



Newsletter February 2024 in this issue

- ❖ Presidents Message
- ❖ AGM Information – February 24th
- ❖ International Contributor
- ❖ In My Garden
- ❖ Insight of a Bonsai Beginner
- ❖ Bonsai Foundation Program

President's Message

Hi folks,

I hope you are all well and are getting your trees sorted for the show. We can't get our usual weekend for the show this year due to the DSC having started a dance night on the 4th Saturday of each month now. Despite the annoyance of this we will be having our show on April 7th.

Everything else will be the same regarding set up on the Saturday and show on Sunday.

Not to toot my own horn, but the January meeting and open day and sausage sizzle was a great success. We have a heap of new members, and everyone seemed to be having a great arvo, despite the searing heat of the day. Rod did a great job on the BBQ and the girls in the kitchen were busy preparing the bread rolls and all-day refreshments. The rest of the committee were making our guests feel welcome, as were our friendly members.

Our February 24th meeting is our AGM and a presentation by Kimberley Halter on Junipers. We haven't done a lot on junipers, so Kimberley's demo is not to be missed.

See you all on the 24th at midday.

Karen 😊

Upcoming Events 2024

- ❖ AGM – Saturday 24th February
- ❖ Presentation by Kimberley Halter (24th February)
- ❖ Membership renewal for 2024 – see details on Page 8.
- ❖ Redlands Bonsai Club Show April 17th
- ❖ AABC Convention 17th – 20th May

Special Guest Speaker – February 24th

Do you want to learn more about Junipers?

If so, you will not want to miss our special guest speaker at our February Meeting.

Kimberley Halter specialises in Juniper Bonsai.

Kimberly is passionate about bonsai - working with small trees in pots to replicate trees in nature. Her goal is to share bonsai knowledge and expertise with other bonsai enthusiasts.



Hopefully I made you look and now I am seeking your involvement to keep the newsletter informative and relevant to our club and our bonsai interests. All articles welcome.

Is anyone out there????

Redland Bonsai Society Fun Fact: Our Website has had to date nearly 3,000 views with 300+ this month. This is a great platform to highlight our club and we would love to hear any feedback or suggestions we can implement to keep the site informative and reflective of our great club.

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AGM - February 24th

Important Note: to be eligible to vote you must be a financial member.

If you are looking for a great opportunity to get involved in your club, think about joining the committee. There is no skill required only your enthusiasm and love of all things bonsai.

Our AGM is scheduled for February 24th at our meeting.

All positions will be open for nomination and voting, and we hope you take the opportunity to nominate for a position and become involved. The positions below are ones that are being vacated as of February, but all positions will be thrown open.

- * Treasurer
- * Social Media Coordinator
- * Events Coordinator
- * Community Outreach Officer



*We will also be looking for a **Kitchen Convenor** who does not have to be a committee member just a willing volunteer.*

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International Guest Contributor

ependant, il est logique d'utiliser les espèces natives australiennes, surtout pour nous en Australie. Voici quelques points clés :

Sélection des espèces :

Les melaleucas, les banksias, les callistemon et les leptospermum sont des choix populaires. Ils prospèrent lorsqu'ils sont traités comme dans leur habitat naturel.

Le tea tree côtier (*Leptospermum laevigatum*), avec son feuillage délicat, illustre la beauté du bonsaï australien.

Eau et sol :

Contrairement au stéréotype de l'Australie brûlée par le soleil, de nombreuses espèces australiennes ont soif d'humidité. Maintenir le sol constamment humide est crucial.

Les plateaux d'eau sont souvent nécessaires, surtout pendant les étés torrides. Des espèces telles que les gommiers d'eau, les melaleucas et les banksias apprécient cette hydratation supplémentaire.

Style :

Oubliez les formes rigides japonaises ; les bonsaïs australiens adoptent une esthétique plus naturelle.

Observez comment l'arbre pousse dans son environnement naturel. Affinez la croissance pour obtenir un aspect artistiquement réaliste.

Nos arbres indigènes présentent souvent un motif de croissance irrégulier, donc la taille judicieuse et la sélection des branches sont essentielles.

En résumé, le bonsaï d'espèces natives australiennes nous invite à apprécier la beauté robuste de notre terre, un arbre miniature à la fois. 🌳 AU

Pour en savoir plus sur la culture réussie de ces bonsaïs uniques, consultez 1.



In my garden - by Steve C

Since the storms around Christmas time the heat and humidity have been oppressive. February has traditionally been the start of the wet season in Brisbane and so it will be some time before we get any real relief from the prevailing conditions.

February is a real ficus month; don't they just love it. Abundant glossy leaf growth and aerial roots sprouting any time there is rain about for very long. I seem to be constantly pinching out the growing tips on my QSLFs.

Also, on a daily basis I'm pinching the tips on the Swamp Cypress 'fronds' and almost every morning there are new shoots in the upper 20% of the trees where I don't want them.

It's much the same for all those species that are well acclimated to the climate.

There can be a downside to the moisture and humidity and that is sooty mould. My Celtis suffer from this every year at this time. White Oil or Neem Oil are effective and an easy treatment.

The biggest tip for this time of the year is to just keep the upper and lower parts of the trees in balance with lots of tip pruning at the apex and allowing lower branches to extend where needed to build them up. I have a number of younger trees in development into their second grow and cut cycle for the season. Typical are a number of Clerodendrums with shoots 500 to 600 mm long, almost ready to cut back to 25mm for the next run.

As long as you are not fully bare rooting trees, repotting with good, shaded aftercare works fine and with high humidity it's also a great time to get cuttings struck.

The growth you get over the next couple of months can be the structural basis for a trees style so make the most of it.



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Insight of a Bonsai beginner - by Rod C

With our weather pattern being all over the place in the last two months rain, high humidity and strong winds and having had one of the worst storms I have seen in our area. The 60-foot gum tree on the footpath down the street lost some large limbs directly onto our neighbor's car and unfortunately the rest of it was left in my guttering. We also lost some large trees in my area, some more that 80 years old quite sad to see. Some 3 weeks later I now have 30-40 gum trees growing in my bonsai pots from seeds being spread from the storm. So out of what was a disaster comes new life and opportunity for the environment to flourish.

From my learnings

Having over the last few years grown trees from a lot of cuttings and having them obtained nice trunks I have over time unfortunately lost some from drying out from either being away on holidays or the plant falling over and the auto watering system missing them. Most have been trees that have high water use requirements such as Linarifolia and paper barks and soft leaf varieties. The variables of keeping plants and growing plants is an unknown science and very fickle.

In review I believe the problem first stems from me not repotting my trees early enough as they have become pot bound with not enough feeder root available after becoming dried out even though they were still growing. My hypothesis came about when I reviewed other trees that have been repotted and sitting in the same environment, they now look to be more resilient and after a short setback were able to replace their leaf structure and then to grow strongly. This may also reflect on the type of potting medium that they were able to hold more moisture as it had not yet broken down.

An additional note as I write this article as it reflects on the topic of the vagaries of growing and watering plants today it is pouring rain, and the plants are drowning in the amount of water coming down today.



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Bonsai Foundations Program

Bonsai Foundations Program 2024

The almost annual Foundations Program started about 10 years ago to address a need for some more formal training in the basics of bonsai cultivation, training and styling. There are a number of Introductory Bonsai classes where students can get the 'basics in a day' and come home with a wired tree, but no idea what to do with it next.

The Foundations program weighted more towards the principles and information necessary for the long term development of bonsai.

Curriculum:

The curriculum has been designed with the following outcomes in mind for students:

- An introduction to bonsai philosophy, heritage, conventions and aesthetic;
- A working knowledge of how plants grow and develop, and how to harness these natural processes in the interests of bonsai development;
- An understanding of styling alternatives and how to choose;
- Early experience in developing bonsai and an understanding of development pathways.

Three streams of content will run through the program; *Bonsai practice and styling conventions, how to work with plants* (horticulture) and the *application of artistic expression*.

This year it is planned to have 8 lessons and 2 workshops, something like the following:

Lesson 1

Program introduction
Origins & philosophy of bonsai culture
History and different national identities (schools of bonsai)
Classification, Styles & Sizes
Stylistic conventions and 'rules of bonsai' - the general aesthetic principles
The art of illusion

Lesson 2

Selection of plants suitable to bonsai
Attributes
Recommended species
Tools and accessories
Physiological aspects – functions of roots, leaves, bark and how trees grow
Channelling this physiology for bonsai development
How to keep a plant alive in a pot for years
Trees to work on

Lesson 3

Potting mediums and components
Watering and general care
Seasonal influences and the annual cycle
Start on development pathways – where to begin, seed to advanced stock.

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Lesson 4

Bonsai development pathways continuing
Shaping & Wiring
Defoliation

Lesson 5

Propagation methods
Sourcing bonsai material
Cuttings and grafting, layering

Lesson 6

Fertilizer – nutrients
Pests and diseases
Insects and fungus

Lesson 7

Containers
Exhibition
Bonsai on line
Review

Lesson 8 (Usually conducted in early August)

Transplanting and re-potting
Root pruning

Workshop 1 and Workshop 2

Will be held at times to suit the schedule and venue opportunities.

Class Schedule/Location

Due to other commitments the program will likely be run this year on Sunday afternoons, 1pm to 4pm.

Program dates will be set once sufficient nominations are received to run the course and book the venue. Exact dates then are subject to venue availability. In 2023 the program was conducted at the Thorneside Community Hall, 200 Mooroondu Rd, Thorneside.

Again subject to nominations, it is hoped that we might make a start in March and run through to August/Sept.

Fees and costs:

The fee for the program is be \$160 for RBS members (\$185 for non-members) for the 8 lessons and 2 workshops.

A deposit of \$50 should be paid on nomination with the balance payable at the first class.

The Book 'Bonsai Foundations', covers the course content and will be available for purchase if you are interested (\$30) but this is not essential.

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Nomination:

If you are interested in participating, please nominate with Steve Cullum directly at spcullum@gmail.com. By all means get in touch if you have other questions. If you do get in touch to confirm participation or ask questions, please make sure your message identifies yourself. Sometimes an email address alone doesn't make it clear who I'm talking to. Your phone number would be useful too, for future contact.

Thanks

Steve Cullum

RBS Show information 2024

The show is fast approaching so let's see what our talented members have in store for us this year. We are once again at the DSC where our set up will be the same as last year.

We have access to the venue at midday on the Saturday. We will need some helpers to set up so please give us a hand at midday if you can. We will be ready for your trees and sales stock by 2pm.

Our guest judge this year is Albert Garcia who will be doing the judging on Saturday afternoon. If you are entering a tree in the show, the form will be attached to this newsletter along with the sales sheet. Our club exhibition will be held on Sunday April 7th at the Donald Simpson Centre in Cleveland. Setup will happen the Saturday afternoon before, as usual.

Trees will be entered into either Open or Novice classes. Novice is for members who have been practising bonsai for 4 years or less.

Within the Open class there will be 4 sizes judged, including:

Miniatures: under 250mm

Small: from 250mm to 450mm

Medium: from 450mm to 650mm

Large: over 650mm.

EXHIBITORS, PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

Forms for exhibition trees will be attached to this newsletter, and or available at our February meeting.

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.

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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.

SETUP:

Setup will be from approximately 2pm on Saturday March 26th and show trees to go into the hall from approximately 4pm. Trees can be marshalled in the foyer while we set up. Can we have as many people as possible to help with setup. The Exhibition will run from 9:00am to approximately 4pm on Sunday, April 7th.

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.

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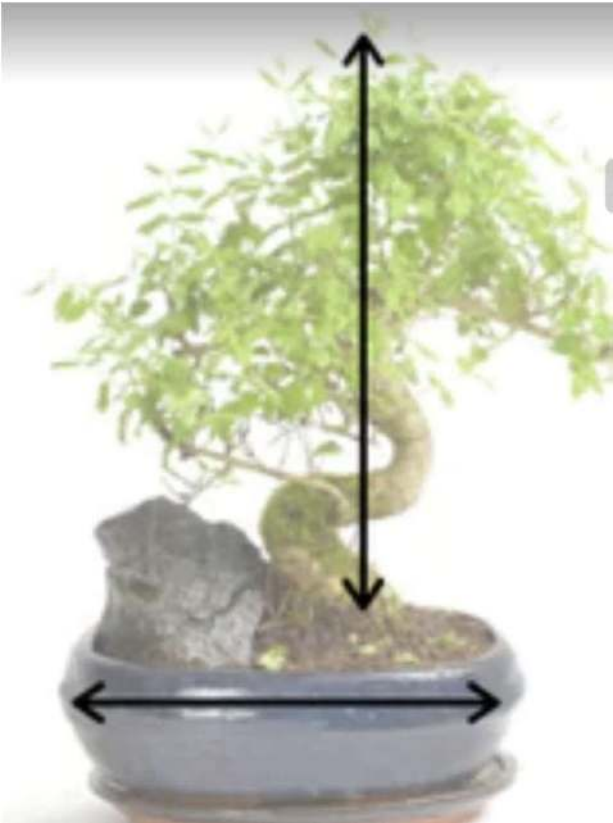


How to measure your show tree

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



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Attached to the email with the newsletter.

Botanical Name			
Common name			
Years in training	years	years	years
Age	years old	years old	years old
Height mm	mm	mm	mm
Width mm	mm	mm	mm
Name			
Phone number			

RBS January Meeting 2024

Our January meeting was an open workshop with several demonstrations for public visitors. We had some 20+ visitors who also enjoyed a sausage sizzle with club members.



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January Meeting Display Trees



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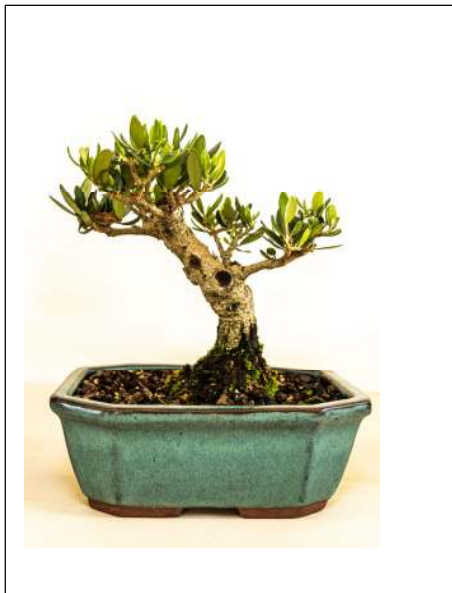
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36th AABC National Bonsai Convention

17th - 20th May 2024
Royal on the Park Hotel, Brisbane City





Bonsai Exhibition showcasing some of Queensland's best bonsai



Workshops, masterclass and demonstrations with:
Koji Hiramatsu from Hiramatsu Shunshoen, Japan
Martin Walters - New Zealand
Andrew Sellman - Queensland
Lindsay & Glenis Bebb - Queensland



Visit Brisbane's biggest bonsai nursery & the new Bonsai House at the Botanical Gardens on our Friday Tour (lunch included)

Early Bird Rate \$270
ENDS 1ST NOV 2023

Book Your Convention Package Now!



For more information or to register visit:
www.bonsaisocietyqld.asn.au



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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 2024 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

See Course information above - 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.

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Fees for 2024

Our membership fees for 2024 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 – AGM for 2024 Committee (24th February)

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 SOCIETY - PROGRAM FOR 2024				
Month	Date	Day	Meetings and Workshops	Additional activities
January	27	Sat	Committee Meeting	10am
				Learners group from 11am
			Open Day	From 12:00
February	24	Sat	Committee Meeting	10am
			AGM 2022/2023 Presentation. Kimberley Halter	From 1200
March	23	Sat	Carving demonstration by Steve Cullum	From 1200
			Committee Meeting	10am
April	6	Sat	Show set-up	D.S.C. Midday
	7	Sun	Annual Show	From 9am
	27	Sat	Committee Meeting	10am
May	25	Sat		Learners group from 11am
			Demonstration by James Johnson & Rob Payne	From 1200
			Demonstration by Marcela Ferreira	From 1200
June	26	Sun	Workshops with Marcela Ferreira	TBA
	22	Sat	Committee Meeting	10am
July	27	Sat	Forest & Foster Tree bring back & Workshop	From 1200
				10am
August	24	Sat		Learners group from 11am
			Demonstration by Keith Ireland	From 1200
			Committee Meeting	10am
September	28	Sat	Tool Sharpening, Potting Demo & Workshop	From 1200
				10am
			Committee Meeting	Learners group from 11am
October	26	Sat	Senior Members group Demonstration	From 1200
				10am
			Committee Meeting	Learners group from 11am
November	23	Sat	Demonstration by Sam Thompson (TBC)	From 1200
			Committee Meeting	10am
			Christmas Lunch & Workshop	From 1200

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