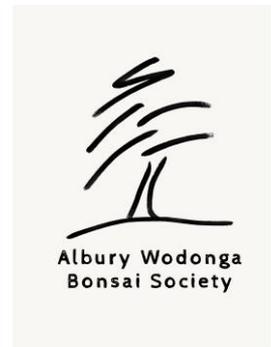


# Albury Wodonga Bonsai Newsletter

June 2018



## Contacts:

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

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

Secretary/ treasurer: 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 2018. You can pay Theo at the meeting or make alternative arrangements with him.

## Next Meeting:

Tuesday, June 26, 2018 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:

**Deciduous Conifers:** Theo to lead an evening of edification (*Theo's note: better check what this means*) on Swamp cypress and other deciduous conifers.

## Last Month:

We held our first ever buy, swap sell evening and a few plants changed hands. As usual we also had time to look at a few trees brought in by members who were able to go home with a few more ideas on how to get the best out of these trees.

Margrit still has plenty of trident maple seedlings in the garden she would be glad to get rid of. Club members are welcome to arrange a time to come out and gather as many as you need - free. You may even be able to talk her into bringing some into a meeting for you. These trident seedlings are great for starting forests, getting ready for root over rock plantings, grafting new roots or branches on existing trident bonsai or just growing on for future bonsai.

## Bonsai Events:

**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:

We've had word from our esteemed leader that he is still grappling with health issues and may not be able to make it to club meetings, at least for a while. Good luck Ian, hope you get past this.

Theo to approach Annalea as a guest speaker for September, October or November meetings. Please note that we are still looking for suggestions for topics or activities for the remaining 2 meetings this year.

We'd also appreciate any ideas or needs that we can use for club meetings in 2019. Seems like it should still be a long way off but forward planning means your club can better serve your needs. Email ideas to Neil or Theo or mention them at a meeting.

Note from your editor Theo.

Even though Neil has put a not so subtle reminder at the end of this email for member contributions for the newsletter, I thought I'd have a go here as well.

The contribution doesn't need to be a thesis, it could simply be a picture of a tree in nature that you have seen that inspires you in some way. It could be a picture of a recent purchase, be it pot, tree or tool. The more we share the more we learn, the more we learn the better our skills become.

So there is the challenge, is anyone brave enough to take it up??

## Proposed 2018 program:

January 23: Figs and natives.

February 27: General bonsai maintenance - what to do and when?

March 27: Group workshop- small groups work cooperatively on one or more trees - prune, shape, etc (is anyone brave enough to offer one or more trees for this activity?)

April 24: Accent plants

May 22: Swap meet - buy, sell, swap or give away anything plant or bonsai related

June 26: Deciduous Conifers (Swamp cypress, Ginkgo, Dawn Redwood, Larch)

July 24: Groups - forest style bonsai

August 28: Club workshop - bring a tree to work on, get advice or show others.

September 25:

October 23:

November 27:

December: No meeting due to proximity to Christmas

January 2018: Figs (and other natives)

You can see we still need something for Sept, Oct and Nov. What would you like to see and hear? What could you offer?

## Seasonal Notes from Shibui Bonsai

Have you noticed that it has been raining? After such an abnormally long, warm and dry autumn the soaking rain is very welcome, even if it does get in the way of bonsai activities. At least now I can stop spending time watering.

Instead of watering I've been trimming the deciduous trees. It is much easier to see where all those shoots come from and go to after the leaves have dropped. I like to think I do a good job of pinching and pruning through summer but after the leaves have gone and the structure is visible I still find some shoots growing from lower branches right up through the canopy. Those are usually first to go in my winter trimming campaign. I then remove any new growth with long internodes. It is tempting to retain some of these when you are trying to extend the length of branches or when starting new branches but remember that new buds will not grow from the area between nodes so best to cut shoots with long internodes off completely and start again. In many cases I find there is often one long, strong shoot but nearby another shorter one has struggled because of the dominance of the first that can be used.

Mid winter also sees me start digging the field grown trees. Many of the trident maples have reached 2m tall over summer and doubled in thickness near the ground. I now try to dig and prune all my ground grown maples every year. Not only is it easier to cut through the roots but I also maintain better control of both roots and trunks by selectively pruning regularly.

There's a bit more about this on [Shibui Bonsai blog](#). Digging these trees also reminded me to post again about my methods for helping the trees to produce better lateral roots for improved nebari so here's a link to an updated recent post - [Those roots | Shibui Bonsai](#). If any members would like to find out about ground growing and/or early pruning of trees for bonsai you are always welcome to contact Neil and arrange a time to come out and learn on the job. Grab some of Margrit's free seedlings while you are here.

Winter is also time for a good end of season cleanup in your bonsai area. Fallen leaves, spilled potting mix and other detritus are ideal places for pests and diseases to hide safely until spring. A good cleanup will help reduce problems next summer.

In Japan it is traditional to apply a winter spray to all deciduous trees to kill any lurking pests and diseases. Lime sulphur is used extensively for this winter spray and can be sprayed on bare trees, benches and other surfaces but make sure you dilute this according to the maker's instructions when using it this way. Using a strong mix like we use for treating dead wood can have severe consequences for live bonsai. I believe that the NBPCA in Canberra use a different preventative winter spray on the bonsai but I will have to check what it contains.

Winter is also the time to assemble any potting requirements for the re-potting season in just a few months. That's relatively easy if you use a commercial potting mix but some growers prefer to make their own special blend and will need all the ingredients. You may also need a few pots and some mesh to stop the mix running out the drainage holes. Far better to have plenty of all this on hand than get caught halfway through repotting your favourite tree.

Although we have discovered that we can dig and transplant wild grown trees at other times of the year winter still remains a favoured time of year to collect 'yamadori' (literally translated from Japanese as 'mountain trees' but now extended to include almost all wild grown trees collected and used as bonsai). Hawthorn, plum, pyracantha and privet are just a few of the species that have become environmental weeds in our area and can be found growing on roadsides, vacant land and in the bush. Many are too big and straight to make good bonsai without lots of time and effort but occasionally you can find some really great specimens, even occasionally with dramatic bends or dead wood. Also keep an eye out for unwanted garden specimens that could be converted into good bonsai.

This space

still waiting

for your contributions to your club newsletter!

A bit smaller this month but don't worry if your article or photos would take up more space. I'm happy to add an extra page to accommodate all the great bonsai info you've been meaning to send in.....

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 2018 were due in March.**

**Please pay Theo at a club meeting. Phone or email him to arrange other payment options if you cannot get to a meeting.**

**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**