



ILLAWARRA BONSAI SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER
2020, No.2
MARCH

NEXT MEETING 7.30PM MONDAY 16 MARCH 2020
(WORKSHOP/DEMONSTRATION SOES/MARKETPLACE)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members,

Isn't it just the greatest time of the year when we can have another bite at the 'repotting cherry'. The weather is just perfect for it as the days are nice, warm and comfortable, the nights are cooler and quite a bit of rain added to make everything want to jump out of their pots with vigour.

Honestly though, I feel like a Harbour Bridge painter as far as the weeds are concerned – get to the finish and then you have to start all over again. The garden and bonsais look very well for a while, dressed and happy and then those wretched weeds come along and spoil your day. Then you have to start all over again – a constant battle! It has to be done though and if you can get rid of them before they set their seeds you can probably reduce them by a small amount next time.

At this time of year when the soil stays damp for longer, it is important that you remove them especially from around the trunk otherwise you could cause all sorts of problems. Not only that, if the soil surface doesn't get a chance to dry out sufficiently it could cause problems with the root system causing the aeration of the soil to be non-existent thus causing the soil to become rancid (sour) and the tree could be set back quite a lot. To minimize this problem it is recommended to have some sharp river sand or zeolite added to the potting mix to ensure better drainage. Potting mix does break down eventually and when the surface becomes sort of 'slimey' you know you have a problem and repotting is the only cure.

Of course deciduous trees will have to wait a while longer until they lose their leaves in mid to late winter just before bud burst.

Actually, just getting back to weeds; some weeds do make great little soes (accent plant) to be displayed with your trees. At a recent show someone had 'nut grass' in a small pot and it suited the tree. Dandelions also make great small plants with the added bonus of the pretty yellow flower. If you keep it long enough the trunk actually becomes quite thick and tall, like a small tree. The rampant little fern, Selaginella, also makes a soft feathery little plant that would be suited beneath any of the deciduous trees or even to get a warm tropical look beneath figs. Once you have this little fern it grows everywhere even between the cracks in the cement. The Military fern is a pest beyond words and it doesn't matter how many times you remove it you get twice as many. Now this one is a scourge that you don't need so don't use it at all. Have a look around your garden and check them out and you will be surprised what you can find.

See what you can find and bring it along to the next meeting and we can advise you if it is suitable!
Good luck!

Till next time,
Brenda

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Meetings:

7.30pm third Monday night each
month, except January & December
at Gymea Community Centre,
Gymea Bay Road, Gymea, NSW





This is the selaginella fern that grows anywhere where it is cool and damp which makes for a great soe or accent plant. It is a bit of a pest but to me, a lovely pest! When it is contained in a pot it grows smaller leaves and looks very much in proportion to the tree being displayed.

FINAL THOUGHT

'Nature is a good economist;
note the blades of grass which make use of cracks in your concrete path.'

- P. K. Shaw

HANDY HINTS

- Take a look at your bonsai stands to see if they need rejuvenating in any way e.g. a new coat of varnish, oiling, polishing or staining. To keep them in pristine condition and so they will not get damaged or scratched at all a great little HINT is to buy some 'quilted' pillow protectors with a zip (from the \$2 shops of course) and they can be stored quite safely on top of one another without any damage. At our next meeting Brenda will give a brief talk on stands in readiness for the convention.
- Again keep a lookout for any unusual little pots to be suitable for soes and these would include pots other than the normal – you could find a hollowed out stone with a niche in it where a small orchid or fern could be placed. A piece of small driftwood could also serve the same purpose. A small slab of slate could hold a special little plant with 'muck' surrounding the soil and moss pinned to the muck. The ideas are endless and if you come up with an unusual idea bring it to the club and share it with us.
- If you are intending to make a deciduous forest of some sort in late winter and you are not sure what material to use, it would be advisable to search the bonsai nurseries now so you can identify the trees by the leaves what you would like to use and some of them will be starting to get their autumn colours especially in the cooler districts. A deciduous forest in its full autumn colours can be breathtaking. See what you can come up with.
- Selecting a pot for this forest can also be an agenda when visiting the nurseries. Usually a coloured flat pot of some sort will best suit a deciduous forest. Have all your ideas in place so when it comes time to assemble the forest, you will have all the 'ingredients' for it.
- The weather is still warm enough so liquid fertilizing can still take place fortnightly.
- Digging up any old garden specimens can still be safely done now so keep an eye out for what advanced stock you can find.
- Trimming of any wayward branches that have escaped the design of your tree should be trimmed back otherwise this will cause problems later when these branches become thicker and ultimately will spoil the canopy look of the tree. Trees that are rampant at the moment with their growth are figs, Chinese elms, Trident and Japanese maples, crabapples, clerodendrons, etc so keeping them trimmed has to be on your agenda of priorities.

TREE COMPETITION –MONTH FEBRUARY

Large	1 st	Paul Shergold	Red Pine
	2 nd	Bev English	Casuarina
	3 rd	James Shamoon	Olive
Medium	1 st	Elaine Bleazard	Juniper
	2 nd	Tony English	Jap maple forest
	3 rd	Manfred Koch	False Cyprus
Shohin	1 st	Ben Thomas	Premna Japonica
	2 nd	Noel Summerell	Little Ruby
	3 rd	Laurie Carroll	Nerifolia Fig
Mame	1 st	Lee Wright	Sao-to-me Azalea
	2 nd	Noel Summerell	Port Jackson Fig
	3 rd	Garry Uebergang	Manchurian Pear
Novice	1 st	-	
	2 nd	-	
	3 rd	-	

EVENTS

Club Meetings	
16 March 2020	Workshop, and demonstration on display and Soes, and marketplace
20 April 2020	Workshop, and min demonstration on Suiseki
18 May 2020	No meeting
15 June 2020	Demonstration Pines and Junipers and marketplace
20 July 2020	Workshop, and mini demonstration on Root over Rock
17 August 2020	Workshop, and demonstration on Landscapes by Khan Linh and marketplace
21 September 2020	Workshop, and mini demonstration on Rafts and wiring.
19 October 2020	Workshop, and mini demonstration on Pot making, and marketplace
16 November 2020	Workshop, and demonstration by Ray and Clinton Nesci
14 December 2020	AGM and Christmas Party.
Club Events	
15-18 th May 2020 'Golden Celebration' 33 rd AABC National Convention	Illawarra Bonsai Society in partnership with AABC presents the 33 rd AABC National Convention 'A Golden Celebration' at the Bankstown Sports Club Greenfield Parade Bankstown Union Club
21 st -23 rd August 2020	The 21 st annual Weekend Workshops at the Tops Conference Centre, Stanwell Tops

Other Events*	
23 rd -29 th March 2020	Bonsai week- NBPCA Canberra.
27 th -29 th March 2020	Bonsai by the Beach Bonny Hills Port Maquarie.
4 th -5 th April 2020	Nepean Bonsai Society Annual show "The Mystery of Bonsai" Glenbrook community hall Great Western Hwy(next to cinema) Glenbrook
7 th -8 th September 2020	Central Coast Bonsai Club Annual Show
17 th -18 th October 2020	Wauchope Bonsai Show LUSC Laurieton

NEXT MEETING

There will be a short talk and demo on suitable stands, soe pots (for accent plants) and general ideas for displaying trees to keep within our theme for this month.

Also bring trees along for a workshop or to get advice on.

SALES NIGHT

There is a sales night at the next meeting where members can bring along any unwanted bonsai paraphernalia for sale. Please put your name and price required on each article and then 10% is to be donated to the club as commission. Please bring your money and article to Brent or Julie to finalize the sale for you.

TREE DISPLAY

There was a fantastic tree display at the February meeting, please keep up the good work so your trees can be seen by other members and information which is given out at the critique which we all enjoy. This is a great learning curve.

CONVENTION NEWS

If anyone has any questions about our convention in May, you can ask any committee member for more information, or alternatively ask a question once the demo/talk is over so everyone can hear your concerns.

We would like all members to be involved in some way or another – a once in a lifetime experience for a club who is turning **50!! PLEASE BE INVOLVED!**



Welcome to Bonsai Week 2020

at the National Arboretum Canberra and the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia

23 – 29 March 2020

The National Arboretum Canberra is celebrating Bonsai Week this March. Join us for a week dedicated to showcasing the art of bonsai and meet passionate and talented bonsai artists.

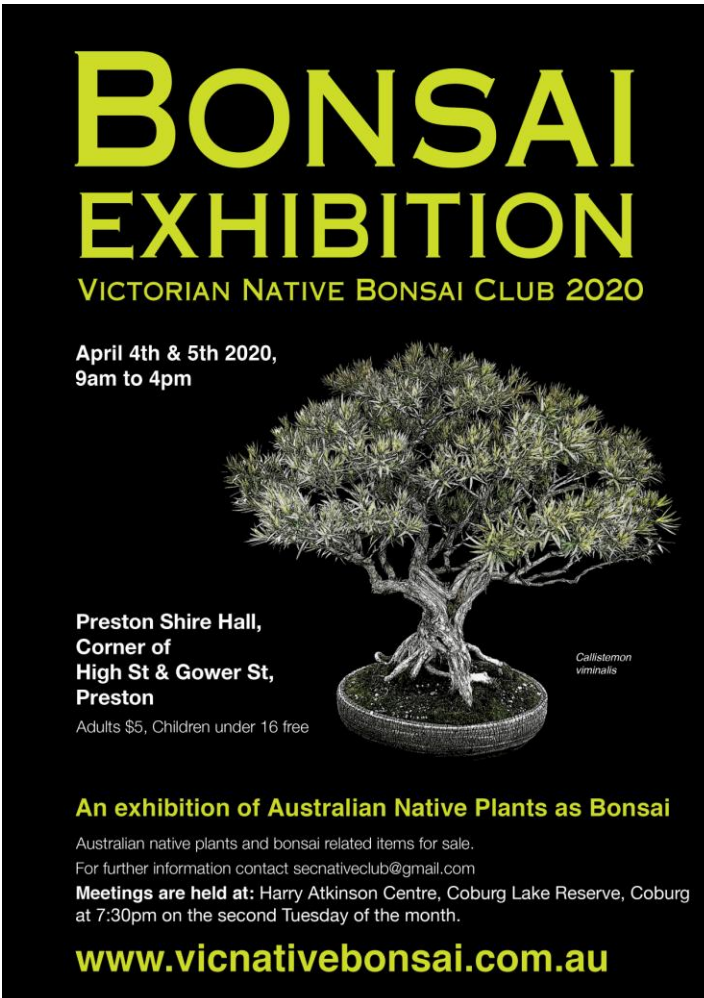
Each year we invite leading artists from around the world to share their knowledge and enthusiasm

with us. This year we are delighted to welcome internationally recognised bonsai artists Marija Hajdic and Nik Rozman to Canberra.

Appreciate the beauty of bonsai pots with many of the entrants for the Bonsai Pot Acquisition Prize on display in the Village Centre all week.

We welcome everyone to join us for free and ticketed events throughout the week.

Want to know more about Bonsai Week? Go to the website arboretum@act.gov.au for more information.

A black poster for a 'BONSAI EXHIBITION' by the 'VICTORIAN NATIVE BONSAI CLUB 2020'. The title is in large, bold, yellow-green letters. Below it, the dates 'April 4th & 5th 2020, 9am to 4pm' are listed. A central image shows a Callistemon viminalis bonsai tree in a shallow, round, textured pot. To the left of the tree, the venue 'Preston Shire Hall, Corner of High St & Gower St, Preston' and ticket prices 'Adults \$5, Children under 16 free' are listed. Below the tree, the text reads 'An exhibition of Australian Native Plants as Bonsai', 'Australian native plants and bonsai related items for sale.', and 'For further information contact secnativeclub@gmail.com'. At the bottom, it says 'Meetings are held at: Harry Atkinson Centre, Coburg Lake Reserve, Coburg at 7:30pm on the second Tuesday of the month.' and the website 'www.vicnativebonsai.com.au' in yellow-green.

BONSAI EXHIBITION
VICTORIAN NATIVE BONSAI CLUB 2020

April 4th & 5th 2020,
9am to 4pm

Preston Shire Hall,
Corner of
High St & Gower St,
Preston

Adults \$5, Children under 16 free

An exhibition of Australian Native Plants as Bonsai

Australian native plants and bonsai related items for sale.
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Meetings are held at: Harry Atkinson Centre, Coburg Lake Reserve, Coburg
at 7:30pm on the second Tuesday of the month.

www.vicnativebonsai.com.au

Preparing Your Bonsai for Display

By Chris Di Nola

Whether you show your trees at our club meeting, our yearly show or have been asked to display a tree at the AABC Convention in May, we all need to do some preparation to our trees prior to putting them on display.

Starting from the bottom up:

Stands: Stands should be clean and free of any chips or scratches and as a general rule a stand should be about half the length longer than the pot and should harmonize with the tree, not detract from it.

Pots: The presentation of the pot is just as important as the tree, so taking that you have your tree displayed in a pot that complement each other, well it is now just a clean-up.

Warm water with a little dish washing liquid and a soft kitchen scourer will remove just about anything that may have built up on your pot over time. If you are having trouble removing a stain, use steel wool or the edge of a scraper being very careful not to permanently damage the pot. Also soaking the pot in a mixture of a small amount of bleach and water and leave until you are happy with the result. Rinse thoroughly and dry in the sun.

If your pot is unglazed, a very fine coating of either baby oil or olive oil will give it a new lustre. Apply it lightly over the viewing surface then buff away any extra with a soft cloth.

Soil Surface: It goes without saying that all weeds need to be removed, as I am sure that none of us have any weeds in our bonsai pot anyways!!!!!!!

Next we need to dress the soil surface – if you don't have moss growing on your tree surface already, a balanced amount of moss to areas that you would expect to find moss growing i.e. around the base of the tree and under low growing branches. If you do this 6 to 8 weeks prior to the show, the moss will start to look quite natural by show time. Keep the moss moist at all times.

Small pebbles are also used to dress the soil and are placed in areas that are not covered by the moss. These pebbles should blend well with the presentation of the tree. Brightly coloured pebbles that you might find in an aquarium shop should be avoided at all times.

The Tree: Starting at the trunk, remove any moss growing on the trunk with an old tooth brush, rubbing lightly trying to avoid damaging any nice bark that the tree might have. If the tree is a juniper you can remove any old bark with the use of a brass wire brush to expose the lovely red trunk which will show up better with a light coating of olive oil.

Any fine branches that may not be in the best position can be wired into place. I use fine copper wire that has been left outside to anodise so that it blends well with the tree. Wire is allowed on your trees during display, **but** only on the branches which are hidden by foliage but not on the trunk. However, in my opinion if you can avoid wire on your tree during display the better your tree will look.

All foliage should be in top condition and have no signs of burn or pest attacks. Large leaves can be removed prior to the show but not to the detriment of the balance of the tree. Flowers and fruit should also be in top condition, remove any that may be less than perfect.

If showing pines all old, discoloured or dead needles should be removed. Needles that are growing away from the outline of the tree can also be removed or trimmed.

If the display is in winter, you can show your tree in its naked form. A well ramified tree is just as attractive as a tree in full foliage.

Show Day: A few things to take with you when you are going to set up your tree – an old cloth, trimming scissors, a small container of dressing stones to replace any that may have fallen off in transit and some wire, just in case.

Brenda will be talking to you more about stands, accent plants and displaying your trees at the next meeting.

Also at the next meeting we will be showing you all how to put these few tips into practice.

Till then,
Chris



A perfectly displayed tree, complete with its stand, soe (accent plant) and all stood on a flat irregular shaped flat stand.....perfect! This is what makes for a perfect display.

Nepean Bonsai Society Inc
Annual Show
THE MYSTERY OF BONSAI
Sat 4 & Sun 5 April 2020



Time 9 am - 4 pm
Adults \$4 Concession \$2
Children under 5 free

EXHIBITION | SALES | BBQ
DEMONSTRATIONS | CLINIC |
CREATE YOUR OWN BONSAI

Glenbrook Community Hall
Great Western Highway (next to cinema)