

Mornington Peninsula Bonsai Society

February

NEWSLETTER

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2021

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month,(unless otherwise stated) in the Moorooduc Hall, cnr. Derrill Rd. and Bentons Rd., Moorooduc, @ 7.30pm. Visitors welcome.

Dear members,

Well, we are still on a roller coaster ride, and probably will be until we get the jab, which hopefully will be sooner rather than later.

We will be holding our MGM on Saturday the 6th March @ 10.30am at the Advance College Nursery, Mitchell St. Mornington, then on Wednesday the 17th March, we will be back in the Moorooduc Hall, at around 7.30 pm

We all understand that these arrangements can be altered at any time, but at this moment, this is the plan.

Below; Steve helping out with some friendly advice during our February workshop



R:

will come across an old photo, or something
gs back a happy memory. This happened to
this photo, taken circa 2015, of club members
rican expert, Robert Kempinski.

engineer, and works for Nasa in the space pro-
n Melbourne, Florida, USA. As previously men-
an International bonsai expert.
bonsai as a hobby, because he found it very re-

t only very exacting, it can be very taxing men-
s the gentle art of growing and styling miniature
ng





Diana's olive trees, 2 different types of olive trees, one of which has a healthy crop of olives. This is fairly unusual for olives grown in a bonsai pot, being regularly pruned etc.

LIGHT

Adapted from "BONSAI" by Peter Chan

LIGHT is absolutely essential for the wellbeing of plants and trees, and yet we don't always think of it as important. Without it, plants would not be able to produce the food they need to stay alive.

Plants harness the energy in sunlight, to transform the carbon dioxide they extract from the air and water they draw from the soil, to produce carbohydrate in their leaf tissues. This complex process is called photosynthesis, and involves the manufacture of sugars, by linking the carbon atoms (from carbon dioxide) together in a series of chemical reactions. Its most valuable by-product is the oxygen we breathe.

The importance of light cannot be over-emphasised. Bonsai should be grown in full sunlight as far as possible.

There are of course, some varieties of trees which can't withstand strong sunlight, but trees should not as a rule be grown under shading, or kept indoors. They must have as much light as possible, so the leaves can photosynthesise in order to provide food for the tree. The leaves of the more delicate species, such as maples and beech, which can be scorched by strong, direct, sunlight, should be given some protection. This can be provided by partial shading in the form of overhead netting.

Most evergreens, as a rule, like full sun. All the pines and junipers thrive in full sunshine. The

Hinoki and Sawara cypresses however, prefer partial shade in mid-summer. Most deciduous trees can stand full

sun during the early summer, but in mid-summer, when the sun is really strong, they appreciate partial shade. Evergreen trees should not be kept under cover during the winter.

AIR:

The other thing that is also important for your tree is air. Keep plenty of room around your plants, as air is of course, the source of carbon dioxide, which is needed by plants to produce food, and it is just as important in the soil because tree roots, like leaves, need to breathe. If soil air is excluded, as happens when soil is waterlogged.

The roots suffocate, and the tree will eventually die. The millions of micro-organisms that live in the soil also need air; without it they too die, and the soil becomes putrid and lifeless.

Your bonsai at home should not be packed too closely together, allowing air & sunshine to circulate around your trees.

VERY IMPORTANT:

Rotate your trees every couple of weeks, so that all branches get a share of the available sun. Otherwise, all the growth goes to the side that is facing the sun.

Thanks to Diana for providing this article.

Below are some snaps from our February workshop.

