REDLANDS BONSAI

Newsletter of the Redlands Bonsai Society

February 2023

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President's Message

Hello folks,

Another AGM is fast approaching. I know it's not the most exciting part of the year's program, but I can assure you it will be short and sweet. I am preparing a year in review photo PowerPoint and Rod will have last year's show trees pictures on the screen for those of you that don't have social media. We will be doing a pre-show critique of this year's trees if you want some feedback from the group. We will also be having a workshop and a chat about how to prep your trees for the show. I hope you can take the time to attend.
Nick has been busy ordering more wire and tools, so our cabinet is fully stocked for our members. We still have heaps of soil substrate left. It is now all at my place as we have worn out our welcome at its previous location. Don't wait till next year to replenish your soil as we won't be ordering any more. Let me know if you want to come and pick some up or I can bring some to the next meeting if I have room in my car.
I hope to see you all at the next meeting on Saturday February 25th at midday
Karen 😀

Bonsai Foundations program

We have now sufficient bookings to proceed with the Bonsai Foundations program this year. Venue bookings have been made and we are all set to start straight after the show. The dates are:

- April 2, 23
- May 7
- June 11, 25
- July 9, 30
- August 6, 27
- Sept 10

If anyone is interested in participating in this great training program who has not yet registered, please contact Steve Cullum directly.

Club Purchase Information for Members

The club has taken delivery of 3 pallets of soil mediums for your convenience. Details below:

- Diatomite bags (Kleensorb) for $39 per bag.
- Zeolite 2.2+ mm size for $25 per bag
- Scoria 5mm size for $22 per bag

Please see Karen if you are interested in purchasing any product.

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In My Garden – February 2023

I often talk about the value in starting bonsai from cuttings. A small flexible piece of material allows the imposition of early movement and a blank sheet of alternative styling models. You can also get the plant established in a preferred mix right from the start.

This year I've been propagating a couple of the Central Queensland species I've come across. Most of the ones in the pictures are Dansiea elliptica a Queensland tree from just a couple of very limited rainforest/vine thicket habitats, of total area about 40 square km.

Having started with just a couple of tube-stock plants I've now made something like another 20 which will give me plenty to experiment on and eventually get out into the wider bonsai community.

It has fine branching and smallish leaves making it a good candidate for bonsai. You will also see that I've started shaping the trunk with wire so that in a couple of years I won't have the problem of how to finesse a stick in a pot. They are loving the conditions at the moment and growing vigorously. High humidity conditions are ideal for setting cuttings.

Happy bonsai,
Steve

EXHIBITORS, PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

Forms for exhibition trees will be attached to this newsletter.
Please supply the trees information to Karen - karen.freeland@outlook.com so that the layout of the display can be planned.
When preparing your trees, please place a removable ID tag with the same information supplied to Karen, so they can be easily matched with the prepared label, and include your initials as ID. All accessories, stands and accents should have name of owner written somewhere underneath.
Trees will be displayed in their size classes.
If you are entering the Novice class, please write this on the tag as well.

SETUP:

Setup will be from approximately 1pm on Saturday March 25th and show trees to go into the hall from approximately 3pm. Trees can be marshalled in the foyer while we set up. Please can we have as many people as possible to help with setup.

The Exhibition will run from 9:00am to approximately 4pm on Sunday, March 26th. Clean up and pack up will be straight after closing. Again, many hands make light work, please help where you can.

The successful operation of the show needs everyone to take a share of the many tasks, from front desk, to sales, as well as keeping an eye on the exhibition area.
We'll do what we can to keep the rotation of jobs happening so no one gets bored. Last exhibition we had a great response from members, and we are relying on your support again this time to allow us to have a successful exhibition.

SELLERS, PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

All financial members are invited to provide items for sale. Commissions to the club will be 20% this year, however if you exhibit a tree, the commission will be discounted to 10%.
Plant sales will be in the same room as previous years. For those members with items to sell, please register your availability to assist on the day with Karen. We will need at least four people on the checkout and more for rotation throughout the day.
A copy of the Sales Inventory Sheet will be attached with this newsletter. If you want to sell anything at the show, please fill out this form and give it to Karen on the Saturday.
Sellers are asked to attach price tags to each item. The tag should contain three items of information, one your price, the item number, and your initials. The tag is removed on sale and retained to determine distribution of proceeds.
No tag means no sale. Tags are readily available at most newsagents, or you can make your own. You should have other appropriate descriptive information on the sale item as well. (Species/age etc if it's a tree, for example.)
For security this should be in a form that is not able to be removed or shifted to a different item. Masking tape is the preferred material to use for this since it's difficult to re-attach once it's been peeled off.
Pricing advice: For small items please keep prices to round dollars. Anything over $30 make the steps in $5 jumps.
For established bonsai consider the following guide: The likely nursery price for a tree of that height, plus $10 for each year of age, plus the cost of the pot. You can then adjust this for the quality of the bonsai.
If you want to change a price of an item during the day, you will need to replace the fixed tag, the sales tag, and edit the sales inventory form. One change in three places, so be prepared.

HOW TO MEASURE YOUR TREE:

Please see below how to measure the height and width of your show tree.
Height - Measure from the rim of the pot to the top of the foliage.

Width – Measure the widest point of your show tree. Please note this may be either the pot or the foliage.
Please measure in millimetres.

Insight of a Bonsai beginner

I recently had some time at home in isolation after COVID finally caught up with me giving me an unexpected opportunity to spend more time with my plants. It was while I was having a cuppa that I realised that the pleasure of my hobby for me is in the growing of plants, with the hope that in time some may turn into bonsai. My family can testify to my plants having first started down one side of the house and now traveling full circle. My son sent me the meme below to contact this guy when I need to move.

From my many cuttings I have produced as part of this journey I have now started to choose some favourites to continue on the bonsai journey.

I encourage anyone new to bonsai to undertake the opportunity to use your cuttings to make a new tree with the opportunity to experiment to learn the growth and requirements of different trees. As you experiment this way it is less costly to learn your craft and how your trees react to different techniques.

I can attest to the value of the Bonsai Foundation Program which will be run again this year as noted on page one of the newsletter. This program not only provides you with the "how" but allows you to form relationships with like minded people starting out in the world of bonsai.

Rod

Last year Keith Mitchell kindly donated several of his trees for our members to foster. Below are some photos of the trees journey throughout the last year with their fostering.

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Steve led a demonstration on the return of the Willow Leaf Fig (Ficus Nerifolia) tree where 12 months ago he joined three trees together to form the basis of one tree. Steve talked about the journey the tree has gone through and the future journey it will need to progress through over the next few years. The tree was full defoliated and trimmed and wired with the discussion on the science required for the tree to move to the next successful stage.

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RBS Members Trees displayed on our Meeting Day in January

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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 will find the yearly program on the last page of our newsletter. Watch this space for the 2023 program calendar or check out the website.

The hall will be open at 11am for members and visitors' 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. Please check program calendar at end of newsletter for dates.

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.

Name Badges

Name badges are provided by the club, and we hope that you wear them at the meeting, so everyone can converse freely.

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 are entitled to a free ticket if you have brought a display tree.

Annual Fees

Fees for 2023.

Our membership fees for 2023 will be $40 for a single and $50 for a family. We will be removing the monthly $2 entry charge. There will still be a raffle for those who want to participate. Fees are due by the end of this year (2022).

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

Workshop Meetings are scheduled as outlined below in the yearly calendar.

The purpose of these workshop meetings is for both novice and experienced members to work on and discuss their bonsai trees in an informal environment. Experienced bonsai artists are available to answer and assist with any queries and questions. Please reach out to any of these members. Always remember advice comes with many opinions so weigh up all the information provided and follow the advice you are most comfortable with. What story do you want your trees to tell?

Your Committee Members for 2022

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 is always good to get feedback and suggestions and your input is always welcome to advance the club experience.

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REDLANDS BONSAI SOCIETY - PROGRAM FOR 2023				
Month	**Date**	**Day**	**Meetings and Workshops**	**Additional activities**
January	**28**	**Sat**	Committee Meeting	11am
			Foster tree return / Show raffle tree rework with Steve	Learners group from 11am
February	**25**	**Sat**	Committee Meeting	11am
			AGM 2022/2023 Prep your trees for show / Workshop	From 12pm
March	**25**	**Sat**	Show Setup	
	26	**Sun**	**Annual Show**	
April	**22**	**Sat**	Committee Meeting	11am
			Forest trees bring back and forest making demo	From 1200
May	**27**	**Sat**	Committee Meeting	11am
			Talk on Minis with Tony Watt and arvo workshop	Learners group from 11am Meeting 12pm
June	**24**	**Sat**	Committee Meeting	11am
			Ugly Tree day Problem tree advice session	From 1200
July	**22**	**Sat**	Committee Meeting	11am
			Workshop / Deciduous tree wiring and pruning	Learners group from 11am Meeting 12pm
August	**26**	**Sat**	Committee Meeting	11am
			Jeff Bray from Gold Coast Tweed Club	From 1200
September	**23**	**Sat**	Committee Meeting	11am
			Workshop	Learners group from 11am
October	**28**	**Sat**	RBS Market Day	
November	**25**	**Sat**	Committee Meeting	11am
			Native Tree bring back and native workshop Q&A	From 12pm
December	**9**	**Sat**	Christmas Party	

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