REDLANDS BONSAI

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President's Message

I am looking forward to this weekend's event at the Botanical gardens at Mt Cootha. I hope you can take the time to have a look. The itinerary is in this newsletter.
I am also looking forward to our next club meeting, where we will be discussing pruning and wiring of deciduous trees and also some wiring of other species. This will prove informative for our new members and hopefully our seniors will assist in doing some wiring as well. We will still be having the learners group starting at 11am. I hope to see you all on the on the 22nd.
Karen😄

Upcoming Events 2023

- **Meeting July 22nd Workshop/Deciduous tree wiring & pruning. Learners Group 11am**
- **"Bonsai Gone Native" 14-16th July**
- **Bonsai Society of Queensland – Annual Show Sep 10th**
- **Toowoomba Bonsai Society – Annual Show September 16th & 17th**

Gone Native bonsai event

On 14-16 July 2023, Bimer Bonsai Club will be holding a Bonsai Gone Native event to showcase native bonsai. The event will be held at the Mt Coot-Tha Botanic Gardens Auditorium. They are showcasing their best native bonsai's. This is a ticketed event so please review their website, you will need to purchase tickets online. There will be five presenters over the three days and a market place to purchase items.

Marcela Ferreira is a founding member of the Victorian Bonsai Club.

Hugh Grant has a reputation both in Australia and internationally for tree design and understanding the natural aesthetics of particularly Australian Natives.

Albert Garcia has been involved with bonsai for 30 years and in the last 10 – 15 he has been working and experimenting with native species.

Steve Cullum has been experimenting with native bonsai for many years. Particularly focused on Southeast Queensland species.

Keith Stanley started his passion for bonsai in 1981 when visiting the Dandenong's and seeing Lindsey Farr's nursery. He has learnt from private tuition, workshops, and tours in Japan. His work on bonsai education has been one of the cornerstones of the Bimer Bonsai club program.

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In the garden with Marty

I thank all the members of RBS for welcoming me to your club. So I thought I might contribute something to the newsletter. I would like to tell you all what I have been up to.

You may know that I sold off some of my beautiful bonsai earlier this year, 'emotional damage'. It is funny however, as soon as it was done I went straight into accumulation mode. I have got to get some Ficus nerifolia, F. macrocarpa to work on. I do love the figs.

I put some one year old Ficus layerings in the ground a few months ago to boost their development. See photos. They took off really well so I started doing some pruning and wiring, as you do. The gardener got a bit too ambitious with a couple of them. Most of the leaves and branches were removed off one to activate some dormant buds and then it got cold and the growth slowed, winter hit. It did however promote many new epicormic buds to grow along the trunk. They will take off in spring. Another plant had a straight area in the top of the trunk so it just needed a little bit more of a bend and then snap. Once again new epicormic buds away and an increase in taper to boot, all good.

One layering was repotted in a larger container with the new potting media the club told me about, you know, the scoria, diatomite, zeolite and aged pine bark. This made a good comparison to the in ground plants. The growth of the one in the pot is just as good if not better than the others so far.

In general it has been two years since any repotting was done to my now smaller collection of bonsai. They are in for some serious work in spring. I have new potting media, new knowledge and revitalised enthusiasm. Stand back this could get dirty. After root pruning I let them settle in and when they take off I will attack the top half. A major operation is overdue.

The potting media I used for the last two years was from Bassett Barks near the Glass House Mountains. 1 cubic metre cost around $150 then. The H40 media is 90% aged fine slash pine bark and 10% coarse sand. I would have used some diatomite but none was available. I used this and 12 - 14 month Osmocoate and top dressed with organic extra every couple of months. I know the organics clogged up a bit. A Wetter Soil product helped with water adsorption. I achieved good results over this time period. I will do a lot better with the new mix.

Cheers folks. I will let you know how I go.

Insight of a Bonsai beginner

I hope that the cold has not affected you to greatly, it is like a storm you can see coming, waiting it out and then the sky clears, that's what it feels like to me now sitting back waiting for the onset of warmer days to come so I can start to see all the work and results I started on the trees before winter. Also, our pesty possum will find other foods and not my bonsai's. The discussion today is inspired by our friend the possum who also has a big bum and has broken many of the small branches on my bonsai's I have created over the last two years. He has now broken the top off my Lemon Scented Tea Tree although I have found it very brittle to work on and have also broken a branch myself but the joy of the scent the leaves make is worth having any problems they cause. My grandchildren on their regular visit to the garden and look at the plants make the mint the first stop and take a leaf to smell and next to the Lemon Scented Tea Tree and on to the peppermint gum.

So today I am encouraging you to take the chop. That is to any of your trees that if like me you have turned your tube stock or cutting into nice looking trees in pots.

I have been surprised that what has turned out to be an effective way of the tree repairing itself and then given you a restart to again build the tree from the bottom up. The problem with all our bonsai building is that it all takes time so having now invested time in building the trunk use this to contribute to the design outcome.

The two photos are cutbacks where only the trunks were left with the regrowth taking some two years and you would struggle to see the cut now. What I should have recognised and tamed the growth before it got out of control again. Now with this understanding I will start again when the growth restarts as the weather warms up. My hypothesis is that a straight horizontal cut pays better dividends in growth and the tree requires growth momentum before the cuts are made for the best results. Have a discussion with one of our senior members and get some tips and tricks as different trees will give different results!

Has anyone else tried this with your trees and what are your learning outcomes? Let us know

The first cuts marked in red

This was a tube stock of Linarifolia that grew two trunks to 60cm high before the cut backs were made and now the regrowth.

June Meeting

Tony followed up his discussion on tiny trees from the last meeting. With the view of holding an exhibition next year.

Nick discussed the use of a filler.
Sculpt and get the colour you want, and then use this product. It is extremely runny and will work its way into the deadwood structure.

June Meeting ugly tree day

A vigorous discussion was held on our ugly tree day. One would think everyone's day job was an economist as there was many varied and different ideas that were presented and discussed to improve the tree structure and size. It will be interesting to see the outcome of the work completed on these trees when they come back in 2024 to see the varied results discussed.

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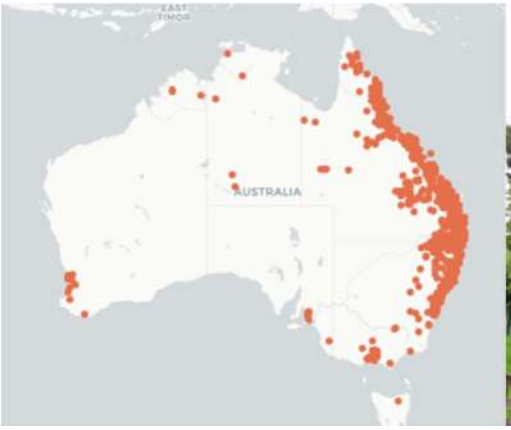
Nick brought along one of his first trees from his collection that was given to him and started working on the changes with the help of the audience. It has now been trimmed and root pruned and waiting for growth. Nick will return this tree over the coming months to see the changes and the final design of the tree.

Native Showcase Factsheet

Melaleuca Viminalis

Weeping Bottlebrush; Creek Bottlebrush; Drooping Bottlebrush; Red Bottlebrush

Melaleuca Viminalis, is endemic to New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia. (Some Australian state herbaria continue to use the name Callistemon Viminalis.) It is a multi-trunked, large shrub or tree growing to 10 m, with hard bark, often pendulous foliage and large numbers of bright red bottlebrush flowers in spring and summer. It is possibly the most commonly cultivated melaleuca in gardens and its cultivars are often grown in many countries. Melaleuca Viminalis was first named in 2009 by Lyndley Craven in Novon when Callistemon Viminalis was transferred to the present genus. There are two subspecies: Melaleuca Viminalis (Sol. ex Gaertn.) Byrnes subsp. Viminalis which is a multi-trunked shrub or small tree growing to 15 metres high and which often flowers throughout the year; Melaleuca Viminalis subsp. rhododendron Craven, a single-stemmed tree growing to 35 metres high which flowers mostly in September and October and occurs only in the Injune district in Queensland. It occurs along the eastern part of Queensland from the Cape York Peninsula south to Moree and Grafton in New South Wales. There are also disjunct populations in the far north and south-west of Western Australia. It mostly grows in and along watercourses, mainly in sandstone or granite country. A widely grown garden plant and street tree, it is a hardy species in most soils when grown in full sun. It is useful as a screening plant and is suitable for planting as a street tree. It needs regular watering but can survive drought as a mature plant although it is not frost hardy and will succumb to salt spray. Many cultivars of this species have been developed as cultivars of Callistemon.



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.

Sign-in and Raffle

All members are required to sign in as they arrive. The sign in sheets are located on the front table as you enter the hall. If you don't want to sign into the meetings, please talk to one of the executive committee members.

There will be a raffle at each meeting and tickets are available for purchase at the sign in table.

Fees for 2023

Our membership fees for 2023 are $25 for a single, $35 for a family and we have removed the monthly $2 entry fee.

- Fees are due in December for the following year
- New members who join the club in the first 6 months of the year pay full membership fees
- Members joining after 30 June pay half fees for that year, with full membership fees due in November for the following year.
- Any member who has not paid their fees by 31 January for that year will be deemed unfinancial and not eligible to exhibit in the annual show, sell products at the show or meetings or vote at the AGM.

Banking details for on-line renewals are:

Name: Redlands Bonsai Society Inc
BSB: 633000
Account Number: 169724416

Workshop Meetings

We aim to provide a number of workshop meetings throughout the year. These are great opportunities for people of all stages of their bonsai journey to come together, discuss and work on their trees. The more experienced members of the club are available to answer any questions and assist you in deciding the future style and care of your trees.

Remember advice will vary across the members, so weigh up the information and follow the advice you are most comfortable with…

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.

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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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