

Canberra Bonsai Society

New Member Orientation Notes

Meetings

1. First Saturday from 09:00 – 13:00 at HCC – except October because of the CBS show and January as everybody is away on Christmas holidays
2. Appreciate help with set up and take down at the beginning and end of the meeting – chairs, tables, library and sundry other help depending on activities
3. Sign in book – for insurance purposes and as a ‘incorporated’ responsibility.
4. Lucky door prize if present when drawn – based on names in sign in book
5. Raffle of one or two items – helps overall club finances
6. President opens with general information for members and invites various others to provide relevant announcements – secretary, librarian, workshop organiser etc.
7. Show and Tell – members bring trees to show others based on a predetermined theme – provided on the web site (Events – CBS Meetings). Members are encouraged to give some brief information to the others about the tree. The tree need not relate to the theme – or may have the very barest relevance to the theme.
8. Tea and coffee – 50 cents per meeting for a cuppa and any biscuits/cake etc – unless you are a glutton
9. Name tags available and urged to wear – request that you pick them up and leave them, at the meeting
10. Lists for participation are usually available near the raffle – soil, workshops, tools, pots, volunteering etc. These are also available online when you log in to the web site – Participation lists. You can review your choices and make changes online.
11. Treasurer available at the back to make payments – memberships, soil, workshops, tools etc. However – online crediting of the CBS account is by far the preferred method of payment – saving the treasurer heaps of work.
12. Wire is available on a table near the Treasurer – small amounts of different gauges each priced. Pay the treasurer.
13. Sometimes members will bring trees to the meeting for sale – usually announced via a newsletter or at the beginning by the president – but often first in best dressed.
14. General workshops are often held after show and tell where members are encouraged to participate by bringing a tree to work on, discuss, seek advice (there’s always plenty). Workshops often have a theme – but it isn’t necessary to stick to it

Events

1. AGM
 - The AGM is held at the March meeting where all Executive positions are made vacant and nominations sought to re-fill those positions. The AGM takes about 30 minutes at the beginning of the meeting and includes minutes from the previous AGM, a president’s and treasurer’s report
2. Annual shows
 - a. Native show

- A weekend display of Australian native plants developed as bonsai. It requires a manager, assistant and various other volunteers to set it up and to run it over the weekend. It is currently held in March. Funds raised are donated to the NBPCA trust fund.
- b. CBS show
 - This is the main society show for the year and as with the Native Show, requires a team to plan it, set it up and run it over a weekend. It is currently held in the middle of October each year at the Daramalan College Hall.
3. Bus trip
 - The society arranges a bus trip each year to various Sydney (or nearby) nurseries, so that members can purchase items that are not easily acquired in Canberra. It occurs in mid August and is a day trip – departing Canberra south at 06:30 and arriving back there at about 19:30. There is a Canberra north pick up as well.
 4. Soil etc
 - The society orders potting mix, Zeolite and Diatomite based on orders provided by members through participation lists. These are common ingredients to a good bonsai mix and are acquired at prices not available to single purchasers through normal commercial channels.
 5. NBPCA
 - Many club members volunteer some time at the NBPCA – usually helping visitors understand the basics of bonsai but also ensuring that they are respectful of the requirement not to touch the trees. It is open every day from 09:00 – 16:00 (except Christmas Day). This is a great opportunity to learn more about bonsai.
 6. Fetes, Festivals, Community groups
 - CBS is often asked to provide a ‘bonsai display’ or demonstration by various community groups. Where it is possible, suitably experienced members- perhaps with some helpers will give such support – to promote bonsai.

Web site

1. Public and member access levels
2. Login required for members access which includes among other areas ...
 - Participation lists
 - Newsletters in addition to the CBS newsletter
 - News
 - Galleries
 - Links
3. Members are encouraged to use the web site as it is the best way to keep up to date with the latest information regarding society activities.

Newsletter

A newsletter is produced each month containing society announcements and other articles contributed by members – all are encouraged to provide relevant material. The newsletter is normally available on the web site members area a week before the meeting and advised by an email from the web master.