



# Bimer Bonsai Club Inc.

Founded February 1983, Inc. 1991

August 2018 Newsletter

**Next Meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018**  
**Church hall, Jaguar St, West Chermside**  
**Meetings held 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month, except January**  
**Trade table / library open approx. 1pm**  
**Meeting commences 1:30pm**  
[www.bimerbonsai.org.au](http://www.bimerbonsai.org.au)

#### President

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#### Committee

Trade Table – David C.  
Publicity – Bruce  
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#### Correspondence

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#### Newsletter

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#### Library

Jayne

#### Membership Fees

Single \$20  
Family \$25

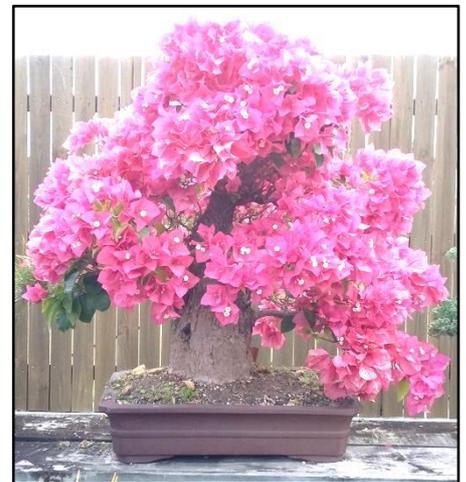
Hello All,

Last month was a good educational session with four committee members, including myself, giving four different points of view on repotting and soil mixes. Species repotted were Juniper, Liquidambar, Fig, Swamp Cypress, Buxus Harlandii and a Dwarf Casuarina. I hope those attended found it useful. We hope to have some notes on the session in the next newsletter.

Next month we will have four club junipers styled by four club members guided by four experienced members. It may get a little crowded up front, but should be another interesting session.

The next meeting will be at the usual church hall in West Chermside; however, we will be trialling a new venue for the October Meeting. The committee have visited several venues and have selected the Wavell Heights Community Hall. Please see the newsletter for further details. It is quite a large hall with plenty of parking and storage space for our club gear. Please come along and provide your feedback to the committee on the venue.

Now is a good time to repot your trees, so hopefully you have been getting into the swing of it. I have been slowly getting through the repotting and hopefully can get through the majority of them before my leave ends. Due to the trees and equipment I brought for the repotting demo last month, I didn't have room to bring to the meeting the large bougie pictured. This is a variety I collected some years ago and at this time of year it loses most of its leaves and puts on an impressive display of flowers (or bracts if you want to get technical). I thought it was worth showing. If you ever have a tree in flower or looking its best, please bring it in to show at the meeting.



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

### **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. Online payment is available (see last page for account details).

There will be 6 participant positions available in the morning workshop at a cost of \$30 and observers are welcome at a cost of \$5. The workshop will begin at 9:30am at the Wavell Heights Community Hall and will last for 3 hours.

### **NEW VENUE FOR OCTOBER**

Due to the issues raised at the AGM with our current venue we will be trialling a new venue for the October meeting and workshop. This is the Wavell Heights Community Hall located on Edinburgh Castle Road Wavell Heights. The safer entry is from Cressey Street (off Edinburgh Castle Road) which is not on the crest of the hill. This trial in October will give all our members an opportunity to assess its suitability and provide feedback to your Committee.



### **BIMER BUS TRIP**

This year's bus trip is to Toowoomba for the Toowoomba Bonsai show on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Please see the treasurer to pay and secure your seat. You may also pay online for your seats - again just make sure you include your surname as a reference or you will have made a donation (see last page for account details). Cost is only \$10 which includes entry to the Toowoomba bonsai show. Leave from the hall Jaguar Street, Chermiside West at 8am sharp. Pick up at Jindalee Hotel, Sinnamon Road, Jindalee 8.30am. Travel to Toowoomba. Bonsai Show at Rose Garden, Newtown Park, Cnr Holberton Street & Pottinger Street, Newtown. Leave at 11.15am Travel to Harmony Tea Garden, 10483 New England Hwy, Highfields. Check out the junipers and have BYO lunch break here. Leave at 12.45, travel to Coroneos Nursery, Cnr Anzac & Herries Street. Leave at 1.45, travel to Queens Park, Margaret Street. Leave at 2.50 for return to Brisbane with drop off at Jindalee. Arrive back at hall Jaguar Street by 5pm.

### **CALENDAR TREE AUGUST**

The Bougie was dug up from a golf course around 2006 that closed down. I had admired the trees when I had played golf there and jumped at the chance to collect it when I heard the course had closed down and would be bulldozed to turn it into housing.

The first picture is the tree in 2007 from the back showing where a trunk had been cut off and then carved. Picture 2 shows the front. The third photo is from 2011 in its first bonsai pot.



## AUGUST MEETING – REPOTTING DEMO



## DISPLAY TABLE

Please remember to bring along a tree, an ELM 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.

## NOVEMBER MEETING – JAMES MILLAR

James Millar a Bonsai Artist originally from South Africa but now resident of the Sunshine Coast. James will share his knowledge of Mame and Miniature Bonsai. James has had his work selected for the AABC National Bonsai Convention and his trees on show at the National Arboretum in Canberra. A true master of the art.

# Working with Eucalyptus nicholii as bonsai

## An article by Peter H

A popular and most attractive ornamental eucalypt from the New England area of NSW that is grown extensively throughout Australia and overseas. The small thin grey-green foliage and the pendulous branches make for a most handsome tree growing to around 20m high in good conditions. Nicholii is suited to most soil types including poor soils, adapts to most climates and is frost tolerant down to around -7°C. White flowers are seen in Autumn and the bark is a fibrous grey-brown. It's one of the most popular and best known of Australia's Eucalypts and has been grown as a garden specimen for decades

[General description/information about Genus/species, including typical growth form and habits such as apical dominance]

1. What attracts you to working with Eucalyptus nicholii as a bonsai subject?

The challenge of creating a distinctively Australian Bonsai, using Eucalypt as the material. Over the past 12 Years I have found that the nicholii responds to most of the regular technics used in Bonsai although at different times of the year.

2. What do you look for when selecting stock to work on?

Much the same as normal Bonsai... Healthy, some movement in the trunk. I have only found nicholii in 4" pots in nurseries, so what I buy is either put into larger pots or in the ground and grown on. The nicholii is a fast grower and can put on good size over a two year period. As with none natives it is important to shape the trunk when still young.

3. What is your general approach to styling Eucalyptus nicholii? What are you aiming for in working with Eucalyptus nicholii?

I am trying to achieve the look of an aged Eucalypt. I study trees in the bush and have noticed particular points that make a Eucalypt different. As a young tree a Eucalypt has straight branches and a round full canopy. As the tree ages it drops lower branches and has die back which creates the extreme movement in the main branches. Also the foliage separates into layers or clouds. This process highlights the trunk which becomes the main feature of the tree. When the tree ages its trunk becomes hollow which also adds character to the tree. As motioned before I have found that the nicholii respond well to Bonsai technics and has some of the basics of leaf size reduction and gnarly bark .In short I'm trying to recreate images of what I see around me heavily influence by the country around Cooma with what I'd consider a versatile native.

4. What is the best time of year to:

- prune?

I prune heavily at the end of November and again at the end of December into early January. The rest of the year I finger pinch the foliage to retain the shape.

- trim to develop branch structure and leaf mass?

This is a constant process to keep the shape and to balance the tree. If the foliage mass on one branch is less than the others it is probable that you will loss that branch.

5. How does it typically respond to:

- hard pruning?

As mentioned above if done around this time the tree will bud back. Be aware that Eucalypts will bud back at the base and it is important to rub these off. If this is not done these throw backs will become dominant and eventually kill the rest of the tree.

- trimming?

In particular, does it bud back on bare wood? older wood? Does it shoot back near the cut or further back? Does it shoot back strongly, reliably?

When trimming hard I will cut back the branches too about two leaf nodes, this would be done all over the tree. I would not trim a weak branch. It will bud back from the two leaf nodes left and also back on old wood, around scared areas and at the base. The unwanted buds are rubbed off over the next two weeks or until the new growth hardens.

When doing alight trim I finger pinch the foliage. The tree will respond by budding back about 2 nodes but generally not on the older wood.

6. How do you go about developing the branch structure and foliage that you want?

When I prune hard, the budding back gives me options on whether to use the new growth or not. When these new branches are soft they can be wired into whatever shape I want. When the branch is in place I keep pruning the end foliage until I have a mass of tertiary branching. I then go through this branching and thin it out to create a cloud (layer) with some structure.

7. How do you go about maintaining the style once achieved?

Regular hand pruning, or tip pruning. Occasionally thinning out the foliage. ( Less over winter ). Wiring or using string.

8. What fertiliser(s) do you use and when do you apply them?

I use native Osmicote twice a year in August and again in December. Also diluted liquid seaweed around September and again at the end of January. Sometimes I will use Dynamic lifter around October.

9. What pests and diseases have you encountered with this species/group? How do you treat them

Mealy bug and leaf eaters. I generally treat with Confidor or any systemic pesticide except Rogor. I find that if the nicholii gets full sun it rarely attracts any bugs.

10. When do you generally re-pot and what potting mix do you use? Are there any particular potting requirements?

I repot in September/October when the night temperatures are around 10deg or above and day temps are around the early to mid 20"s. I have tried repotting from as early as August through to as late as mid December with success.

The potting mix I use is the Rich Gro Australian Native Mix with an amount of Zeolite thrown in until it looks right. The KISS principle.

11. What growing conditions (light, moisture, shelter) do you provide – in summer? in winter?

The nicholii is watered twice a day during summer and once a day during winter unless it rains. The nicholii likes full sun and also uses more water than the other trees in my collection. This causes me to do two things during the hot months.

1. Is to keep foliage to a minimum

2. To put it into semi shade (I only do this because I work during the day and it helps the tree survive till the next water)

12. What is the most important advice you could give to someone starting to work with (Genus/species) as bonsai?

The Eucalyptus nicholii loves full sun. Don't prune hard in the cooler months from January to September. Due to the fast growing nature of nicholii watch any wiring.

<http://www.ausbonsai.com.au/forum/viewtopic.php?f=7&t=349&start=0&hilit=nicholli&sid=afcd9ae51cd40ce3eb2b4cd5f6754e80>

## PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH DIRECT DEPOSIT

We are now taking payments by direct deposit for membership, workshops and bus trips. The details are as follows

Bank of Queensland      Account name: Bimer Bonsai Club Incorporated

BSB: 124 001

Account Number: 10112801

REMEMBER you must put your surname in the reference section so we know who has paid.

## NOTICE BOARD

<b>Bimer Bonsai Club Activities</b>	
September 1 <sup>st</sup>	Styling 4 Club Junipers
September 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Bimer bus trip – Toowoomba
October 6 <sup>th</sup>	Tony Bebb - Workshop and Demo <b>(Wavell Heights Community Hall)</b>
November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	James Millar - Mame and Miniatures
December 1 <sup>st</sup>	Christmas Dutch Auction
January	NO MEETING
February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	All day general workshop starts at 10am
March 30 <sup>th</sup> & 31 <sup>st</sup>	Bimer Annual Show - Mt. Coot-tha
<b>Other Bonsai Related Activities</b>	
19 <sup>th</sup> August	Japanese Cultural Day – Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens
25 <sup>th</sup> August	Ipswich Gardeners Expo
14 <sup>th</sup> September	Horti – Couture Fashion Parade Mt Coot-tha
24 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> August	Illawarra Tops Weekend Stanwell Tops Convention Centre
18 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> September	Universal Penjing Conference – National Arboretum - Canberra
29 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> September	Ipswich Garden Spectacular
20 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Orchid species show - Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens Auditorium
<b>Local Bonsai Shows</b>	
15 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> September	BSQ Annual Show
21 <sup>st</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Toowoomba Show
27 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> October	Sunshine Coast Show
4 <sup>th</sup> November	Redlands Show
10 <sup>th</sup> November	Gold Coast Tweed Show