

# APAB—N

the Newsletter of the Australian Plants as Bonsai  
Study Group



an Association of Societies for  
Growing Australian Plants  
Study Group

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## International Honours to Australians with Aussie Species as Bonsai

Bonsai Clubs International runs an annual competition, based on photographs of bonsai. This year's Grand Winner was Mr Bobby P. Gopiao, Philippines, using a *Pemphis acidula*.



I include this here because some of you will recognise that *Pemphis acidula* is a species native to Australia and other tropical shores to our north, northeast and northwest. It reminds us that although we have many endemic species, we also share many species with the tropics to our north. So those that live 'up north' might be thrilled to use these species as models of what works well as 'Australian species' as bonsai.

There were also other species that we share with other parts of the tropics among the top '50 International Winners': *Ficus benjamina* (winners from Indonesia, Thailand and

Venezuela), and *Ficus virens* (India and Thailand).

The locally exciting news is the winners from Australia, some of whom are also APAB members. Congratulations to Bradley Barlow, Brisbane (*Ficus eugenioides*), *Leptospermum scoparium* (Mark Higgins), and *Melaleuca raphiophylla* (Derek Oakley). In the '50 Honorable Winners' list were *Eucalyptus nicholii* (Peter Hanrahan) and *Callistemon* sp (J.Leo). Congratulations all round. It is good to see Australians taking the time to enter such competitions and to be amongst the winners too.

[Bradley's fig on the left and Derek's paperbark on the right.



Thanks to BCI for all three images. You can see all at:

<http://www.bonsai-bci.com/WorldBonsai06/wbc06.html>.]



# Study Group Progress

Over the past 5 years, membership of APAB has fluctuated around 100, despite membership recently declining a little from its peak. However, our success as a 'study' group will be determined by how many people send in the basic information on what they are growing, and when they prune and repot, not by the size of the Group.

The number of contributions of information about how to grow Australian plants as bonsai has significantly increased in the past 2 years (Figure 1).

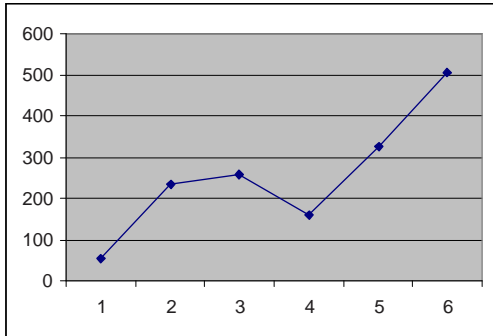


Figure 1. number of contributions of information to APAB. 'X' axis are the year (2001... etc).

The changed membership fee structure has resulted in the 'non-information contributing' members increasing the publication fund to \$491, thus giving all members an opportunity to contribute to our goals.

We can now identify the most frequently grown species, defined as those reported by 10 or more members (Table 1.). This gives us a means of focussing our attention on which are the most commonly grown among the 584 species/ subspecies/ varieties/ or cultivars being grown as bonsai. These species may be the ones we concentrate on in the proposed publication of our findings (see next report below).

Table 1. Tree types reported by 10 or more members.

Tree type	No. Reports
Ficus rubiginosa	54
Banksia serrata	37
Banksia integrifolia	28
Allocasuarina torulosa	24
Callistemon sp. (ie any bottle brush)	19
Ficus macrophylla	19
Banksia marginata	18
Kunzea ambigua	18
Brachychiton populneus	16
Nothofagus cunninghamii	15
Grevillea robusta	15
Leptospermum laevigatum	15
Babingtonia virgata	14
Acmena smithii	14
Tristanopsis laurina	14

Elaeocarpus reticulatus	13
Syzygium sp. (ie, any 'lilly pillly')	13
Callistemon viminalis	12
Brachychiton rupestris	12
Lagarostrobos franklinii	12
Callitris glaucophylla	12
Melaleuca linariifolia	11
Angophora costata	11
Callistemon viminalis 'Captain Cook'	11
Podocarpus lawrencei	11
Ficus rubiginosa cv 'Little Ruby'	11
Allocasuarina littoralis	11
Acacia howittii	10
Casuarina cunninghamiana	10
Eucalyptus nicholii	10
Agonis flexuosa	10
Eucalyptus camaldulensis	10

If you grow any of these types of trees and haven't sent in any details of when you prune and repot, PLEASE DO SO NOW. By doing so, you will make an enormous contribution, well beyond the effort you expend. EVERY RECORD IS VALUABLE – it may confirm what others have said or show variation in what is possible. We will then be in so much better a position to write-up our publication notes for readers, giving the most common methods used as well as valuable variations. We will probably also bust a few myths along the way too!

If we can maintain the momentum of providing basic information, we will soon have sufficient to publish the first edition of the Study Group's work.

## APAB's First Publication

One of the Study Group's main goals is to publish the results of what we find by compiling information provided by members. Since the Group began, I have only become more convinced than ever that there is a strong and growing demand for the information that we are compiling.

As more and more people experiment with native species as bonsai, it becomes imperative that factual information on what works and what seems not to work is made available from an authoritative source. The best overall source of information is that being put together by you. At present, hearsay is providing a mixture of good information as well as simply wrong information, and few people can tell them apart. Our work can help clarify things.

During 2007, I would like to form a small publication planning group, as well as canvas the views of the wider membership about what the publication should contain, how it should be organised, and the form of publication it should be. Thus, I am now calling for people to identify themselves as interested in being part of the planning group. Those with publishing, finance and secretarial skills would be especially welcome. Depending on

where people live, email will be an important medium for contact. While I can bring some experience in these matters myself, it is always better to have depth of experiences to draw on. Also, people who have strong writing skills would also be most welcome. If you are a good 'writer', please contact me. We will have a variety of material to turn into easily readable text and a small writing team could be most valuable. While email for writers would be useful, it is not essential.

For our 'publication' to be attractive, it will need to be well illustrated. Good illustrations of mature trees as models for styling, as well as illustrations of mature bonsai, will be essential to conveying information about how to grow Australian species as bonsai.

If you have images (high quality photos or high resolution digital) of any mature trees of any of the species in Table 1, please forward them. If they are not of such high quality, but are very good representatives of a splendid tree form, we could see about getting them drawn to use as illustrations. If you know where you could get such an image, please take the time to go and get it and send it in during 2007. If the image is not yours, please get written permission for us to use it in the publication, or at least a good contact address for the copyright holder.

## Growing Port Jackson Fig as Bonsai in a Warm Temperate Climate

By Mark McCrone

The Port Jackson Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa*) is often recommended as 'the very best tree for the beginner to practice with' (Koreshoff, 1983), and is 'top of the pops' with members of the Study Group, being the most frequently grown species recorded in the APAB database (APAB Newsletter No. 9). Its popularity extends beyond its native land, with an American grower, Jerry Meislik, commenting in his recent book that;

'Another of my favourites is the Port Jackson fig, *Ficus rubiginosa*. It has larger leaves making small or medium-sized trees a problem, but it is a superior material for larger trees. In containers it is a strong grower, its leaves reduce well, and it develops splendid aerial root formations. In fact, it will form aerial roots the most easily of any figs that I have used' (Meislik, 2004).

My experience is of growing the PJ fig outdoors, well removed from its natural range, yet it still performs admirably as bonsai material. My PJ fig tree has been grown as a bonsai subject for 18 years, after being started from a nursery purchased tubestock. The tree's current canopy dimensions are approximately 600 mm high X 800mm wide.

Living on the boundary of two of NSW's climatic districts, the Riverina and South West Slopes I

experience a warm temperate climate. Average annual rainfall is around 574mm, winters are relatively mild although frosts are common (50 per year) with an extreme cold of around -7 °C possible, though -3 or -4 is more likely. Summers are warm to hot with an average of 19 days per year greater than 35 °C. However, this most recent summer (2005-06) recorded 32 days greater than 35 °C (with 6 days greater than 40 °C).

Figs, the majority of which are tropical or sub-tropical trees, are often mentioned in bonsai books as suitable for cultivation as indoor bonsai. The intent of my article is to outline cultural and styling techniques used for the PJ fig bonsai in a warm temperate climate, and to (sometimes) correct or contradict advice offered in such books regarding the species cultivation as a bonsai.

Although, over its life as a bonsai specimen and in the course of my development/experimentation as a bonsai technician, the tree has been subject to varying regimes of care, I will outline those I consider most successful for the PJ fig in this climate.

### Situation

As with any containerized plant, the tree needs to be moved around the garden throughout the year to achieve the preferred exposure. PJ figs enjoy good light conditions, which assist in keeping foliage dense and leaf-size small. During warmer months (October to March) the tree does best with about 7 hours of direct sun. Due to the heat of summer temperatures experienced, this needs to be morning to early afternoon sun, so the tree is sited where it is in shade from around 2pm. In the winter months the tree is shifted to a north facing verandah, where it receives approximately 5 hours (8.30am to 2.30pm) of direct sun. The verandah cover is also necessary to protect the tree from winter night temperatures. Although most books (including Meislik's) suggest 10-12 °C as a minimum, the species (and figs generally) can tolerate, the air temperature on this verandah would often be in the order of -2 - 0 °C without injuring the tree. One winter, due to oversight, the tree was left 'out' (from overhead cover) until late June, and although badly



Figure 1– Damage to the foliage of a Port Jackson Fig caused by exposure to cold temperature.

cold damaged (see Figure 1), it survived the ordeal. The



foliage turned red, then brown, before falling. Most branches & twigs were thankfully undamaged and re-budded.

### Watering and Fertilising

The species enjoys ample water and, from my experience, it is difficult to 'overwater' the PJ fig. I prefer 'immersion' watering, where the whole pot is submerged in a vessel of water until the resultant bubbles stop. This may be daily in the warmest months, tapering to about once every 10 – 14 days in the middle of winter. A daily (or even morning and evening) 'misting' of the tree in warmer conditions helps to compensate for the 'dry air' of the warm temperate climate. This dry summer air also precludes the development of the 'splendid aerial root formations' that Meislik refers to. I use a 'half strength' (balanced) liquid fertiliser, fortnightly in the warmer months, extending the interval at either end of spring and autumn, and not fertilising at all April to August. If the fertiliser regime (or the potting mix) is too rich the tree will respond with luxuriant growth, characterised by (undesirable) larger leaves.

### Mix and Repotting

I have only ever used a 'standard' (commercially sourced) bonsai mix which gives excellent results as long as it is well drained and neutral to slightly acidic. Like many figs the PJ fig is a vigorously rooting tree and is tolerant of major reductions to its root system. I have extended the period between root-pruning to as long as 4 years, though a two year interval is more desirable. An annual prune is beneficial for at least the first 3 to 5 years of pot culture. I have also experimented with the timing of root-pruning and agree with the late Len Webber's (1991) observation that;

'figs pruned in frost temperatures and in extreme heat (temperature over 40 °C) suffer no ill-effects whatever (provided that after-care is adequate)'.

However the 'preferred' timing of root-pruning would be November in this climate.

### Pruning and Styling

The PJ fig can be styled to most bonsai styles and is very amenable to pruning. 'Styling' is best undertaken mid October to mid December. Trimming (or 'pinching') the tree's foliage is very important to its presentation as a bonsai, as it limits leaf size and encourages 'back budding'.

The tips of shoots should be regularly 'pinched', throughout October to March, limiting the shoot to a maximum of 3 – 4 leaves,. The species also tolerates complete defoliation, a technique which reduces leaf size and encourages 'back budding'. This is best undertaken mid to late summer. I have done it as late as mid February, with the tree regenerating foliage within eight weeks (see Figure 2). Any pruning will result in a milky



**Figure 2** – Port Jackson fig, photographed in August 06 after complete defoliation in the preceding February.

sap from the cuts. Some books suggest that pruning should only be undertaken in winter. However, the milky sap is easily controlled by spraying with water (Koreshoff, 1983).

A final point on the cultivation of the PJ fig as a bonsai subject is equally applicable to most species being trained and grown as bonsai. The tree is a growing organism which responds to the rhythm of daily and seasonal change. Keeping it in immaculate, trimmed, show condition on a permanent basis is not good for its health. Allow the tree to grow untrimmed for extended periods before 'shaping' back to the ideal (see Figure 3). This allows the tree to store energy during the period of unrestrained growth. Continually keeping it in 'show condition' can result in a weak tree.



**Figure 3** – Port Jackson Fig in January after a period of uninhibited growth, prior to trimming and shaping.

### References;

- Koreshoff, D. & V., 1983. *Bonsai with Australian native plants*. Boolarong Publications: Brisbane
- Meislik, J., 2004. *Ficus: The exotic bonsai*. Devonshire Gardens: Whitefish, Montana.
- Webber, L., 1991. *From rainforest to bonsai*. Simon & Schuster: East Roseville.

# *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* as bonsai

By Errol Jobsz

When I saw the result of this winter's severe frost on my *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, I decided to see if leaf pruning would help restore new clean foliage. The old leaves looked very tatty and weather-worn in late July. I knew I would not be able to present it in that fashion for the October Show. I decided to strip a small branch of its leaves and see what would happen. About three weeks later in mid August I noticed some nascent buds forming on the branch. Encouraged by this I cut off some more. When these branches also showed the same proto buds (they formed and then remained static), I decided to go all out and trimmed almost all the leaves as well as some elongated stem growth. I then put the pot on a heat mat in a sunny position on my deck and prayed. This occurred in early September and the plant remained on its electric blanket in the open until the end of the month.

It worked! Buds started to break out all over the tree (epicormic growth). I followed this process by pruning off unwanted buds as I did not want the tree to look like a survivor from a fire.

At night and early morning before the sun got onto the pot, I measured the soil temperature in the heated pot and similarly for plants in an unheated situation. The Euc's soil temperature was at least 5° degrees higher than in unheated pots. At night it was around 12-14°C and during the day in the high teens to low 20's °C. I believed the heat mat treatment was an accelerant in leaf formation.

This last week I took it of life support (by the way, a week ago I tripped when carrying the pot and broke it into pieces and nearly me as well. The soil ball remained intact though loosened and I had to put it into a slightly smaller pot so I ended up doing some root pruning. It did not look back. Its a tough s.o.b.) I have now left it outside day and night this last week to harden up and considering we have had some low night temperatures there has been no hint of ill effect. The leaves are still reddish and turning green. They should be completely hardened off for the November Show. But I intend to show it this weekend after all the effort it's taken to make it look good. I wished I had another week - but I think it looks good enough to display.

## Melaleuca

By Dorothy Koreshoff

The common names for *Melaleuca* are bottle brush and paper bark. Indigenous Australians used the bark to wrap food and paint upon it with ochre. An Aboriginal legend has it that since the Dreamtime, events were recorded upon it with symbols.

The horticultural idiosyncrasies of *Melaleuca*, as regards Bonsai, are as follows. With most Australian plants species, the timing for root-pruning, e.g. spring

and autumn, is not the same as for most exotic plants from the northern hemisphere. In other words, the growing time, or their dormancy, is not conforming to northern hemisphere timing. In Sydney, the climate is such that there may be many growing or semi-dormant (almost or very brief resting) times, which means that there could be many opportunities to root-prune. The crucial part, for safety reasons, is that disturbance of the roots should only be attempted at the break of dormancy; not at the beginning or after the new leaves have emerged.

There have been climatic variations in Sydney for many years now, where the changes have seen the temperatures becoming milder (warmer). This has caused big problems, with bonsai natives now growing continuously, making it difficult to spot the time when 'growth just commences'. Naturally, if you are impatient and re-pot and cut the roots while immature leaves are present, you risk the demise of many plants.

Top-pruning should aim to leave at least one set of leaves on the branch being cut, otherwise, if taken back to bare wood, there could be only a 50/50 chance of re-growth. The main flowering time depends on the variety, being late spring to early summer.

[Editor's note: Dorothy's experiences with melaleucas in Sydney is most helpful. The amount of leaves to retain when pruning can vary considerably between species. Some, such as *Melaleuca* 'Claret Tops', *M. styphelioides*, *M. lanceolata*, and *M. micromera*, can be cut back to bare wood and they will shoot vigorously from the old wood. There is much to document for this large and fascinating group of plants. Do send in your experiences so we can get a clearer picture of what you can expect.]

## Bush Fire in My Native Bonsai

By Maureen Mulvogue (Victoria)

Although we lost sheds, huge gum trees, boundary fencing, and every blade of grass in our paddocks, our solid brick house remained. Around 3:30pm, with an horrendous roar, a spot-fire, started by embers from the main fire in the bush, swept in and literally consumed anything in its path. Mother Nature must have definitely got out of bed on the wrong side that morning, because as we began extinguishing embers from around our houses, the main fire roared out of the bush, only 200 metres from our back door. Fifteen houses were lost in our immediate area, plus nine vehicles. Having worked all through that first night, putting out trees, my treasured bonsai collection was completely overlooked until the following day. They were close to the house, on the north side, and had received a little protection.

Whilst the leaves only showed slight heat damage the day after the fire, on the third day they really expressed their displeasure at enduring such ferocious heat. They all began to brown and shrivel, taking on the appearance of death. But careful inspection of their trunks revealed that the burning was only superficial, so I determined to

continue caring for them in the usual manner. I know that trees in the bush can survive some burning of their trunks, and hoped my little 'treasures' would react the same. I did not know how hot the potting medium had become and if any fine-root damage had occurred, so my first step was to give them two days' immersion in 'Plant Starter'. My reasoning was that if any fine roots remained alive, this would give them a boost to re-establish.

Exactly seven days later, and with another bush fire only 5 kms to our north, we began 'battening down the hatches' again. Searing heat was not helping my bonsai to recover, so they were all brought inside and placed in the bathroom. The cool change which arrived that evening meant that the bonsais were again brought outside. By now they looked dreadful. Every leaf was completely dead, so I cut them off, as they were not performing any useful function. I was left with a collection of blackened trunks, not exactly what you would call 'prize winning' specimens.

I am going to withhold my regular fortnightly feeding with seaweed for the next three weeks, giving the all-important roots time to regenerate, and will keep you informed of their progress.

[Editor's note: Not many bonsai growers have to endure these kinds of distressing events with their collections. Thanks Maureen for passing on your experiences with bush fire and bonsai. We look forward to the next report on which plants survived.]

For members information, Maureen is growing the following native species as bonsai: *Acacia melanoxylon*, *Acmena smithii*, *Allocasuarina littoralis*, *Callistemon salignus*, *Corymbia ficifolia*, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, *E.dives*, *E. polyanthemos*, *E. viminalis*, *Kunzea* sp., *Leptospermum juniperinum*, *L. lanigerum*, *L. obovatum*, *Melaleuca squarrosa*.]

## SA Regional Conference

By Pam russell

Hi Roger,

Thanks for putting the article in the Newsletter re our SA Regional Conference. Well its all under the bridge now, and by all consensus of opinions it went very well. My Bonsai demonstration of *Melaleuca linariifolia* (Snowstorm) and *Melaleuca elliptica* and the display of bonsai had quite a few people interested.... I have enclosed some photos taken at the conference...



*Melaleuca*  
'Snowstorm'



*Eremophila*  
*pterocarpa*

## Membership Renewals

The Study Group financial year runs from 1 July to 30 June. If you are not financial by the time of the next newsletter your name will be deleted from the mailing list.

Thanks everyone who has sent in their renewals. There are still a few who haven't remembered. If you are one, please send it in NOW. I've marked your address label with a coloured spot.

There has been some confusion about payments by direct credit. I made a mistake in the numbers I published in the last newsletter. My apologies to the two members who I missed notifying in time. The problems were compounded by changes following the merger of two banks to form the new Community CPS Bank. Things are shaping up better now, as they have specific accounts for community groups such as ours.

The correct banking details are now:

Community CPS Bank,  
BSB 805-022,  
account no. 03276718,

and include your name so I know from whom the money is coming.



## Financial Report 2005-2006

The Study Group's financial situation at the end of last financial year was sound. Table 1 shows a summary of the finances.

Table 1. Financial report for APAB for 2005-06.

	Income	Expenditure	Totals
Opening Bank Balance			2251.41
Membership & donations	1491.00		
Post box;		-28.00	
Bank Interest	9.56		
Bank charges		-11.75	
Sales (backissues)	25.00		
Miscellaneous (printing, postage, stationery)		-553.60	
subtotals	1525.56	-593.35	932.21
Closing Bank Balance			3183.62

As of Jan 2007, there is a total of \$491 in the publication fund, which is good,.

## Styling Australian Species as Bonsai: Mallee Eucalypts

By Roger Hnatiuk

One of the questions I'm frequently asked is 'How do I style this eucalypt?' I'd like to focus here on some of the variety that we find in the traditional, or not so traditional 'mallee' form of eucalypt. These forms of eucalypt can be readily grown under bonsai culture techniques. An earlier development stage mallee-bonsai is shown in Fig. 1.

Most people who have tried growing eucalypts from seed, or bought young ones from a nursery, will be aware of the 'lignotuber'. It's that knob of tissue near the base of the stem of the young plant. There may be several of them on one stem, like beads on a string. Most people see them as unsightly. Some have cut them off and the scars have healed over well, while others have simply had more lignotuber tissue grow back, or the plant has died. Whatever your experience, it is worth knowing that the lignotuber has an important biological function: it can store energy to kick start recovery after injury such as by fire or insect attack, and it harbours many potential buds for producing new trunks if the existing one is damaged. This also is seen by some as a major detraction for a bonsaiist.



Fig 1. *Eucalyptus* hybrid, young mallee form.

Certainly, on a young plant, the lignotuber looks unattractive: it is out of proportion to the trunk and doesn't help make the trunk look like it is tapered. As the plant ages, the trunk or trunks, grow in girth and eventually the lignotuber is incorporated fairly smoothly into the overall mass of the lower trunk. Thus, one of the signs of 'age' in these plants, is just that, the lignotuber, while still present and often identifiable, no longer looks like a bead on a string. It's a bit of an alternative to looking for the classical nebari,

which isn't to say that large, typical roots can't be present on a lignotuberous trunk too.

You can learn to both love and style with lignotubers if you discover what trees in the wild look like when they have lignotubers. I've written this article to help introduce one of the commonest lignotuberous eucalypt styles: the 'mallee'.

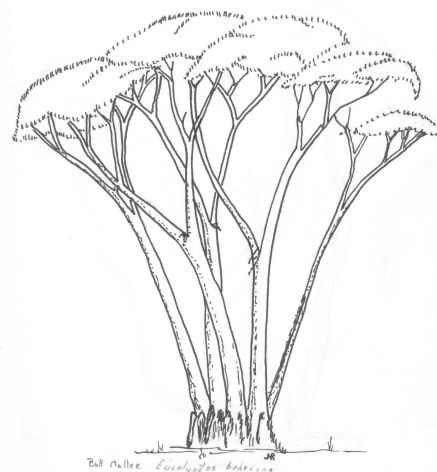


Fig 2. *Eucalyptus berthiana* Bull mallee

Broadly, there are perhaps three recognisable mallee forms: the largest such as the 'tree mallees' or 'bull mallees'; the whipstick mallees, including some called 'mallets', and the shrubby mallees. Like all eucalypts, their bark is a significant feature to appreciate. They can have rough, fibrous barks or smooth shiny 'gum' barks. Amongst the latter are found some of the 'minni-richi' barks with wonderful vertical curls of newly-shedding bark. All are produced in pot culture too.

Tree mallees are characterised by what in their own environment are large trunks with heavy branches,

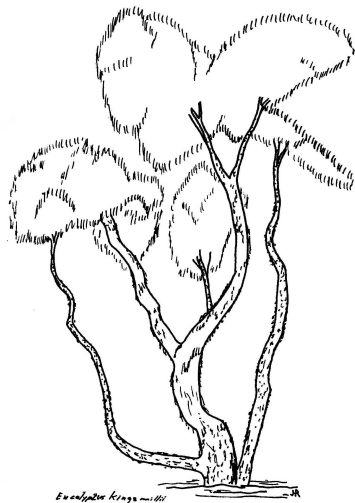


Fig 3. *Eucalyptus kingsmillii*

topped by relatively dense masses of fine branches and leaves confined to the tops of the tree (Fig. 2). There will be more than one of these massive trunks arising from a lignotuber.

Though 2s or 3s are commonest, up to 8 also occur. You don't need to worry about even or odd numbers of trunks – there are

no superstitious numbers to avoid out in the mallee. During the life of your bonsai, you will probably lose and

regenerate trunks more than once, so don't worry about the number at any one time. The trunks may be somewhat crooked in an attractive, rough, way (Fig. 3), or they can be fairly straight with only a slight arching.

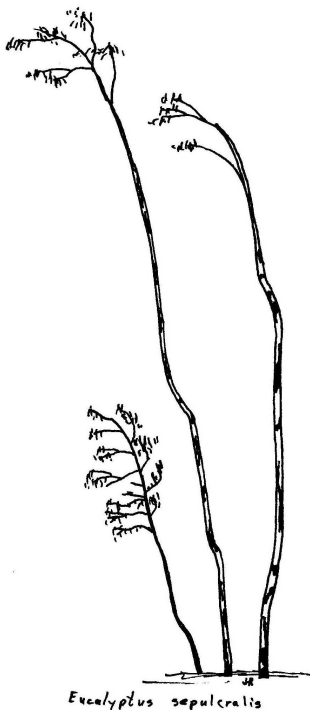


Fig 4. *Eucalyptus sepulcralis*  
Weeping mallee

The whip stick mallees are so called because their trunks are so long and thin that they look like sticks used for whips. The essential characteristic of these mallees is the presence of more than one trunk that is very much taller for its diameter than would ordinarily be seen in bonsai, let

alone trees. They are topped by a relatively small spreading canopy of leaves, just at the top. They can be from fairly large trees with respectable trunks, through to dense thatches of very narrow stems. Some extreme forms, such as *E. sepulcralis* (Fig. 4) and *E. pendens* are a variation on the traditional 'literati', but they don't have

strong bends in the trunks and the canopy will usually be quite thin, not a dense 'cloud' or 'hand' of foliage.

The shrubby mallees form the last of this broad grouping. As their name implies, they look more like shrubs, but in truth, it seems to me that it is our language that is limiting us here. We don't have words to adequately describe the rich diversity of growth forms that woody plants produce. I wish I was better at coining useful words; we need some for these situations.

Getting back to the shrubby mallees; their characteristics are the presence of several trunks, that may be quite crooked, or straight, depending on the location and species. They tend to form low greenish-greyish-reddish-orangish masses of foliage, often reaching to near the ground so that their trunks are not easily seen. They can look a bit like the tree mallees, but much more delicate and much shorter, even when mature. Their leaves may point upwards, rather than hanging downwards, and they are often rather thick. They may look like a miniature version of a tree mallee, or they can be quite idiosyncratic with fascinating twists, bends and sweeps of their short trunks.

One final mallee form deserves mention. It would make a kind of group planting. In semi-arid Australia, there are mallee 'rings'. These started life as a single mallee tree or shrub, with a single lignotuber. As time passed and the lignotuber grew, and fires and droughts ravaged the plant, the centre of the lignotuber disintegrated, leaving an outer ring that continued to expand outwards. As centuries passed, the ring expanded. Today we see them as a ring of small mallees around a vacant centre that may be several metres across. All the mallees around the perimeter of the 'grove' are parts of the same tree, just disconnected over the long aeons of time. Forget your maple or spruce forest; this would make a splendid bonsai form with accompanying story to tell!






Fold this page in three, with address showing outside. Put a 50 cent stamp on it, tape the long end (as the newsletter was) and send back to me.

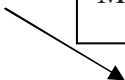
first fold here .....

second fold here .....

Affix a \$0.50 stamp here.

R Hnatiuk  
 Study Group Leader  
 Australian Plants as Bonsai  
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 Jamison Post Office  
 Macquarie ACT 2614

Tape here



# 4<sup>th</sup> National Exhibition of Australian Plants as Bonsai 17-19 November 2005

Another great exhibition of Australian species as bonsai was held at the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra. Thirty one trees were on display, representing the work of 22 artists and the support of eight clubs. Trees came from Canberra, Sydney, Tross and Yerrinbool, plus photos from Hobart.

As usual, we ask visitors to vote for their favourite tree. It was good to see that votes were widely spread across nearly all trees, showing that the viewers found delight in a wide range of species and styles. The top six ranked trees are shown here, plus four others.

Thanks to the continuing support of the Gardens, you can also find the complete set of images of the trees at <http://www.anbg.gov.au/bonsai/>. Images of both the 2005 and 2006 Exhibitions are there for the viewing. The 'bonsai' page is one of the very popular pages at the Gardens' web site with over 100 hits on average per day. It shows there is some interest out there for this kind of bonsai. The comments in the show's visitors' book thoroughly confirm the high degree of appreciation people have for these miniature trees.



*Banksia integrifolia* Coast banksia



*Melaleuca thymifolia* (no. 1 choice)  
By Ray Nesci



*Ficus rubiginosa* Pt Jackson fig  
y Max Candy



**4<sup>th</sup> National Exhibition  
cont'd**



*Ficus rubiginosa* Pt Jackson fig by Dorothy Koreshoff



*Eucalyptus camaldulensis* River red gum



*Melaleuca styphelioides* Prickly paper bark





*Ficus* 'Little Ruby'



*Eucalyptus camphora*  
Broad-leaved sally



*Casuarina equisetifolia* Shore she-oak  
(one of the most tree-like casuarinas that I've seen: RH)



*Callistemon viminalis* 'Captain Cook'  
bottlebrush



# *Australian Plants as Bonsai*

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If not delivered, please return to PO Box 450, Jamison Post Office, Macquarie ACT 2614.



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## *Study Group Information*

The Australian Plants as Bonsai Study Group was formed in mid 2001. Its aims are:

- to determine which species of native Australian plants are grown as bonsai;
- to determine the horticultural characteristics and requirements of each species;
- to determine the artistic and aesthetic qualities of species; and
- to publish information to help people grow and enjoy Australian plants as bonsai.

To become a member, please send a cheque for \$13 (Aus.\$17 overseas) or postal money order to: 'Australian Plants as Bonsai', PO Box 450, Jamison Post Office, Macquarie ACT 2614, Australia. Direct credit transfers can be made to Community CPS, BSB 805-0222, acct no. 03276718.

**The Study Group Leader is Roger Hnatiuk. Contact him at the above postal address or via email: [rjhniuk@yahoo.com.au](mailto:rjhniuk@yahoo.com.au).**

Our ASGAP/bonsai webpage is being redeveloped and should be available by mid year.