

# NEWSLETTER

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## 2019

Our meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (unless otherwise stated in our syllabus). In the Moorooduc Hall, corner Bentons Rd. & Derril Rd. Moorooduc

### SEASONAL NOTES:

This month is all about getting your tree(s) ready for the Exhibition.

Ensure your trees look as tidy as possible, and as healthy as possible.

Make sure pots are clean, weed free, and presented as well as they can be,.

IF YOU CAN OBTAIN MOSS, FINE GRAVEL ETC. THESE WILL ALL ADD TO THE OVERALL APPEARANCE OF YOUR PRESENTATION.

Also, your tree needs to be displayed on a stand.

If you don't own one, someone may be able to lend you one, or give you advice how to make one.

The whole look should be in proportion, and pleasing to the eye.

Good luck!

Dear Members,

We are entering that exciting part of the year, the time of our Annual Easter Exhibition. As this year is the year of our 40th Anniversary, we are having a special treat, a guest demonstrator, Andrew Ward from Adelaide.

Andrew, pictured right, is an Australian Bonsai Expert, and you would normally have to pay quite handsomely to see him demonstrate. At our show, they can see him at work, all for the cost of entry..



Do please tell your friends, as this is a huge opportunity that doesn't occur very often.

Andrew is very approachable, he doesn't mind you asking questions, and has a pleasant manner.

In January, we had a workshop night, which was well attended, and also was a chance for everyone to catch up.



This meeting, February, 20th, in our usual Hall, 7.30pm, David Allen from Bendigo, will give a demonstration on "Yamadori", field grown bonsai, do some carving, and will also advise on what pot to choose for your tree.

Wednesday March 20th, beginners night. Bring 1 or 2 trees, experts will be available to help you. .

### **URGENT REQUEST!!!**

*Urgently wanted, helpers for our Easter Exhibition Door greeters, security, help desk, sales area, raffle sellers . People to help with the setting up, dismantling, and general duties, and of course bringing trees for display.*

*Plantings should be free of weeds, pots should be clean, particularly underneath, and where possible, presented on a suitable stand. Please do not place directly on to tablecloths, make sure there is a stand underneath.*

*You will be informed as to the best time to bring your trees, and if it is an unusual tree, it would be helpful to write the name of your specimen, clearly, so it can be presented with it's correct name.*

*Every year we discover more and more, that it is teamwork, as much as anything, that makes for a great show, so let's make this year our best ever! So volunteer your services to Steve or a committee member. Don't wait to be asked.*

### **EVENTS TO REMEMBER.**

Bonsai week, 25th March—31st March

National Arboretum, Canberra

“Women in bonsai”

Sandra Grlica on the left, Heike Gunst, on the right.

See the National Arboretum website for more information.



### **MORNINGTON PENINSULA BONSAI SOCIETY 40th Easter Bonsai Exhibition 2019**

Saturday 20th April; 9am to 5pm

Sunday 21st April, 10am to 4pm

There will be a number of trees on display, All sizes and many varieties.

Also a large sales area, plants, pots wire, tools, and other related bonsai items for sale. Eftpos available

There will be a help desk if you wish to bring in your bonsai for assistance. There will be a small fee for re-potting, to cover costs.

We do ask that if possible you bring your tree in the morning, as we have a guest demonstrator in the afternoon. If you can only attend pm, we will find somewhere to look after you.

Please contact our secretary Jill, for further information Ph. 0407 361 989

### **MAY 2019 AABC/VNBC CONVENTION:**

The Victorian Native Bonsai Club will be hosting the 2019 AABC convention.

The focus will be wholly on Australian Natives as bonsai.

### **BONSAI TRIVIA *Did you know***

That the origin of bonsai, while often attributed to the Japanese, is actually Chinese in derivation. Many experts agree, that bonsai, known as Pensai in China, was practiced by scholars, monks and the noble classes of China, as far back as 600 AD. A few centuries later, Bonsai, along with, Zen Buddhism, and much of the best of Chinese culture was brought to Japan.

That the word “bonsai”, which is pronounced “bone-sigh”, is made up of the two Japanese characters, “bon” meaning tray, and “sai” meaning plant, which when literally translated means, tray plant. Of course, the cultivation of bonsai trees has advanced much since its humble start as plants in trays.





Above, some of the photos taken at our January workshop  
It was a very nice friendly, relaxed sort of night, and may we have more of them  
**GREAT START TO THE YEAR!.**

#### Memory corner:

This is our second month of memories of our Society over the past 40 years. Below is a photo of George Mancell, with a very young looking Hirotoishi Saito, in 1998.



## SOME BONSAI TIPS

*By Craig Wilson, and forwarded by Diana Arnold.*

These tips were collated by Craig in 2002, but I believe they are still pertinent today.

### General

Don't choose dwarf species for bonsai. They are too slow and not always desirable. Do select small needed pines. Choose varieties with short internodes.

### Essentials for trees.

Water-fertiliser-wind-sunshine-even light-for well leafed branches; regularly rotate trees a quarter turn for good even light/growth. Consistently pinch buds back to two first leaves, to attain many branchlets and smaller leaves (ramification). Cut large leaves in half (across) to force new strong buds and shoots next year.

### MAINTENANCE

Maintain a regular daily maintenance. Bonsai do not thrive on their own. Water well, but don't over water. Never keep a tree wet. Allow it to become dry-ish between waterings. Fertilise regularly (fortnightly) with weak solutions. Use hard fertilisers (like Dynamic Lifter), around the edge of the pots., heaviest in Autumn.

### Things to look for

Maintain even balanced growth by pruning. Use forefinger at pivot point of scissors to balance and give good aim. Use sharp bonsai scissors so as not to tear when cutting. Two point is desirable, look for the "2-point" on the tree, ie where a single branch on the tree meets the trunk. When viewed from above, branches should be in the shape of a spearhead or oval. Always create trees with uneven branch distribution—more interesting. Match trunks and branch styles, ie, curving trunk = curving branches. Thick trunks should start with low branches. Thin trunks should have branches starting higher up. Side branches are long, front and back branches are short.

### Deciduous trees:

Work on trees is always for next year's viewing. Keep branches open, and well-trimmed. Pinch tips continuously. Maples need light shade Beech can only be pinched once, as soon as leaves are evident in the shoot. Pinch elms to a pair of leaves. Constant work is required on Ash and Liquidambar.

### Conifers:

Remove stray needles on top and bottom of branches. Take care to maintain inner growth. Select buds for the "2 point". Keep conifers on the "dry" side. Fertilise

regularly, and give them plenty of sun.

### Natives:

Be aware of watering requirements for each species. Keep figs on the "dry" side. Pinch, pinch, pinch. Defoliate banksia. Always seal wounds, no matter how small, on Angophora and Eucalypts. This will stop die-back of even the tiniest twigs.

### Azaleas

Pinch buds regularly. Use the tiny leafed varieties of Satsuki. Be aware if they are sun or shade varieties. Seal all cuts.

### Insects:

To prevent insects from getting a foothold among your trees, simply wipe a cloth, soaked in a solution of Baygon (Insect & Ant), on the base and sides of pots. This works for either glazed or unglazed pots.

Repeat after six months.

### Here's a sweet tip...

Spray foliage with sugar water. Plants can absorb carbohydrates through their leaves, and this increases their chance of survival. 1 dessertspoon to 1 litre of water, minimises shock and supplies nutrients.

The sugar is converted to complex carbohydrates, and that feeds the cutting, or a tree that has been collected with minimal roots.

### ANOTHER PIECE OF BONSAI TRIVIA

That the oldest tree in the USA National Collection is nearly 400 years old.

It is a white pine, that despite being less than 5 miles away from the impact site, survived the atomic bomb blast at Hiroshima, Japan, in 1945

It was first styled in 1624