

Albury Wodonga Bonsai newsletter- July 2015

Contacts: President: Ian Bransden, Ph: 0357 522 678. Email:

ian.bransden@southernphone.com.au

Treasurer (and newsletter editor), Neil; Secretary, Margrit both on 0260 271 557, email

mbeemster@csu.edu.au or neil@shibuibonsai.com.au

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, July 28, 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.

Topic for next meeting: ???

I have just discovered that we have no topic listed for this month. We had originally scheduled the workshops for July but ended up doing that last month as well as a meeting.

I think we can still manage to profitably fill in a night though. I'll try to remember to put in the drop sheet so anyone who would like to work on trees can bring them in. July is suitable for repotting, pruning, wiring, etc so we can have a club workshop night. Bring a tree to work on or ask about.

Last Month:

Saikei: Ian and Neil both showed how to use young, undeveloped plants to create a miniature landscape. Saikei typically use rocks and a group of trees to create something that is far more than any of the trees as individuals. If all goes well, after a few years, the trees will have improved to where they might be able to be potted up as individual bonsai in their own right.

The highlight last month was our bonsai workshop. Many of our members brought in trees to take advantage of the skills and experience of our visiting expert Joe Morgan-Payler. As usual, I

went home with far better trees than I started with. Even those who just came along to observe picked up tips and tricks on how to improve their bonsai by simply watching the process and listening to Joe talk about what he was doing.

Business:

Thank you Annalea for offering to share your experience of Wisteria with us at our September meeting.

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.

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 (: 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 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:

Some cold and wet days this month reminds us it is winter. Although those conditions are not much fun for us I think that it does help reduce pest numbers so I'm happy to see a few nice

frosty mornings



A lovely July morning at Shibui Bonsai...

(Brrrrr!)

This month I've been busy pruning.....



Japanese maple starter before (below) and..
.....after (above)

Top of an established trident maple after

winter pruning



.....digging trees out of the grow beds



above- digging the trident beds....

.....yields great prebonsai trunks (right)



(left) - Field grown trident maples
pruned and heeled in to await
potting.

.....repotting both developing trees



.....and potted bonsai.



**Repotting a
trident maple
group planting-**
: before (top
right)
: during (middle)
: and after (left)

Wagga Wagga bonsai club members visited Shibui Bonsai late last month. They tell me that very few Wagga members grow trident maples which I find surprising as they are so hardy and easy to grow as bonsai. They enjoyed a look at how I grow trees in the ground to speed development and were treated to a demonstration of how to prune the roots of these trees. We also looked at winter pruning of trident bonsai. Most of the visitors also found something on the sales tables to take home and develop as bonsai.

Keep feeding evergreen trees through winter. I have noted that pines that were fed every fortnight through winter budded better after summer candle pruning. Aussie natives grow all through winter and need some fertilizer to stay healthy. I do not usually repot native plants in winter. They seem to respond far better when root pruned in late spring and summer.

If you have not already done so, clean up any fallen leaves near your bonsai benches. Pests and diseases overwinter in damp, dark places.

Diluted lime sulphur is a traditional winter spray to deter pests and fungal diseases. Other growers now use more modern fungicides and pesticides to kill off overwintering problems so they are less likely to affect the bonsai next spring and summer.



Some members asked about purchasing bonsai wire at our last meeting... Earlier this week I happened to see 'Gumboots' Kimball putting bonsai wire on the shelves at Bunnings Wodonga. If you need small quantities of wire it might be worth a look.

Irish Strawberry Dig

We had a bit of interest when Ian mentioned a possible opportunity to collect feral Irish Strawberry trees (*Arbutus unedo*) to grow as bonsai. He has been in touch with DEWLP and is proposing Sunday August 23 as the day. There is a bit of paperwork for Ian to do before we are allowed to go on the site so we need to know who is interested.

- Note the site is on a very steep hill so will probably only suit fit, able bodies.

Please email or phone 0260271557 or see Neil at the meeting to register your interest in this dig.

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