

Albury Wodonga Bonsai

newsletter- March 2016

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Fees have been set at \$20 per member or \$30 per couple for the coming year. You can pay Neil at a meeting or post subs to Neil at P.O. Box 135, Yackandandah, 3749

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 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.

Topic for next meeting: Pinching and Pruning

What's the difference? What difference does it make? What trees and what time of year?

Last Month:

Accelerated bonsai development V slow development:

In bonsai we value a nice thick trunk. How can you achieve that without waiting years? Ian talked about growing trees in the ground to develop thick trunks quicker. In a pot, with limited room, nutrients and water trees grow slower. In a larger pot, the tree will grow bigger more quickly and in the ground they will grow even faster. Allow the plants to grow as tall as they can to achieve most trunk thickness.

One of the downsides to fast growing is that you will need to make large pruning cuts that can leave ugly scars that take a long time to heal over. You need to balance fast growth with the large cuts and scars you will eventually make.

I like to prune early so that the tree will produce multiple shoots. Together these add up to the same growth as a single large trunk but when you prune you will end up with several smaller scars that will heal over more quickly. Multiple trunks also allows you to develop taper in the trunk far more effectively than growing and pruning a single trunk.

I still plant trees in the ground to make quick fat trunks but I also make sure I have some developing more slowly in pots that will eventually give me some lovely trees without scars in years to come. There is certainly a place for both techniques if you have patience and long term commitment.

Bonsai Events:

There are quite a few autumn bonsai events coming up:

March 26, 27, 28 - Bendigo Bonsai exhibition. 3 days to see the best that Bendigo bonsai club has to offer. We have a couple of free passes if you are likely to be able to attend this one.

April 5 - Bonsai Society of Australia have sent us notice of Tony Bebb as demonstrator at their meeting - West pennant Hills 7pm (just in case anyone is in Sydney that day)

April 9 and 10 - Victorian Native Bonsai club show - Domain House, Melbourne. A premiere display of bonsai with Australian Native plants. -

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bz6wyMJH4yUaMGJrSGVuU0IzdHBPeGJNODh4MDIDNU9yU004/view>

May 20 - 23 - AABC Bonsai Convention, Hobart - <http://bonsai-southern-tasmania.org.au/resources/Booklet%20FINAL.compressed.pdf>

Business:

Our March Meeting is also our Annual General Meeting. Please consider nominating for a position. Margrit and I would love to have a break from our roles.

Proposed 2016 program:

Members at the November meeting tossed around lots of possible ideas for meeting topics. Here's what I've come up with. Still time to make changes if you want to propose some alternatives.

January: annual Ficus workshop – figs, natives and other summer species

Feb: Developing a bonsai – slow V fast growth

Mar: Pruning and pinching – What's the difference and when do you do it?

April: Natives as bonsai - Annalea

May: Fusion to create interesting trunks and shapes – Les??

June: Shaping bonsai – wiring V pruning V hook and hold

July: Root pruning and repotting

August: Plums and hawthorns

September: Collecting trees for bonsai – what to look for and when

October: Exotics & growing them out - Annalea

November: Suggestions welcome

December: no meeting due to proximity to Christmas.

Seasonal Notes:

We have just returned from Bonsai week at Canberra. Some great activities and a good workshop with Pavel Slovak from Czech Republic. I worked on an old Black Pine and I'm very pleased with both the result and the things I learned during the workshop.

Here's the tree before-



- And after the workshop

More dry weather so watering continues..... I have heard promises of some rain and maybe if you live in Albury you had more than you needed last week?

I arrived home this week to find that lots of my trees have taken advantage of the slightly cooler weather and grown – some have grown quite a lot. My banksias all needed a trim and so did a couple of Japanese maples.

Autumn is a very good time to check all your trees to see if you have forgotten any wires. As mentioned above, trees seem to make a last spurt of growth as the weather cools and are likely to grow out over any wire that is still in place. If wire is looking tight best to remove it now before it makes a permanent impression on your tree.

Keep feeding all growing trees for optimum growth and health. Use higher K ferts on flowering plants to stimulate better spring flowering.

A number of very experienced Aussie bonsai growers have started to repot bonsai at this time of year. I have not tried this yet but should try some to spread the repotting load that traditionally all falls in a short period in spring.

My Bonsai Notes:

I have not received anything from members this month. I'll leave you with some photos:

National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia: This is a great display of bonsai at the national Arboretum in Canberra. Make sure you have time whenever you get to the capital. Trees change regularly so there's always something new to see.



Maybe someone else can give us some words or pictures of their bonsai journey for next month.

Even if you just email me some pictures I'll put them in so we can all enjoy something different. If you want to add some words that would be even better.

If you can't get to a meeting (or even if you can) why not email Neil 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 2016 are now due. Please forward your payment to Neil 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