

SEASONAL NOTES:

At last we can feel some warmth in the air. It is probably OK to re-pot evergreens now, provided you keep them out of the heat, and it would probably be better to plant younger trees, and leave the more mature trees until the Autumn.

It is extremely important to keep the water up to our trees, and feed them every couple of weeks.

I saw an advert the other day on TV, more or less telling us that plants cannot just subsist on water alone, they also need food, much like your family, and there is some sense in that.

Try and not let the new growth get out of hand, it can grow very quickly with the glorious weather, and also check any wiring you may have done recently, it is surprising how quickly that can cut in.

Dear members,

I realise that our wonderfully efficient secretary has already advised you about the AGM, and what we hope will be a meeting/workshop in January, but in case you didn't read it, it is worth repeating.. The time is yet to be confirmed, but is highly likely to either 10am or 10.30am

Firstly, we are not holding our AGM in November, because of the virus. We have asked Consumer Affairs for an extension, and at this stage, we are thinking we would hold it at that January meeting in Advance Nurseries, as The Moorooduc Hall Management cannot confirm when they will reopen.

In the interim, the present committee will stay the same.

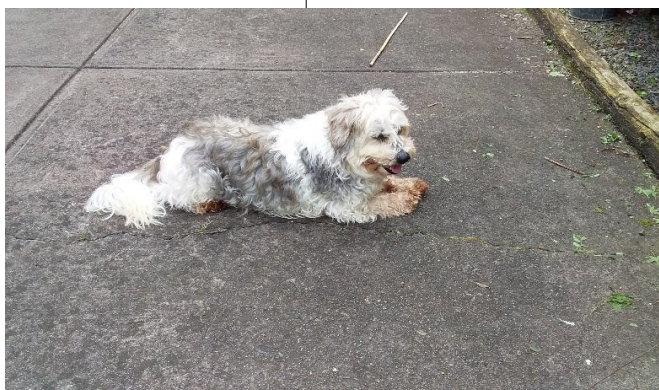
Everyone who paid their fees for 2020 will carry over into 2021. You will not have to pay again. For those who didn't pay then, fees will become due at the January meeting.

Jill's lovely wisteria



TALE OF A "SHAGGY DOG". Jill's dog Patch, before and after clipping

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THE STORY OF STEVE B'S WHITE PINE;

Steve purchased this particular white pine some years ago, from Trevor, at Bonsai Art Nursery. Firstly, a photo of the tree when he purchased it.

It obviously had had some initial training, and there was some movement in the trunk, but it was in need of pruning, wiring, and shaping of branches.

Steve now has it displayed on a little floating island in his "lake", and it certainly is eye-catching

I'm guessing the photos below, shows the little island when he first began to construct it



You can see in the picture on the right, how the height has been reduced, and now the tree has an attractive branch bringing the main trunk back in line with the base. The main branches are developing beautifully

The trunk is beginning to thicken, and the potential that was there originally, is now starting to really blossom.

Below right, the tree on its' new home, having been planted in its' new pot



Donald Trump emerged from the White House, and a would-be assassin stepped out from behind a car, and aimed a handgun at him.

A rookie Secret Service agent yelled "Mickey Mouse", startling the assassin so much, it enabled the other agents to overcome him, and no one was hurt.

The supervisor called the rookie over, and said to him", Whatever were you thinking , yelling "Mickey Mouse?" "Sorry sir," said the rookie, I got nervous, I meant to yell, "Donald, duck"!

PLANT NUTRIENTS:

The essential nutrients needed by plants are divided into three groups:

Major elements:

Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potassium (K)

Secondary elements:

Calcium (Ca), Magnesium (Mg) Sulphur (S)

Minor elements:

Iron (Fe), Manganese (Mn), copper (Cu), Zinc (Zn), Boron (B), molybdenum (Mo)

The major elements are needed in larger amounts than the secondary elements, which in turn are required more than the trace elements. The importance of trace elements is not questioned, but they are needed only in minute quantities.

Nitrogen: is an essential part of the protein in plant cells. It is also a necessary part of chlorophyll, the green pigment in plants, and is extremely important in leaf growth. Plants deficient in nitrogen are stunted, with pale green or yellow leaves.

Phosphorus: forms part of the nucleo-proteins in plant cells, so it is important in growing tissue where the cells are actively dividing. It promotes the development of seedlings, root growth, flowering and the formation of fruits and seeds. A deficiency in phosphorus leads to poor root development, and stunted

growth.

Potassium: promotes chlorophyll production, and plays an important part in the strength of cells, and the movement of water in plants. .

Plants deficient in potassium have weak stems, their leaves, especially the older ones, may be floppy, with yellow or brown tips, or scorched margins.

How much should I give them?:

The bonsai soil, and the depth of the pot, will largely determine the right amount, and will always contain-Nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash., (salts that contain potash in liquid form) to allow bonsai plants to receive the main elements needed for growth and development. Chelation is binding iron to another substance, usually an amino acid, so the plant roots can easily absorb iron. The cell membrane of plants is more receptive to the amino acids, so the chelation allows the iron to pass easily in to the cells where it is needed.

How often should I feed?:

Remember your trees are surviving in a small amount of soil, so as a rule of thumb, every week during the growing season. As the season goes more into the height of the hot weather, fortnightly, then monthly.

Deciduous trees will not require food during the dormant period, but a monthly dose of a seaweed based tonic, such as Seasol, will keep it in good health, and prepare it for the growing season.

Adrian – had a short stay in hospital having a procedure, and while he is recovering, he is struggling to get around as well as he would like, but at least he has company, in the form of a little pug “Raffa”, named after Rafael Nadal, the tennis player.

He is also admiring the magnolia, he dug out of his garden a couple of months ago, and placed into a very large bonsai pot. It has survived the re-potting, is throwing out new growth, and most exciting of all, it has three flowers, a very nice purplish pink. Looking forward to seeing it's development.

Pam is recovering well, and looks like making a full recovery. She is back to driving and doing a bit of light gardening, no lifting heavy hanging baskets.

I feel very guilty that I haven't been able to catch up on Nancy's progress. I promise I will rectify this for the next newsletter. In the meantime, I am hoping that no news is good news.

STAY WELL, AND STAY SAFE, AND LET US HOPE WE CAN ALL GET TOGETHER SHORTLY!