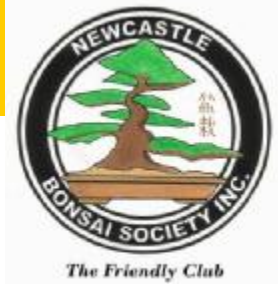


NEWCASTLE BONSAI SOCIETY

Newsletter

September
2011



- **The next meeting and workshop** will be on Saturday September 10th 2011 at the Warners Bay Guide Hall. Committee meeting is at 9.30am All members are welcome to attend the committee meeting but cannot vote.
- **Raffle winners** August meeting— Liz W, Maurice, Sam
- **Membership Fees.** Fees are due on 1st July. The committee has decided that the annual fee will stay at \$52 single and \$57 for a family. The treasurer will happily accept payments from this meeting onward
- **Foam Boxes,** Bob N has a overload of foam boxes suitable for growing on, if you would like some he is happy to bring them to the next meeting, just email him on bonsai.bob@bigpond.com
- **BONSAI EXHIBITION AT NELSON BAY.** Some of our members will be staging a Bonsai Exhibition and Sale at the Nelson Bay Community Art & Craft Centre, Shoal Bay Road from Friday 30 September to Sunday 9 of October. 10am - 4pm. Admission FREE!
- **Specialized Gravel** at Black Hill is now closed and all plant and equipment has been sold to
 Anna Bay Sand & Earth Moving (Specialized Landscape Supplies)
 41 Gan Gan Rd Anna Bay 2316 Phone 49821177
 Operating Hours: Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm
 Saturday 8am to 12 mid-day
 Sunday closed
 They will be holding all the same lines as Specialized Gravel,

NEWCASTLE BONSAI SOCIETY

Newcastle Bonsai Society meets on the second Saturday of every month at the Warners Bay Guide Hall Cnr Burton Rd and Lamington Drive, Mt. Hutton. A bonsai workshop commences at 10.30 a.m. which usually includes a demonstration. There will be a committee meeting commencing at 9.30am and all members are welcome to attend.

www.newcastlebonsai.org.au

P.O. Box 521 KOTARA N.S.W. 2289

PRESIDENT: David Wood (49 664 312)

SECRETARY: Geoff Farris (49 529 376)

TREASURER:

EDITOR: Baden Willmott (0423 626 290)

Fault Correction & Restyling

Many years ago, friends from Darwin spent a year in Canberra studying and working. During that time they bought a small Bonsai and tended it lovingly. As their time in the Nation's Capital neared an end, they thought that it may not survive back in the tropics and that a home in Newcastle would be a "humane" outcome for their little friend.



When I received it, it was leaning to the left at a rakish angle, held up by a wooden clothes peg. It stayed like that for quite time until a quick repot and the slightest of tip plucking was performed. Upon repositioning it on the bench, the usual watering and feeding was all the attention it received. Over the last few months I began to see some major styling faults that I had been subconsciously disregarding, "not seeing the faults for the tree" to vary a well known proverb. There in front of my eyes was a clear and evident example of bar branching. Closer examination revealed a second bar branching, wire that had been on for a year or so too long and dead and dried bark that could prove to be a home for nasty insects. The nebari was totally overgrown by moss of sorts and some sort of bulb plant had taken up residence in the soil mix. Ok, time to act.

The first thing to do was to weed the surface; this could be regarded as an optional step if repotting is on the agenda.

After all, repotting will get rid of the surface excess when the roots are raked out. Still, it helps me gather my thoughts and work out a real plan of attack. Next, all wire was carefully removed and the dead bark removed through an application of a slightly used traditionally bristled toothbrush, not the thick and varied multidirectional bristled new things that are being now available. These two processes help identify the extent of the major work required. With an eye to branch positioning that is a good guideline to follow (left, right, back or variations on the theme) the offending side of the bar branches are removed and



the cut sealed

by an appropriate sealant. The next step I carry out is the go through the tree, branch by branch, from the lowest branch working upwards, is to trim back the foliage and try to ensure alternating growth on each branch. This is important to ensure pleasing ramification for each branch. It is important to regularly stop and step back to view how the overall shape of the tree is progressing. Good tree design has gone out the window by persisting with the tidying process and paying no attention to the final shape being aimed at. During this tidying up process, the branches are wired and moved to the best position to give the tree the best overall shape possible. Time can disappear during this type of work, especially there are some mp3 downloads are on the ear plugs or an audio book is on the CD player.

It is ironical that while working on this tree it was noted that there was a significant “null space” at the rear of the tree in the top quarter, just near where there was bar branching of a sort. Whilst not being directly opposite each other, there was a needed side branch with another one adjacent but to the rear and not in direct eye line from the front of the tree. Wire that rear branch and bend it out into the offending vacancy. Problem of the “null space” solved! An example how the styling guidelines can be “massaged” solving a problem in the real world. Have you ever noticed that when shaping a tree for the first time, the branches are never where they “should be” like they appear to be in the many instructional books.

After a serious bit of careful “root combing” with a trusty chop stick, the soil mix being quite wet due to the recent rain, the roots were trimmed. As this tree had been grown from a cutting, the bottom of the trunk was cut back as well to better match where the best roots were radiating and make for better repotting and a lower sided pot in the future. Whilst the nebari was not showing classical strength, it will have to do. After potting, the tree received a liberal soaking of a Root Hormone solution to



lessen the shock of all the work on the roots. After putting it back in its place on the bench, a fairly protected locale at this time of year, to recover and start budding up as the weather warms up as spring sets in.



It should be noticed that the second branch on the left is a bit long but... the pot was not facing perfectly frontwards. The branch will receive any

adjustment required at a later date, hopefully not as long as previously experienced. The healthy red bark of this tree is a delight. I do not know exactly what type of tree it is but strongly suspect it could be a Shimpaku Juniper, definitely not a procumbens.

Fingers crossed for the future.

ホフニエス
Bob NIEASS



JOBS for SEPTEMBER.

Bring your trees along to the next meeting to fine-tune them to get them ready for the exhibition. Spring is just around the corner –actually, it seems to have arrived already. You should be most of the way through your “to do” list.

Azaleas can be sprayed with Confidor – both on top **and underneath** the leaves to get rid of lace-bugs. Repeat twice before Christmas and you’ll have healthy foliage to go with your beautiful blossoms. Remove spent flowers and trim back the branches to initiate new growth closer to the trunk.

You can safely start fertilizing your trees now. Whatever fertilizer you use, follow the instructions carefully and remember less is better if you aren’t sure. If your deciduous trees have come into leaf, don’t re-pot them – it’s too late. Wait until next winter.

Remember when re-potting, after-care is just as important. Place in a semi-shaded spot and keep moist, not wet – especially natives. After re-potting, they need lots and lots of water and then, maybe a little more water. Misting the foliage is advisable as the roots will have a little difficulty in taking up water after being disturbed. A dose or two of Seasol will help your trees get over the transplant shock. Be careful of using Seasol on natives – some of them don’t like it.

Maintenance pruning should be done now on trees not re-potted. Check on wiring done earlier in the year to make sure it’s not cutting in. Move some of your trees around to see if a different position suits them more. It’s a good idea to vary your fertilizers. Just as we appreciate a change in our diets, our trees, too, appreciate a change in their diets.

Along with the new growth, comes the nipping back of the new shoots. When four or more new leaves develop, cut back to two and continue doing this to improve ramification of the branches. Wisterias have finished flowering, (although some, like mine haven’t started yet), so cut back the new growth to two plump buds on every branch or else you’ll end up with long canes and long internodes. Also, you can cut back the new growth on crape myrtles but stop in the beginning of December or you’ll be cutting off potential flowers. It’s too late to re-pot deciduous trees now but you can organize the sequence of re-potting privets, pyracanthas, bougs, figs etc. so you can have it done before the really hot weather arrives.

A pinch of chelated iron now to liquidambers, will help produce good autumn colour. I wonder if it will do the same for maples? I’ll certainly be trying this one.

DON’T FORGET YOUR TREES FOR OUR EXHIBITION! YOU ARE PART OF IT TOO

Annual General Meeting. Our AGM was held at the August monthly meeting and this included election of officers for the next two years, 2011-13. David Wood was elected President, Martin Rauch was elected Vice President and Geoff Farris Secretary. All were re-elected unopposed. Baden Willmott was elected Publicity Officer (ie newsletter editor), Liz Weiss the honorary tutor and Bev Wakeling the Club Librarian. Ordinary committee members elected were Bob Niess, who is also our Public Officer, Penny Davis, Ann Miller and Ann Keavy. David Wood was appointed delegate to AABC and BFA.

You may notice that the Club does not have a Treasurer or an Assistant Secretary/Treasurer. This is because nobody was prepared to stand for those positions. Ann Miller is very kindly doing the Treasurer's job temporarily. Ann has been doing the job for about two years and now it is someone else's turn. Ann still works full time and many of us are retired. The position of Assistant Secretary/Treasurer has also not been filled.

Newcastle Bonsai Society cannot function without a Treasurer. Ann is filling in temporarily but we need someone to take this job on. Please do not wait to be asked. If we have not asked you to do it, it does not mean we don't want you. Please speak to David or Geoff at the next meeting if you are able and willing to fill the role of Treasurer. If you are not sure if you can do it then there is plenty of help and guidance available to get you started.



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BONSAI NURSERY

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*** New Carving Tool Attachments Just In ***
(As seen by past European Demonstrators)

From : Bonsai Design Holland, www.samurai.nl

Samurai 6mm shaft - \$259 (Very powerful & efficient in bulk clearing of wood)

Samurai jr 6mm shaft - \$173 (Ideal for detailed work in difficult places)

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Shogun long 6mm shaft - \$188 (As per Shogun short)

(For pictures and additional information see above website)

For purchase enquiries phone number as above or email: raynescibonsai@bigpond.com

Tree's from the BSS Show 20th August at Terry Hills



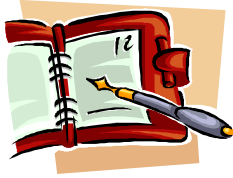
Above, Himalayan Cedar
Left, Shimpaku Juniper
Below, Juniper





Above, *Cedrus albertiana*
Left, *Pyracantha*
Below, one of the show tables





DIARY DATES

September 10-11	Wauchope Bonsai Society Annual Show, Panthers
September 9-11	Bonsai Society of Australia Annual Show, Hills Council Centre Castle Hill
September 16-18	12 th annual workshop weekend at The Tops conference centre, Stanwell Tops, hosted by Illawarra Bonsai Society
October 2-3	All Clubs Show, Merrylands RSL
October 15-16	Canberra Bonsai Society annual show
October 22-23	Ray Nesci Annual Show, Dural
Sept 30– Oct 9	Nelson Bay Bonsai Display, details on page 1
November 4-6	Newcastle Bonsai Society annual show at Charlestown Bowling Club
November 18-21	11 th Asia Pacific Bonsai & Suiseki Convention & Exhibition, Takamatsu, Japan
November 26th	Campbelltown Bonsai Society annual show

DISCLAIMER

The opinions and information expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributing author and not necessarily those of the Newcastle Bonsai Society.