



Bimer Bonsai Club Inc.

Founded February 1983, Inc. 1991

April 2019 Newsletter

Next Meeting: 4th May 2019

Wavell Heights Community Hall, Edinburgh Castle Road, Wavell Heights

Meetings held 1st Saturday of each month, except January

Trade table / library open approx. 1pm

Meeting commences 1:30pm

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Library

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Membership Fees

Single \$20

Family \$25

Hello All,

Our annual Show has come and gone for another year. It was an enjoyable weekend and the quality of the trees was high. We had a good turn out with 600+ people through the doors. We also had a good sales total at the trade table. Thank you to our demonstrators this year: David G, Peter Mc, Ben and Keith. There was plenty of interest from the public. A great effort especially from Ben and Keith as it was their first time doing a demonstration. The Kids Corner was also very popular which was good to see. We only had 26 people displaying trees so this is something we would like to see increase so the show is a representation of the majority of club members. We will be looking at ways to help members in the coming year. One idea is to have a beginner's course that will run monthly. This has worked well in other clubs. If you would be interested in this sort of course, please come and chat to myself or another committee member.

I hope you enjoyed the last presentation on Australian natives that myself and Jon W are working with. A big thanks to Jon for coming and speaking to the audience. It is good to know another native fan/tragic like myself. I hope you also enjoyed my short demo on the *Melaleuca Bracteata*. I have written up some notes on this below.

Next month will be an all-day general workshop starting at 9:00am. Please bring along a tree and your tools to work on them at the hall and maybe get some advice or help if you need it.

Our next big event will be the Bimer Bonsai Market day in June. All tables are fully booked, so it should be a good afternoon to look for a bonsai bargain. Registrations for the AABC national conference in Melbourne closes soon so get in quick if you intend to go. It should be a great event as it is focused on Australian natives.

The weather has cooled down nicely now with some regular rains. Your trees should be looking nice and green. Keep an eye out for insects that may attack your trees in the current conditions. They may also stay wetter longer, so adjust watering accordingly.
AG



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APRIL MEETING – NATIVES WITH ALBERT AND JONATHON

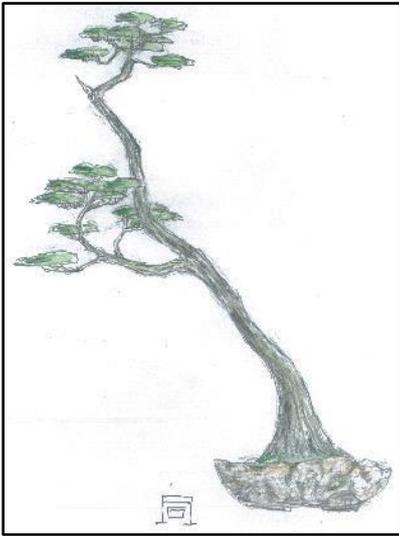


Melaleuca Bracteata Demonstration Notes - Albert G

At the last meeting I did a bit of initial styling on a *Melaleuca Bracteata* (aka Black Tea Tree). This species is found around many areas of Australia including SE QLD. It has small pointy dark green leaves with small fluffy white flowers in Spring. The bark is fissured and turns black on mature trees, hence the common name. There are other cultivars commonly sold, such as *Revolution Gold*.

This specimen was obtained as tube stock 5-8 years ago and grown in a 30cm nursery pot. It was repotted into the shallower nursery pot last year and has recovered well. I have found that Natives in general (figs excluded) do not like their roots disturbed too much, but can handle them being pruned. I use the slicing method where sections of root are cut off with a saw and the remainder of the root ball is aerated with a steel poker. I use a sharpened old screwdriver for this task. Wedges can also be removed in subsequent repots to refresh the soil closer to the base. I use a water tray during the hotter months to avoid the soil drying out.





The tree portrays an elegant trunk line and I styled it thinking of it having spent its life growing on a rocky bluff in a harsh environment. As the tree grew taller, the lower branches that were shaded died off and fell, similar to what our eucalypts would do. The photo shown is the current status of the tree. I put raffia and wire on the top section and bent it back, as the top part of the trunk went in the opposite direction of the rest of the trunk movement. The dead portion at the top is currently being used as an anchor point, but will be reduced later. I feel it fits the story for this particular tree to not have much dead portions, especially in the top section.

The tree will be left for about a month to allow it to recover from the bending in the top section. I will then do the fine wiring to set the smaller branching. The drawing to the left shows what I expect the tree to look like in the future. I have chosen a Marie Hewartson pot that I think complements this tree very well. It has a rough surface with an uneven edge. I will repot this in the coming spring, but may reduce the roots in two stages if I don't think it can be safely reduced in one go.

FROM THE TRADE TABLE

Many thanks to all those members who brought items to sell at our show. Your generosity and continued support helps ensure the economic viability of our club. However, apologies for the late payment this year. Our treasurer was away for 2 weeks after the show, so those awaiting payment should receive it soon. David C.

MAY CALENDAR TREE – MELALEUCA

The tree is a *Melaleuca alternifolia*. I purchased it as a tube stock in 2007 and grew it on from there. My goal was to have a two trunk style. No photos from the past as I lost them! My plan from now is to lower the tree in the pot as it stands too high. Giving thought also to a different pot – perhaps a smaller one. Geoff.



PETER WARREN WORKSHOPS

Peter Warren is coming to Brisbane for Bimer over 3 days in November. From the 1st to the 3rd, there will be multiple activities with a focus on intensive workshops. We are seeking expressions of interest from members to participate in workshops on Friday 1st (Bimer members only). Please see Averil or Keith to register your interest.

APRIL/MAY ACTIVITIES



Old needles on pines and junipers will be turning brown at this time. Remove any brown needles to prevent pests and diseases and to allow more light on the inner buds. Bushier pines can have their previous year's needles plucked now also. Remember that a bushier tree gives the impression of youth and our aim is to provide the impression of age. A reduction in needles will result in slower water uptake. Check the soil of pines for a couple of weeks and only water when it is sufficiently dry to prevent rotting.

DISPLAY TABLE

Please remember to bring along a tree, a **MELALEUCA** 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.

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

Bimer Bonsai Club Activities	
May 4 th	All day general workshop starts at 9 am
June 1 st	Neutrog Product Presentation / Photographing Bonsai
June 22 nd	Bimer Bonsai Market Day
July 6 th	All day workshop/ AGM
August 3 rd	Workshop 9am / "What's in a Pot?" with Bradley Barlow
September 7 th	Raft Demo - Averil
October 5 th	AM Workshop, PM Demo Andrew Sellman - Clerodendrum
November 1 st -3 rd	Workshops, Demos – International Guest - Peter Warren
Other Bonsai Related Activities	
26 th - 28 th April	Bonsai by the Beach, Bonny Hills NSW
27 th - 28 th April	Pine Rivers Garden and Plant Fair
11 th May	Native Plants QLD – Autumn Market, Grovely Tafe Keperra
17 th - 20 th May 2019	Melbourne Convention
17 th - 19 th August	Bonsai on the Mountain, Toowoomba with Boon Manakitivipart
19 th August	Japanese Cultural Day – Mt Coot-tha
23 rd - 25 th August	The Tops Weekend, Stanwell Tops NSW
Local Bonsai Shows	
21 st – 22 nd September	BSQ Annual Show
20 th – 22 nd September	Toowoomba Show
26 th – 27 th October	Sunshine Coast Show
3 rd November	Redlands Show
9 th November	Gold Coast Tweed Show