REDLANDS BONSAI

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President's Message

Hello,

Another successful RBS Show. We had fantastic display trees from our members and a fully stocked sales area. Thank you to all the members that helped on both Saturday set up and Sunday all day. We could not have the done it without you. ♡
Our own panel of judges were selected this year with Steve in the lead. Thank you, gents, for your time and effort in selecting the winners for this year.
We went super high tech in the sales area this year with Nick organising a new system with the assistance of the other Nick and Noreen and Noreen's son Matt. Thanks guys for the great work. We hope to continue with this system for future shows.
Our next meeting is on April 22nd at midday. We will be doing a bring back of our previous forest trees and starting from scratch with a new forest demo. For those who would like to bring a forest to display for the group or have some stock they would like to make into a forest planting, please bring them along. Hopefully we will have a slide show of this year's show trees for your visual pleasure. The winners have been invited to bring back their trees to the meeting to display. See you all soon.

Karen 😀

Upcoming Events 2023

- **April 22nd Next Meeting – Forest trees bring back and forest making demonstration.**
- **27th May Meeting - Learner's Group**
- **Bimer Bonsai Society – Show May 6&7**
- **AABC – National Convention - Perth WA May 19 – 22**

New Members

It is great to see we have had several new members joining our club over the last month and would like to welcome you to the Newsletter and our club and look forward to seeing you at our meetings. Our next meeting is April 22nd, and we would encourage you to reach out to our bonsai enthusiasts for advice and discussion around anything bonsai. The next Learner's Group is at our May 27th meeting, and this is a great opportunity to bring any trees you wish to ask advice on in this session. We also have a comprehensive library for you to borrow books. The club maintains a shop for you to purchase tools, wire, pots and bonsai soils.

Special Anzac Day Article on Pines

Please see below a reprint article generously provided by Alan of the Canberra Bonsai Society on Lone Pine and bonsai. A very interesting and informative article timely for all Australian's on Anzac Day. "Lest we Forget".

This article was originally published in "Wirrabara" the newsletter for the Canberra Bonsai Society.

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http://redlandsbonsai.org or https://www.facebook.com/RedlandsBonsaiSociety

In My Garden – April 2023

Everyone loves their Claret Tops, sometimes too much and sometimes they can be like our pets when we feed them too much; it might not be such a good idea. I'm thinking of course of that kid's book 'A Fish Out of Water' by Helen Palmer. As Mr Carp said to the boy about the goldfish he was buying, "You must feed him so much and no more, never more than a spot, or something may happen, you never know what."

We all know how happy they are to be wet and so, more often than not, they are grown in a saucer of water. In the warmer three quarters of the year they are certainly happy with that and put on boundless new growth. With our mild winters they might not even pause for the cooler dryer weather.

Successful bonsai development demands that we match the treatment of our trees with what it is we want from them throughout the growing cycle. By being the adult in control we determine the pace and timing and extent of their growth and any intervention. Now our Claret Tops like it wet but does that fit with what we want from them all the time?

Fast growth in our developing bonsai when they are young is exactly what we want, so they produce material for us to shape and to put on trunk and branch weight. For the claret tops, excess root space and excess water help achieve that. But of course, as they mature and reach a point you are happy to call them bonsai, the need for that rapid growth declines. Rapid growth brings apical dominance and an advancing 'front' of new shoots and leaves, which if unconstrained encourages the tree to 'drop' the older lower branches. So this rapid growth has a downside if not controlled.

There is a time for fast growth and a time for slow. Slower growth is more controllable and is better for the preservation of the full profile of branches and a mature shape. Bonsai pots themselves are shallow and small in the interests of constraining root growth and slowing a tree down. As your Claret Top reaches a point of maturity it might be time to think about weaning them off all that water and growing them 'dry' and in a bonsai pot.

Happy bonsai,

Steve

Claret Tops from this year's annual show

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Redlands Bonsai Website News

We have some great news to share on the success of our new website which has generated some 400 views in the last month. Now the website has been up and running for some time is there any content you would like to see that is not covered currently. The website is a great opportunity to highlight our club and our bonsai.

The Annual Show this year was highly successful through our sales tables and the high quality of trees being presented this year and the participation of general public viewing through the door.

I have added all the entrant trees onto the website for members and public viewing.

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In memory of the ANZACS 1914 – 1918

"Lest we forget"

The "Lone Pine" and bonsai

The pines grown from seeds from cones brought to Australia after World War 1 hold more than a fascination for bonsai growers in Australia and New Zealand. They are grown to commemorate the ANZACS Gallipoli campaign and in remembrance of the sacrifice of our forefathers.

There are numerous articles on the internet about these trees and there are many discussion threads on forums such as on the AusBonsai and Bonsai Tonight web sites.

One post jokingly suggests they could be considered an "honorary native" because while they are clearly not Australian Native, the *Pinus Brutia* (Turkish Red Pine) and the *Pinus Halepensis* (Alleppo Pine) are synonymous with the "Birth of the Nation" in Gallipolli. So why not consider them Honorary Natives?

Pinus Brutia is difficult to source in Australia. *Pinus Halepensis* is the more common pine grown in Australia as bonsai. Over the last decade it has been commercially propagated and is readily available in retail nurseries. The National Arboretum in Canberra has well established groves of both the *Pinus Brutia* (Turkish Red Pine) and the *Pinus Halepensis* (Alleppo Pine)

The original "Lone Pine"

The Battle of Lone Pine was fought from 6-9 August 1915, on a heavily fortified plateau of the Gallipoli Peninsula, upon which stood a solitary pine tree, a *Tenore Kizilçam* (*Pinus brutia* or Turkish Red Pine). This is the tree we know as the original "Lone Pine". It was the sole survivor of a group of trees that had been cut down by Turkish soldiers for timber and branches to cover their trenches during the battle. This remaining solitary tree was used as target practice and was obliterated during the battle.

The *Pinus halepensis*[1], Aleppo pines which are widely planted across the region are not native to Gallipoli. They were brought from plantations beyond the Dardanelles and were also used to roof the Turkish trenches.

Figure 1: The "Lone Pine" before the battle charge that destroyed it.

Turkish Red pines, and Aleppo pines are closely related, but they are now usually classified as a different species.

Pinecones from both species were retrieved by Australian soldiers and brought home to Australia.

[1] *Pinus halepensis* (Aleppo pine) is widely grown on the Mediterranean coast in Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Spain, France, Italy, Greece, Yugoslavia, Israel, Jordan. Cones are reddish brown when mature, stalked, hanging down, with scales with raised umbo. Twigs snap readily. The bark is smooth and grey on young branches and shoots. It has yellowish-green needles, fine, in 2s, shorter and narrower than in *Pinus brutia*.

The story of the *Pinus brutia*

From the ruins of the Lone Pine battle, Thomas Keith McDowell a soldier of the 23rd Battalion picked up a pinecone from where the tree now referred to as the "Lone Pine" had once stood and carried it back home to Australia.

On his return to Australia, he gave the *Brutia* pinecone to Mrs Emma Gray, the aunt of his wife Iris. Born in Tower Hill (15 km north-west of Warnambool, Victoria) in 1870, Emma Gray ran a general store in Grasmere (10km north of Warnambool) with her husband Robert. After about ten years Mrs Gray successfully grew four young pine trees from the pinecone.

- One seedling was dedicated in Burwood's Wattle Park, home ground of the 24th Battalion, on 7 May 1933.
- A second tree was dedicated to the 24th Battalion at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance on 11 June 1933.
- The third tree was planted at The Sisters Memorial Hall, The Sisters Terang, Victoria on 18 June 1933, on a block owned by Emma's son Vern near an area of closer settlement and a post-WWI soldier settlement.
- The fourth tree was planted in Warrnambool's Botanic Gardens, with a dedication service on 21 January 1934.

The *Brutia* pines in Warrnambool, Wattle Park and The Sisters still stand. In 2005 the *Pinus brutia* in King's Domain at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance required cable bracing following the loss of a major limb and in August 2012, despite measures taken to try to save the tree from the effects of disease caused by the fungus *Diplodia pinea*, it was removed. A "grandchild tree" was planted nearby in 2006.

A Middle Park, Melbourne man, Andrew Lees, collected cones from the broken limb in 2005 and by 2015 had managed to germinate about 20 seedlings.

A mature tree grown from the Warrnambool *brutia* pine[2] stands at Ballangeich, Victoria near Grasmere on a soldier settlement block where it was propagated by returned serviceman Alan Strain. Seeds raised by Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens now grow in Toll Bar Park, Lexton, Victoria, as well as other locations in Western Victoria and within the Warrnambool Gardens.

Figure 3: Pinecones on *Pinus Brutia*. Grow perpendicular to the branch.

Figure 4: Growth of pinecones

Figure 2: *Pinus Brutia* Wattyl Park, Melbourne, Victoria

[2] New Zealand's best specimen from a Warnambool Brutia pinecone seems to be the tree in the Christchurch Botanic Gardens, and there are others in Eastwoodhill Arboretum, Gisborne, and two impressive specimens in the grounds Scion (the former Forest Research Institute) near the Whakarewarewa School, Rotorua.

The trees grown from Thomas Keith McDowell's cone are *Pinus brutia* and can claim to be the only true descendants of the original "Lone Pine" growing at Gallipoli.

The story of the *Pinus halepensis*

Another soldier, Lance Corporal Benjamin Smith from the 3rd Battalion AIF, also retrieved a cone from the Gallipoli battlefield and sent it back to his mother in Australia, (Mrs McMullen), who had lost another son, Mark Smith, at the battle. This cone was a *Pinus halepensis* (Aleppo pine) which is not native to the Gallipoli peninsula. Logs and branches of Aleppo Pine had been brought into Gallipoli from plantations beyond the Dardanelles and used to shore up the Turkish trenches and dugouts. Researchers believe that this seems to be the most likely source of Lance Corporal Smith's cone.

Seeds from Lance Corporal Smith's Aleppo pinecone were planted by his mother in 1928, and two seedlings were raised. One was presented to her home town of Inverell, New South Wales and the other was forwarded to Canberra where it was planted by Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester at the Australian War Memorial (AWM) in October 1934. The AWM "Lone Pine" lost two of its large lower limbs by strong winds preceding a thunderstorm on 27 December 2008. However, tree surgeons were able to save the historic tree.

Figure 6: Pinecones on *Pinus Halepensis* hang from the branch.

Figure 7: Growth of *Pinus Halepensis* pinecones

Figure 5: *Pinus Halepensis* (Aleppo pine) in the grounds of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

The most common "Lone Pine" tree planted in civic parks across Australia is the Aleppo pine, with seedlings often derived from a parent tree planted in the grounds of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Many of these trees have memorial plaques claiming them to be direct descendants of the solitary tree stood on the ridgetop at Gallipoli. Researchers and Military historians now inform us that this is not technically correct. However, the origins of both the Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*) and the Turkish pine (*Pinus brutia*), now widely planted across Australian civic gardens as "Lone Pines" can be traced back to the Gallipoli battlefield of 1915.

Pinus halepensis as bonsai

The *Pinus halepensis* is a tree worth considering for a bonsai, and seedlings are readily available from the retail nursery at Yarralumla in the ACT. Not so the *Pinus Brutia*, which is extremely difficult to source, and when available are quite expensive. The Aleppo pine is an evergreen tree, with leaves called "needles". It belongs to the order of conifers since its fruit is cone shaped. It has grey coloured branches and bark. It is very resistant to arid conditions. At the root level, it associates with fungi to form the famous mycorrhizae[3], thus improving its nutrient absorption.

It must be located outdoor, in full sun. It is one of the trees most in need of sun exposure.

It requires controlled irrigation. An excess of water, especially if the substrate does not drain well enough and is fatal to the life of mycorrhizae. (See CBS Care Calendar excerpt below)

Figure 8: Aleppo pine seedling

Figures 9 &10: Aleppo pines developing as bonsai

[3] These are fungi whose roots (hyphae) act in symbiosis with those of pine, helping them to absorb mineral elements from the soil, such as phosphorus.

The following table is information for the *CBS Care Calendar*. If any CBS members and friends have experience growing Pinus Halepensis (Aleppo Pine) as bonsai and can enhance the *Care Calendar* please contact CBS member Phil R by email: philrabl49@icloud.com.

General information and guidance

Botanical name	*Pinus Halepensis*
Common Name	Aleppo Pine
Family	Pinaceae
Origin	Tree native to the Mediterranean basin.
Watering	Prefers to be evenly moist. Be careful not to over-water, and make sure you use a potting medium with good drainage. Aim to keep the soil evenly moist, like a damp cloth feels. It never wants to completely dry out, but too much water can damage it, especially in winter. An excess of water, especially if the substrate does not drain well enough, can be fatal to the mycorrhizae. These are fungi whose roots (hyphae) act in symbiosis with those of pine, helping them to absorb mineral elements from the soil, such as phosphorus.
Fertilising	Fertilise as for pines generally in Spring and Autumn. It is preferable to use organic fertilizers, favouring and protecting mycorrhizae. *Seaweed Secrets* is beneficial. It is a super concentrated premium Seaweed (Kelp) plant fertiliser and soil conditioner, boosted with added Humic & Fulvic acids and organic carbon. Made from Ascophyllum Nodosum Seaweed Species.
Sun/shade	Full sun.
Heat/cold	Aleppo pines can cope with the temperature extremes of Canberra. When the plant is small, protect the developing roots with a layer of mulch when cold weather rolls in. After a couple of years, there will be no need for overwintering precautions.
Soil preference	Need a well-draining soil.
Pests and diseases	Pests include aphids, pine wilt nematode, spider mites, and bark beetles. While most of these can be effectively treated and allow the tree to continue to grow, pine wilt nematode is a whole other beast. Often the only real treatment is removing the tree before the problem can spread to other trees in the area. Diseases encountered with the Aleppo pine include Aleppo pine blight, dieback, phytophthora, pine pitch canker, and root rot. Fortunately, these issues tend to occur in immature trees, during a time when they can be replaced by a new, heartier tree. A fungus causing tip blight of pine trees is *Sphaeropsis sapinea* (also known as *Diplodia pinea*). This fungus is present throughout the year in dead needles, leaf sheaths, twigs, and cones located either on an infected tree or on the ground.

Annual care

Re-potting / root prune	**Best done in September-October or March.** After transplanting it is beneficial to water with a solution of *Seaweed Secrets* or similar, to accelerate the recovery of the tree.
Minor trimming	Unwanted small branches can be removed or jinned at any time. Best done June to February.
Needle plucking	Aleppo pines grow two kinds of foliage. The immature foliage is the small needles that you can see. At the spring growth of the candles. First, slow the strongest ones, by breaking them with the fingers and leaving only 1/3 of the candle. Then, break the medium ones in half. Of the weak ones, only eliminate 1/3 and, if they are very weak, do not touch them. This is done before the needles deploy; generally, in September in Canberra.
Candle trimming	Depending on the desired shape of the bonsai Aleppo pine, it does not necessarily require pruning unless you are taking out a wayward branch or removing parts that are dead, diseased, or damaged. Back budding is achieved by trimming half of the candle (new growth) length. Growth and shape to some degree can also be managed by removing the conifer candles when they first appear.
Major pruning	Best done from June to February.
Wiring	Can be wired at any time.
Defoliation	Never defoliate a Pinus halepensis
Carving	Best done from June to February.

These details for this article in *Wirrabara* were sourced and summarised by Canberra Bonsai Society member Alan S from numerous articles on the internet on the subject of "The Lone Pine". Thanks to CBS member Phil R for his excellent reviewing and guidance.

Redlands Bonsai "Best in Show 2023"

Hinoki Cypress by Gwen

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2023
Best Native
Miniature Tree
Ficus shorty
Ficus benjamina
Years in Training 25
Age 31
Miniature-<250mm
Australia Native Tree

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RBS Members Bonsai Show Results 2023

Best in Show

Winner:	Gwen J	Hinoki Cypress

Large: over 65cm

Winner:	Geoff	Juniper
Runner up:	Gilbert T	Ficus Rubignosa
Best Native:	Gilbert T	Ficus Rubignosa

Intermediate: 45-65cm

Winner:	Gwen J	Hinoki Cypress
Runner up:	Tony W	Juniper
Best Native:	Steve C	Ficus Benjamina

Small: 25-45cm

Winner:	Noreen C	Clerodendrum
Runner up:	Steve C	Shimpaku Juniper
Best Native:	Steve C	AphananthePhilippinensis

Miniature: Under 25cm

Winner:	Gilbert T	Buxus Harlandii
Runner up:	Geoff S	Willow Leaf fig
Best Native:	Steve C	Ficus Benjamina

Novice Class

Winner:	Ryan M	Weeping Fig

BCI Award Glennis B Unavailable

Certificate of Merit

Barbara B
Doug Mac
Nick S
Tony W
Andrew M

People's Choice

Gwen J Hinoki Cypress

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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 encourage everyone to wear them at the meeting allowing everyone to converse with other members by name.

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 ae currently under review in our next meeting. The update will be advised in due course. There will still be a raffle for those who want to participate. Fees are due by the end of this year (2023).

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 2023

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.
Member: Ryan M.

You are welcome to join 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.

REDLANDS BONSAI

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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