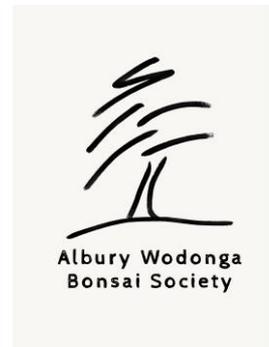


# Albury Wodonga Bonsai Newsletter

August 2017



## Contacts:

President: Ian Bransden, Ph: 0357 522 678, Mobile: 0432 530 934

Email: [ian.bransden@southernphone.com.au](mailto:ian.bransden@southernphone.com.au)

Treasurer: Loraine Parker, Ph: 0458 217 780

Email [parkelby@gmail.com](mailto:parkelby@gmail.com)

Secretary Theo Panagopoulos, Ph 0418 568 601

Email: [bonsaialburywodonga@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaialburywodonga@gmail.com)

Newsletter: Neil Padbury, Ph 0260271557

Email [neil@shibuibonsai.com.au](mailto:neil@shibuibonsai.com.au)

Website Les Laws:

Email: [firekitty0@gmail.com](mailto:firekitty0@gmail.com)

Web address: <http://www.alburywodongabonsai.com/home.html>

## Fees:

Fees have been set at \$25 per member or \$35 per couple for 2017. You can pay Loraine at a meeting or post subs to her at 708 Pemberton St, Albury NSW 2640

## Next Meeting:

Tuesday, August 22, 2017 at Harry's Hut, Olive St. South Albury at 7:30 pm.

For those who have not been before, Harry's Hut is the meeting room at the Gardens beside Brown's Lagoon. Entry off Olive St., opposite the end of Nurigong St., South Albury.

Members and visitors are always welcome to bring a tree (or 2 or even more) to our meetings if you want to show off your successes (or failures!), to work on a tree, or to ask about a problem.

## Topic for Next Meeting:

**Pots and Potting:** Bonsai pots come in a huge range of colours, shapes and sizes. Find out how to narrow down the choice for your bonsai.

Our more experienced members will help out with demonstrations of repotting bonsai. Bring your own tree, pot and mix if you'd like to repot something on the night.

## Last Month:

We had rather a small turnout for the club workshop last month. Several members brought in trees for help and advice.

Theo showed us what frost can do to a ficus rubiginosa. Even though his tree was well under the roof of the alfresco area it still got cold enough this year to blacken one side of the tree. Theo has since moved it to a warmer spot and removed all the damaged leaves. Now just waiting for spring to see which stems and branches are going to shoot.

David brought in a few trees for advice. They had all recently been repotted so although we discussed possible future work it was recommended not to do any wiring or pruning so soon after repotting.

Theo showed a small juniper which we decided had plenty of good possibilities as bonsai - triple trunk, twin trunk or as a small single trunk bonsai. Good luck making those decisions Theo.

## Bonsai Events:

**July 2017:** Mauro Stemberger will be touring and doing workshops in Australia. Details currently being finalised with Sydney, Canberra and Adelaide as venues so far. More as we receive further info.

### August 2017 :

25th - 27th, "Tops Weekend", 'Tops Conference Centre', Stanwell Tops.

### September 2017 :

Fri. 1st - Sun. 11th. 'Wagga Wagga Bonsai Society' Exhibition,

Sat 2nd, 'Bonsai Study Group' Show, 'West Pymble Community Hall'.

### October 2017 :

Sat 7 and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>. Canberra Bonsai show

Sat 14 and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Bonsai Society of Victoria annual show Box Hill Town Hall.

### November 2017 :

11th - 13<sup>th</sup> - 'Newcastle Bonsai Society' Annual Exhibition,

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Bonsai North West annual show, Footscray Community Arts centre.

**July 20-23, 2018** - 31<sup>st</sup> National Bonsai Convention, Melbourne. Bonsai North West has sent us details of next year's bonsai convention to be held at Mantra Bell City. Headline guest artist Bjorn Bjorholm along with a selected group of local bonsai artists doing workshops and demonstrations as well as a quality bonsai display and sales area.

BFA calendar of events: - <https://teamup.com/ks55bf2733e25865a6>

## Business:

Remember that club fees are now overdue. Please pay Lorraine as soon as possible to remain as an Albury Wodonga Bonsai society member.

We have selected Joe Morgan-Payler to conduct a workshop and demonstration for us on the weekend of April 21-22, 2018. Theo is in the process of finalising details with Joe so put a note in your diaries.

## Proposed 2017 program:

January: Figs and natives.

February 28: Where and how to keep bonsai, display benches, etc.

March 28: Pines, cedars and other evergreen bonsai species.

April 25: Dead wood

May 23: Pruning.

June 27: Annalea - Wiring

July 25: Club workshop night. Grafting?

August 22: Bonsai pots and potting.

September 26: Flowering bonsai.

October 24: Air layering and other propagation methods.

November 28: Natives as bonsai.

December: No meeting due to proximity to Christmas

January 2018: Figs (and other natives)

## Seasonal Notes from Shibui Bonsai

Have you noticed any little signs of spring yet? The first daffodils flowered in our garden. Local wattles are also starting to flower and in the nursery I've noticed the buds on Chinese elms are swelling. Chinese elms are among the first species to sprout so they are a good indicator that it is definitely time to get on with any repotting.

I started my winter repotting with the smaller bonsai. I've found it best to repot these every year because the tiny pots get full of roots very quickly. I found that if I did not repot they would not grow well the following summer because the tight rootball does not let in enough water, food or air. Repotting every year leaves enough room for new roots and water so your shohin trees will be healthier and happier.

Wisteria have very aggressive roots so even larger wisterias tend to fill the pots with roots in just a single year. Whenever I've missed repotting they suffer badly during the following summer so I try to repot these every year as well.

At the moment I'm working my way through the large and medium sized trident maples and Japanese maples. These don't need to be repotted every year but I try to get them done every 2-3 years. These pictures shows a trident maple rootball. You can see how much the roots have grown since it was last root pruned.

Many bonsai references tell you to comb out the roots to remove old mix then cut the roots short. I find the tangled roots really hard to comb out so I start off cutting through the rootball - first take off a few cm around the edge then slice around 1cm off the bottom. I figure if I'm going to cut off all those roots eventually why go to all



This photo shows the final result after the roots have been cut and the tree is ready to be repotted into new mix.

I have already repotted a few of my pines and junipers but I usually leave most of the conifers until later in spring.

Many of our experienced bonsai growers are now repotting conifers and even deciduous trees in autumn with great results so this winter/ spring repotting window is no longer the last chance for repotting your bonsai.

the trouble of combing them out first? After trimming around the rootball the remaining roots are far easier to comb out with the root hook then I can see how far I want to cut back the finer roots and find any thicker roots that might need cutting back harder.



While repotting maples I've also been doing some root enhancement work.

Nebari - the visible start to the surface roots - is considered very important in maple bonsai.



Roots should be evenly spread and radiating out away from the trunk. There are a number of ways to improve the root system of your trees.

These photos show how I'm adding roots by root grafting. People who did the recent bonsai basics course might recognise this little trident maple. The trunk was dead so I've hollowed it out and I hope it will make a great feature of this tree.

There's really only 2 large roots on this tree so I'm trying to add some more at the front and back. After bare rooting the tree I drilled holes right through the main roots with an electric drill. The holes need to be large enough to thread a seedling through and need to exit the root or trunk where you want the new roots to grow.



Thread seedlings through the holes then seal around the wounded area so it will heal up quickly. As the holes heal up it will

squeeze on the seedling which will then usually graft onto the larger tree. When I'm pretty sure the 2 have grafted properly I'll cut off the tops of the seedlings leaving the roots now attached and feeding my bonsai. If you look closely at the picture of the larger trident maple earlier in this article you will see a round scar at the base of the trunk. That's where a seedling was grafted to add roots to that tree some years ago.

As the days get longer and temperatures slowly rise your trees will begin to need water. Spring often catches me out with some bonsai getting dry before I get into the habit of regular watering again. Start to monitor your trees so you'll know when they need extra water.

Theo's ficus is not the only plant to suffer from the extra low temps we had this winter. It has definitely been colder this winter. I've heard long term residents here say the last time they had frozen water was 17 years ago so it has been quite a few years since we had temperatures quite so low. Some lilly pilly plants in the nursery now have brown leaves and a few

leptospermums have a bit of frost bite. A few of the subtropical plants in my igloo are also affected but so far (fingers crossed) little damage to the figs.

We all love to hear from other members about anything bonsai related.

If you can't get to a meeting (or even if you can) why not email [neil@shibuibonsai.com.au](mailto:neil@shibuibonsai.com.au) with a question or a comment or even a few photos to go in the newsletter?

### **Does anyone have anything for next month's**

# **newsletter?**

Members and visitors are always welcome to bring a tree (or 2 or even more) to our meetings if you want to show off your successes (or failures!), to work on a tree, or to ask about a problem.

---

**Fees for 2017 will be due in March. Please forward your payment to Loraine ASAP.**

**We also need to confirm members contact details to keep club records up to date. Please complete this membership details form and lodge it with your payment.**

**Name:**

**Postal address:**

**Telephone:**

**Email address:**

**Membership type: Family**

**Individual**

**Concession**