

Wauchope Bonsai Workshop Newsletter - March 2010

President: Steve 6585 0495
Secretary: Maree 6585 2298

Meetings: 1st Saturday, 11am to 4pm
Wauchope Showground hall.

The March meeting will feature a demonstration and a workshop by Newcastle potter, Penny Davis. Penny will also have some of her pots for sale.

There is no beginners table when we have a demonstration.

- 11-12: Work on trees, Penny's pots on sale.
- 12-1: Demonstration by Penny
- 1 pm: Tree judging and show & tell
- 2-3: Workshop by Penny. Cost \$25.

6 Feb	Theme: Cascade
6 Mar	Theme: Autumn colour Beginners: Jan

Message board

Penny Davis workshop. Penny is a Newcastle potter who makes bonsai pots. She will be coming to our March meeting to give a pot making workshop. She will also have some of her pots for sale. The workshop involves making your own bonsai pot, which Penny will fire. The cost is \$25, which covers the cost of the clay and the firing.

Please RSVP to Maree or Steve if you plan to do the workshop and didn't put your name on the list at the last meeting. We need to know so Penny can bring enough materials. We have 5 participants so far.

Khanh Linh weekend at Taree. Pham Bao Khanh Linh creates entire landscapes in miniature. He began learning the art from his grandfather at the age of 12, and his inspiration comes from real life and from Vietnamese culture. The tiny landscapes combine mountain scenes, forests and water, all arranged in a plate or tray.

Although bonsai plants are an important part of Vietnamese miniature landscapes, the shaping of the trees is not as rigidly defined as bonsai you'd see in Japan. However, rocks are very important, symbolising the permanence and the wonder of

nature. They are always arranged as mountains, which must look good from all sides and from the top.

Venue is Club Taree.

\$2.00 Entrance fee per day.

Saturday 10am – 4pm.

Sunday 10am – 2.30.

Tea & Coffee provided. Meals not included.

There will also be a club trading table.

Taree are booking a group dinner at Island Trader for 7pm for anyone interested.

Wauchope Show. It is the 100th show, so let's make the bonsai display special. Start getting your trees ready for the Anzac weekend.

The categories are: Informal Upright, Formal Upright, Australian Native, Semi-Cascade, Wind Swept, Root over Rock, Saikei, and New Talent (Any person doing Bonsai less than 3 years).

Watering clues. In addition to being another job, weeding gives clues about how your watering is going. Some pots grow lush soft weeds (too wet?), others a tougher looking weed or fewer weeds (too dry?).

Decorative gravel presents a related issue. Because it hides the soil you can't tell by looking at the pot if it is too wet or too dry. Consider removing or thinning the gravel after you have shown the tree.

Curl grubs: If you have a tree that is not growing well, pull it out of its pot and check for curl grubs. I have a very sick cork oak courtesy of two curl grubs that had eaten most of its roots. They are now dispatched and my pots treated with a curl grub pesticide. Curl grubs are active from September to April.

Jade

At the club's display at last year's Comboyne fair, one of the demonstration trees was a jade. This was styled as a windswept tree.

The first thing to do is find some suitable material. Just because it is jade doesn't mean that it will be a good bonsai. It should have movement, taper, depth, and direction. Don't waste time on straight boring material. Jades still need heavy branches at the bottom and not heavy ones at the top.

Jades need to be grown in the full sun and can thrive on very little water; in fact if they get too wet they will rot. It is good to leave a cutting out of soil for up to one month after cutting so that they can dry out. This is also so that they won't rot.

Jade can be made into most bonsai styles including cascade. However not literati or windswept. Shape can be assisted by putting stones, pieces of brick, foam pieces or any other things to hand to keep the foliage layers separated. Don't use concave cutters on Jade as it will make an unattractive wound. Instead leave a knob on it and this will subsequently dry off and drop off leaving a more attractive scar. Jade are great as they will shoot back on old wood.

As far as potting up, red glazed pots will show bonsai jade to their best.

Based on an article in the SA Bonsai newsletter April 2006.



Jobs this month

Over summer (for those with such virtuous habits), swap from a high nitrogen fertiliser to one with higher potassium (e.g. Sudden Impact for roses). This encourages stronger plant cells, making the trees better equipped to deal with the heat and drying winds. It also encourages root growth and thickening of branches.

Seaweed tonics are also a good idea at this time of year.

To help branches and trunks thicken, you can let some of the extra growth stay on the trees at this time of year. In autumn, once the trees have shifted the sugars in the leaves to the root system, you can remove the extra growth, it having done its job of fattening the tree.

Indeed, John Hanby, the English expert who visited Sydney late last year is an advocate of letting the trees grow on, rather than keeping them trimmed to perfection all the time. Those of us that get slack with our trimming can now say they are following Hanby's advice! Good thing he is back home now.

Remember to keep an eye out for red tip or red band disease (*Dothistroma needle blight*) on your pines and treat it with Kocide Blue.

Events	
9 March	Garden clubs visit to Cut Loose Bamboo Nursery, Moorland. Contact Joy Ward on 6559 9523 for details.
13-14 Mar	Taree Club, Khanh Linh at the Taree RSL. Vietnamese bonsai / mini landscapes. We're welcome.
13-14 Mar	Australian Plants as Bonsai show, Canberra
20-21 Mar	Tony Bebb at Central Coast Bonsai. Ray Nesci plants and Pat Kennedy pots as well.
16-17 April	Wauchope Show
14 -17 May	23 rd AABC National Bonsai Convention at Bankstown Sports Club, Sydney. Featuring Salvatore Liporace.
4 Sep	John Marsh: Literati demo & workshop.
17-19 Sept	Illawarra club's 11th Tops weekend.