



Newsletter May 2024 in this issue

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President's Message

I am declaring May as Brisbane/Redlands Bonsai Month.

Firstly, there was the Bimer Bonsai Annual Show on the weekend of 11th & 12th, followed by my first National Bonsai convention from 18th to 19th. To bring it home Redlands have brought out the very talented and passionate native specialist Marcela Ferreira for a presentation/demonstration on this Saturday 25th and Workshops on Sunday, 26th May. She is not to be missed, and there are still some spots available for workshop participant (\$50) and observers (\$10) at the time of writing this. Please bring your native trees to Saturday's meeting if you'd like a critique from Marcela.

Over the weekend just been a number of our members attended the 36th AABC National Bonsai Convention, that was held in Brisbane City. This was a great opportunity to see a display of 100 amazing trees from around Queensland (silly Fire Ants meant that trees from other states couldn't come). These conventions are also a fantastic opportunity to meet likeminded bonsai enthusiasts (as well bonsai tragic's like me 😊) from all around Australia and New Zealand. It's great to share stories and talk about what species grow well in their area, and also just great to chat to people that are passionate about their tiny trees.

Upcoming Events 2024

- ❖ **May Meeting – Saturday 25th**
- ❖ **May 25th Interstate guest demonstrator – Marcela Ferreira**
- ❖ **May 26th - Workshops with Marcela Ferreira**
- ❖ **National Bonsai Convention 16-19 May 2025**

Headlining the convention was Koji Hiramatsu, who as well as being a master on Junipers and Pines, was equally at home styling a Claret Tops Melaleuca Linarifolia. New Zealand's Martin Walters fabricated and styled an amazing rock and tray, and with Koji combined for a magnificent mountain display. Andrew Sellman expertly crafted a collected Clerodendrum, while Lindsay & Glennis Bebb weaved their magic on a wonderful flowering Camelia. Our very own Noreen Cicala even competed in the interclub challenge under stressful conditions and received a commendation on her wiring from Koji himself.

Amongst a great selection of trees displayed by our members, I'd like to shine a light on two special things.

While the Convention's main purpose is to educate and link enthusiasts, it is also the main opportunity to raise funds, which is subsequently distributed to clubs via a generous rebate when we have visiting Tutors. Items from Bonsai clubs and private enthusiasts are offered up for donation for an auction. I would like to personally thank Teresa Stewart (member and Geoff's lovely wife), for her personal donation of a magnificently crafted quilted doona. The level of detail and artistry was stunning, and we were in awe when the hammer came down at \$2,500.

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I am also massively proud to announce that Tony Watt won the National Arboretum Canberra's NBPCA Perpetual Award for the "Best Australian Style Bonsai at AABC Convention", for his magnificent Banksia Display. You all had the preview of this when it was displayed and won the top prize at our Redlands Show in April. Everyone that knows Tony would appreciate how much enthusiasm and time that he puts into bonsai and everyone that he talks with. Tony also made the announcement that he will be donating this tree to the National Bonsai & Penjing Collection housed in Canberra. Now the whole of Australia can enjoy the talent and joy that Tony sculpts with his bonsai.

And talking about Canberra.....

It's been announced that the 37th AABC National convention will be held in Canberra on 17 - 18th May 2025. There is a massive line up of Demonstrators including Michael Hagedorn, Jennifer Price, Marcela Ferreira, Jarryd Bailey, and the National Collection's very own Sam Thompson. All are truly gifted bonsai artists and teachers.

As I wrap up, I'd like to take a moment to give a shout out to Redland Bonsai's very own Stephen Cullum, who will be launching a comprehensive and beautiful book on Australian Native Bonsai in June. More to come on that, but if you love Australian Natives, he's taking pre-orders right now.

Happy Bonsai 😊



Nick



Can't make a Saturday Meeting?
Looking for extra help with your
bonsai? Just want a beer/wine/coffee
and catch-up? We are now holding a
monthly Wednesday night workshop –
next workshop June 19th.

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**Redlands
Bonsai Society**



Redlands Bonsai Society is proud to present:

From Karate Kid to Aussie Natives: Marcela's Bonsai Odyssey

Marcela's interest in bonsai was awakened when she first watched Karate Kid in her early teens. It wasn't until her late teens when she was gifted an incorrectly labelled Maple that her passion took off. The small tree died not long after due to the instructions stating that it was an indoor bonsai but this did not put her off. Marcela slowly built up her collection with the help and tuition from Paul Sweeney who owned the Imagination Tree bonsai nursery at the time.

She continued building her knowledge base with trial and error for many years until she joined a few Melbourne bonsai clubs. At this same time her thirst for knowledge and trying something new led her to start trialling Australian natives as bonsai, in 2012 she purchased over forty different species as tube stock and her journey began.

She is passionate about Australian natives and is always willing to encourage others to give them a go, knowing that once the bug gets into you there's no stopping it. Marcela was instrumental in starting the Victorian Native Bonsai Club in 2013 focusing solely on Australian natives as bonsai as the momentum for knowledge was growing. She has trialled many Australian species but laments the size of her backyard and lack of time for not being able to try more. Her approach to styling is a balance between classical and letting the tree dictate the next move."



SATURDAY, 25th MAY, 2024

12.30pm-3.30pm

Venue:

**Wellington Point Recreational Hall
347-371 Birkdale Road, Wellington Point**

Cost: Free

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**Redlands
Bonsai Society**



BONSAI WORKSHOPS WITH MARCELA FERREIRA –

One of Australia's Premier and Most Passionate Native Bonsai Artists

Sunday, 26th May, 2024

From Karate Kid to Aussie Natives: Marcela's Bonsai Odyssey

Marcela's fascination with bonsai blossomed during her early teens when she first encountered it while watching Karate Kid. However, it wasn't until her late teens, when she received a mislabelled Maple tree as a gift, that her passion truly ignited. Despite the tree's demise due to incorrect care instructions, Marcela's determination remained unshaken.

Gradually, she expanded her collection with guidance from Paul Sweeney, the owner of Imagination Tree bonsai nursery at the time. Through years of trial and error, Marcela honed her skills until she eventually became a member of several Melbourne bonsai clubs.

Simultaneously, her thirst for knowledge and experimentation led her to explore Australian natives as bonsai specimens. In 2012, she embarked on her journey by acquiring over forty different species as tube stock. Marcela's enthusiasm for Australian natives knows no bounds, as she eagerly encourages others to delve into this unique art form, recognizing that once one is captivated, there's no turning back. In 2013, Marcela played a pivotal role in establishing the Victorian Native Bonsai Club, which exclusively focuses on Australian native species, reflecting the growing demand for such specialized knowledge.

Despite her limited backyard space and time constraints, Marcela has experimented with various Australian species, although she wishes she could explore more. Her approach to styling strikes a delicate balance between adhering to classical techniques and allowing the natural form of the tree to guide her decisions.



LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE

2 SESSIONS ONLY

SUNDAY, 26TH MAY, 2024
8.00am – 11.15pm (7spaces)
12.15pm – 3.30pm (7spaces)

Cost: \$50 members
\$60 non-members

Venue:
Victoria Point (TBA)

Bookings : Karen Freeland (0434 127 016)

5 additional spaces
available for silent
viewing of the
workshop. Cost
\$10 per person.

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National Bonsai Convention Brisbane 2024

I am writing this article fresh from attending the National Bonsai Convention in Brisbane where I had the opportunity to watch an amazing Bonsai artist working on trees including one of our native *linarfolia*. Japanese Master – Koji Hiramatsu took 30 minutes to take a nursery stock potted Juniper and turn it into an amazing Bonsai.

We also had the opportunity to observe Martin Walters turn a bunch of wire and tile cement into an amazing bonsai slab.

Other presenters were Andrew Sellman who worked on a large *Clerodendrum* and demonstrated trunk carving.

Lindsay & Glen Bebb worked on a camelia that they have been growing for some 25 years.

I am pleased to announce we now have a certified wire expert (by Koji Hiramatsu) Noreen looking for your next club wiring demonstration.

The 37th AABC National Bonsai Conference “Future Directions” will be held in Canberra 16-19th May 2025



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April Meeting with Rob & James

We were entertained by both Rob & James leading discussions around the growth and nurturing and maintaining bonsai and black pines. We were also shown how to start growing pines from seeds.



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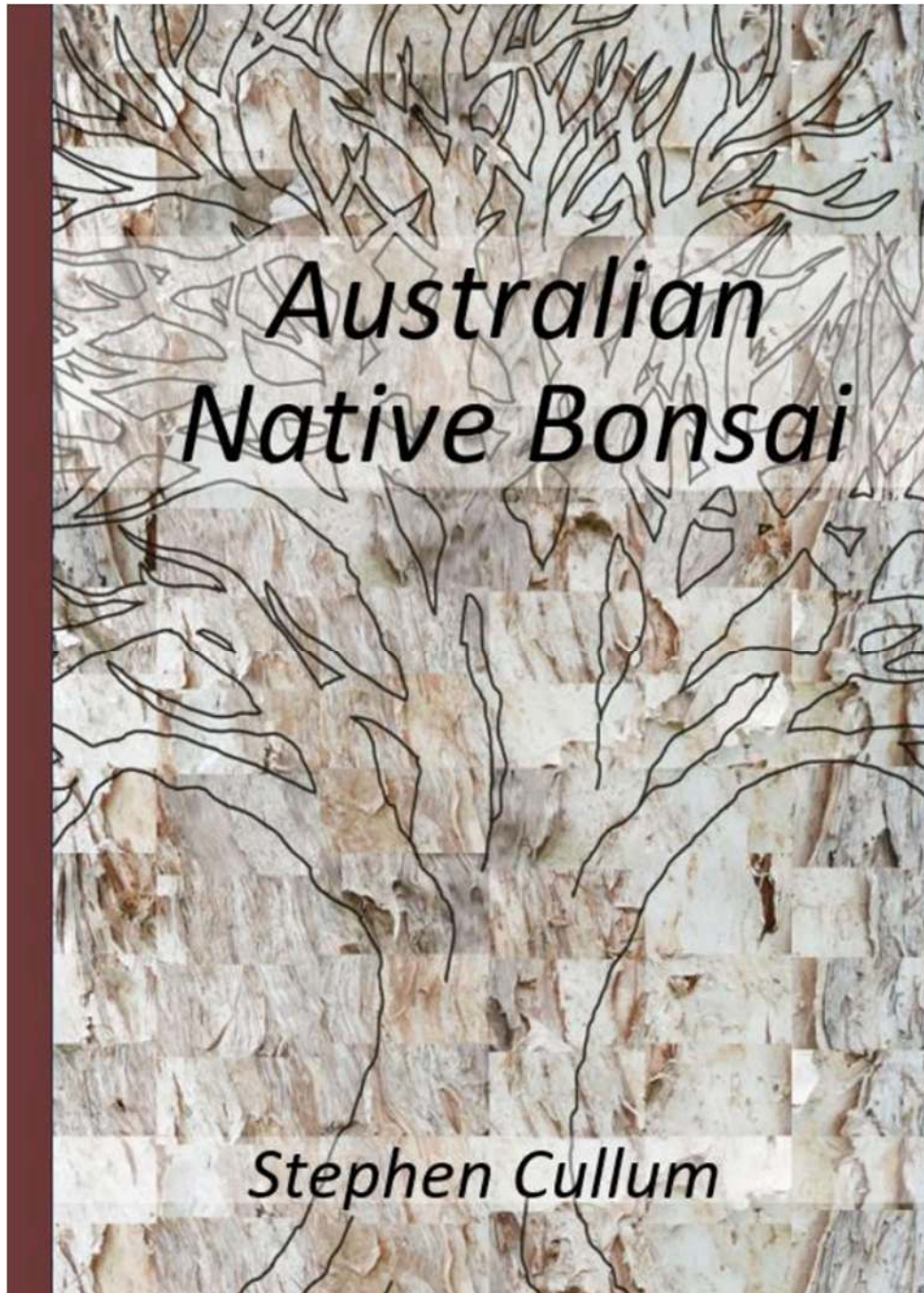


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Get ready for a Great Bonsai book



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Available soon:

A new book on Australian
Native Bonsai by Stephen
Cullum, author of 'Bonsai
Foundations'

Register for advice of publication at:
australiannativebonsai@gmail.com



- Climate and environmental background
- Habitats and species diversity
- The structural anatomy of Australia's native trees including an exploration of the differences between broadleaf and conifer trees
- What to grow, and where to find them
- An extensive range of models for the styling of native broadleaf bonsai, in an emerging 'Australian Style'
- Cultivation practices and development processes
- Illustrations include bonsai created by Australia's leaders in native bonsai.
- 126 pages, 168 illustrations



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Last of our Founding Member Presentation

At our March meeting our original foundation members were given a very special name tag to acknowledge their longevity in founding our club. At our April we were able to catch up with the last of our foundation members and present him with his special name tag.



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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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REDLANDS BONSAI



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

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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.

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- 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*

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REDLANDS BONSAI SOCIETY - PROGRAM FOR 2024				
Month	Date	Day	Meetings and Workshops	Additional activities
April	6	Sat	Show set-up	Donald Simpson Centre - Midday
	7	Sun	Annual Show	Donald Simpson Centre - From 9am
	17	Wed	Evening Workshop	7pm - 9pm
	27	Sat	Learners Group and Workshop Demonstration by James Johnson & Rob Payne	10:30am - 12pm 12:15pm for a 12:30pm start
May	15	Wed	Evening Workshop	7pm - 9pm
	25	Sat	Learners Group and Workshop Demonstration by Marcella Ferreira	10:30am - 12pm 12:15pm for a 12:30pm start
	26	Sun	Workshops with Marcella Ferreira	8am - 11:15am & 12:15pm - 3:30pm
June	19	Wed	Evening Workshop	7pm - 9pm
	22	Sat	Learners Group and Workshop Forrest & Foster Tree bring back & Workshop	10:30am - 12pm 12:15pm for a 12:30pm start
July	17	Wed	Evening Workshop	7pm - 9pm
	27	Sat	Learners Group and Workshop Demonstration by Keith Ireland	10:30am - 12pm 12:15pm for a 12:30pm start
August	21	Wed	Evening Workshop	7pm - 9pm
	24	Sat	Learners Group and Workshop Tool Sharpening, Potting Demo & Workshop	10:30am - 12pm 12:15pm for a 12:30pm start
September	18	Wed	Evening Workshop	7pm - 9pm
	28	Sat	Learners Group and Workshop Senior Members group Demonstration	10:30am - 12pm 12:15pm for a 12:30pm start
October	16	Wed	Evening Workshop	7pm - 9pm
	26	Sat	Learners Group and Workshop Demonstration (TBC)	10:30am - 12pm 12:15pm for a 12:30pm start
November	20	Wed	Evening Workshop	7pm - 9pm
	23	Sat	Learners Group and Workshop Christmas Lunch & Workshop	10:30am - 12pm 12:15pm for a 12:30pm start

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