REDLANDS BONSAI

Newsletter April 2025 In This Issue

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Upcoming Events 2025

- **RBS April Meeting – Saturday 26th**
- **Workshop & Learners Group 10:30am**
- **National Bonsai Convention 16-19 May 2025**

President's Message

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Wow, just wow. Our 2025 Annual Exhibition was exceptional. Thank you to everyone for pitching in to make it the best ever as well as providing amazing trees and displays and a wonderful range of sales items; it takes a team of great volunteers to advertise, set-up, admit people, sell items, protect, inform about our trees/items/club, demonstrate and feed us. When all was said and done, the pack-up was also in record time. It's also great to see how everyone pitches in to help other people out. Thank you so much to our members, families and friends.

Congratulations to all of our winners, the competition was to a brilliant standard, and I know that as part of the judging panel, there were some massively tough decisions. For those that missed out, keep working on your trees, as this yields results faster than you would think. I certainly enjoy seeing the improvement year on year for trees displayed.

We want to keep improving the show, and to do this we need your feedback. Please let me or another committee member know your ideas, so that they can be discussed and hopefully implemented for 2026 and beyond. Minor tweaks as well as complete blue sky ideas will be well received. A few improvements that we are looking to implement:

- We ran out of display space this year, which although that means we had heaps of people displaying, it's also meant that some trees and displays missed out. Next year we are going to expand with new display tables placed where the demonstration was, and we will in-turn move that set-up to the room next door, which will have the added benefit of allowing some peace and quiet to the people viewing the display.
- There were a couple of display backdrop accidents, one which effected Gary and Carmel's and Tony's minis. While we are working with these members to replace and compensate, we are also looking at other measures that we can put in place to avoid this from ever happening again by upgrading parts of our stands. Happy to hear some ideas for this.
- Heather has been busy drawing up detailed role descriptions, which will be fully rolled out for the new year to help share the roles, and so that our volunteers know who to ask before and on the day, and what to do.
- We have agreed that we need to upgrade the internal signage of where to go once people have entered the centre.
- For 2026 we are looking at expanding our advertising reach and are also looking for Sponsorship for the hall or trophies.

As for what's on for April's meeting, we are in for a couple of great demonstrations.

- Tony W will be showing us how to make and use manufactured rock trickery to hide the shame that occurs with some of our collection – Ugly Nebari/roots.

- Stephen C will be hewning 15 of Bob's Paperbarks into a massive landscape work of art.
- We'd love to see some of the winning trees come back for the display, along with other lovely trees that you want to proudly display

The meeting promises to be entertaining, informative and brilliant, and not to be missed.

Lastly, we have been invited as a customer of Bendigo Bank to join the Bayside Community Fund's Community Raffle, which is actually a fundraiser for community groups just like us. The Bendigo Bank have set up and then donated $30,000 over 13 prizes in the form of savings accounts from $15,000 to $1,000. There will be 40,000 x $5 tickets sold around the greater Redlands areas by eligible community groups. And the best part is that **Redlands Bonsai** gets to keep the money from the tickets **we** sell. I'll repeat that again, **Redlands Bonsai gets to keep what money our members raise through these sales**. Like all things there are some terms and conditions to fill you in on (nothing onerous). We have been allocated 25 books of 10 physical tickets; and for the tech savvy, another allocation of 250 digital raffle tickets that can be bought by scanning a QR code and going through a secure website. We will be allocating tickets to members at the meeting (or please contact me if you want some and can't make it). The raffle is open for ticket sales until 5pm sharp Friday 30th May. This is a magnificent opportunity to raise funds for our bonsai society, and potentially sell a winning ticket to a family, neighbour or friend.

Looking forward to seeing you all on Saturday 26th April.

Happy Bonsai

Nick

COMMUNITY RAFFLE

$30,000 IN PRIZES TO BE WON!

RAFFLE ENTRIES CLOSE FRIDAY 30TH MAY 2025
DRAWN THURSDAY 12TH JUNE 2025
T&C'S APPLY

Conducted by: BAYSIDE COMMUNITY FUND *A lasting legacy*

Sponsored by: Community Bank Victoria Point and Wynnum Manly Bendigo Bank

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A Bonsai Journey

I hope this newsletter finds you well after the success of our annual show and you are all ready for our next meeting on Saturday.

With the crazy weather patterns, we have had over the last 3 months from cyclones to wet weather, wind and now back to warm weather it has been a trial to keep everything in check. I am sure everyone would agree that growing and nurturing Bonsai is a roller coaster with the weather throwing us constant curve balls.

I am currently getting ready to go on a sabbatical for a lengthy period and so I have been looking at how I can future proof my bonsai and plants whilst away. A further conundrum is we are approaching colder weather, so I not only need to prepare for a lengthy stretch away but start to prepare to winterise my bonsai as well and address the current warm weather.

I have discussed in this column previously that when I have had to leave my plants and the methodology that is required on how I manage the process. I do not know if I have the best methodology around this, but I am certainly putting in a good effort towards ensuring everything runs smoothly for my plants. This time is for a lengthier period, so I have reviewed where I have had problems in previous years and hopefully have addressed several of them this time around.

First thing is to pick a friend or foe to look after the care and watering of your plants, in my case it is one of my sons who has in recent periods had losses of his inheritance but then has been able to gain it back on my last trip. There is a lot of pressure managing bonsai's😬they are sometimes like our children.

There are a lot of things to get correct, the three I have focused on this time are: -

Better utilisation of the watering system and tying my plants down as several of my plants from my last trip had fallen over, and this is detrimental as the watering system is not effective.

To remedy this, I have reworked my auto watering system which I will discuss in a future newsletter after my return. (Why don't you tell me about your system) Setting up an effective watering system has been one of the areas where I have had a lot of trials and tribulation.

Secondly, some plants having been blown over or fallen off my benches have not been accessible to the water via the auto system. (The caretaker at times does not see the forest from the trees) so this time I have come up with a new wiring system to secure all pots including the small ones. I have done this by purchasing some Rio wire which has proven to be cost effective with the number of plants I have been required to wire down.

Using a set of long nose pliers, bend the wire so it forms small circles on one end which I then hook into my wire bench bases. I have been able to secure it through the top holes that most plastic pots have from their blow moulding and inserting, then bending it down making sure that you leave no sharp edges. This makes it easy to take the pot on and off the bench to work on the tree. The alternative is to purchase some plant transport trays which you can often pick up for one or two dollars at the nursery where I put a lot of my small pots to allow for easy watering.

Thirdly, I have defoliated and cut back several of my younger plants to try and limit the possibility of them sailing off the bench in windy conditions and this also allows less dehydration through the foliage if they are not fully watered.

I am looking forward to sharing photos of my journey as we will be travelling across Australia where there are hundreds of varieties of native Australian trees. In the past I have been inspired by their shape and growth patterns, and I am certain this time around our beautiful natives will not disappoint.

Wiring down the pots with Reo wire.

Some of my two-year-old cuttings that require cut back of foliage to stop plant dehydration when not watered fully whilst away.

Tony's Bonsai Supplies

Tony@handeesolutions.com.au 0405 137 996

Items we stock

Akadama

Japanese Pumice

NZ Pumice, Kanuma

Zeolite, Scoria

3 types of pre-mix substrate

Kiryuzuna, Sakadama

Precision Pine Bark

Orchid Pots - all sizes

Some of the Show Photos

Visit at:
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Redlands
Bonsai Society
~2025~
Best Tree
25cm - 45cm

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Saotome Azalea
Rhododendrum indicum
Years in Training 10
Age 15
Miniature - <250mm
62
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~2025~
Miniature Tree
Runner Up

Redlands
Bonsai Society
~2025~
Novice

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Public vote winner

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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 2025 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 2025

Our membership fees for 2025 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 several 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 2025

President: *Nick*

Vice President: *Ryan*

Treasurer: *Eugene*

Secretary: *Noreen*

Newsletter: *Rod*

Member: *Karen*

Member: *Heather*

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REDLANDS BONSAI SOCIETY - PROGRAM FOR 2025				
Month	**Date**	**Day**	**Meetings Activities**	**Times**
January	**25**	**Sat**	Members Workshop & Learners Group	10:30am - 12pm
			Open Day & Welcome Back Sausage Sizzle. Presentations - Preparing Trees for a Show, Show Judging	12:15pm for a 12:30pm start
February	**22**	**Sat**	Members Workshop & Learners Group	10am
			AGM 2025	12:15pm for a 12:30pm start
			Guest Presentation & Pre-Show Critique	from 1pm
March	**22**	**Sat**	Annual Show set-up	Donald Simpson Centre - From Midday
	23	**Sun**	Annual Show	Donald Simpson Centre - From 9am
April	**26**	**Sat**	Members Workshop & Learners Group	10:30am - 12pm
			Demonstrations - Making Landscapes & Rocks, and hiding ugly Nebari	12:15pm for a 12:30pm start
May	**24**	**Sat**	Members Workshop & Learners Group	10:30am - 12pm
			Members Workshop continues + Side Demonstrations	Demonstrations from 12:30pm
June	**28**	**Sat**	Members Workshop & Learners Group	10:30am - 12pm
			Guest Demonstrator - Quentin Valentine (VNBC & Bonsai Northwest)	12:15pm for a 12:30pm start
	29	**Sun**	Workshops with Quentin	2 Sessions - 8:30am - 4:00pm
July	**26**	**Sat**	Members Workshop & Learners Group	10:30am - 12pm
			Senior Members Presentations & Winter Warmer Session	12:15pm for a 12:30pm start
August	**23**	**Sat**	Members Workshop & Learners Group	10:30am - 12pm
			Members Workshop continues + Side Demonstrations	Demonstrations from 12:30pm
September	**27**	**Sat**	Members Workshop & Learners Group	10:30am - 12pm
			Guest Demonstrator - Marija Hajdić - Meleda Bonsai Studio (Croatia)	12:15pm for a 12:30pm start
	28	**Sun**	Workshops with Marija	2 Sessions - 8:30am - 4:00pm
October	**25**	**Sat**	Members Workshop & Learners Group	10:30am - 12pm
			Members Workshop continues + Side Demonstrations	from 12pm
November	**22**	**Sat**	Members Workshop & Learners Group	10:30am - 12pm
	23	**Sun**	Guest Demonstrator - Hugh Grant (Tree Makers)	12:15pm for a 12:30pm start
			Workshops with Hugh	2 Sessions - 8:30am - 4:00pm

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