



July 2012

Welcome to the bonsai newsletter for June/July (I,m early this month but have a few things to show you!)
Wow the temperature has sure dropped, its only 10 degrees here at the moment and its 1.30 pm! If you haven't got colour yet, you should get it now, make sure your trees are getting lots of sun!
I know I have mentioned it before but we are seeing big price increases on the way from both national and international pressure. National with the carbon tax, and international with it being more economical for the Chinese to sell pots in China than abroad. Bonsai is really growing in China, as are the millionaires who will pay whatever. It was always going to happen.

The object is not to make the tree look like a bonsai, but to make the bonsai look like a tree.

- John Naka

WIRING

Now is a good time to do some wiring. Many of your trees will have less foliage on them now. This allows wiring to be easy, as you can see more of your branch structure. Also take the time to remove any branchlets that are shooting out the wrong way. You can be fairly severe on elms, maple etc. cut them back hard, it will give you greater branch ramification in the future.

PRUNING

Now is a really good time to do some pruning and refining. Trees such as elms, and maples will respond really well to hard pruning now before leaf bud. By pruning back hard now you will create greater ramifications on your branches. There is nothing better than an elm or a maple that has hundreds of tiny twigs all exposed in winter, so now is the time to cut them back while you can see them. Keep cutting back to 2 leaves (or buds) on each branchlet and over spring and summer you will get fantastic growth. It is easy to just let them grow as they will look good, but winter will find you out with long stringy branchlets.

Take some time to assess your trees whilst they are defoliated, see what changes need to be made. Maybe its time to thin it out and remove some major branches! You may decide to reshape the whole tree, this is all part of the journey!

Its also worth noting that whilst you are trimming your trees to keep your tools sharp and clean. If your tools are blunt they may appear to be cutting but in actual fact be crushing the branchlets. This will cause die back, back up the branch. Also a cleaning block will keep rust and sap of your tools, as it is very easy to transmit virus or disease from tree to tree. These blocks are designed to eliminate this.

Thieves

Theft has been rife again so be extra vigilant with your trees. If you do have someone suspicious trying to sell trees, get as much info as possible rego etc and contact me at the nursery.

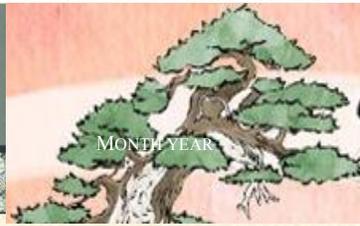
The best way to combat this is making sure your trees are out of sight to the public, and if necessary, wire them to their stands to make it as difficult as possible for theft.

REPOTTING

You should be preparing to repot all your trees soon. (This is assuming you are in Qld.) Some can be left to later such as pines, figs, but your elms, maples junipers etc are ready to go. What happens with the old soil is that it becomes drained of all its nutrients, we can continue to fertilise but this is not the optimum. Much of the humus has broken down, and can become quite mushy. Also the bulk of the pot will have filled up with new roots so there is little room left for new roots to develop and water retention is very difficult. It is vital that the mix you use is "open", and "sharp". By this I mean it is free draining, and that much of the mix is sharp in content, such as sand and gravel. The purpose of this is to cause the roots to divide constantly. The roots travel along, hit something sharp and split. This is what we are after. The better the root system, the better the foliage. That makes sense doesn't it! Unfortunately we pay little attention to the soil or the roots, out of sight, out of mind eh?

Opening hours Monday to Saturday 9.00 – 4.00





RED DRAGON BONSAI

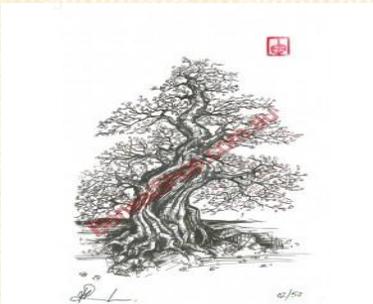


MONTH/YEAR

VOLUME # ISSUE #

Drawings.

We have some sketches at the nursery for sale. These have been done by a bonsai artist and are absolutely amazing! These are all signed and numbered, and limited to 50 of each print. I snapped up the 01/50 in all four of the prints and are framing them. The detail in these have to be seen to be believed. These drawings took literally 100's of hours to complete. Even the 'chop' that is used has been carved out of soap stone, rolled in a special red dye, and stamped. Each one comes up slightly different. The chop is the artists name in Japanese. They really capture the essence of age and nature. They haven't printed on really thick artists card and are A3 in size. There are 4 different prints. Only \$49 each!



Also on sale at the moment is a range of pots, some are slightly marked, others are surplus. All of these are going at heavily reduced prices. You would be mad to not grab some, especially with repotting just around the corner (and with price increases coming on the next shipment)

Some come in different sizes, some are even cheaper if you buy the set of 2 or 3



There are quite a few more, cascades mini's for \$5 etc. When there gone, there gone!

We recently purchased a collection of some really nice trees that are also for sale a very good prices. I have kept a couple myself.



Trees include:
Swamp cypress
Bouganvillea
Celtis
Crab apple (6" trunk!)
Pear
Chinese Liquid amber (yellow)
Some of these trees are 25+ years old!
There are about 18 in all. (I'm not for sale!)

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