



### NEXT CLUB MEETING

#### Tote Centre Community Hall

Tuesday June 8

100 Joynton Ave., Zetland @ 7.00pm

### CONTACT DETAILS



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### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron	TBA
President	Chris
Vice President	Vacant
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

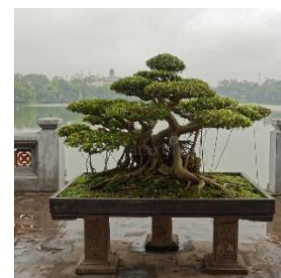
The theme of this month's meeting (June) is wiring and work-shopping trees - topical for this time of year. David will wire up a tree, providing the basis for discussion. So, bring along something that may benefit from the topic or anything that will be of interest to members. You are also encouraged to bring something you would like members to provide feedback on and be prepared to work 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.



**Don't do things by half in Vietnam!**



### MONTHLY MEETING FEEDBACK - MAY

There was a disappointing attendance at last month's meeting – only about 10 rolled up. However the discussion on soils was very interesting and inclusive. Everyone seemed to have an opinion on what constituted the "ideal" growing medium and were prepared to share their experiences. Surprisingly, many of the mixes being used (successfully) were very high in inorganics, sometimes to the exclusion of organic material entirely! The organics were replaced by artificial additives like perlite, zeolite, pumice, fired clays and the like. Anyone who missed out and would like to know more should contact one of the Exec members.

A number of interesting multi-trunk trees were tabled and discussed. Photos of the trees are attached at the end of the Newsletter

### MEMBERSHIP FEES

We are drawing to the end of our membership year (June 30<sup>th</sup>) so membership fees will be due after that. As we expect to operate as what used to be called "normal", we will revert to full fees for 2021-22.

### CALL FOR NEW EXEC MEMBERS

With the conclusion of our operating year, all Exec positions will be vacated and nominations to fill the positions called. They will be filled by voting at the July meeting. There are currently vacant positions and all positions are up for grabs so have a serious think about nominating – we need members to take on positions to keep the Club operating. You do not need to be a bonsai "expert" but should be prepared to come to the monthly Exec meeting and participate in management decision making. Have a go.

### ON-LINE MATTERS

#### 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

### EVALUATING VIGOR OF TRIDENT MAPLES IN SPRING

*This is an article by Jonas Dupuich sourced by John Brown which will give some insight into preparing maples in spring. It has been slightly modified to suit our hemisphere.*

Before I prune on my deciduous bonsai in spring, I check to see if they're up for the work. Here's a trident maple mid spring.



Trident maple – mid spring

Although the leaves are healthy, they are pale green and there are no new shoots developing. This tells me that the tree isn't a great candidate for pinching and that it needs to gain strength before I work on it.



Here's the same tree a month later.



Red leaves on new shoots, late spring

The tree is now producing elongating shoots but the colour is still pale so I'm going to fertilize it and let it grow for the time being.

It's common for trees to grow slowly in spring after repotting, especially when the weather remains cool. I'll check to see how it looks in another month and will start pruning when the tree shows signs that it will respond well to the work.

The trident maple grouping below sits on the same bench as the tree above but has responded well to repotting despite extensive root-work. It's ready for cutback and thinning.

The first step is shortening the elongating shoots back to one or two pairs of buds.



Trident maple with healthy new growth



After cutback

Next, I removed large leaves and thinned crowded areas so light could reach into the tree's interior.



After thinning – 700mm tall

I'll repeat this process as often as necessary during the growing season to maintain the health of the interior shoots. I'll do more refined pruning in autumn when I can see the trunks and branches clearly.

#### STAND TRANSFORMATION – by Lee

I got a lovely Japanese cascade bonsai stand with a very dark, traditional stain. It was lovely, it was dressy, formal and oh so Japanese but I needed it for a native and the two were not really compatible. I stripped it, stained it and am delighted with the more relaxed look. It still conveys a Japanese style but in a subtler way that better compliments my less



formal trees. While I tended to avoid it before, I can now embrace it knowing it will complement the trees I put on it.



**Editor's note** – personally I would not choose the stovetop as its final location.

#### SWAP TABLE

There will be a Swap Table at the next meeting which will be stocked with pots kindly donated by Betty Forsyth's sister. Many thanks for the kind gesture and condolences for Betty's loss.

Bring some loose change along and grab a bargain (or two). Members are also encouraged to contribute to the table.



#### NURSERY CRAWL – BONSAI WORLD

Visiting a bonsai nursery can be an opportunity to discover new techniques, a chance to pick up supplies for experimentation, allowing you to extend your bonsai understanding. It can introduce new tools expanding your ability to experiment with different styling options. Different pots, stones and stock allow you to explore and expand your bonsai collection.

SCBC is tentatively planning a Bonsai World nursery crawl for Sunday August 15. This is a great opportunity to pick up stock and learn new techniques. Set aside the day and let us know your interest. More information will be coming as we firm up dates and plans.



Last time we went up the staff at Bonsai World provided demonstrations of carving, potting for extended root styles and creating artificial landscapes.

#### THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH - June

**By John**

1. Winter is the time for shaping your trees, in particular deciduous trees are best shaped while you can observe their structure and form without leaves to obscure it. Heavy pruning of all trees, wiring and needle plucking of pines.
2. Cut back on the watering of all your trees to ensure they do not stay wet and develop root rot. A good rule of thumb is to make sure that the soil is fairly dry before re-watering but then make sure that the water penetrates and doesn't just run off. It's better to water in the morning so that the excess water has a chance to drain.



3. For trees that are prone to mildew (eg maples, crepe myrtles, oaks, roses and olives) it's a good idea to spray with lime-sulphur solution two or three times during winter to kill the mildew spores and ensure healthy green growth in spring.
4. Repot deciduous trees in late winter (August) as buds begin to swell in preparation of the new spring growth. However if you have a lot of deciduous trees, you can start repotting and root pruning the trees that went into early dormancy during or before June.
5. You can wire all species at this time so that the wire can be left on as long as possible. Let the tree dry out a little because moisture swells the cells and makes the branches more brittle and therefore more prone to breaking. While the trees are not actively growing the wire will not cut in and scar the tree.
6. Trees will benefit from being in the sun during winter as this helps with bud development and healthier Spring growth.
7. If trees have developed a full coating of moss on the soil then remove some to improve air circulation and drainage through the soil. Put the excess moss in a shallow tray of soil and keep moist for use in repotting in spring.
8. Because we don't get frosts or ice in Sydney we don't need to protect tropical trees (eg Ficus, Bougainvillea, etc) by moving them inside.

**Sources:**

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

**BONSAI EVENTS CALENDAR**

	Nepean Bonsai Newsletter	Available on request or visit their website
	Illawarra BS Newsletter	Available on request or visit their website
20-22 August 2021	Illawarra BS sponsored event	Stanwell Tops – see IBS website for details
	Yarra Valley Newsletter	Available on request or visit their website
	Victorian Native Bonsai Club Newsletter	Available on request or visit their website
12-16 Sept 2021	Garden Clubs of Australia	National Convention - Townsville

Due to difficulties getting into our e-mail account the events calendar cannot be updated but most Clubs have recommenced meetings so check out their web-sites for information.



**MULTI-TRUNK TREES – May meeting**



Start of a PJ Fig multi-trunk/group planting



Junior Juniper off to a good start



Three twisted trunk Elm



Flowering Quince?



Multi-trunk twisted Elm



Multi-trunk PJ Fig



Rampant Juniper



Unusual Hazel tree – for sale no less



Azalea in full flight



Succulent companion plants