REDLANDS BONSAI

Newsletter of the Redlands Bonsai Society May 2022

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Upcoming Events 2022

- **Meeting 28th May**
- **RBS Market Day October**
- **Bus trip to SCBS Show October**
- **Toowoomba Show 17-18 September**
- **9th World Bonsai Convention 8th October**

President's Message

Hello folks,

I hope your trees have been enjoying all this rain. Mine have had a growth spurt of late.
We had a very informative meeting last month with our native stock bring back. Steve took over after my fumbled start to the day and worked his usual magic on the crowd. Thanks Steve. We are super grateful to have you in our club. Our May meeting is on the 28th, starting at 11am with the learner's group and then a workshop, also the forest plantings we did with Craig Jurd last April will be back for a group decision on where to go from here.
Our newsletter editor Rod will be bringing the show photos to the meeting for everyone to see on the big screen, so I am looking forward to seeing everyone's trees.
Great day ahead. See you all then.

Karen 😊

Editor's notes

Hope that you enjoy and find the May edition of the newsletter interesting and informative this month.

Each month we will endeavour to give you different aspects of our hobby. This month I have taken some photographs of bugs in my bonsai within the garden predator's verses prey. I had a visitor in my Leptospermum one of the only plants that have flowered in all the recent rain. Can you see it in the photo below? If, you see something of interest in, your patch why not share with your fellow members.

Note to members: as we take photographs at the club meeting if you wish not to be featured in the newsletter and on the Club Facebook page, please let us know.

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In My Garden May 2022

It was 27deg in my garden a couple of days ago but that might be the last at that level for a while.

My deciduous trees are either showing some early colour or have leaves that are looking a little tired. Not much happening there. The Natives keep on growing but not quite at the hectic pace of summer and so there's regular light pruning to do. I think the time has now passed for anything heavier.

The persistent wet weather and high humidity is unusual for this time of year when we would normally expect the start of cooler drier weather. I haven't had to pick up the hose for ages. All that water however can create some challenges, with algae, slime, mould, and moss invading the bark of some of my trees. I've been busy with my vinegar and copper sulphate sprays and trying to dodge the showers, so it stays on there long enough to be effective. There are some suggestions the current weather pattern might carry on for some time.

But at least the rain guarantees that the trees get a good watering. In dryer times at this time in the cycle, trees have pretty well filled their pots with roots and with a full head of foliage can dry out pretty quickly, only to make it hard to get them wet again. Not this year but if we do get a run of fine days, it's something to watch for.

Repotting season will be here soon and it's time to start building a stock of ingredients. The persistent supply chain problems mean we can't rely on getting what we need whenever we want. I recommend getting in early. If left until just in time it might be just too late.

Steve Cullum

Insight of a Bonsai beginner

I have read and seen where trees have been planted to celebrate a life, birthdays, milestones or a special visit so I thought that after I was told I was going to be a new pop I decided to create something to remember the occasion and hopefully pass on to my grandchildren in the future, so I decided to create a bonsai.

I set about growing several cuttings of a variegated Ficus Benjamina fig as at this time in my bonsai experience, I had the belief I could (A) keep it alive and (B) be able to make it worthy of the occasion. The attached picture to the right is some 30 months old and like being a new parent I have made a few mistakes, but I have many years to make any adjustments and retrain and refine the tree.

The second you will see a smaller cutting of the fig as during the time it has taken to write and for you to read this newsletter, I will have had a second grandson, so another bonsai is now in the making. And now it looks like our family is growing further with the news my daughter is having another child this time a granddaughter in 6 months.

So now the question is what type of tree will I bonsai for our granddaughter? A pink Azalea or a Chinese Elm or do I keep it uniform and create a third variegated Ficus Benjamina fig? This chain of events has certainly kept me busy and if it keeps happening, I may need a bigger yard for all the hopeful family of bonsai's. I know one of my fellow foundation class mates received a bonsai for his anniversary this one brings with it a lot of pressure to keep it going.

Why not tell us about your special tree.

Rod

Garden defenders of the bonsai patch

A flowering Leptospermum with a predatory visitor.

A prey mantis finishing its meal of this moth. Hopefully, it did not lay its eggs first in this Leptospermum.

Garden attackers of the bonsai patch

A two-legged caterpillar eating the leaves of the Ficus, mainly found on my Tiger Bark Figs. They pretend they are dead branches standing on their back legs.

I believe this is the moth that lays the eggs.

Workshop Meetings April

The club generously gave to the members in 2021 several native tube stock to hopefully foster the knowledge and keeping of our own Australian Native trees as Bonsai. With Steve leading the discussion on how to manage the next stage of the growth and the starting of the refinement and tree structure. Several of the trees were given were reviewed and to summarise the first stage of the tube stock growth is to gain the initial trunk bends in the design.

With that now done it was time to follow up with the building of the girth of the tree and the incorporation of sacrificial branches to assist in the building of the trunk. This is then followed by the first cut (It was then advised by one of the members that the first cut is always the deepest) I am sure this has been used before?

This will allow you to start building the core structure, to do this you need to ensure that the lower branches are first grown from the ground up as the top of the tree is aways going to be apical dominance.

This then brings in the use of bifurcation 2 by 2 to create and build the core structure of the top of the tree. Now we have successfully got to this point it will be exciting to see the next phase of following the progress of our design and structures of our bonsai's.

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NIKE

Members display trees on club meeting day

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Melaleuca Quinquenervia
Broad-leaved Paperbark

Commonly known as the broad-leaved paperbark, grows as a spreading tree up to 20 m tall, with its trunk covered by a white, beige and grey thick papery bark. Native to New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea and coastal eastern Australia, from Botany Bay in New South Wales northwards into Queensland, M. Quinquenervia grows in swamps, on floodplains and near rivers and estuaries, often on silty soil. It grows in seasonally inundated plains and swamps, along estuary margins and is often the dominant species. The leaves are arranged alternately and are flat, leathery, lance-shaped to egg-shaped, dull or grey-green, three to eight times as long as wide. The flowers are arranged in spikes on the ends of branches which continue to grow after flowering, sometimes also in the upper leaf axils. Melaleuca Quinquenervia has been introduced as an ornamental plant to many tropical areas of the world, including Southeast Asia, Africa and the Americas and has become a weed in many areas. It has become naturalised in the Everglades in Florida, where it is considered a serious weed by the USDA. It is often used as a street tree or planted in public parks and gardens, especially in Sydney. In its native Australia, it is excellent as a windbreak, screening tree and food source for a wide range of local insect and bird species. It has been a widely used medicinal plant by indigenous Australians. Its essential oil is used in a variety of cosmetic products and the oil is reported in herbalism and natural medicine to work as an antiseptic and antibacterial agent. For use in Bonsai the leaf size is often seen as a barrier, but cultivation has shown that the leaves respond very well to traditional bonsai practices. The species makes a very good bonsai subject.

Editors note: this is the tree Steve is working on in the workshop meeting notes above (see photo) from the Native tube stock giveaway to our members and below are photos of the first cut to a tube stock tree with its new shoots starting to break through.

RBS Meeting Protocol

Our meetings are held at the **Wellington Point Recreation Hall,** 347-371 Birkdale Rd, Wellington Point QLD 4160, unless otherwise noted. Our annual show is generally held at the Donald Simpson Centre in Bloomfield Street, Cleveland.

You'll find the program on the last page. Here is an explanation of some of the items:

The hall will be open at 11am for most meetings, with committee meetings to be held from 11am before each normal meeting.

Foundations Development Program

This is a course of 8 x 3hr lessons, please talk to Steve C if you wish to join in this program.

Learners' Group

The group is designed for informal tuition and coaching from 11am to 12:00 pm on meeting days when a demonstration or presentation is scheduled. Senior members will be available to offer advice and support.

Workshops

Meetings generally consist of workshops and/or demonstrations. Tables will be provided for members to work on their trees.

Bring trees that need work, or trees for which you would like some advice. More experienced members are encouraged to share their accumulated knowledge with the newer members. Midday sharp.

Name Badges

Name badges are provided by the club, and we ask that you wear them at the meeting to help everyone with bad memories.

Door Prize / Raffle

At each meeting there will be door and raffle prizes drawn. Members displaying trees will be given a free raffle ticket. Do not forget to let the people on the front desk know you're entitled to a free ticket if you've brought a display tree.

If you are wondering about the ***experience level definitions,*** you will find them online in the blog: *http://redlandsbonsai.blogspot.com/p/experience-levels.html*

Annual Fees

It has become necessary to update and clarify information on club annual fees. They are currently $20 per year for single membership and $30 for couples or parents and children and can now be paid online.
Banking details for online renewals as follows:
Name: Redlands Bonsai Society Inc – BSB
633000 – Account 169724416
Fee arrangements are as follows:

- Annual fees are payable from the date of the AGM in November, for the following calendar year.
- For members, fees unpaid on 31st March in the year make the member unfinancial and no newsletter or other club services will be available until membership fees are paid.
- New Members who join the club in the first 6 months of the calendar year pay full membership rates.
- Members joining after 30th June pay ½ fee for that year. They will thereafter be required to pay a full year fee from November for the following calendar year.
- Participation in exhibiting in the annual show, selling product at the show or at meetings, receiving the newsletter and voting at the AGM are not available to non-financial members

Workshop Meetings

We generally schedule club workshops at every second regular monthly meeting.
As we have a number of newer members attending these workshops it is timely to describe their purpose and how they are intended to operate. For many the workshop afternoon is an opportunity to put aside some time and give a couple of their trees some quality time. For others it is an opportunity to get some advice or assistance.
Please feel free to come along and work independently on your trees. If on the other hand you want some advice, then there are always several senior club members in attendance to ask. The workshops aren't designed to be formal teaching workshops, so rule number one is if you want some help you need to ask for it.
The other challenge is that you might get different advice from different people, you will get different advice! That's because there's never a right answer or just one, it depends on so much. This is one of the challenges of bonsai; learning enough to be able to discriminate and evaluate the advice you are given. It is like going to two doctors and getting three opinions. It happens and it is in your hands to choose.
So that comes back to the advisers present. You can speak to one or as many as you can get their attention or the one that stands in front of you and says 'Hello, can I help? So, rule number two is you do not have to do what is suggested if you are unsure or don't want to. Just say 'thanks I'll think about it'.

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Workshops:

- Ask for help if you want it.
- Evaluate the advice you are given.
- Take action on the advice only if you want.

Your Committee Members for 2021

President: Karen F.

Vice President: Heather L.

Treasurer: Nick J.

Secretary: Noreen C.

New member greeter: Julie B.

Newsletter: Rod C.

Member: Mel B.

Member: Julie B.

Member: Sandy C.

Please consider joining the committee to help add your voice to the operation of the club. It's always good to get feedback and suggestions.

REDLANDS BONSAI SOCIETY - PROGRAM FOR 2022				
Month	**Date**	**Day**	**Meetings and Workshops**	**Additional activities**
January	**22**	**Sat**	Committee Meeting	11am
			Fig Demo with Steve/ Bring your figs	Learners group from 11am
February	**26**	**Sat**	Committee Meeting	11am
			Workshop / Pre show critique of display trees. AGM 2021/2022	From 1200
March	**26**	**Sat**	Show set up	
	27	**Sun**	**Annual Show**	
April	**23**	**Sat**	Committee Meeting	11am
			Native tube stock day and report	From 1200
May	**28**	**Sat**	Committee Meeting	11am
			Workshop/ return of group planting update	Learners group from 11am
June	**25**	**Sat**	Committee Meeting	11am
			Azaleas & Camelias with Kieth Stanley	From 1200
July	**23**	**Sat**	Committee Meeting	11am
			Workshop	Learners group from 11am
August	**27**	**Sat**	Committee Meeting	11am
			Grafting / Air Layering Group Participation	From 1200
September	**24**	**Sat**	Committee Meeting	11am
			Workshop	Learners group from 11am
October	**22**	**Sat**	RBS Market Day	
October	**29**	**Sun**	Bus trip to SCBS Show	
November	**26**	**Sat**	Committee Meeting	11am
			TBA	
December	**10**	**Sat**	Christmas party	

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