centre Community Hall
Tuesday 8, November
100 Joynton Ave., Zetland @ 7.00pm

CONTACT DETAILS

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron	TBA
President	Bryan
Vice President	Ed
Secretary	David
Treasurer	John
Newsletter Editor	Chris
Librarian	Vacant
Committee	Frank + above

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.

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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.



Serious Nebari – or is it taper?



**MONTHLY MEETING FEEDBACK -
October**

The October meeting was sparingly attended by a mixture of established members and a couple of visitors which was pleasing. The meeting was a display of "spring" trees and workshopping of trees-in-progress.



Member workshopped and presented their trees. There was a good turnout of trees and informative tales of their history and future. Enjoy a collage of trees.

Presenting trees with the concrete pot from the demonstration last month in the foreground



Bryan's Cassia in flower



Neville's Grevillia in flower



John's Swamp Cypress form



James' Privet



John's? Maple showing good



Simon's Azalea in flower



Chris' Mistletoe



Bryan's Elm

Chris' #1 Olive after some much needed attention from James and Neville and #2 Olive that is still in need of attention.



Frank's Olive showing a lot of movement



Bryan's interesting Crepe Myrtle

Gracie's collection of WIPs





**NOVEMBER MEETING AGENDA –
GOOD LOOKING TREES**

The theme for the November meeting will be “your current pride and joy”. Bring along a tree or two that are looking good at the present time. Frank will give us a demo of how to achieve a big bend in an established tree. Could be a case of finding out what to do or what not to do! If you want to workshop a tree think about bringing along a fig – its getting to be that time of year.

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.

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. There is some good quality chat on the Facebook page and members are encouraged to join.

**PREPARING A TREE FOR DISPLAY
By Bryan**

To prepare a tree for display remember you are trying to show it off to its best advantage - accentuate character and balance, capture the eye, and create a story.

To check styling turn away from your tree and take a quick glance back, the tree should be what you notice first; pot, stand, and any companion objects (note: separate companion planting are not allowed in the Easter Show competition) should all harmonize. Hopefully your tree is fully trimmed a month or more in advance of the show. A minor snip here or there can be done a day or so before the show but fresh cuts can stand out and detract.

The pot should be clean and match the style and shape of the tree

Try vinegar or a slightly acidic solution to clean lime or salt off. Buffing with eco/baby oil can bring a sheen to unglazed pots. You may need to use cleansing powder or soft cleanser for bad stains but be careful not to damage your pot or let the solution come in contact with soil or your tree.

In general, the more formal the tree style the more formal the pot. Less formal styles such as ‘literati’ usually are paired with informal pots. The pot should help visually balance the tree. It should not look like it may fall out or topple

Soil covering should enhance the story you are trying to convey

The soil or soil covering shouldn’t stand out or detract but rather enhance the overall aesthetic. Think of where your tree would grow naturally? Consider a dry sparse landscape for an outback tree, moss for a lush forest clearing, moss and a small fern for a tree growing near a stream or overlooking a trail leading to a hermit’s hut. Any soil covering should look natural, be cleared of unwanted weeds and reflect healthy growing conditions. Breaking up the soil covering can add interest. Moss can add an impression of age and give the impression of grass but it should be used sparingly rather than creating an undifferentiated ‘lawn’. Think of where moss is found naturally, in the tree’s shadow, at the base between the roots or between larger rocks. The same goes for gravel or small stones which should match with nature and the trees natural environment (i.e. outback red/tan).

Other ground covers can be used but they should be in proportion to the tree and not detract. Some weeds are a definite ‘No’. Liverwort while low and flat should not be used as it can harm the tree by creating water logging and prevent air flow. Others, if in proportion to the tree and if they add to the story can be used, sparingly.



Rocks can add character

Rocks can be used to balance your tree's composition and placed to add character to the scene you are creating. Think rocky shoreline or rock near a small stream. When placing them remember scalene triangles are generally most aesthetic as are odd numbers.

Stands and displays

Stands and mats can help set off your tree. Stands traditionally are made from or stained dark wood (rose, cherry, etc) but think what suits your tree best. Stands and mats can range from a formal carved wood Chinese stand to a low pile door mat cut to suit. As outlined above, the more formal your tree the more formal your stand will generally be.

While it is great to have an expensive stand for your tree, less expensive ones may work as well. This is particularly useful if showing a number of trees at once. Two Dollar shops, kitchen supply stores and (as Lee showed at our February meeting) even IGA had something that could be converted into a display.

On a recent visit to Ikea I picked up

- Bamboo table runner (\$10 - \$15) – suitable for a large tree (3)
- Door mat (\$2 or so) – this can be cut to size and shape to suit your tree (9, 10)
- Computer stand (\$15-20) – this will raise the tree around 10 cm (1)

At Kmart I found

- A small plant stand (\$15) – suitable for a small to medium cascade (2)
- An Acacia cutting board (\$15) – I will need to cut off a hole in one end (not pictured)
- Wooden serving trays with black iron legs (\$15) – standing around 10 cm high (11)

I have also used

- Flat wood cutting board or burl (6)
- Table place mats (5, 7, 8)
- Japanese tea ceremony stand (4)

Keep your eyes open as you never know when you might come across something that might work. We are replacing an old fence and I might break up a couple of palings to put together for an outback native.

Finally, as you plan your display seek to hide, minimise or obscure flaws. Inconspicuous wiring (if neat), glue, moss, rocks, fake roots even weeds are all acceptable provided they add to the overall aesthetic, enhance your tree and develop its story. Fake plastic trees, however, might be a step too far.

I note Nepean Bonsai Society had an interesting article on displaying trees attached to a recent newsletter. For more ideas on displaying your bonsai check out: <https://www.bonsaitregardener.net/general/display>





WHAT PEOPLE GET UP TO

Frank has been a member of SCBC for some time and a Committee member for a number of years. As well as his Bonsai and woodworking talents he recently had a go at restoring an aged pedestal bench drill, with an impressive result. Take it away Frank.

My name is Firmino (commonly known as Frank) Sartore. I am a Committee member of SCBC and the Nth Strathfield Men's Shed.

I worked for 55 years in the Plastics Industry in production and design of plastic components for electrical appliances that are used in every Australian home. During those years I considered indulging in bonsai but it wasn't until 2002 that I started. Consequently my collection is not great but I enjoy trying different styles and techniques.

When not involved with bonsai I go to the Men's Shed to work with timber. The Shed sometime receives old broken machinery that nobody wants. A recent acquisition was an old Waldown bench drill (415 volt, 3 phase AC, 0.5 hp, type H, first manufactured in 1951). It was neglected and covered in dirt and grease but was intact, so I decided to have a go at restoring it.

The drill was so heavy that one person couldn't lift it on a bench so I dismantled it on the floor of the Shed and transported the parts to my garage. On first inspection the only unrecoverable parts were the two ball-bearings on the shaft, so I bought new ones.

Once all the parts were in the garage the cleaning and removal of any rust began, this took me some time as there was no set season to finish.

The next stage was the painting of all the non-working surfaces, then the assembly of the bearings onto shaft. At this time I realised how heavy the whole assembly would be as the weight of the top belt cover is 5kg. So I made a timber stand on castors to mount the unit.

The final assembly was completed on top of the stand but even so, I had to have help to lift the top assembly in place. Now I can move the complete drill around my garage, the only drawback is that I have to clamp the unit to my workbench for safety.

Will I do something like that again? Well, a second-hand H series was sold recently on E-Bay for just under \$600, so that is a yes.





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.

The Central Coast Bonsai Club is putting on its annual "Bonsai Open" with over 150 trees and some impressive prize money 4 & 5 March 2023.

The National Bonsai Collection at Canberra has a "coffee table" publication of trees from its collection. The Collection can be viewed at the National Arboretum Canberra and the book purchased through The Curatoreum - go to <https://bit.ly/3RYRqzx>.

School of Bonsai has a plant sale day on 3rd December at the Don Moore Community Centre, Carlingford.

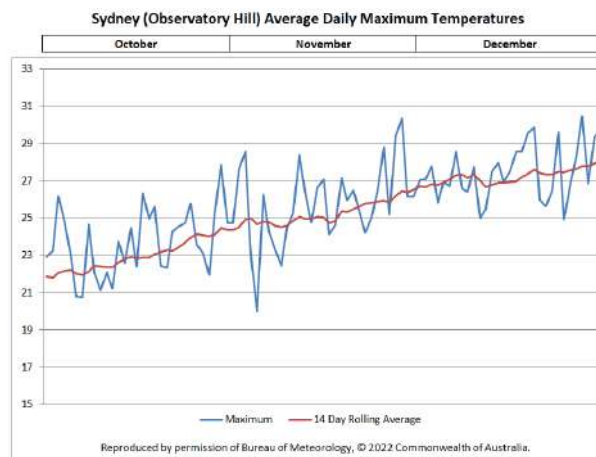
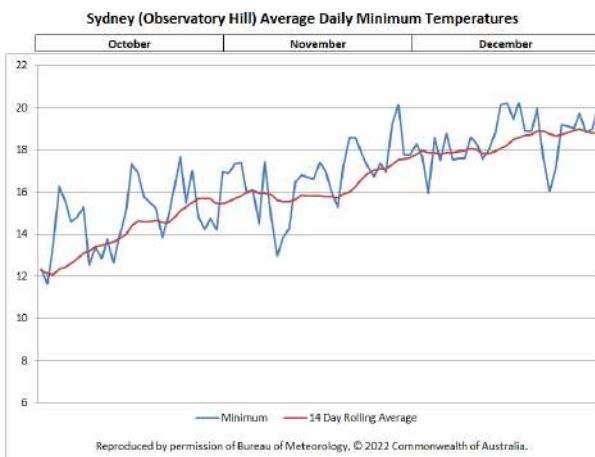
THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH by John November

1. Figs can be repotted and actively worked on from now right through Summer.
2. Similarly most natives can be repotted through to summer. Watch for bud movement and then repot and root prune.
3. Watch any wired trees closely to ensure it is not cutting into 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. Satsuki Azaleas should be flowering now. Pinch off spent flowers.
6. Collection of [Yamadori](#) of deciduous and pines.
7. Candle pinching of pines continues.
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.

Sources:

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

Min/Max 'The Bureau' ie BOM temperature forecasts (Observatory Hill) for the upcoming months including 14 day rolling average, provided by David follow:-





BONSAI EVENTS CALENDAR

	Bonsai Society of Australia	Visit their website – www.bonsai.asn.au	
	Nepean Bonsai Society Newsletter	Visit their website - www.nepeanbonsaisociety.org - see what the mountain people get up to.	
	Illawarra Bonsai Society	Visit their website – www.illewarrabonsaisociety.org - good content in their newsletter	
	Bonsai Society of South Australia website	Website is worth a visit – www.bonsaisa.org.au	
	Yarra Valley Bonsai Newsletter	Visit their website - www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au	
	Victorian Native Bonsai Club Newsletter	Visit their website – www.vicnativebonsai.com.au - well worth a look.	
3 rd December 2022	School of Bonsai plant sale day	Visit their website for more details.	Don Moore Community Centre, Carlingford
	Canberra Bonsai Society	Put out a good newsletter - visit their website – www.cbs.org.au	
4 th and 5 th March 2023	Central Coast Bonsai Club	Bonsai Open exhibition. For more details go to www.centralcoastbonsai.com.au	Good cash and trophy prizes
	Bonsai Society of Sydney	Latest newsletter has some good advice on what to do this time of year including pest control. Go to www.bonsai.societysydney.org.au	

Most clubs are have re-commencing meetings. Check out their web-sites or give them a call for meeting details. Attending another club is worth the effort.