REDLANDS BONSAI

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- **Marcela Ferreira – demonstration photos**
- **Victorian Native 10th Symposium Photos**
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Upcoming Events 2024

- **June Meeting – Saturday 22nd**
- **June 22nd – Bring Back your Foster Tree**
- **June 25th - Release of Stephen Cullen's "Australian Native Bonsai" Book**
- **National Bonsai Convention 16-19May 2025**

President's Message

Well, ladies and gentlemen; May Bonsai Month finished on an absolute high, thanks in part to an inspiring visit from Marcela Ferriera on the weekend of the 25/26th. We predicated a passionate presentation/demonstration with insightful workshops; and she certainly delivered. It was great to see that the hall was packed with Members and enthusiastic guests from near and far. It was also fantastic to see an increase of people being observers to Marcela's workshops. You don't need to bring a tree, they are a wonderful opportunity to see the inner workings of talented bonsai artists working on a number of trees in one session, so that you can take those learnings home to your own collection.

This Wednesday evening (19th June) we will be holding our 4th evening workshop from 7 to 9pm. It's an excellent opportunity to work on trees and to grab (or offer) some advice. It's also ideal for members of the bonsai community that have trouble making Saturday meetings. Please tell all your bonsai friends. We will be running them each month throughout the year.

For this month's Saturday 22nd meeting we have a great line-up:

- Tony Watt will be discussing and showing us how to build a bonsai/shade house.
- With spring repotting season around the corner, we have organised a great session on how to, and what to choose for a pot. Feel free to bring in a tree that you need help choosing it's "forever pot". If you could also each bring along a couple of pots, we will have a massive variety and it will make for a more fun and interactive session.
- Bring back your Foster Tree – We want to see your foster trees and we will be showing and presenting photos of these trees on their journey. Also, a great opportunity to discuss its progress and challenges since then and ask for help.
- Forest Demonstration. The club has 3 forests that we have been developing, and we will break up into some teams to map out the next part of the journey.

Like us on Facebook

I mentioned it last month, but after seeing the Facebook post with a photo of physical sample, I'm even more excited about the release of Stephen Cullum's new book "Australian Native Bonsai". It's being released on June 25th, and I'm counting down the sleeps. It's the first book on Australian Native Bonsai to be released in 40 years, and it promises to be insightful and a wonderful resource to our bonsai community for many years to come.

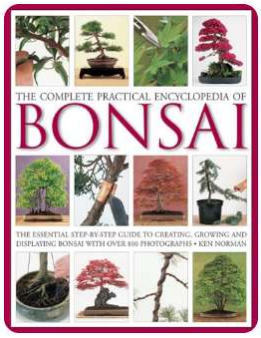
Preorder a copy by catching him at a meeting or by emailing him at australianativebonsai@gmail.com.

Also please put a special note in your diary for our July Saturday meeting (July 27th), to come see the very talented Keith Ireland to talk about making and displaying minis, in a new and improved Version 2.0 format. Keith's knowledge and demonstrations have delighted Brisbane's bonsai scene, but he is stepping it up a few notches hot off new lessons and discoveries over the last few months.

Happy Bonsai 😉

Nick

Did you know we have a well-stocked library with books and magazines on all topics Bonsai. Check out the range at our next meeting. The library has been created for all members enjoyment and use!



Reminder of our upcoming Monthly Nightime Bonsai Meeting – Wednesday 19th June (7-9pm) everyone welcome. If you can't come on a Saturday, then the Wednesday meeting may be for you. It is a great opportunity for you to experience bonsai mentorship and fellowship in a relaxed atmosphere. Same meeting location.

Visit at:
http://redlandsbonsai.org or https://www.facebook.com/RedlandsBonsaiSociety

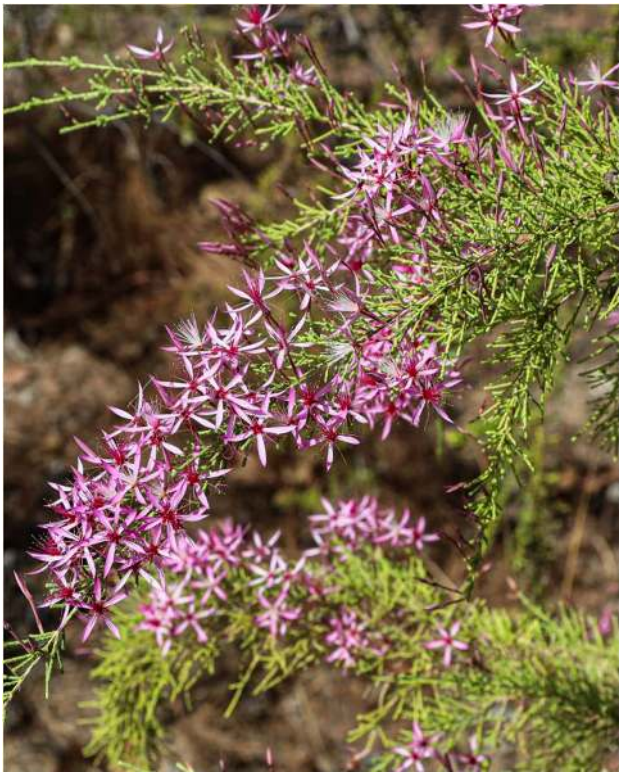
Insight of a Bonsai Beginner (currently travelling NT & Qld writing this newsletter in beautiful warm weather

I am writing this article from the back of Bourke or at least we went through the Bourke Shire where I have now spent a number of weeks travelling in the outback of QLD and NT, so far, we have travelled some 7,000km, 1,800 of them on dirt roads looking for Wrens and Parrots.

What I love seeing and admire is the extreme conditions our landscape places on our flora and fauna that live and grow in the outback of Australia. The sheer willpower the trees have can be seen as you walk along the creek beds to survive the immense water flow is amazing to see where debris is located 30 feet above in the trees with them leaning and then finding the way back up to the sky. Walking up mountain tracks where I witnessed a number of remarkable trees growing out of sheer rock walls in hot and remarkable dry conditions, one such tree that inspired me was what I believe was Calytrix Exstipulata (Turkey Bush).

I have included some remarkable photos of trees eking out an existence in rocks. Every plant growing along a creek or out in the open I look at the possibilities of creating a native bonsai in their style. The selection of native species is vast, and I hope to be able to grow some of my native plants into bonsai when I get back.

These trees were growing flat on the ground on the very top of the rock face.



May Meeting Photos

Workshop and Leaners Group

Victorian Native Bonsai Club

Sharing our learnings

The 10th Symposium on Australian Plants as Bonsai

Treacy Centre, Parkville. August 31 – September 1, 2024.

The Victorian Native Bonsai Club will, for the third time, host the Australian Native Plants as Bonsai Symposium. The Symposium will be held at the Treacy Centre in Parkville, close to the Melbourne CBD. It is intended to continue the strong work of previous Symposiums, inspiring Bonsai enthusiasts to work with, and encourage people to grow Australian native plants as Bonsai.
Together with the Symposium, The Victorian Native Bonsai Club will present an exhibition of Australian Native plants as Bonsai.

The Symposium will include:

- Eucalypt Presentation and Discussion on species currently being grown, and the possibilities that exist among little used Eucalypt species.
- Experiences with rarely used species and discussion on styling Australian Plants as Bonsai
- A demonstration using Yamadori material
- Workshops (own native stock)
- Critique of selected Exhibition trees
- Native forest planting
- An invitation to a Yamadori dig on the Monday after the weekend Symposium at a property in Bend of Islands near Kangaroo Ground.

The presenters on the weekend are Marcela Ferreira, Stephen Cullum, Kevin Ritchie, Craig May, and Quentin Valentine.

There is a $170 registration fee for the weekend, or $85 for single day registrants. Registrants will have unlimited access to the Exhibition and Sales Area over the weekend.

- Sunday Workshops are priced at - Participants $60 each, and Observers $20. Own tree, tools and wire required. *(Numbers will be limited to 12 participants working with 3 tutors. 4 Participants per workshop).*
- Workshop Tutors are Marcela Ferreira, Stephen Cullum and Quentin Valentine. Choose your preferred tutor, do not be disappointed and book early.

For registration forms, go to the Club Webpage and click on the link, or contact us to have a form emailed out. You can pay by mail, in person, or direct deposit.
Registrations close Friday August 23rd. We are hoping to see you in August, 2024.

Victorian Native Bonsai Club
www.vicnativebonsai.com.au secnativeclub@gmail.com

Victorian Native Bonsai Club

Symposium- Saturday August 31st, 2024	
8.15am	Registration
8.45am	Welcome
9.00am	Eucalypt discussion and presentation
10.30am	Morning tea
11.00am	Experiences with various species and discussion on Native styling
12.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm	Obtaining stock. Propagation and Yamadori
2.30pm	Afternoon Tea
3.00pm	Demonstration using Yamadori material
4.00pm	Exhibition Closes

Symposium– Sunday September 1st, 2024	
8.45am	Registration
9.00am	Critique
10.00	Yamadori Demonstration continues
10.30am	Morning Tea
11.00am	Native Planting. Symposium wind up and thank yous
12.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm	Workshops, 3 by 4 participants
2.30pm	Afternoon Tea served whilst Workshops continue
3.00pm	Workshops continue
4.00pm	Exhibition Closes
4.30pm	Workshops Conclude

10th Australian Native Plants

as Bonsai Symposium

Treacy Centre 126 The Avenue Parkville

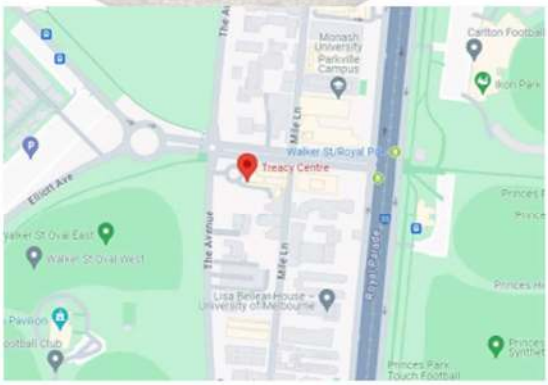
Exhibition and Sales of Plants and related Bonsai items

open to the Public 10.00am - 4.00pm

Exhibition and Sales open to Participants from 9am

Saturday 31st and Sunday 1st

Yamadori Dig Monday September 2nd - Available and Free to Symposium Delegates only at a property in **Bend of Islands near Kangaroo Ground**



Registrations close Friday August 23rd

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Victorian Native Bonsai Club

Sharing our learnings

The 10th Symposium on Australian Plants as Bonsai.
Treacy Centre, Parkville.
Saturday August 31st, Sunday September 1st, 2024

Title: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr **Family name:** .....

Given names: .....

Address: .....

.....**Postcode**.....

Phone.....

Email.....

Your Club .....

Saturday 31st $85 ☐

Sunday 1st $85 ☐

Or both days $170 ☐

Workshop *(optional)* $60 ☐

Preferred Tutor: Marcela Ferreira ☐ Steve Cullum ☐ Quentin Valentine ☐

Workshop observer $20 ☐

Participate in the dig ☐

Special Dietary requirements:.....

Total Remittance $.....

Cash: ☐ **Direct deposit:** ☐

Payments due by August 23rd 2024

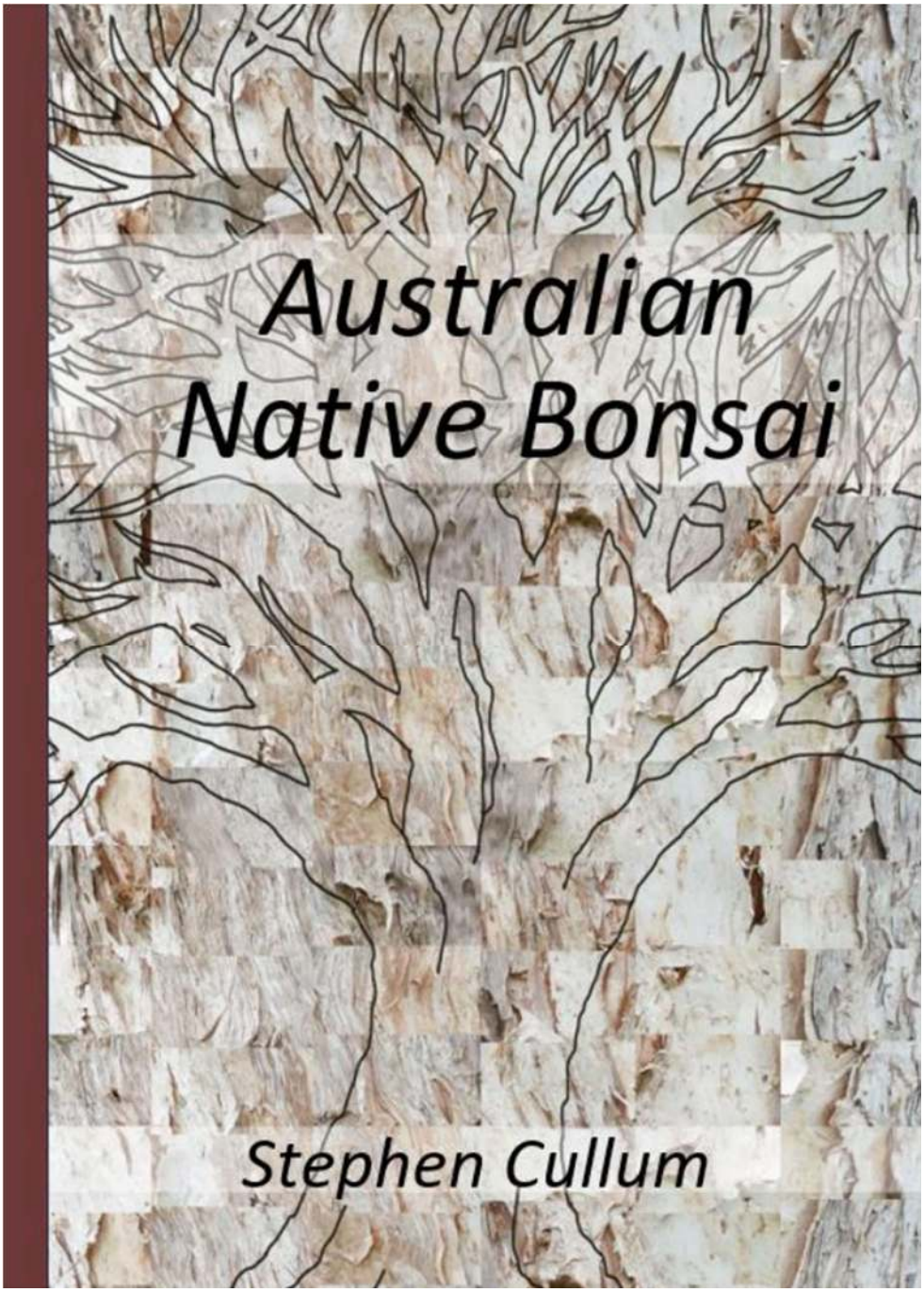
- **Cheques made to: Victorian Native Bonsai Club Inc**
- **Direct deposit: BSB 633 000. Acct: 160294930**

Please use first initial and surname as your reference.

- **Email to: secnativeclub@gmail.com**
- **Post to: PO Box 4023 Gilberton 3072 Vic**

vicnativebonsai.com.au secnativeclub@gmail.com

June 25th Launch of Stephen Cullen's "Australian Native Bonsai"



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 Members 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 time of printing the newsletter we thought we had everyone but we were able to catch up with the last of our foundation members and present him with his special name tag – Congratulations Dean!

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

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*

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	10:30am - 12pm
			Demonstration by James Johnson & Rob Payne	12:15pm for a 12:30pm start
May	15	Wed	**Evening Workshop**	7pm - 9pm
	25	Sat	Learners Group and Workshop	10:30am - 12pm
			Demonstration by Marcella Ferreira	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	10:30am - 12pm
			Forrest & Foster Tree bring back & Workshop	12:15pm for a 12:30pm start
July	17	Wed	**Evening Workshop**	7pm - 9pm
	27	Sat	Learners Group and Workshop	10:30am - 12pm
			Demonstration by Keith Ireland	12:15pm for a 12:30pm start
August	21	Wed	**Evening Workshop**	7pm - 9pm
	24	Sat	Learners Group and Workshop	10:30am - 12pm
			Tool Sharpening, Potting Demo & Workshop	12:15pm for a 12:30pm start
September	18	Wed	**Evening Workshop**	7pm - 9pm
	28	Sat	Learners Group and Workshop	10:30am - 12pm
			Senior Members group Demonstration	12:15pm for a 12:30pm start
October	16	Wed	**Evening Workshop**	7pm - 9pm
	26	Sat	Learners Group and Workshop	10:30am - 12pm
			Demonstration (TBC)	12:15pm for a 12:30pm start
November	20	Wed	**Evening Workshop**	7pm - 9pm
	23	Sat	Learners Group and Workshop	10:30am - 12pm
			Christmas Lunch & Workshop	12:15pm for a 12:30pm start

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