

## NEWSLETTER

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Dear Members,

I have probably given most of the hints already, about what we should do over Winter, and most of you know anyway, but at the risk of repeating myself, here goes.

This is a good time to really look at your tree, particularly if it is deciduous, because you can get a good idea of any alterations to placement of branches, removal of unnecessary branches and/or shoots, and pruning. Some of your more important decisions will be made during this dormant period, and you may be surprised at how much improvement can be made.

Evergreens also need attention, spiders love to build their homes among the needles, and in the bark of the trunks. Give them a good cleaning.

With this year being rather wet, in most places, check that the soil is away from the trunk of your tree, and also check that your drainage holes are clear and excess water is able to drain away.

Stay safe and stay warm!

Dear Members,

I realise we are all facing difficult times, and I feel this is all the more reason we should stay in touch. We may not all be doing bonsai "stuff", but that doesn't matter, let us know what you are doing, and checking in that you are OK.

For example, here is a lovely photo of Hazel, with her daughter's dog "Patch"

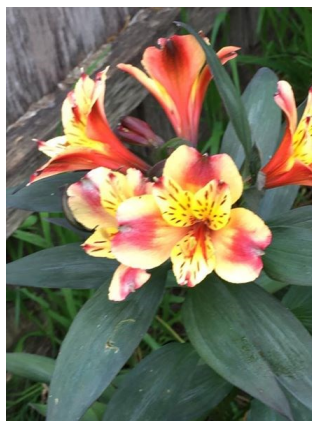
Hazel, as you will all remember, celebrated her 100th birthday in February of this year, and the other day, while talking to her daughter she commented, Oh I've forgotten, I must be getting old! Isn't that a typical Hazel comment. Don't ever change Hazel.

Inside this newsletter, I have printed a story about "Lennie and Ginger Mick". This is nothing to do with bonsai, but is a wonderfully inspiring story, and we need all the inspiration we can get at the moment. I hope you enjoy the story.

Below there are some photos of winter "Colour and magic" from Pam's garden.

Just proves you don't have to travel to the tropics in order to see beautiful flowers at this time of year. It can be seen anywhere you look.

**"STAY POSITIVE!"**



## LENNIE AND GINGER MICK;

It's 1932, and Australia is in the grip of the Great Depression. One in three workers are unemployed. Decrepit shanty towns hug the outskirts of the big cities. A scrawny rabbit, caught in a trap, will feed a family for a week. Country roads are filled with broken men, walking from one farmhouse to another, seeking menial jobs and food.

On the outskirts of the South Gippsland town of Leongatha, an injured farmer lies in bed, unable to walk-or work. World War 1 hero, Captain Leo Tennyson Gwyther, is in hospital with a broken leg, and the family farm is in danger of falling into ruins.

Up steps his son, nine-year old Lennie. With the help of his pony, Ginger Mick, Lennie ploughs the farm's 24 paddocks, and keeps the place running, until his father can get back on his feet.

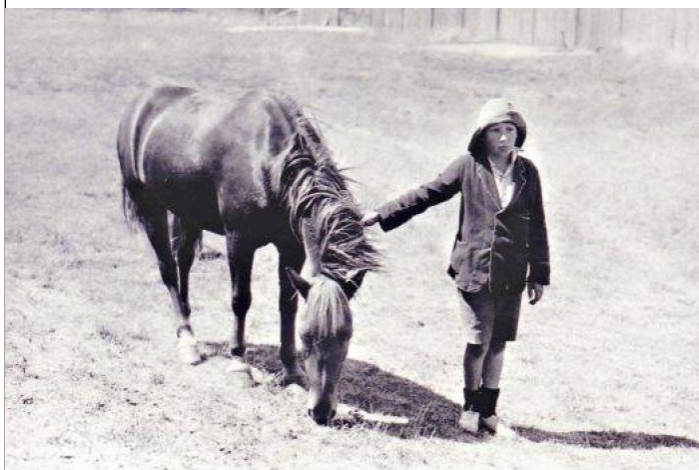
How to reward him?

and endures rain and cold biting winds.

When he reaches Canberra, he is welcomed by Prime Minister, Joseph Lyons, who invites him into Parliament House for tea.

When he finally reaches Sydney, more than 10,000 people line the streets to greet him. He is besieged by autograph hunters. He becomes a key part of the official parade at the bridge's opening. He and Ginger Mick are invited to make a starring appearance at the Royal Show. Even Donald Bradman, the biggest celebrity of the depression era, requests a meeting, and gives him a signed cricket bat..

A letter writer to the Sydney Morning Herald at the time, gushes that "just such an example as provided by a child of nine summers, Lennie Gwyther was, and is needed to raise the spirit of our people, and to fire our youth , and others to do things—not to talk only. The sturdy pioneer spirit is not dead...let it be remembered that this little lad, when his father was in hospital, cultivated the farm—a mere child."



Above: Lennie and Ginger Mick in the parade.

Lennie has been obsessively following one of the biggest engineering feats of the era—the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. He wants to attend its opening.

With great reluctance, his parents agree he can go! So Lennie saddles up Ginger Mick, packs a toothbrush, spare clothes, and a water bottle, and begins the 1000+ kilometre (600+ miles) to Sydney, alone. That's right!

A nine year old boy riding a pony, from the deep south of Victoria, to the biggest, roughest city in the nation

Told you it was a different era. No social media, no mobile phones, but even then it didn't take long before word begins to spread about a boy, his horse, and their epic trek. The entire population of small country towns gather on their outskirts to welcome his arrival.

He survives bushfires, is attacked by a "vagabond",

When Lennie leaves Sydney for home, a month later, he has become one of the most famous figures in a country craving uplifting news. Large crowds wave handkerchiefs, women weep and shout "Goodbye".

According to the Sun newspaper, "Lennie, being a casual Australian, swung into the saddle and called, "Toodleloo"

He finally arrives home to a tumultuous reaction in Leongatha.. Life returned to normal for Lennie, but these days you can find a bronze statue in Leongatha commemorating Lennie and Ginger Mick.

We need to remember Lennie and his courageous journey, it's a great story, and God knows we need these stories now, more than ever.



## Winter wonderland

### Jill's place:



Above, 15 yr old liquid amber group.  
Right, Maple and Golden ash

Curly filbert Jap maple Eng-  
lish elm



### Pam's place

A couple of years ago, Pam dug these Japanese maple seedling up from a friend's place. It was now time to repot, do some pruning, and label clearly, so well done Pam.





## WINTER WONDERLAND

### Diana's place

Diana's lovely sasanqua camelia, not taken from the front, but taken from the angle with the most flowers.



### Gwen's place

This is a before and after photo of Gwen's sticky wattle. It is normally a weeping style, but Gwen is hoping to make it a n upright style, so we wish her luck.

