

# NEWSLETTER

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## SEASONAL NOTES:

I think September, as far as bonsai is concerned, is one of my favourite times of the year.

There is a lot of new growth on the trees, and sometimes, the exciting prospect of a whole new style, as a branch pops out in exactly the place you hoped it would, and, a tree you had almost thought of discarding, is now worth working on.

Do keep up the watering, and the fertilising, and do keep on the look out for "nasties", they can do a lot of damage in a short space of time.

Turn your trees as often as you can, so that all sides get equal sun.

And of course, we now have to control all that wonderful new growth by constantly pruning.

Dear Members,

I put out a plea for some photos, and was surprised to see that wisterias were popular with members, and have decided to include an article on caring for our wisteria bonsais. Hope you find it useful.

On the right, is a photo of Steve's wisteria, which this year, has about 120 flowers. Which is more than any other year.

While we all know that wisterias are not classic bonsai trees, they are beautiful when in full bloom, and bring a lot of joy and happiness into our lives.



Some of our azaleas are also flowering, and are bringing their own glory in their own way.

One of our members, Nancy, had a fall and broke her arm. She is currently in Belleura Hospital.

Also Pam, tried to lift an oversize hanging basket, and ended up with a prolapsed disc, which required an operation. Although she still has some pain, she is on the way to a full recovery.

I am sure we wish them both well, and send our love, and hope to see them soon, happy and well at one of our meetings.

Also our best wishes to anyone else who may have had an issue that we haven't heard about, all the best.

Jill's jade garden, (right), and Jill's jades in a wheelbarrow, (below)



## SPECIFIC BONSAI CARE GUIDELINES FOR THE WISTERIA BONSAI TREE.

### POSITION:

The wisteria should be placed in full sun during the growing season. Sunlight is essential for flowering. Wisteria are frost hardy when they are growing in the ground, but they will need protection when they are planted in containers. A cold, but frost free greenhouse, or shed, is a good place for a wisteria bonsai tree.

### WATERING:

The wisteria needs enormous amounts of water during the growing season. In summer, it is a good idea to place the bonsai pot in a shallow bowl, which will fill up with water, every time the tree is watered. In Autumn and Winter, keep the roots moist, but not soaking.

### FEEDING:

Apply solid organic fertiliser once a month, or use a liquid fertiliser once a week, or both, during the growing season.. The wisteria grows strongly, and likes to be fed well, but use fertilisers that are low in nitrogen.

### MORE OF JILL'S GARDEN.

Below, 15 yr. old olive, wired for action, and underneath, azalea and green waratah. Right, bottom corner, wisteria, before flowering, but with some wiring and shaping done, and immediate right, burgundy orchid.

Wisterias can take nitrogen from the atmosphere, and too much nitrogen will promote leaf growth instead of flowers.

### PRUNING AND WIRING:

Hard pruning is best done in early Spring, or after flowering. Let the tendrils grow until January, and then cut them back. After the leaves have fallen, you can prune branches and twigs, and wire the branch structure. Do not cut off the short shoots, on which the flower buds will set.

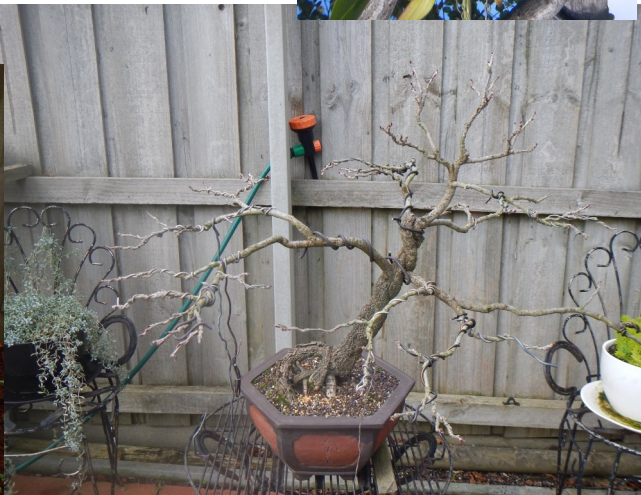
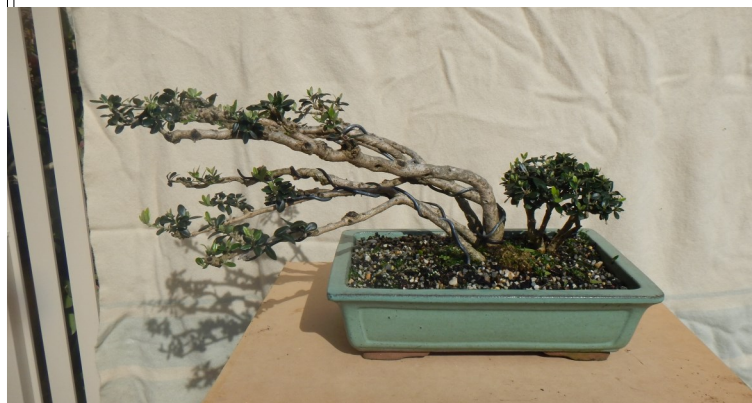
When the canopy becomes too dense in the summer, and the inner twigs suffer from lack of light, you can cut off some leaves, but it is not advisable to totally defoliate the wisteria. Don't let too many seed pods develop, because they take a lot of energy from the tree.

### RE-POTTING:

Re-pot younger trees every two years, and older trees 3 to 5 years, in Spring, before the buds open. They tolerate root pruning well, but on older trees, don't do too much. Wisterias flower better when they get a bit root bound. A standard potting mix works well, ph around 5.5 to 6.

Gardens are a lot of work, but the results are rewarding.

Lovely jill, we look forward to another visit to your lovely garden.



## MARG'S POTS

Marg wrote,

Hope you are all well. I tried to take some photos of trees, but it was too windy, and they were a bit blurry. So I took some photos of the pots on the shelves, waiting for a sale day. I can't go to Canberra, in October for their show, and it's not looking like there'll be a sale day now 'til next year.

Been busy trimming, wiring and potting trees and missing some instructions, but hope all will survive.. Also I've been re-arranging my yard, to allow the bonsai trees to have a little more space around them, and getting more benches and working area ready, but a little hampered by not being allowed to shop. So I have been using recycled materials, hopefully set up soon and I can get back to carving.. In my spare time I have been mucking around with some rusty scraps, making garden hangers. That's about all I've been up to in the bonsai world. I have been spinning and crocheting in front of the fire at night.



### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Thank you so much for the article and the photos Marg. Can I say, you have been a very productive lady. You put me to shame, I am having trouble getting motivated. Marg is not only a very talented lady, she is also very generous and warm hearted.

*Also wish to thank all the lovely people who contributed to this newsletter*

*It is much ap-preciated*

## GWEN'S TREE:

Gwen sent a very interesting article, together with some photos. These 4 photos, are all of the one tree, which was just a very long bare trunk with leaves at the top.

First picture is the top. Which she air-layered from the tree a couple of years ago.

As you can see, it is developing very nicely.



Second picture is the middle of the tree, which she cut off the bottom, and grew as a cutting, because the trunk was still too tall.

As you can also see, the cutting has taken root, and is coming along well.

The third picture, bottom right, is the actual base of the original tree. Gwen is hoping to make a broom style of this one, and below, is another cutting from the top of the original root. How interesting is that. A tree from a rejected tree. Well done Gwen.



## MORNINGTON PENINSULA BONSAI SOCIETY:

Meets every month except December, on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, { unless otherwise stated}, at 7.30pm.

Visitors are most welcome, and if you would like to have advice on your tree, there should be a number of experts on hand to help you.

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