

Albury Wodonga Bonsai newsletter- May 2015

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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

FEES ARE NOW DUE

PLEASE PROVIDE THE DETAILS ON THE RENEWAL FORM TO NEIL ASAP.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 26, 2015 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.

Topics: Bonsai Pots also Club project trees.

Should be plenty to talk about with a nice broad topic. Things like:

What is a bonsai pot? How can I pick a good bonsai pot from a cheap and nasty one and is there a difference? What size pot do I need? What colour and shape? Where can I find bonsai pots? And much, much more.

Please bring along examples of pots you like (and maybe do not like?). Also come armed with any guidelines you have heard about how to choose a pot for a bonsai to share with the rest of us. We'd really like to hear from everybody at this meeting.

The club project has been running for a few years now. Members chose one or more trees to develop and bring in regularly so we could all see how they progress over the years. Newer members can join in at any time by designating any tree as their project and keeping records of what they do and when. If you are just joining in, this meeting will be a great opportunity to bring your chosen tree and introduce us to it.

Last Month:

Mitch did not make it down last month but Les introduced us to some of the range of bonsai videos that are available online. There is a host of informative and, sometimes, entertaining filmclips about bonsai if you look in the right places.

Les also burnt some selected videos onto DVD for members to borrow. See Margrit to book a place in the waiting list.

Business:

Helen has talked to the Albury Show Society secretary. They are keen to get a display of bonsai at the Albury Show. Members were keen to use this avenue for our display this year. We need to follow up with the show society to work out whether we can do a single day display or leave bonsai overnight for a 2 day show. Also how much space and what facilities eg tables, etc would be available.

I have talked to Joe Morgan-Payler about a workshop for our club. He is in demand at the moment but could manage either 20 and 21 June or 22 and 23 August. Costs will be \$150 + travel costs for a ½ day workshop or \$250 + travel for a full day. Workshops are limited to around 8 participants but others can observe. We'll need to decide whether to go ahead with this and select a date. Also need to set a fee. Most workshop fees are around \$20. Sometimes there is a \$5 fee for observers, other clubs allow observers for free. We will also need to try to work out whether to book a half day or go for a full day with 2 separate workshops. **It would really help if members, especially absent members could put in a non binding expression of interest. Let me know if you think you would take part in a workshop.**

Les and Mitch have been beavering away on the new club website. It now needs some 'content' and Les has asked for members to send in images of favourite trees and projects that can be uploaded onto the site. We would love every member to select a few of their photos that show the sort of trees we are all growing in this area. More at the meeting.

Bonsai Events:

28th Australian National Bonsai Convention

Friday 15 - Monday 18 May 2015,

Hotel Grand Chancellor Adelaide on Hindley, South Australia

Albury Wodonga events for the coming year:

I'm pretty sure most of those present at the last meeting agreed that the draft program be adopted. You will notice **WHO?**s after a few of the topics (May - pots; Aug - Soils; Sept - wisteria; Oct - Azaleas). We need members to step up and take responsibility for these nights. You may like to **RESEARCH** and present your findings or maybe just **MODERATE** the discussion that night. Let Neil know if you are brave enough to stand up and contribute.

May: Bonsai pots - how to choose the right one for your tree and where to get them - *Who??*
Also Club project trees and start new project trees for new members. - *Everyone*

June: Saikei - Miniature landscapes. Demo and workshop - *Neil????*

July: Workshop - with Joe Morgan-Payler???? - *Neil to organise*. Note that this has not been finalised yet. Swap another meeting topic if another month suits Joe.

August: Soils aint soils - *Who??*

September: Wisterias - Wisteria species and culture as bonsai - *Who??*

October: Azaleas as bonsai - *Who??*

Albury Show bonsai display????????

Early November: possible olive dig? - *Neil to organise*

November: End of year social. BYO food and drinks.

Several other suggestions are on the list - hold for next year or substitute for any of the above???:

Flowering Cherries as bonsai'

Draw and photograph bonsai,

Visit to Ian's place: This could be additional to meeting nights if we can arrange a suitable day/time.

Seasonal Notes:

Autumn has finally arrived. We have had cold, rain and wind and the deciduous trees have now lost most of their leaves.

Here are a couple of my bonsai in their autumn splendor.



With the cooler weather and the rain we have enjoyed I have been able to turn off the watering system at last. Dormant trees do not use water so just an occasional sprinkle if we get an extended dry period will keep the potting mix slightly damp. Natives and other evergreens still use water over the winter so keep an eye on the pots. They may need water a little more often.

As the maples lose their leaves I have been starting my winter trimming. I'm always amazed at the tangle of twigs and branches that show up when the leaves all drop. On well established trees I cut almost all new growth right back to the base, especially if it consists of long internodes. The branches look so much better when they have been developed from shorter sections. I usually find that the apex also needs to be cut back to replace thicker tips with smaller shoots. Another vital part of winter pruning for established trees is to thin out growth. During the development phase we encourage the tree to grow lots of new shoots and twigs but eventually, as branches thicken and more shoots grow, the structure gets too crowded. It is then time to start removing pieces. Sometimes I cut off whole branches to leave some space. In other cases parts of branches need to be removed to allow room for the remaining twigs to hold leaves and collect sunlight.

My Bonsai Notes:

Margrit twisted Les' arm and he has put this together for us. Thanks Les.

MY Projects

Bonsai

The creation of bonsai

For me the creation and growing of bonsai trees are what make the hobby enjoyable.

To create new and wonderful trees from seed and starter plants is what bonsai is to me.

Some want to buy new wonderful trees to show or to just maintain. But that's not for me.

The bonsai I grow create a feeling of accomplishment and worth for me.

The feeling that I created a little bit of art / garden care.



Fig Tree Recovering after been hit by builder



Projects and Rebuilds

Many of my trees are seed grown, some are starter stock and a few are rescues. The Pine to the left is a Rescue that I have been working on with the help of Neil and Ian. I have been working on reducing the branch lengths with two methods. The First by bending and moving branches so that they are no longer just straight and the second is by cutting to create back budding. While it does not look like too much right now I have reduced the branch lengths by around 50%.



Project Grow

Fusion Maples

Fusion maples are one of the most fun projects I have going right now. It is created by getting many whips (seedlings) of a tree. In this case trident maples and twisting and intertwine the whips so that when the tree grows the whips fuse and create one tree from many whips.

The point of doing this is to get a very interesting trunk. Shapes and bends you would not normally find in a tree of this age and size. The Example to the left is about four years of age and is starting to show a lot of interesting shape.

This type of tree is not everyones cup of tea but it creates a talking point and a chance to bend a lot of bonsai rules.

Who is going to give us something next month?

Doesn't have to be as fancy as this one. 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.

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.

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 not have to be an overseas trip!)

Thanks Ian for your contribution this month.

Does anyone have anything for next month's

newsletter?

Fees for 2015 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