



1 Once shaped, The Kiccoro's overall height was reduced to 80 centimetres. 2 When purchased in October, The Kiccoro stood 1.4 metres tall and had three distinct trunks.



All pruning was sealed with grafting paint and healing tissue growth is already appearing. Some branches have also been wired and, after six weeks, already appear to be able to hold their new form.

For those unfamiliar with bonsai techniques, structural pruning and wiring are necessary - though only temporary - measures through which the bonsai artist styles a tree.

It is of great importance that these processes be done with complete care, sensitivity and respect to enhance the intrinsic qualities of the tree, not to dominate or grotesquely deform it in a manner unnatural to its natural form.

When delivered, The Kiccoro was growing in a black plastic pot 50cm in diameter and 40cm deep.

Removing the tree from its pot revealed a fibrous root mass which was relatively easily teased apart and reduced by about 60% by pruning.

As it had been grown from a cutting, there was, of course, no tap root, but several five-millimetre-thick roots were carefully positioned within the soil for future development.

The Kiccoro has been planted in a hexagonal ceramic Pat Kennedy pot, 34cm in diameter and 18cm deep. Fortunately, the root pruning and new soil matrix appear to have worked beautifully as evidenced by the prolific new branch bud growth.

The Kiccoro appears to have responded robustly to these initial procedures and ongoing care will see its branch canopy, trunk and root system developed over the next several years.

All bonsai are never-ending works-in-progress and for those who are interested, I will continue to report on The Kiccoro as it matures on the website, <[www.bonsaiexotique.com.au](http://www.bonsaiexotique.com.au)>.

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