

Albury Wodonga Bonsai newsletter- August, September 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, August 25, 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.

I'm not likely to have time to produce a September newsletter so you will have to make do with this newsletter as your September meeting (September 22) notice.

Topic for next meeting: Soils

All you ever wanted to know about potting mix and what it consists of. What makes a good potting mix? What to look out for and where to find it.

Please bring in samples of your favorite bonsai potting mix and any components if you mix your own. Bring along anything potting mix related to show and tell.

Topic for September meeting: Wisterias

Wisterias make fabulous flowering bonsai and Annalea has offered to make the trip up from Benalla to give us all the info.

It will be just a little early for flowers but if anyone has bonsai wisterias we'd love to see them at the September meeting.

Last Month:

Members worked on trees with and without advice and assistance from other members.

Field Dig:

Ian is still waiting to confirm details of the Irish Strawberry tree dig at Myrtleford. If you are interested in attending, please register your interest with him direct on **0432 530 934 ASAP**.

Bonsai Events:

September 3-8: Bonsai Northwest presents the exclusive Australian tour of Bjorn Bjorholm.

October 10-11: Bonsai Society of Victoria annual show. Box Hill Town hall, Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill

October 10-11: Canberra Bonsai Society annual show.

October 31: Albury Wodonga bonsai club display at Albury show.

November 7-8: Bonsai North West annual show.

Albury Wodonga events for the coming year:

You will notice **WHO?**s after a few of the topics (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 would like to facilitate the evening.

August: Soils aint soils - **Who??**

September: Wisterias - Wisteria species and culture as bonsai - **Annalea! (thanks)**

October: Azaleas as bonsai - **Who??**

Saturday, October 31. Bonsai Display at the Albury Show.

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

Several other suggestions are on the list - we can either 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:

Looking at the photos of frost in the last newsletter reminds me that, even though we are still having cool weather, it is not quite so cold now. I am seeing more and more signs that spring is approaching -I'm starting to find seedlings germinating in the garden and in pots in the nursery. I have also noticed tiny green buds on some of the Chinese elms.

That sort of growing activity means that our trees are getting active again so it is time to consider fertilizing again. Lots of rain over winter means that the pots will have been leached of available nutrients and your growing trees will need food to stay healthy so mix up some fertilizer and give them a dose soon.

Last week I discovered that trident maple seedlings in poly boxes were coming into leaf which prompted a flurry of repotting and planting over the weekend.

What do you do with lots of trident maple seedlings? Here's what I did:

I selected some with longer roots and arranged them to produce the next crop of root over rock bonsai.



Roots draped over the selected rock then wrap in aluminium foil to keep the roots in close contact with the rock while they grow.



You will note from the date stamp on the photo that these are older photos from my files but the technique I used this time is exactly the same.

I picked out others with similar trunk shapes and planted some trident groups to grow into future forests.



Some thinner ones were threaded through holes drilled in aluminium sheet metal. As they grow the holes will constrict the trunk and force them to grow new roots over the top of the plate. That should form fabulous horizontal nebari.

When several seedlings are grown through the plate the trunks will join as they thicken to form a multi trunk tree. These can also be used to grow a single trunk tree with exaggerated nebari base by cutting off the excess trunks after they have united at ground level.



The ones that already had reasonable lateral roots were pruned and potted up or planted out in the grow beds as new starter bonsai.



Before (above) and after (right) root pruning. Cutting lateral roots promotes better root ramification and future nebari.



My Bonsai Notes:

No contributions from members this month!!!

Who is going to give us something 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 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