

NEWSLETTER

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June

2020

SEASONAL NOTES:

Winter is a time of year when we do a large percentage of our re-potting. Particularly if we have a lot of deciduous.

If we have evergreens, we may need to help them over the cold weather.

Perhaps give them a dose of a tonic such as "Seasol", certainly check for slugs and snails and slaters.

It is also a good time to wire, most trees slow down their growth, some of course are completely dormant, during the cold months.

If your area is prone to frosts, and you don't have a glasshouse etc. I would consider wrapping newspaper or straw around your pots, in order to keep the roots from freezing.

Still pluck off "big" leaves from your figs, 2 or 3 at a time. It will still encourage more budding, so your leaves will become gradually smaller. Certainly do not defoliate them, just a few at a time., and keep them protected from frosts.

Dear members,

I sincerely hope you are all well, and have so far avoided the dreaded virus. I believe there is a case for optimism, as clearly, if we do the right thing, we can prevent the virus from spreading.

Unfortunately, at this stage, I cannot say when we will commence our meetings, we are totally in the hands of the Moorooduc hall, as they are the ones who will have to thoroughly clean the premises, after we have used it.

Some of our members have been very productive during the "lockdown", such as Jeff, who has spent up to 3 days wiring his black pine .



Jamie, Pam and Jill have sent me pictures of their efforts, and can I take this opportunity to thank them, and all the others who have sent me photos of their trees, or some other project they have been working on, for, without their contributions, I would have been really struggling to produce a newsletter



CONGRATULATIONS to Bonsai Northwest , as they produced a 'virtual' display on Youtube.

I believe our technical skills have all improved as it has been essential to try and keep in touch, so people who have not used "Facetime". Zoom, and other means of visual contact, have ventured into the unknown.

I thought their idea of each owner of the tree, presenting it in their own backyard, and telling us a brief history of their tree, was well done, and proved to be very interesting.

It shows us, that if we embrace technology, we can become very innovative, and reach a much wider audience than before.

HAVE A LAUGH:

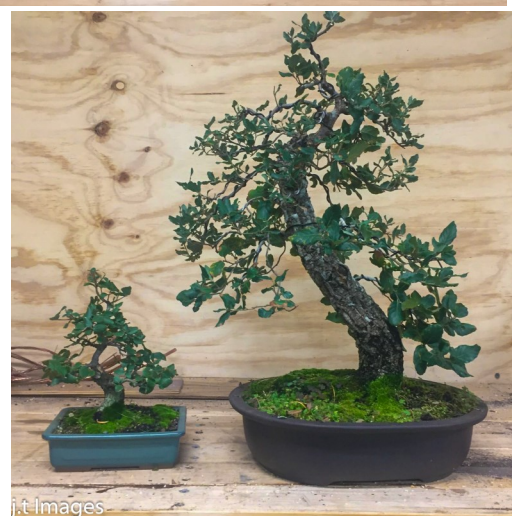
A biker was riding his bike along a beach in Melbourne when suddenly the clouds parted, and God's voice boomed out of the opening, "You have always tried to be faithful to me, and spread my word, so I shall reward you with one wish."

The biker replied, "Could you please build a bridge to Tasmania, so I can cross over anytime." God was disappointed at such a materialistic wish, and asked him to think of something more beneficial to mankind. He pointed out what a huge challenge it would be, the huge supports required to reach the ocean floor, all the concrete & steel. Have another think about it. So he did, and then he told God, how he and all men would love to understand women, what they really feel inside, why they cry, and when you ask what is wrong they deny there is, and then complain because you do nothing to help them. I, along with all men, would love to understand women.

God gave the biker a long, hard look, then said, "Do you want 2 Lanes on that bridge, or 4?"

Jamie's trees:

As you can see from Jamie's trees, he has been very busy during lockdown, pruning and wiring, and his trees will be all the better for the work done.



Jill's story'

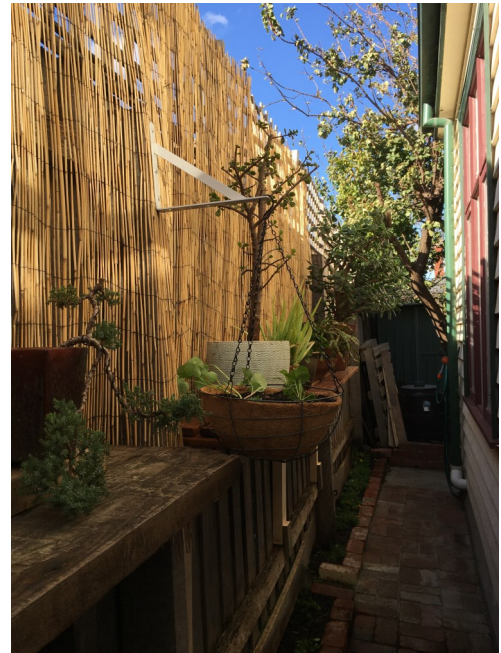
About 15 years ago, Mum, (Hazel), gave me a pine, with the comment, "Here, you have it, I don't like pines." so I took it. It was just a pine tree in a black plastic pot. I left it for a few years until it got a bit bigger, and by then I noticed I needed to bring the big solid branch down, so I used all the nuts & bolts I could find, which I threaded like a necklace and hung from the end of the branch and left for another 4 or 5 years. By this time, a lot of other branches had started to grow, and it was beginning to look like it may turn into something, so into a bonsai pot it went, with the occasional trim and/or wiring, and went along nicely. I'm afraid I forgot it for a while, but a few weekends ago, I really worked on it, and it is looking much better.

Photos are "before" and "after".



Pam's story

I live in the inner suburbs, and as such our neighbours are very close. The outlook from my kitchen, dining room and living room windows was not at all attractive. Inspired by the shelves Bruce built for mum on her fence, and with plenty of time on my hands, I decided to do the same for myself. They're not perfect, but they are a vast improvement.



. Jeff's story : I have just removed the old needles from the black pine and commenced wiring the branches. This will take 2 to 3 days as it is a big tree and its not easy. The junipers need de cobwebbing as you can see but it is now time to do some shaping and wiring as well. The cedar has had wire pulling down the main branches for 2 years and I intend to leave it on for a bit longer. Cedars are difficult. As soon as you remove the wire the branches generally spring back so hopefully this time they will stay put. The smaller pine is in the queue to have the old needles removed and rewired ready for next spring. Busy time. I have one juniper that i think has the dreaded juniper blight. I have and will continue to spray but i think I will lose at least one big branch. Unfortunate but that is part of the challenge with bonsais. The rest are in good shape and will soon be ready for next spring. Not



sure when the club can meet again but I am looking forward to catching up with club members as soon as possible.

Jeff's story, {continued):

These are some of Jeff's trees, looking good, and showing the benefit of some good pruning and wiring.

Congratulations to you Jeff for your productive work, and my thanks, as editor, the many of you who have helped me so much over our lockdown period.

Hopefully. We will be able to meet again soon. And have a "catch-up" with our many friends.

Take care and stay safe!



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