



Bimer Bonsai Club Inc.

Founded February 1983, Inc. 1991

October 2019 Newsletter

Next Meeting: 1-3 NOVEMBER 2019

THIS MONTH ONLY AT THE ASPLEY HOTEL

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

www.bimerbonsai.org.au

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Publicity – Bruce - Website - Pierre

Correspondence - The Hon. Secretary
Bimer Bonsai Club, PO Box 64
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Newsletter – Tony - Ph: 0405 137 996

Library - Jayne

Membership - Single \$20 Family \$25

Hello All,

We had a great session last month with special guest Andrew Sellman from the Sunshine Coast. He presented some good information on Clerodendrums in general and mounted a small cascade clero on an artificial rock he created himself. The finished product looked really nice in a rustic Japanese pot. He also brought a large selection of his Clerodendrums for display that show how refined they can be made. Thank you, Andrew, for the effort you put into this presentation.

The upcoming session is our Peter Warren weekend on 1st – 3rd November. Plans are being finalised to make it the best weekend possible. Please remember that this will not be in the usual hall and will be held at the Aspley hotel. Extra information will be sent out to those that have registered.

The regular storms are bringing some much-needed rain. Your trees should be growing well now and pushing new growth. Keep an eye on any wired trees as they can swell and scar easily. Pests will be active this time of year so keep a lookout for them and any indicators, such as munched or discoloured leaves.

Speaking of pests, I have had issues with possums eating the fresh shoots off of particular bonsai. With the start of Spring, they have returned with my Trident maples coping the worst of it with smaller branches also broken as they reach for the shoots. I had invested in plastic fence spikes found at the hardware to make it harder to access my yard, but I have witnessed them traverse this with little effort. The chilli spray solution doesn't seem to bother them or gets washed off in the regular rains. I have noticed a possum carrying its baby on its back as it walks the fence. Cute you might say, but I see it as the parent showing the next generation where the best eating is. I don't want to resort to building a bonsai cage at this stage to keep them away. If you have any humane ways of deterring possums from your trees, please let me know.

AG

PETER WARREN UPDATE

There are spots available in the Sunday workshop as well as observers for both sessions that we would like to fill. This is a great chance to work with a well-known bonsai artist. The magnificent black pine Peter will be working on will be auctioned off after the demo, so be there to place your bids!

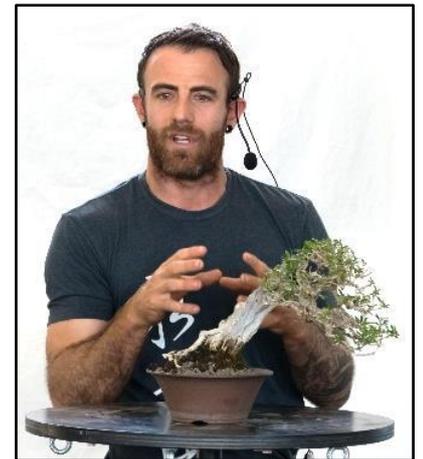
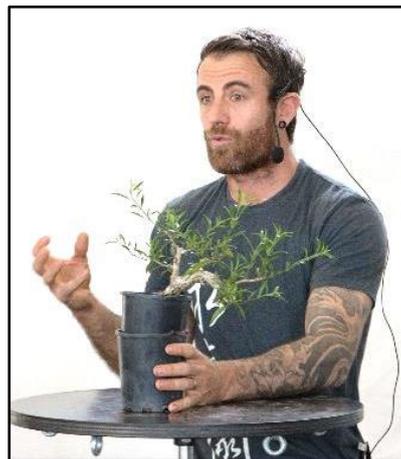
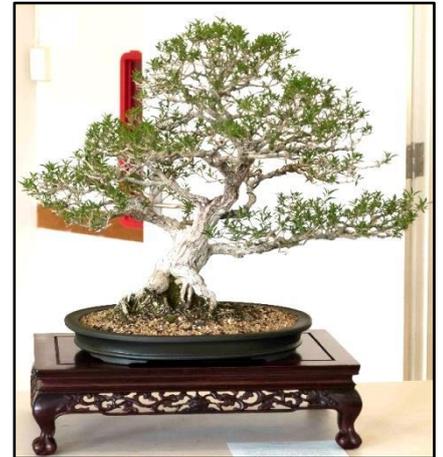


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OCTOBER MEETING

This month Andrew Sellman joined us and brought along some of his wonderful collection of Clerodendrums. He also gave a fascinating demonstration marrying an artificial rock he created with a Clero to create a very interesting composition. Andrew makes his rocks from Styrofoam and tile glue, similar to the methods employed by Gold Coast artist Carol Waller.

Below are some pictures from the meeting.

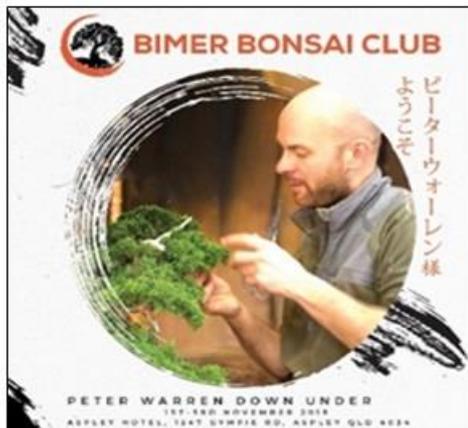
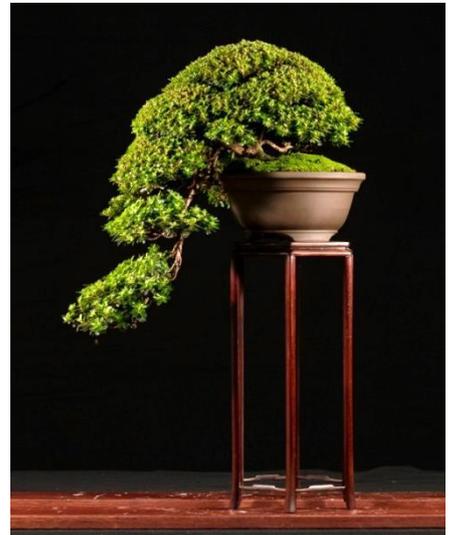


SEPTEMBER CALENDAR TREE – SAO TO ME AZALEA

This Sao To Me Azalea was produced from a cutting taken about seven years ago. The current style has been achieved using the usual Bonsai techniques of wiring, clipping, root pruning and repotting.

Wiring can be difficult and very time consuming because of the delicate and brittle branches of Azaleas, but a very worthwhile and necessary exercise to achieve results. They also respond well to regular clipping to aid in pad development.

Do not allow them to dry out as this may cause significant branch dieback or death. While they enjoy plenty of winter sunshine I would recommend sun protection during the hot months. I have also found that the tree can quickly become congested with dead leaves that hang in between all the small branches so regular gentle brushing over the foliage pads with your hands will help in eliminating this congestion.



NOVEMBER MEETING

REMEMBER: WE WILL NOT BE MEETING AT THE WAVELL HEIGHTS HALL ON NOVEMBER 2nd, WE WILL BE AT THE ASPLEY HOTEL FOR 3 DAYS OF PETER WARREN.

RED DRAGON BONSAI FINAL CLEARANCE SALE

Recently the Gold Coast Tweed Bonsai club announced that I will have a stall at their annual show.

Unfortunately there was a mix up in communication. You may have heard from them but thought I would clarify.

I am in fact having the sale at the address below (the old Red dragon Bonsai site).

I apologise for any mix up.

As a final clearance ex Red Dragon Bonsai (238 Currumbin Creek Rd, Currumbin) will be having a sale coinciding with the Gold Coast Tweed bonsai annual show on the 9/11/2019, we will also open on Sunday the 10th from 9-3.

We have pots left from the nursery - all half price; stainless steel tools - all half price; my own collection of pots from famous potters - some used, some new; some of my personal collection bonsai; and lots of pre-shaped shohin and mame black pines 8-10 years old. It is cash only as we don't have eftpos facilities any longer.

Thanks,

Chris White

SOME THOUGHTS ON RAMIFICATION – MICHAEL SIMONETTO – PART 2 OF 2

Now that you have thoroughly studied your tree, pruned away any unnecessary or detracting branching and perhaps wired any areas which could only be adjusted this way, shortened long bare areas to force budding where it would normally not occur (very common), you can repot the tree if necessary. Nine times out of ten - with deciduous trees - it's necessary! Yes, unless your tree is well developed and possibly over 15 years old, you would be well advised to repot it annually. Doing this stimulates fresh root tips, which in turn invigorates the branches. Repotting can be considered as a tool for fast-tracking your tree's development. It is very common with fruiting and flowering trees especially that they are repotted only every second or third year and this practice invariably holds back or even stunts their development. Many deciduous trees are equally vigorous and repotting them every year or second year is important until you are approaching perhaps your fifth or sixth ramification. Contrary to what might be expected, obtaining six ramifications does not take six years because more often than not it's two steps forward and one back. In actuality, six ramifications may take as much as twenty or thirty years and by that time you will want to refine and age your tree so repotting can be stretched out to every three or perhaps four years. For now we want our trees powering forward at full throttle and repotting them frequently will achieve this more than any fertilizer possibly could.

As high spring to early summer comes around your trees are busily adding wood and you must encourage them to do so by feeding and watering well. Neglecting these will stunt the tree's development, wasting time and leading to frustration. It is not proposed to go into detailed explanations of summer techniques in this short discussion but it is probably important to mention that all your feeding and watering will lead to fast and unbalanced growth especially in the apex of the trees. One technique to bring some of this rampant growth under control is to defoliate it and rather than prune it off completely, we can keep it as is but remove the apical bud. We can use this technique to slow vigour in a particular area while retaining some energy flow along the branch and those around its base. This has the effect of balancing the strength of the growth further down behind the defoliated branch. The subsequent growth is slightly but not completely inhibited by the remaining leading branch which if removed at the outset would be quickly replaced by more rank growth with the same vigour as the initial branch. Retaining the defoliated branch until new growth is half way along will quite likely produce greater and more balanced ramification in an overly vigorous area. This technique is particularly effective with the apices and other strong areas of Japanese Maples. (*Acer palmatum*)

Maples in particular are likely to produce multiple buds or twigs from one node. During the summer there is not a great deal we can do about this problem but after the leaves have fallen it is absolutely vital that any area displaying multiple buds or shoots or both be ruthlessly cleaned up leaving only one or two. Having seen so many examples Trident and Japanese Maples during their leafless phase, I would not hesitate to say this is the single most common failure with these particular trees. It can happen to any species but be especially careful with maples. The longer you leave the problem unresolved, the worse it will get until you lose all interest in the tree and possibly the hobby itself after you realize just how many years of effort have gone to waste. Don't let that be you!

With deciduous trees we should remember that the summer leafy phase of the tree is just a stepping stone to the real appreciation - the winter phase.

Another important and often neglected technique to be performed over summer is that of leaf thinning. This is a very simple procedure which has important effects. The last thing we want to happen in our trees is to find that some of the beautiful ramification we look so forward to turns out to be dead. This is caused by excessive shading among other things. Remember what I said about light being life and shade being death? Dead twigs are the manifestation of this. Leaf thinning involves the removal of the outer "layer" of leaves which prevent sunlight reaching the inner parts of the tree. These leaves are often larger than those further down the stem and certainly the most vigorous. They should be removed when the ramification starts to become dense. The amount to remove is

gauged by the amount of light which penetrates the canopy. If you can see the inner branches without moving any leaves, that is probably enough. If not, you will know what to do. Sometimes simply cutting leaves in half might be the best option as removing entire leaves may weaken the tree or branch. One - but not the only reason that wisterias often fail to flower is insufficient light reaching the buds during mid-summer!

I hope that the reader has found something of interest in these few words about such a vast subject. Good luck with the coming growing season.

DECEMBER MEETING DUTCH AUCTION

There are just under 2 months until our Christmas meeting. Now is the time to start going through your Bonsai cupboard and stock area for donations for the Dutch Auction. Remember half of the money made is donated to charity so make sure you bring good quality saleable items. Make sure any green stock is free of ants and weeds and has not been watered. Festive items, especially wine, are welcome.

MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE

If you want to continue to receive the newsletter and be eligible for the free sessions with Peter Warren (and paid workshops) you must be a current financial member. Please see Tony at the front desk or pay online with your surname as a reference.

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 #: 10112801
 – REMEMBER you must put your surname in the reference section so we know who has paid.

NOTICE BOARD

Bimer Bonsai Club Activities	
November 1 st -3 rd	Workshops, Demos – International Guest - Peter Warren - Aspley hotel
December 7th	Christmas Party/Dutch Auction
February 1 st 2020	9.00am Clinic and Workshop/5 trees
March 7 th 2020	9am start Clinic and Workshop all day
April 18th-19 th 2020	Bimer Annual Show Mt Coot-tha
August 30 th 2020	Bimer Annual Market Day
Other Bonsai Related Activities	
November 2-3	NMQOCI Summer Orchid Show Mt Coot-tha
16-17 May 2020	Pine Rivers Garden & Plant Fair
Local Bonsai Shows	
TBA 2020	Bonsai Society of QLD
TBA 2020	Toowoomba
26 th – 27 th October	Sunshine Coast Show
3 rd November	Redlands Show
9 th November	Gold Coast Tweed Show