REDLANDS BONSAI

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Upcoming Events 2024

- **April Meeting – Saturday 27th**
- **April Meeting presentations by Rob Payne and James Johnson**
- **AABC Convention 17th – 20th May**
- **Bimer Bonsai Club Show 11&12th May. Mt Coo-tha Botanical Gardens**
- **May 25th interstate guest – Marcela Ferreira**

President's Message

Wow, what a great month we have just had for Redlands Bonsai.

It started with a great presentation and demonstration at our March meeting on Deadwood, Carving and Preservation techniques by our very own Stephen Cullum. The level of detail provided informed all that attended and will guide members in the use of techniques for years to come. I will also be on the lookout for the use of "transplanted deadwood" to enhance designs.

Then we moved into our Annual Show at the Donald Simpson Centre on the 7th April. There was a massive ground swell of support on Saturday by members and families to help set up Display and Sales Areas in record time. With over 80 display trees and of amazing quality and variety, we delighted the bonsai and our local community. Certainly, something to be very proud of. Our Sales Table continued its brilliant standard with a range of items and prices for experienced bonsai aficionado to people just starting on their bonsai journey. It was certainly an event to be immensely proud of, and I thank all our members who put in amazing efforts leading up this preparing display trees and items, stock for sale, and then backed it up with more amazing energy over the whole weekend.

Final details on the Show's success are being finalised, and the committee will provide a snapshot of the stats for the event at our April meeting.

Also please block out a date in your calendar for our Saturday 25th May meeting where we will have talented Marcela Ferreira visiting us to present and demonstrate. Marcela is the co-founder of the Victorian Native Bonsai Club, and is a great artist, presenter and has immense knowledge on native bonsai cultivation. We have also engaged her to run two workshops on the Sunday 26th May. Booking information will be available at our April meeting for both workshop participants and observers.

Ureshii (Happy) Bonsai

Nick

Next meeting 27th April Presentation by Rob Payne: Cultivating Bonsai Harmony and James Johnson: Nurturing Bonsai Excellence

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Best in Show and Winner Native over 65cm 2024

Winner Intermediate and Best Native 45-65cm 2024

Winner Small under 25-45cm 2024

Winner Small Best Native under 25 -45 cm 2024

Winner Small under 25 cm 2024

Best Native under 25cm 2024

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Best in Novice Class 2024

BONSAI SHOW RESULTS 2024

Best in Show

Winner:	Tony Watt	Coastal Banksia

Large: over 65cm

Winner:	Tony Watt	Coastal Banksia
Runner up:	Tony Watt	Juniper Squamata
Best Native:	Tony Watt	Coastal Banksia

Intermediate: 45-65cm

Winner:	Gwen Jones	Heath Myrtle
Runner up:	Steve cullum	Blaauw Juniper
Best Native:	Gwen Jones	Heath Myrtle

Small: 25-45cm

Winner:	Steve Cullum	Chinese Hackberry
Runner up:	Linda Wallace	Volkameria
Best Native:	Geoff Smiley	Coastal Tea Tree

Miniature: Under 25cm

Winner:	Geoff Smiley	Volkameria
Runner up:	Steve Cullum	Heath Myrtle
Best Native:	Steve Cullum	Heath Myrtle

Novice Class

Winner:	Alex Blakeley	Ficus

BCI Award

Certificate of Merit

Linda Wallace
Alain Hilfinker
Mel Blackstone
Marie Hewartson
Noreen Cicala

RBS Show Photo's 2024

One of the trading tables

Demonstrations were held throughout the day and were well attended and received.

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RBS Meeting March Photo's 2024

At our April meeting our original foundation members were given a very special name tag to acknowledge their longevity in founding our club.

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March Meeting Presentation Steve on "Bonsai Deadwood Carving and Preservation

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James Johnson: Nurturing Bonsai Excellence from Farm to Studio

James Johnson's journey in bonsai cultivation spans nearly two decades, rooted in his upbringing on his family's vegetable farm. Surrounded by his father's meticulous cultivation methods, James developed an early appreciation for organized growing practices. Inspired by his father's green thumb, James initially pursued bonsai as a personal interest, experimenting with tree propagation and growth techniques.

As his collection burgeoned, James found himself with more trees than he could personally tend to. Turning this surplus into opportunity, he began selling his excess stock, igniting a passion for cultivating high-quality pre-bonsai specimens. Through relentless dedication and innovation, James honed his skills, mastering various techniques tailored to different tree species.

James's expertise extends beyond bonsai into broader horticultural realms, a result of his extensive field experience. Encouraged by his daughter, he ventured into online markets, expanding his reach and clientele across Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria. Under the banner of 'Green Tree Bonsai Studio,' James established a recognizable brand within the bonsai community.

At his studio, James hosts workshops tailored to individual enthusiasts, sharing his wealth of knowledge and demystifying bonsai culture. Through talks and demonstrations, he aims to dispel misconceptions and elevate standards within the Australian bonsai community.

James's dedication transcends mere tree cultivation; his passion lies in raising the bar for bonsai artistry nationwide. With an unwavering commitment to continuous improvement, he strives not only to create exceptional bonsai trees but also to foster a culture of excellence within the Australian bonsai community.

Rob Payne: Cultivating Bonsai Harmony, From Black Pines to Balinese Inspiration

Rob Payne's journey into the world of bonsai began with the acquisition of a black pine and a corky bark elm from Australian bonsai growers in Park Ridge. Inspired by his initial experiences, he delved deeper into the art under the guidance of Diane Rawlings. It was through Diane that Rob encountered Tess Simpson of Bonsai Northside, where he became part of an advanced group of ten students. Over the course of a decade, Rob immersed himself in the fundamentals and intricacies of bonsai, enjoying the camaraderie of fellow enthusiasts. His dedication led him to further opportunities, including studying with Bonsai Boone and Kimberley Halter for three consecutive years. Despite the challenges posed by Covid, Rob remains connected to his mentors and continues to expand his knowledge and skills in bonsai. Residing in Nerang, Rob has transformed his home into the “Thunder Bonsai Garden”, where he nurtures a diverse collection of trees, with a particular fondness for Japanese black pine, bougainvillea, and ficus. His passion extends beyond local borders, as evidenced by his travels to Bali, where he found inspiration in the Balinese style of bonsai. Eager to learn and share his expertise, Rob eagerly supports others on their bonsai journey, with an enthusiasm that shows no signs of waning.

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.

Lesson 4

Bonsai development pathways continuing
Shaping & Wiring
Defoliation

Lesson 5

Propagation methods
Sourcing bonsai material
Cuttings and grafting, layering

Lession 6

Fertilizer – nutrients
Pests and diseases
Insects and fungus

Lession 7

Containers
Exhibition
Bonsai on line
Review

Lesson 8 (Usually conducted in early August)

Transplanting and re-potting
Root pruning

Workshop1 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.

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

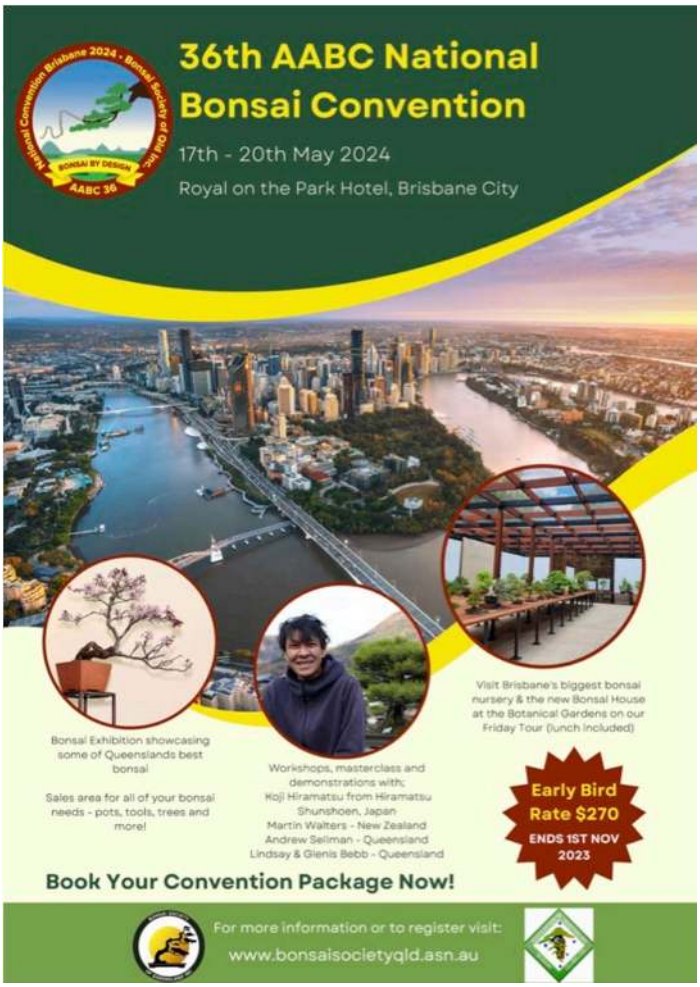
Outside club Event's

BIMER BONSAI CLUB

Annual Show

Sat-Sun, 11-12th May, 2024

Mount Coot-tha Botanic Gardens Auditorium



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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.

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.

Committee Members for 2024

President: *Nick*

Vice President: *Heather*

Treasurer: *Karen*

Secretary: *Noreen*

Newsletter: *Rod*

Member: *Eugene*

Member: *Ryan*

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
				Learners group from 11am
			Demonstration by James Johnson & Rob Payne	From 1200
May	**25**	**Sat**	Demonstration by Marcela Ferreira	From 1200
	26	**Sun**	Workshops with Marcela Ferreira	TBA
June	**22**	**Sat**	Committee Meeting	10am
			Forest & Foster Tree bring back & Workshop	From 1200
July	**27**	**Sat**	Committee Meeting	10am
				Learners group from 11am
			Demonstration by Keith Ireland	From 1200
August	**24**	**Sat**	Committee Meeting	10am
			Tool Sharpening, Potting Demo & Workshop	From 1200
September	**28**	**Sat**	Committee Meeting	10am
				Learners group from 11am
			Senior Members group Demonstration	From 1200
October	**26**	**Sat**	Committee Meeting	10am
				Learners group from 11am
			Demonstration by Sam Thompson (TBC)	From 1200
November	**23**	**Sat**	Committee Meeting	10am
			Christmas Lunch & Workshop	From 1200

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