REDLANDS BONSAI

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Upcoming Events 2023

- **RBS Market Day – 28th October**
- **Sunshine Coast Bonsai Society Annual Show 29th October 2023**
- **Gold Coast Tweed Show 12- 13th November 2023**
- **25th November Bring Back Native Tree Day**
- **9th December – Christmas Party**

President's Message

Hi folks,
I hope you have all your pennies saved up for this year's RBS Market Day on the 28th. There are still a couple of tables available for any late comers, if you want to sell some stock or accessories.
We had a great roll up for the Leigh Taafe talk last month with nearly 60 people attending the meeting. The following days' workshop sessions were also a hit with the members who took part. Thanks to Nick for organising Leigh's visit and the committee for their help. We are now looking at getting another interstate guest for next year's program. If you want a say in next year's program and the future direction of our club, then you must fill in the survey that was sent to all our members via email. We will have a few paper copies at the Market Day for any members who want to hand write the survey.
Looking forward to seeing you all on the 28th.
Karen ☺

Reminder to complete the Club Survey – it's your club and we would love to hear your ideas on meeting topics, ideas for improvement of club activities, what we can do to improve your club experience?

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In My Garden – October 2023

I don't know if anyone else is suffering this problem at the moment, but it seems I have furry night visitors with a taste for my bonsai. When you root prune a developing tree and bare prune the branches the wait for a return to life can be worrying, but then to have the eventual new shoots eaten is very disheartening.

It's been a typical dry start to summer but it's really dry and has been for quite a while and there certainly isn't the usual profusion of growth and flowering of plants in the garden or bushland beyond. Our friendly magpies follow us around in the hope of a handout as the usual spring flush of bugs and lawn grubs is not there for them to feed on.

So, the little furry critters are hungry too. First a nibble and then a bite. I'm pretty sure they are rats not possums having been through this cycle previously. Wherever there are people there are rats, unfortunately. More-so I think if the same people keep chickens! So, I've been putting out lots of bait, (in containers accessible only through small spaces) on the ground rather than attract them onto my benches but it's pretty surprising how much of this stuff they've eaten in the last week. And they keep coming back.

As a deterrent I've even bought a 10 pack of flowering marigolds and put them around my benches along with some potted garlic chives. These are apparently smells that deter possums and perhaps rats too. Since then, no more nibbles and all the action is on the ground. I've even bought some Possum Off but with all the watering reapplication is a problem and so I'm not sure if it is even effective.

It was suggested to me that you can buy solar/battery blinking fairy lights that keep critters away. Has anyone found these useful or any other cunning scheme to beat the beasts??

Insight of a Bonsai beginner

As the weather is now warming up, I thought an excellent subject to discuss would be the art of watering. Sometimes our bonsai become too wet or to dry or newly potted or the pot is just root bound and repels the water.

But what I would like to discuss is the watering system you can use while on holiday. (Early my first way was to use the strategy of "HOPE" this was a failure) I have over the last number of years inducted family members into the watering regime with the discussion around their inherence if the job is not undertaken with enthusiasm. Although this has been somewhat successful with only one of my family member's losing 20% of their inheritance.

As the family method is not sustainable, I decided to build an automatic watering system. The first timer was a low-cost mechanical dial timer that was given to me, but this failed in the first ten days. I then invested in a single output Orbit digital battery timer which I found to be easily programmed and then upgraded to a four-station external solenoid output model which has served me well to date.

With the expansion of my collection of bonsai and with some of the trees needing different watering patterns (Linarifolia just cannot get enough water on warm days) I have now upgraded to a Holiman eight station unit which runs on 240 Volts and can be controlled through the internet from anywhere you have phone data access. I have integrated this with the Orbit battery system so both are activated a little after each other to ensure if one fails the other will continue to water the plants. It may be a little over kill but when you invest five + years into growing and developing a tree better safe than sorry.

This is only where the story begins because the type off sprays you can use only adds to the intrigue. I started with misting sprays but after discussion with an experienced club member who uses side sprays as the canopy forms a drip line and water misses the pot, I have now trialled a side stray method myself to ensure all plants have adequate moisture. It is an ongoing journey and experiment to develop a perfect reliable watering system.

As this is a key subject for everyone it would be great to share your experience and trials on how you manage your watering or what watering system have you installed and that works for you. What type of controller and spray do you use??? Would you like "Watering" included as topic in one of our meetings?

Club meeting September

A very informative afternoon in our September Meeting with special guest speaker Leigh Taafe from the Canberra Arboretum Bonsai House.

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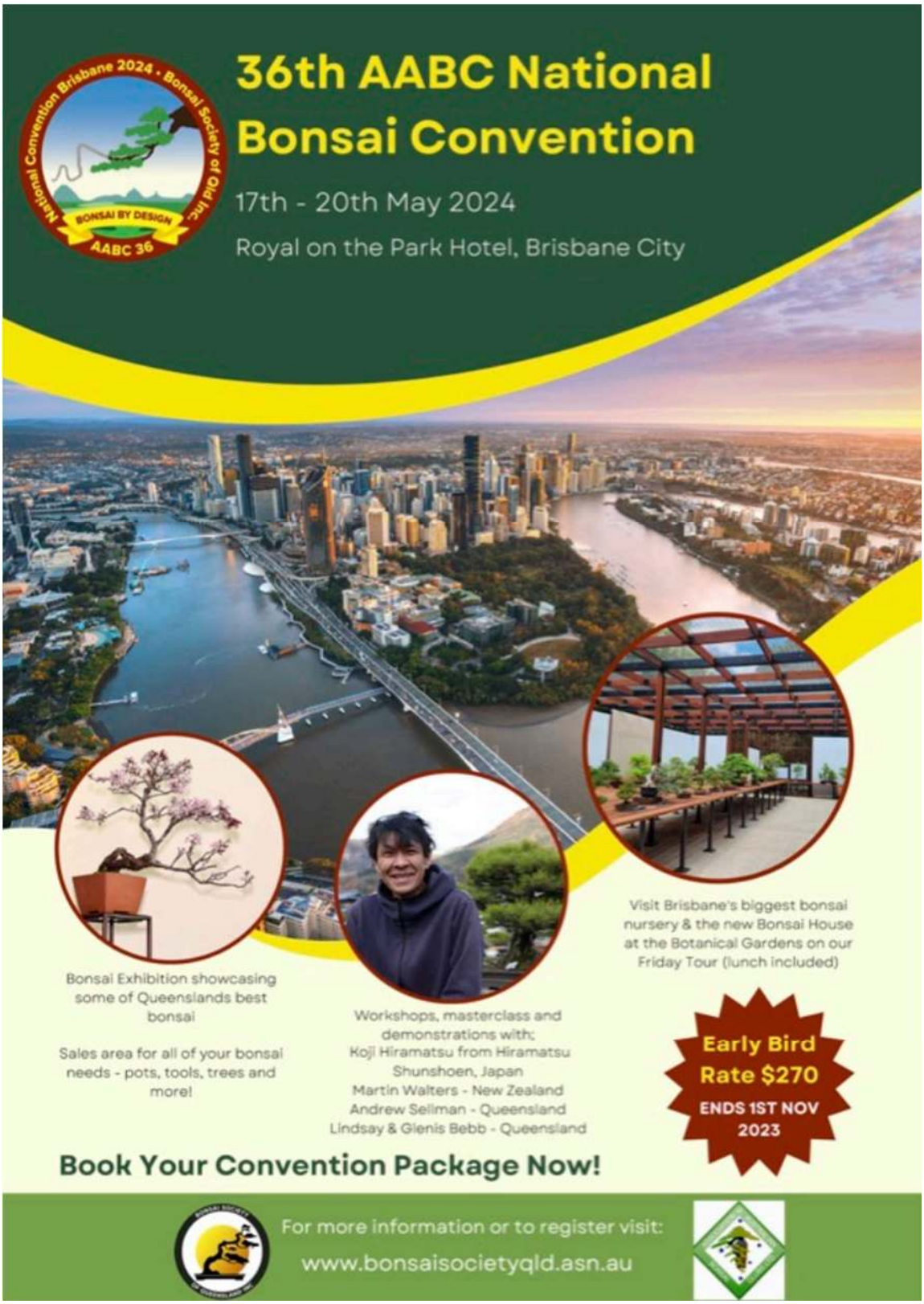

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RBS Meeting Protocol

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.

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.

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Member: Ryan M.

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
			Leigh Taafe	Learners Group 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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