



Bimer Bonsai Club Inc.

Founded February 1983, Inc. 1991

May 2018 Newsletter

Next Meeting: 2nd June 2018
Church hall, Jaguar St, West Chermide
Meetings held 1st Saturday of each month, except January
Trade table / library open approx. 1pm
Meeting commences 1:30pm
www.bimerbonsai.org.au

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Library

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Membership Fees

Single \$20

Family \$25

Hello All,

It was another well attended general workshop last meeting, which is good to see. If members wish to have more formal guidance whilst working on your trees, we are arranging a workshop in October with Tony Bebb. I encourage newer members to consider participating. See later in the newsletter for more details.

This coming meeting there will be another general workshop at 10:00 am for those interested and then we have Glen Smith at the main meeting. Glen is a long-time member of the BSQ club and is the current president. He will be working on a large willow leaved fig owned by the club, which is shown on the right.

July sees our AGM occur again and the election of the club's office bearers. We are looking for people interested in joining the committee to help with the running of the club. Please consider nominating and, if you are interested, please come and talk to a current committee member about what it entails.

The weather sure has cooled down recently. You will need to keep an eye on your watering during these times as plants may not dry out as quick. There is still plenty of warmth in the day, so ensure that your trees don't dry out too much either.

I hope to see you all at the next meeting.

AG



Click here to like us on Facebook – Website: [Bimer Bonsai Club](http://www.bimerbonsai.org.au)

BIMER BUS TRIP

This year's bus trip is to Toowoomba for the Toowoomba Bonsai show on Saturday 22nd September. Details of the itinerary and price to come. Please see Jim to secure your seat.

BIMER ANNUAL SHOW EXHIBITORS

We had a great improvement in the number of members showing this year – the 83 trees were shown by a total of 32 members. Great to see more members displaying their trees !

CALENDAR TREE MAY

This fig was dug from a member's garden in 1995. In 1997 it was styled and potted in this oval pot. Since then it has undergone a few changes, changed direction and potting angle. Changed the pot to a stronger rectangle. The height was lowered slightly. Later this year I am thinking of a stronger re-style that will still suit this pot.



OCTOBER WORKSHOP WITH TONY BEBB

This is a great opportunity for our members to work with a very well-known national and international demonstrator. Should you wish to participate in the workshop please see Jim at the hall entrance to register your interest. Please note that prior payment is required to secure your position for the workshop on October 6th.

There will be 6 positions available in the morning workshop at a cost of \$30 for participants and \$5 for observers.

DISPLAY TABLE



Please remember to bring along a tree, a **conifer** or any tree for display this month. You may need some feedback or assistance with developing it into a bonsai. Any tree is welcome. Members are encouraged to share their accumulated knowledge with the newer members. There's also the chance to win an additional lucky door prize for any member who brings in a tree for display.

MAY MEETING – ALL DAY WORKSHOP



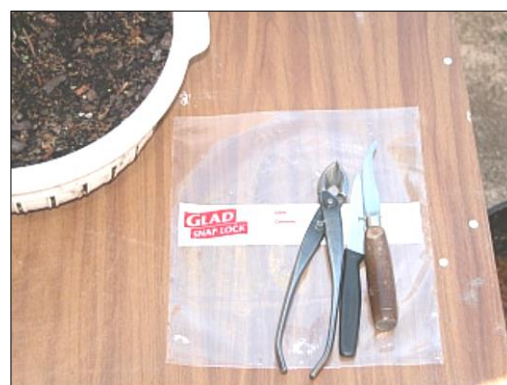
Air Layering Chinese Elms by Ray Mackaway

I have been growing some Chinese Elms for many years and have decided to work on them to make them suitable for bonsai. A number of them are suitable material to start shaping, but a number of them need reducing in height. Because of the age of these trees I didn't want to lose the material, so I decided to air layer them. This is also a good way to get some more trees. (Hmmm!! Do I really need more trees?) I layered the trees on 15 August 2010. I mention this to show how quickly they have grown. I will show some photos at the end of the article.

This tree has fabulous bark, but after the two bottom trunks the main trunk is a straight pole. I want to shorten the main trunk and the two smaller trunks.



The picture shows the tools I use for air layering. For the Elms I used the black handle knife. The knife must be very sharp.



You will notice the cut is fairly deep. You have to cut through to the hard wood.

I made two cuts around the branch making sure the edge of the cut is nice and clean. No jagged edges. The distance between the cuts should be about 1.5 times the diameter. I then made a slit from cut to cut and peeled off the bark.

Make sure your top cut is where you want the roots for the new tree. Don't worry about the parent tree as you can cut it back to wherever you like after removing the new trees.



The next step is to paint the hormone around the top cut. This is where you want the new roots to grow. Don't put hormone on the bottom cut.

NOTE: The hormone I use is made up of two hormones. Clonex Purple and Richgro Root Strike Hard Wood. I mix the Clonex and Richgro to form a paste. If you can get Clonex Red you can use it on its own.

Soak some Sphagnum Moss in Seasol. Get a handful of Sphagnum and squeeze out some of the Seasol but don't squeeze it all out. You need the Sphagnum to be fairly wet.

Now wrap some plastic around the Sphagnum and tie off top and bottom. Make sure you have the plastic covering the Sphagnum and that the moisture will be prevented from draining out.

NOTE: The plastic I use is Glad Snap Lock bags. These bags are made of Polyethylene. This is the best plastic to use for Air Layering.



After you have layered cut the foliage back by a third to half. I now place the trees in a shaded area for two weeks. This will give some recovery time before placing them out in full sun.

This is what the tree looks like after 31 days. It has also had another hair cut in this time.



This photo shows how the roots have grown in 31 days.

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Editor's Note: This propagation technique is suitable for many species of trees, not just Chinese Elm as shown.



TRADE TABLE

A big thank you to all those members who brought along items to sell on our Show weekend. Without your support the 2018 Show would not have been the financial success that it was. See you all again next year.

NOTICE BOARD

Bimer Bonsai Club Activities	
June 2nd	Informal workshop 10am / Glen Smith 1:30pm
July 7th	All day general workshop starts at 10am / AGM
August 4th	Repotting and soil mix demo
September 1st	The 4 Junipers
September 22nd	Bimer bus trip - Toowoomba
October 6 th	Tony Bebb - Workshop and Demo
November 3 rd	James Miller - Mame and Miniatures
December 1 st	Christmas Dutch Auction
Other Bonsai Related Activities	
9 th & 10 th June	Bonsai by the Harbour - Gladesville
16 th June 2018	Esk Garden and Lifestyle Fair
13-15 July	QLD Garden Expo NAMBOUR
20 th – 23 rd July 2018	AABC Convention Melbourne
19 th August	Japanese Cultural Day
25 th August	Ipswich Gardeners Expo
24 th – 26 th August	Illawarra Tops Weekend Stanwell Tops Convention Centre
Local Bonsai Shows	
15 - 16 September	BSQ Annual Show
21 – 23 September	Toowoomba Show
27-28 October	Sunshine Coast Show
4 th November 2018	Redlands Show
10 th November	Gold Coast Tweed Show