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Mornington Peninsula Bonsai Society Inc NEWSLETTER August 2021

In This Issue:

- Presidents Report
- Our Sickies
- Small & Miniature Trees
- Ficus Figs Information
- Jeff's Larger Trees
- A Thought to All
- Diary Dates

Club Details:

jillian24@bigpond.com

Meetings are held at the **Moorooduc Community Hall**, cnr Derril Road and Moorooduc Rd, Moorooduc, commencing 7.30pm, the third Wednesday of the month (no meeting in December)

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Presidents Report:

I hope you are all in good health and spirit, considering that we are back in lock down once again.



For our normal club meeting on Wednesday, August 18,

I will demonstrate the ins and outs of creating a raft style, using a Chinese Juniper. If you have an example of a raft, please bring it along, but remember, all display trees are much appreciated. Hopefully our next Saturday Open Workshop September 4 will happen.

How is your repotting going? I have just completed repotting all my deciduous trees, a task that was not helped by the cold wet weather. My Ashes and Chinese Elms are just beginning to show green buds, an early sign of the coming Spring.

Please consider helping out with the newsletter. A short article or simply a photo or two of your trees would be a great help. Send anything you have to Jill. Maybe if you would like to include a recommendation of a good book to read, or something concerning other interests that hold your attention. There may be other common interests amongst members that can be shared.



Our Sickies

If you know of any Club member who is unwell, please let Jill know. Thank you.

Gwen's Small Trees



Cyprus



Rosemary



Continesta

Steve's Small Trees



**Japanese Black Pine
Seedling 1994**



**Olive dug in Adelaide Hills in
the 1990's**



**Japanese Black Pine
Seedling 1994**

Jill's Small Trees



Japanese Maple



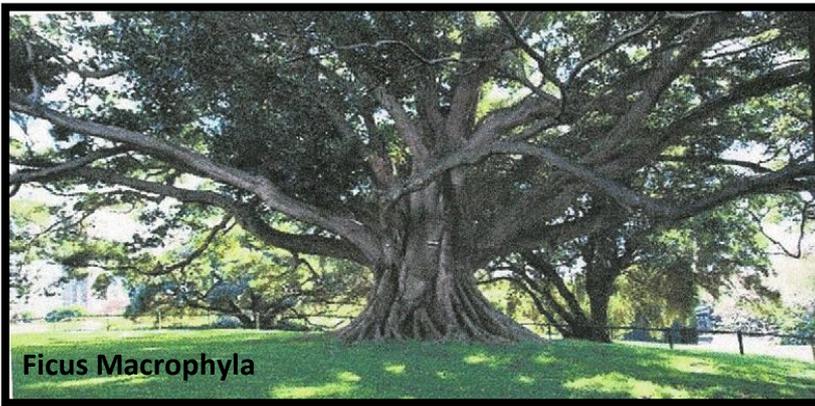
The Trees & their Shadows

Pine



Desert Ash

(from Wikipedia)

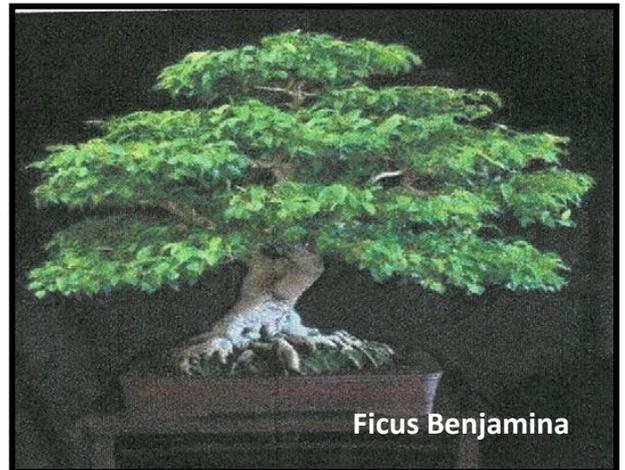


Ficus Macrophyla

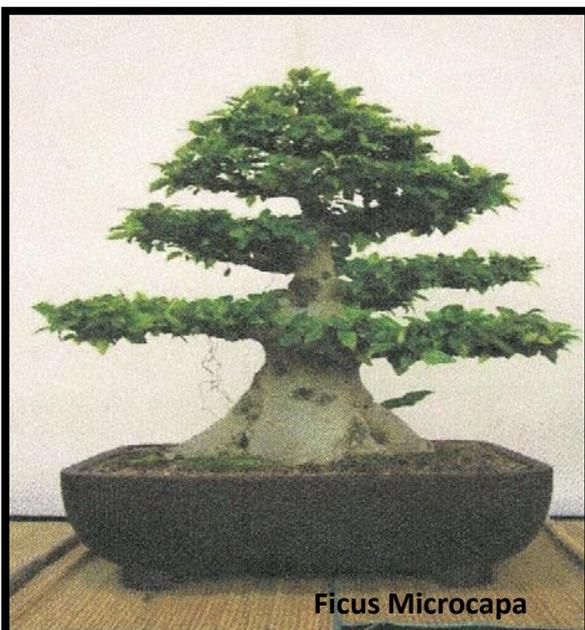
A brief description for figs (Ficus) Ficus is a pan-tropical genus of trees, shrubs and vines occupying a wide variety of ecological niches; most are evergreen, but some deciduous species are endemic to areas outside of the tropics and to higher elevations. Fig species are characterized by their unique inflorescence and

distinctive pollination syndrome, which utilizes wasp species belonging to the Agaonidae family for pollination. The specific identification of many of the species can be difficult, but figs as a group are relatively easy to recognize. Many have aerial roots and a distinctive shape or habit, and their fruits distinguish them from other plants. The fig fruit is an enclosed inflorescence, sometimes referred to as a syconium, an urn-like structure lined on the inside with the fig's tiny flowers. The unique fig pollination system, involving tiny, highly specific wasps, known as fig wasps that enter via ostiole these sub-closed inflorescences to both pollinate and lay their own eggs, has been a constant source of inspiration and wonder to biologists.

Finally, there are three vegetative traits that together are unique to figs. All figs possess a white to yellowish latex, some in copious quantities; the twig has paired stipules or a circular stipule scar if the stipules have fallen off; and the lateral veins at the base of the leaf are steep, forming a tighter angle with the midrib than the other lateral veins, a feature referred to as "tri-veined". There are no unambiguous older fossils of Ficus. However, current molecular clock estimates indicate that Ficus is a relatively ancient genus being at least 60 million years old, and possibly as old as 80 million years. The main radiation of extant species, however, may have taken place more recently, between 20 and 40 million years ago. Some better-known species that represent the



Ficus Benjamina



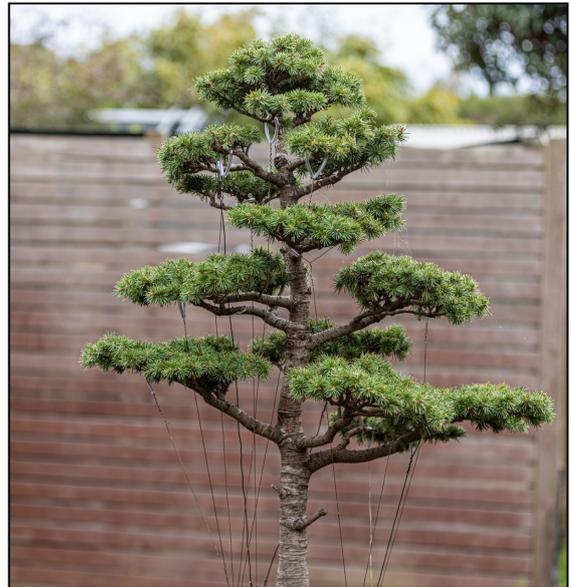
Ficus Microcapa

diversity of the genus include the Common Fig, which is a small temperate deciduous tree whose fingered fig leaf is well known in art and iconography; the Weeping Fig (*F. benjamina*) a hemi-epiphyte with thin tough leaves on pendulous stalks adapted to its rain forest habitat; the rough-leaved sandpaper figs from Australia; the Creeping Fig (*F. pumila*), a vine whose small, hard leaves form a dense carpet of foliage over rocks or garden walls. Moreover, figs with different plant habits have undergone adaptive radiation in different biogeographic regions, leading to very high levels of alpha diversity. In the tropics, it is quite common to find that Ficus is the most species-rich plant genus in a particular forest. In Asia as many as 70 or more species can co-exist. Ficus species richness declines with an increase in latitude in both hemispheres.

Some larger trees courtesy of Jeff



Chinese Elm



Cedar - Jeff sure has it wired to within an inch of it's life.

A thought to all - I would like to add a section to the newsletter of photos of natural trees, that have beautiful shapes and you think would be nice for other members to see and possibly, could be inspired for their next bonsai from that shape. With this in mind, it would be great if this Spring (or anytime really) you have a look around at natural trees and see what shapes you can find to photograph, and I will make a section in the newsletter for them. Send the photos to me at email jillian24@bigpond.com plus any more information you may have such as the species name and where and when the photo is taken and your name. This could be an interesting project— See the photo I took at Geraldton WA when we were there on the 2019 Variety Vic Bash, a very big Bonsai in the car park of a Shopping Centre, a tee-tree I think .



Diary Dates



- August 18** Wednesday Club Night 7.30 pm
- September 4** Saturday Open Workshop Advance Nursery 10.00—3.00pm
- September 15** Wednesday Club Night - Don DeLuca depending on Covid
- September 18** Saturday Paid Workshop with Don Deluca—don't forget to Book
- October 2** Saturday Open Workshop at the home Jillian Lewis 10.00—3.00pm
- October 20** Wednesday Club Night - Quentin Valentine Natives depending on Covid
- November 7** Annual General Meeting & Christmas Break Up