REDLANDS BONSAI

Newsletter May 2025 In This Issue

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Upcoming Events 2025

- **RBS May Meeting – Saturday 24th**
- **Workshop & Learners Group 10:30am**
- **Guest Speaker - Quentin Valentine 28th June**
- **Quentin Valentine Workshop 29th June**

President's Message

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Autumn has finally arrived. Woo hoo. The days are cooler, our trees have survived the summer, and we probably only need to water every two days, and certainly weed less frequently.

I'd like to apologise for the delay in getting this newsletter out. Completely my fault. Our amazing Newsletter Editor, Rod has been patiently waiting for me to write something. I have been running around like an idiot preparing for my holidays, and now I am enjoying them talking to like minded bonsai people.

Holidays and like minded Bonsai people? Yes, and a handful of our Redlands bonsai tragics have been at the annual Australian National Bonsai Convention, hosted by Canberra Bonsai Society in partnership with the Association of Australian Bonsai Clubs (AABC). People from 42 clubs from every state and territory (except NT), and friends from NZ, gathered in Canberra for a long weekend packed days of hearing about, watching demonstrations, and gas bagging about bonsai and any other topic that came up along the way.

For me, it was my first big bonsai function away from Brisbane, and a wonderful chance to meet like minded people, and experience some amazing bonsai art and technique.

Friday started with a visit to the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection at the National Arboretum, which is the best public collection in Australia, on permanent display in a magnificent purpose built facility, nestled in an amazing gardens (with 100 groves of 100 different types of trees surrounding it). That had me geeking out on bonsai. As it was autumn, all around Canberra we have been treated to a delightful autumn display of reds, oranges and yellows from the deciduous trees scattered around the city and suburbs, paired with crisp, clear weather. I was feeling pretty delighted with Canberra.

Little did I know that waiting at the convention location on Friday evening was the most amazing exhibition of enthusiast trees brought in from around the ACT, NSW and Victoria. Host Club, the Canberra Bonsai Society outdid themselves by assembling an exquisite assortment of all of your favourite trees, styles, pots, stands and everything else required to make outstanding artistic displays. I felt like a kid in a candy store.

Even better was the opportunity to talk to their proud owners and other bonsai enthusiasts about these gems.

On Saturday and today (Sunday), we got to hear from and see demonstrations from two amazing presenters from the USA; the wickedly funny bonsai artist, and writer Michael Hagedorn, and the delightful ballerina turned bonsai artist Jennifer Price. Their

billing was supported by the talented, respected and beloved local bonsai stylists Marcela Ferreira (VIC), Jarryd Bailey (TAS) and Sam Thompson (ACT), who crafted amazing trees while being supported by engaging MC's who ensure that there was a constant stream of interactive informative commentary from the presenters on their creations and other interesting bonsai (well mostly) topics. Demonstration material ranged from Mature Pines, junipers and other traditional conifers, to some truly stunning collected native plants.

We also had some fascinating presentations on the art and science of ceramics for our pots, which has given me an even deeper appreciation of the magic and skill of the container that cradles our labours of

love. We were updated on the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection, and challenged to look forward to the future evolution of our hobby, and what we need from our community to continue to make it vibrant and engaging.

Although I don't have any trees with me, I am attending workshops with both Jennifer and Michael tomorrow as an observer, to help glean some of their knowledge and gain some pearls of wisdom….. undoubtedly mixed in with some coffee and a natter to my new bonsai diehard friends.

If I haven't put you to sleep so far, the next convention has just been announced, and will be held over the for the first weekend of May 2026, in the delightful destination holiday location of Hobart. The brochure is attached, and I will be talking more about this in the coming months.

Gushing completed.

At our meeting on Saturday 24th May, we have are conducting a all day workshop where your can bring your trees and ask for advice. This will be supported with a follow up activities on creating your own artificial rocks with Tony Watt, a session to brush up your wiring skills with Steve Cullum, and an interactive presentation on the Convention in Canberra (ok, the gushing isn't quite completed).

For our meeting on June 28th we will be joined by talented bonsai artist Quentin Valentine, who is joining us from Melbourne. Quentin is well known, and is highly regarded in Victoria with over 35 years of experience, and this is his first ever visit to talk to a bonsai group in Brisbane. Now retired to a life of peaceful bonsai obsession, Quentin worked in horticulture for 30 years and took up bonsai in 1989 after borrowing a book from the library. He thought "I could do that easily" and so he did, helped by the numerous variety of plants he was already propagating in the backyard. One tree remains from that first batch of trees, a shohin Liquidamber! Quentin joined a few clubs and went to Japan Seminar House as he sought advice and gradually developed his skills. He is prepared to tackle almost any plant material and has tried his hand at an increasing number of Australian species. He now has a number of significant Australian native bonsai as well as continuing his interest in Pines, deciduous trees, and broadleaved evergreens. He has had trees on display at the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia in Canberra. Quentin was one of those instrumental in setting up the Victorian Native Bonsai Club that commenced in 2013, and took on the presidency at that time, as well as imparting his knowledge at meetings and workshops.

After seeing his personal collection, I have been blown away by not only the breadth of varieties of species, and styles, but also the breath taking levels of refinement (I was lost for words)

He will be doing the rounds at our general workshop on Saturday morning, before presentation and demonstrating in the afternoon. He will also be hosting 2 sessions of paid workshops on the Sunday, where

I encourage people to attend to seek his guidance for styling and refinement, but if you don't have a tree, just come along to observe. You will learn so much.

Lastly the Bayside Community Fund raffle ticket sales have been sensational so far. A reminder that both the sold tickets stubs and money, and unsold tickets are due back at this week's meeting.

More tickets will be available for sale on Saturday, and as a reminder, the Bendigo Bank have set up, and then donated $30,000 over 13 prizes in the form of savings accounts from ranging from $15,000 to $1,000. There will be only be 40,000 x $5 tickets, and they are exclusively sold by Bayside 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.

Aswell as physical raffle tickets, there is also the option to purchase tickets right up to 5pm on 30th May, via a secure website, which is accessed by a QR code printed on the promotional flyer we have printed for you.

Looking forward to seeing you a

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

Looking for autumn colour grow a callistemon as a Bonsai. What do you grow that gives you autumn colour ???

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 April Meeting Photos

Tony demonstrating that not only large trees, but smaller trees can have opportunity to build an artificial rock base to achieve an aesthetic look in your bonsai.

Demonstrating how to build rock bases from artificial material.

Steve's early work on the trees in preparation to begin building a forest

Artificial rocks were made to start the forest planting.

The end result of the build, the forest now needs some TLC for several years to ensure it matures into a forest display. Great touch with the tiger and deer.

Return show trees.

The owners of the winning trees sharing their thoughts and ideas around showing the tree and maintaining their structure.

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

EUGENE
FERREIRA
Redlands
Bonsai Society
~2025~
Best Novice Tree

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*

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

REDLANDS BONSAI

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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