

NEWSLETTER

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SEASONAL NOTE

This is a good time of the year to think of re-potting. Any evergreen that needs a fresh start, this should suit them nicely.

If it is a big old tree, perhaps treat it carefully, and only take a couple of centimetres off all around, settle the fresh soil around it, and then put it in a semi-sheltered place for a week or two. Then after a few weeks, give it a good feed.

By May, we will be able to start re-potting deciduous trees.

Make sure all our benches are clean, dirty benches attract bugs, and remember to keep checking the water. Our trees can still get dry, and being cold does not always relate to being damp.

Now that we are being isolated because of the virus, turn it into a plus, and, (I am talking to myself here, as well as everyone else) do all those jobs you have been putting off because you didn't have the time.

Stay well & stay safe.

Dear members,

You may wonder why we are bothering with a newsletter, when nothing is happening in the Bonsai world. That is, there are no meetings, workshops, outings, exhibitions, or seminars.

But there are still people, and like any hobby or interest, people are important. I believe it is important we stay in touch, and so I asked members to send me a story, photo, anything of interest they are doing at this time, and some of you have responded.

We are introducing an advice corner. You send me a picture of the tree you need help with, I will publish it, and will ask for people's advice, and I will publish their answers the next month.

My story is; There was a rather large, flowering gum tree in the empty lot at the back of my place, which had grown right up against the fence. On Thursday, they decided to cut it down.

I noticed the carnage when I went out to water, layers of sawdust all over my bonsais, branches and debris everywhere, shelves fallen down and pots upended. I wish they had warned me in advance. Particularly when I noticed that one of the large falling branches had snapped one of the cross beams in my fernery.

Now of course, the rain has washed the sawdust into the soil, my handyman has mowed my lawn, whipper-snipped a lot of the grass, and my daughter has raked up all the rubbish and put it in the green bin, the backyard is returning to normal. The sun is shining and I am starting to think, what am I grizzling about, it seems petty when compared to other people's problems.

Hard to realise it is Easter this coming weekend.

I do hope everyone has a great Easter, have you decided to spend it in the living-room, the bedroom, or the backyard! Decisions! Decisions!

HAPPY
Easter



It was a quiet Monday morning in September, 2053, when John woke with a need to go to the bathroom. To John, this wasn't just an ordinary day.!

This was the day he would open the last package of toilet paper, his parents bought , in the year, 2020!

This is a series of photos of Jeff N, our vice-president..

Jeff wrote ;

A selfie, and a few of my trees on display in my backyard.

Mainly junipers and pines, but some others as well.

I have managed to reduce my collection from around 40 trees to 22.

I may look at reducing that number by a few over the next year or so. The smaller the number, the much easier they are to manage. As the trees get older and bigger they require much more work.

More needles, more branches, thicker trunks, and they are much heavier than they used to be.

I use a trolley to move them around as they are mostly too heavy to carry.

A good time at present to tidy many of them up, and get ready for winter wiring and pruning.

Looking forward to being able to get back to club meetings and workshops.



ADVICE CORNER:

One of our members, Peter B, kindly sent these photos, and would like some advice.

I know you people are very helpful, so if you would like to help, email me, and I will publish the replies in next month's newsletter. Peter wrote;

The largest juniper I have had since 2005.



The small juniper is a recent addition, it joined the family in 2016, and was trimmed into some sort of shape a year back. For some reason it has made quite slow progress. Any advice on the matter would be most appreciated.



Last but not least, is my bullet-proof ficus. I am sure this little fellow could survive a nuclear attack. This tree has been with me since I developed an interest in Bonsai in the late 1990's. As you can see, my early efforts at wiring can still be seen. I continually prune & wire in an effort to make an attractive tree-without success!!!!!! However will persist, I guess that's the fascination of Bonsai!



I wish to extend a very big "Thank you" To member, Peter B, Vice-Pres. Jeff N, Secretary Jill L., and Treasurer Gwen R. for their articles, which were not only extremely interesting and newsworthy, but also meant that this newsletter could take place. I hope that this inspires some more of you..

Editor; Elaine M



Gwen's trees she has been busy re-potting over the enforced isolation.

The group planting is of seiju elms, which look to me that they will settle into a very nice arrangement, and on the right, Gwen re-potted her taxodium (swamp cypress), and in front of the tree she potted a couple of cuttings from the tree.

This is just one day's planting, Gwen has been doing something like this most days, so she is being very productive.



This is Jill's olive tree, which she purchased from Jamie last year. Big & leggy growth, but with great possibilities..

The tree had been found on a renovation site, on the top of a dump heap. It had sprouted below and to the side of the old trunk.

After re-potting and trimming in October last year, this is what it now looks like. "I have an olive fruit" I'm very happy with it, writes Jill.

Still needs work, but I have plenty of time and nowhere to go.

Good on you Jill, keep up the good work,.

GOOD WISHES TO YOU ALL, AND HOPEFULLY STAY VIRUS FREE!