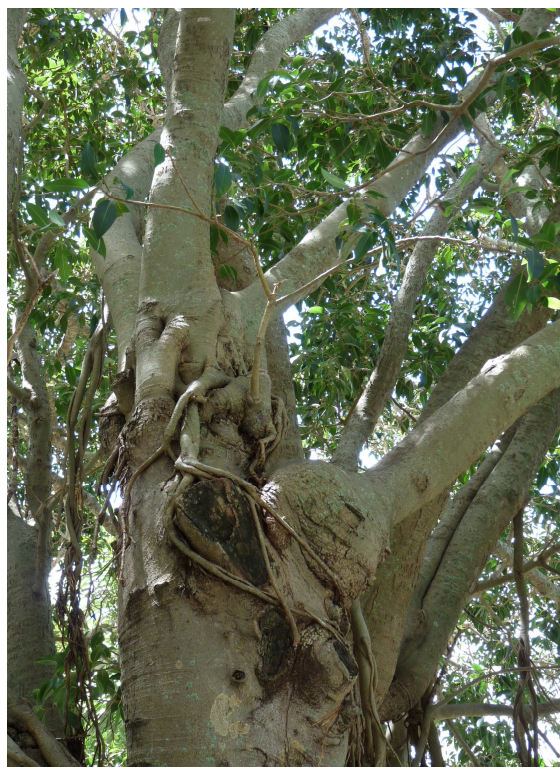




Specialised Self Optimisation of topped *Ficus obliqua*

Gday - I recently consulted/worked on a small leaved Fig tree - *Ficus obliqua* (SE Qld/NNSW native). The tree not generally known for aerial root production (when managed according to its inherent nature) had generated masses of aerial root following topping (some 15+ years prior). The aerial roots have (based on VTA) assisted the generating epicormic crown to develop endocormic characteristics following aerial root production at the base of the epicormic limbs. So increasing the replacement crowns woody footprint.





Following a limb failure (tension failure) and assessment we carried out hazard reduction pruning. Involving the shortening of lever arm on elongated limbs (of which there were a few) where there were signs of a limited foundation at the base of the generating branches.

The ideal (not possible due to site usage) would be to establish a nutrient bed at the base of the tree and encourage aerial roots to strike at ground level.