REDLANDS BONSAI

Newsletter July 2024 in this issue

- **Presidents Message**
- **In My Garden**
- **Insight of a Bonsai Beginner**
- **Victorian Native 10th Symposium Photos**
- **Photos from last meeting**

Upcoming Events 2024

- **July Meeting – Saturday 27th**
- **July 27th – Presentation by Keith Ireland**
- **August 31st Victorian Bonsai Native Symposium**
- **National Bonsai Convention 16-19May 2025**

President's Message

As I rug up to keep warm in this windy and brutally cold winter weather (😉), I am buoyed by the fact that spring is coming and there is so much activity just around the corner.

Firstly, we have Keith Ireland presenting this coming Saturday July 27th from 12:30pm. Keith Ireland is passionate about and helping others demystify making and displaying Shohin (minis). Have you seen Keith before? Keith's knowledge and demonstrations have delighted Brisbane's bonsai scene, but he is stepping it up a few notches hot off recent lessons and discoveries in this new and improved Version 2.0 format. There is a great interactive component, so please bring your Shohin in, and they may be incorporated in the displays!

Now is an excellent time to prune and wire many trees before they wake up, and Repotting Season is just weeks away from kicking off, starting with your Deciduous Bonsai. So, get your bonsai mix ready, and any new pots ready and start thinking about your repotting strategy. If you are not sure about what to do, please ask at our meeting.

Lastly, we are delighted to confirm that we will be hosting Hugh Grant in October. For those of you unfamiliar with him, Hugh Grant is an Australian bonsai professional, and educator located in the Upper Blue Mountains of NSW, where he operates Tree Makers Design, a garden and school focusing on local interpretations of Bonsai.

Hugh has practiced bonsai for over 20 years and has interned under Ryan Neil at Bonsai Mirai (USA) where he was exposed to American native material in both classic and locally derived interpretations.

This study of bonsai in a Western context, allowed for a layered learning experience that he applies to Australian native species to create local aesthetics.

Hugh will be presenting and demonstrating on Saturday 26th October, and will hold Club workshops on Sunday 27th October. This will be a great opportunity for all members to attend as Workshop participants or as Observers, so please mark these in your diary

Happy Bonsai 😉

Nick

PS – Please bring along your Shohin (minis) for display

Reminder of our upcoming Monthly Nighttime Bonsai Meeting – Wednesday August 21st (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

In My Garden

Coming out of winter

It's mid-July and feeling like winter with another cold blast on its way. Let's not forget that the first week of August is usually our coldest. Deciduous trees can be root pruned now but it still probably is a little early for the evergreens.

Speaking of the deciduous trees, it is a great time before they start shooting to treat any surface conditions they might have, like lichen or algae. Some might still be in leaf while others relatively bare. My three Celtis always are in various states of leaf this time of year, from green to yellow to gone. So any time in the next couple of weeks the old leaves can all be stripped to give easy access for treatment. Lime sulphur is the go to seasonal tonic. Zinc sulphate is best for lichen. For trident maples which may suffer fungal leaf curl then the copper fungicide is an important pre-emergent treatment. Mancozeb can also do that job but make sure you use a wetting agent to get it into the smallest spaces around the buds.

For those of us with developing pre-bonsai that we plan to give a hard seasonal starting prune there are a couple of decisions to ponder. Last year was a delayed spring, the cold weather went on much longer than expected.

Hard pruned trees took much longer to re-shoot, and some didn't. While they are in that danger zone with pruned roots and branches for a prolonged period they are at risk of water logging. So starting early is not risk free and there is little to be gained by doing so. Another alternative widely practiced is to separate the root pruning from the branch pruning by waiting for new growth to be evident; prune to be followed a few weeks later with the branch pruning.

Another strategy is to leave a larger gap by root pruning in mid-autumn and branch prune in mid-spring. And yet another is to space out the root pruning throughout the growing season. Each to his own and all these ideas are practised successfully. While we prepare to emerge from winter there is no rush, the growing season is long.

Happy bonsai,

Steve

Insight of a Bonsai Beginner

In the last article I mentioned that I have been travelling for some 8 weeks leaving the care of my Bonsai and plants to a family member. The last time I went on holiday my son lost 20% of his inheritance with the failure of his plant husbandry skills. I am now pleased to advise that he has been able to claw back 10% of these losses this time. Each time I leave my trees to their own devises or a family member I learn more about how to manage my auto watering system and family member (Maybe).

The small losses I had this time were due to the placement of smaller pots in between my larger trees believing the auto watering system would keep them moist and that if they weren't the manual watering by the family member would capture them. It was probably not seeing the trees from the forest syndrome. Some of my trees and last summer's cuttings I was able to strike, I allowed to sit in trays of water. This method seems to have been successful on this occasion as I was worried about the cooler weather and plants sitting with wet feet. All in all, it was a great holiday and I feel secure with a few more watering techniques and improvements to the watering system I will be able to confidently travel again.

In discussion with Steve on a *Dansiea Elliptica* where the leaves are showing yellowing, he advised that the use of an Iron Chelate may fix the problem. But with the strong wind we have been experiencing this week the problem identified itself when the pot was blown over. This clearly showed the roots were not penetrating the bottom media but were growing feeder roots in the top of the pot. This is obviously due to it sitting in water and not allowing the roots full use of the pot. This is one of the problems identified due to using an auto watering system when away. As *Dansiea Elliptica* occurs in lowland dry rainforests, so understanding this I will make adjustments to how I manage this problem and other plant watering when I am away for long periods.

Why not tell us about how you manage you trees where you go away for periods of time.

Here you can see the calcium line where it was sitting in the saucer. The right photo shows the roots were successfully growing in the top half of the media and not penetrating the bottom of the pot.

June Meeting Photos

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

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

Kate's Plastic Bonsai Pots
• Wide Variety of Sturdy Plastic Pots
• Trays and Saucers
• Mesh Pots
• Mini Pots
https://kates-bonsai-pots.square.site
katesbonsai@gmail.com
0419 705 611

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 10:30am for members and visitors' workshops, with the demonstration for the day from 12:30.

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

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

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