

Mornington Peninsula Bonsai Soc Inc

MARCH 2024

NEWSLETTER

In This Issue:

- President's Report
- Coming Club Night Info.
- Photos Feb Club Night
- February Open Workshop
- Hazel Clarke's Tree
- News from Other Clubs
- 2024 Bonsai Convention Q'land

URGENT NOTICE

- Presenter Hirotoishi Saito
- Jill's selling off some of her trees
- Bonsai Calendar
- Seasonal Notes
- Diary Dates

Club Details:

Meetings are held at the **Moorooduc Community Hall**, Cnr Derril Rd and Moorooduc Rd, Moorooduc, commencing 7.30pm, the third Wednesday of the month (no meeting in December)

Office Bearers:

President: Steve Jarrold
0451 942 944

Secretary: Jillian Lewis
0407 361 989

Treasurer: Gwen Robinson
0411 331 517

Newsletter Editor—Jillian Lewis

Email— for news & photos
jillian24@bigpond.com

Correspondence: 8 Charles Drive,
Pearcedale. 3912

Social Media

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bonsaimornington/>

Web Site <https://bonsaimornington.com.au>

PLEASE—if you have any photos of what you have been doing with your trees, email them to me, the photos with the story, so that I can put them into the Newsletter.

President's Report

Hi Everyone,



What a late summer heat wave we have just experienced. Apart from the leaves on a Wisteria being scorched, all my trees survived with no problems, due to the fact that most of my trees were under shade cloth. Years ago, after similar weather conditions, I lost several trees, so I constructed a simple system that allowed me to roll out the shade cloth in about 15 minutes. Now, if temperatures are forecast to be over 33 degrees, I can quickly provide protection for my trees.

At our March meeting, Val Garth will be giving a very interesting presentation on creating artificial rocks. If you are interested in creating Saikei or simply wish to add rocks to your bonsai creations, Val will show you how to create light weight, realistic looking rocks. Please attend the meeting to support Val, and our society.

Don't forget to bring a display tree to ensure another impressive display table. See you at the next meeting,
Cheers Steve.



CLUB NIGHT WEDNESDAY 21/03/2024

7.00pm for 7.30pm start.

Next Wednesday the 21st March is our Club Night, as mentioned previously, we have Val Garth attending on the night to show us how she makes the artificial rocks and pots etc. Val was good enough to fill in at the last moment as Craig was unable to attend. Looking forward to seeing as many people as possible and please don't forget, membership payments for 2024 are well overdue. See our Treasurer, Gwen. Thank you.

Don't forget your tree for Display Table, and I am always interested in any stories members might have about their trees that I can put into the Newsletter.

Jillian
Secretary



February Club Night—Let's see what we can do with these trees. This was a night for ideas from all members. **Steve took the lead.**



Russel pondering what to do on his tree.



Looking for the right tool.



Steve Working on Annelies Tree.



Lou telling us about his Fig and how he has been force feeding it.

New member Andy brought along this pine. Had to put our thinking caps on.



Steve & Alan making big decisions.



March Open Workshop

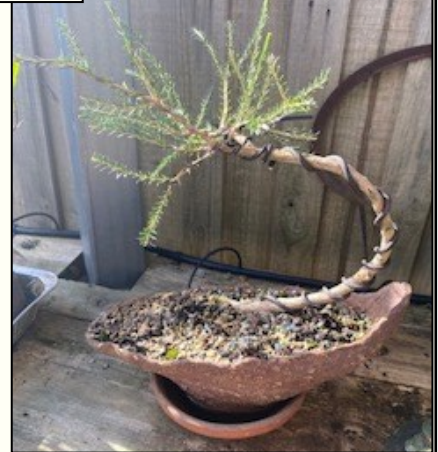


Jill's Paperbark. Was wired some time ago but after some manoeuvring, the branches are now wired into position. See below.

BEFORE



AFTER



Lou very kindly helping out Thelma and then getting to work on his own trees.



Steve Working on his Fig.



Paul having a rip-roaring time with the saw.



Gwen really concentrating.



Sean sorting out a very large Maple.



The repotting story of Hazel Clarke's 40 year old Maple tree this year.



I have had the tree for 25 years and I cannot remember the last time Mum had re-potted it, so it is now done with pictures to prove it, and I don't have to look at a Blue pot anymore. At least, a 2" depth of root cut away.

BEFORE



NOW—Half the root ball had to be cut off and the pot will match the leaves when they turn Autumn colours.



AFTER



NEWS FROM OTHER CLUBS

Bonsai Society of Queensland inc.

Welcome to the 36th AABC National Bonsai Convention.

17th - 20th May, 2024

Proudly hosted again by the Bonsai Society of Qld Inc. As we release this event to the public, we are celebrating 50 years from our humble beginnings in 1973. A milestone celebrated by only a handful of clubs throughout Australia. BSQ has always endeavoured to provide Bonsai knowledge in a relaxed atmosphere where Bonsai Artists of all levels of experience can learn from each other. Whatever we learn is ours to share with others as we develop Bonsai for the pleasure of the present and the benefit of the future. We host this convention with the same spirit.



We are very proud of the program we have put together for you to enjoy in the very comfortable surrounds of the Royal on the Park Hotel in Brisbane City. We have a rolling and interactive program of demonstrations to keep you entertained and informed throughout the program as well as the social activities of the Friday night Welcome BBQ Reception, where we will fill your bellies in a casual atmosphere, and then do it again a little more formally for the Saturday Night Dinner. An exhibition of trees from local Bonsai clubs in SE Qld will be a beautiful sight and we will attack your wallets in the sales area, which will be open exclusively for delegates for the first hour of trading.

Friday will kick off proceedings with a Nursery, Bonsai House and Gardens Tour, which will visit our biggest Bonsai Nursery, Australian Bonsai Grower, in the morning before heading to the Brisbane Botanic Gardens for lunch in the Gardens Café before touring the brand new Bonsai House and Bonsai Collection housed permanently within the gardens. You will get a presentation on the history of the collection and its time at the gardens where you can enjoy some afternoon tea before a tour of the Australian Native Garden to see more of our species in a natural bush setting.

Koji Hiramatsu will also host an Advanced Workshop Day on the Friday for those serious Bonsai Artists looking to improve their skills and share it with their club members. Spaces limited to 10 people for that one, so you will need to get in early.

Saturday and Sunday are the main Convention days, with a full program of activity on both days. Full registration includes all daytime activities on the Convention Program and also Morning Tea, Lunch and Afternoon Tea on both days. Single day registration is also available for either day for those that can't make the whole weekend and also includes all food on the day selected.

Monday Koji will host morning and afternoon workshops at the venue for those wanting to get a more personal taste of what the Master has to offer for your World of Bonsai. There will be 8 participants in each session and observers are welcome to learn from the whole experience also.

We hope to greet many of you there to share in this fantastic event and continue to grow the Art of Bonsai in Australia. Read on for more details about our demonstrators



Program Page 5

MAY 2024 CONVENTION PROGRAM

Friday May 17

9:00am - 4:00pm
Koji Hiramatsu Masterclass Workshop
5:30pm - 7:30pm
7:00pm - 9:30pm

9:00am - 4:00pm
Nursery, Bonsai House & Gardens Tour
Delegate Registration
Welcome BBQ Recep

Saturday May 18

8:00am - 9:00am
8:45am - 9:00am
9.00 am - 10.30am
Koji Hiramatsu Demonstration

Registrations and Sales Area Early Access
Convention Opening
9.30am - 10.30
Martin Walters Rock making

10:30am - 11:00am Morning Tea

11:00am 12:30pm
Koji Hiramatsu Demonstration

11:00am - 12:30pm
Martin Walters Rock making

1:30pm - 3:00pm

12:30pm 1:30pm Lunch

Koji Hiramatsu Demonstration

Martin Walters Rock making

3:00pm - 3:30pm Afternoon Tea

3:30pm - 5:00pm Koji hosts SE Qld Club Challenge (includes raffle draws)

5:15pm - 6:15pm

AABC General Meeting

7:00pm - 10:30pm

Convention Dinner/Awards/Auction

Sunday May 19

8:30am - 9:00am

Day Registration & Early sales access

9:00am - 10:30pm
Koji Hiramatsu Shohin Demonstration

9:00am - 10:30pm
Andrew Sellman Demonstration

10:30am-11:00am Morning Tea

11:00am 12:30pm
Koji Hiramatsu Shohin Demonstration
1:30pm 3:00pm

11:00am 12:30pm
Andrew Sellman Demonstration

Koji Hiramatsu & Martin Walters Demonstration

Lindsay & Glen Bebb Demonstration

12:30pm - 1:30pm Lunch

3:00pm - 3:30pm Afternoon Tea

3:30pm - 4:30pm
Koji Hiramatsu & Martin Walters Demonstration

3:30pm - 4:00pm
Lindsay & Glen Bebb Demonstration

4:30pm - 4:45pm Auction & Raffles
4:45pm - 5:00pm 2025 Convention Presentation
5:00pm - 5:15pm **Convention Closing**

Monday May 20

9:00am - 12:30pm
Koji Hiramatsu Workshop

9:00am - 12:30pm
Martin Walters Workshop

12:30pm - 1:30pm Lunch *Not included. Must be ordered or BYO*

1:30pm - 5:00pm Koji Hiramatsu Workshop

1:30pm - 5:00pm Martin Walters Workshop

For more 2024 Convention information please visit:
<https://www.bonsaisocietyqld.asn.au/aabc2024.php>

(Frank Kelly Secretary AABC)



- URGENT NOTICE -

**AABC CONVENTION 2024
ACCOMMODATION UPDATE**

Please continue to promote and encourage your members to register for the Brisbane Convention. More information for AABC 36 - *Bonsai By Design* - can be found by visiting the website:

<https://bonsaisocietyqld.asn.au/events/#!event-list>

The Convention venue is:

Royal on the Park Hotel
152 Alice Street, Brisbane City 4000

International Demonstrators are:

- Koji Hiramatsu, from Japan,
- Martin Walters, from Auckland, New Zealand.

with supporting Australian Demonstrators:

- Lindsay & Glen Bebb, and
- Andrew Sellman, (one of the AABC VTs from Queensland).

Frank Kelly

Secretary AABC

Bonsai Northwest Melbourne Exhibition & Sale 20 & 21 April 2024



BONSAI
Exhibition & Sale

**Hundreds of
Bonsai on
display &
for sale**

**Demonstrations
on both days
11am & 1pm**

Contact Us:
bonsainorthwest@hotmail.com
Facebook: @bonsainorthwest
Phone: 0422 619 641

Supported by
Maribyrnong
CITY COUNCIL

Footscray Community Arts Centre
45 Moreland St Footscray
20 & 21 April 2024
10am to 4pm
Adults: \$5
(Children under 15 free with adult)

BONSAI NORTHWEST INC
MELBOURNE

Proudly supported by
Strathmore
Community Bank Branch
Bendigo Bank

INVITATION - Bonsai Society of Victoria

An invitation is extended to **members of all bonsai clubs around Australia** and to the general public to attend a very special event to be held in Victoria.

In July, 2024 popular Bonsai teacher and demonstrator, Hirotoishi Saito will visit Australia again to teach bonsai.

- * He will be in Australia for 2 weeks from July 3 until July 14 to run a series of workshops and demonstrations.
- * Sensei Saito is an authorised Nippon Bonsai Association demonstrator and has been teaching bonsai in Japan on a regular basis for many years.
- * This very popular teacher first visited Australia in 1993, but not since 2014.
- * Hiro will be conducting 10 workshops - each for 8 participants and 8 observers in Melbourne. **Bookings open on March 1 at 12:01am.**
- * More than half of the workshops have already been booked by keen Bonsai Society of Victoria members - the hosts.

Full details are on the BSV website. www.bonsaisocietyvictoria.com.au/



Royal Horticultural Society—2024

Gardeners’s Day Out - Saturday 15th June 2024 from 9.30am. Rusden Theatre, Deakin University, Burwood Highway, Burwood. Presentations by Stephen Ryan & Mathew Lucas (The Horticulturalists), Jane Tomkin, Dr Greg Moore and Clive Larkman.

Fernery Creek Horticultural Show-2024

Autumn Show 2024 Sat 27 April 12pm to 4pm

Sunday 28th April 10am to 4pm

Spring Show 2024 Sat 7 September 12pm to 4pm

Sun 8 Sept 10am to 4pm

Flower Festival 2024 Sat 26 October 12pm to 4pm

Sun 27 October 10am to 4pm

HEADS UP—JILL IS DOWNSIZING HER COLLECTION OF BONSAI ETC

I have 6 stock plants that I have been growing for some time. They are: 2 Maples, 1 Ornamental Pear, 1 Lilac, 1 Olive .

The Bonsais I have for sale, are either there as a Bonsai or very much on their way to being one. There are also several forests/groupings of Olive, Ash, Lillypilly and Liquid Amber in oval pots. The trees range from small to large trees in size. There are Figs, Olives, Lilly Pillies, Desert Ash, Maples, Jades, Umbrella Trees, and Liquid Ambers and probably some I’ve forgotten. Feel free to contact me whether it be at Club or via phone 0407 361 989. I have a pamphlet showing most of the trees I will be selling that I can send out. I am unable to attend this coming Club Night.



Lillypilly Grouping



Olive Grouping



Ash Grouping



Jade Raft



Casuarina from seed.

Box



Banksia



BONSAI CALENDAR 2024

- JAN:** Check/remove wires, Water/Feed regularly. Good time to work on Figs if you have any, they love the heat.
- FEB:** Keep watering but stop feeding, reduce trimming
- MAR:** Growth at a standstill, only Nitrogen-free fertiliser
- APR:** Deciduous trees lose leaves, water if necessary
- MAY:** Remove wiring carefully, check all plants for pests
- JUNE:** Water if necessary, do not feed
- JUL:** Dormant period for most trees and plants
- AUG:** Prune hardy deciduous trees, prepare for repotting
- SEP:** Wire deciduous trees and repot most trees
- OCT:** Prune most trees, end repotting and watch for bugs
- NOV:** Start feeding and light trimming, water regularly
- DEC:** Time to commence working on your figs as the weather should be getting warmer.



Seasonal Notes for late Summer—Courtesy of Andrew Ward, Life Member and Presenter from the South Australian Bonsai Society .

February and March bring with them the hottest and most difficult months of the bonsai calendar.

With this in mind it is important to take action ... now! Slow down on high nitrogen fertilisers that will encourage plant growth – especially as nitrogen will encourage soft growth that will be easily burnt in extreme temperatures. A programme of feeding our plants, should include fertilisers that are high in Potassium (K). Sudden Impact for Roses, with an N:P:K of 9:4:12 is one such fertiliser. With the additional Potassium, such a fertiliser will encourage the development of stronger plant cells, leading to plants that are more able to stand up to the stresses of dry heat and strong hot winds.

Additional follow up with seaweed tonics such as Seasol are also important. I compare the use of such tonics to the use of sunscreen and vitamins for us ... they help in combating the elements ... way too simplistic an analogy but one I can understand anyway. Research has shown that the use of seaweed based tonics helps plants in the uptake of nutrient. Once again, plant cells are stronger ... stronger plant cells give us stronger plants.

It may be necessary to consider extra shade at this time of the year. Remember that extra shade will encourage larger leaf size, however it is necessary to balance the continued growth and health of our plants with the desire to have smaller leaf size. I would suggest that February and March are months in which the survival of our plants is paramount. As in other times of the year, consider moving plants around within the micro-climate of your own back yard to take advantage of the less stressful morning sun and to avoid the stronger afternoon sun. If you are looking forward to autumn colour on your deciduous bonsai, then extra care is also necessary to avoid leaf burn.

Watering – together with extra shade is vital. Not just a quick mist of water, but a sound watering, is essential for our bonsai to survive. I have placed smaller bonsai into larger bonsai trays filled with Spaghnum moss this season. The results so far (although with the milder weather I may be too early to make judgement) have been promising. I also have larger trays placed in large water trays. I am yet to use strips of Hessian sacking draped from the water over the soil but plan on this from the end of January when I am no longer at home 24/7 to keep a close watch on my plants. The idea is that the wet Hessian may act like an old fashioned ice box – keeping the surface temperature of the plants lower.

With the expected warmer weather, plants will go into a forced dormancy. Just as we do not like to work too hard when it is too hot, most plants also stop growing. Exceptions are succulents, where the stomata close, reducing transpiration ... but all the same, will not make rapid growth in extreme heat. Although we need to ensure that our plants are watered, we also need to check carefully not to over-water at this time of the year. Check the old fashioned way by feeling the soil with your finger, observe by looking, or if this is all a bit too primitive ... resort to a moisture meter. If using a moisture meter be sure to check moisture levels in several areas of your pots.

Plants that simply love the weather at this time of year are Jade, Ficus, Olives and Chinese Elms. It is as if the extra heat gives them the *Terminator Factor* (bring it on!!!). Allow plants to make growth, allow extensions of branches to occur as this will allow the base of trunks and branches to thicken. Take advantage of this growth for sacrifice branches. Following the drawback of sugars into the plants root system in autumn it will then be time to cut back this extra growth, giving your bonsai an improved sense of dimension.



Diary Dates 2024



- Wed-Jan 17: Club Night - Fig Workshop & discussions 7.30pm
- Sat-Feb 3: Open Workshop Advance Native Nursery 10.00am-2pm. Tea & Coffee provided, BYO Lunch.
- Wed-Feb 21: Having trouble deciding on design or just a problem with your tree/s, bring them along and we may be able to help.
- Sat-Mar 2: Open Workshop Advance Native Nursery 10.00am-2pm.
- Wed-Mar 21: Club Night— Val Garth the trick to making artificial rocks.**
- Sat- Apr 6: Open Workshop Advance Native Nursery 10.00am-2pm.**
- Wed-Apr 17: Club Night - Repotting Trees, why, when and how.**
- Sat-May 4: Open Workshop Advance 10.00-2pm follow on from previous Club Night- Repotting-bring along your trees etc and design.**
- Wed-May 15: Club Night—Forest Planting**
- Wed-June 19: Club Night—Root over rock**
- Wed-July 17: Don de Luca talking about all that is Bonsai and designing.**
- Sat-July 20: Don de Luca Work shop at the home of Jillian.**
- Sat-Aug 3: Open Workshop Advance Native Nursery 10.00am-2pm.**
- Wed-Aug- 21: Club Night and Workshop—Recipes for making a soil that will stay on a flat surface without washing off.**
- Sat-Sep 2: Open Workshop Advance 10-2pm**
- Wed-Sept 18: Club Night—Steve Jarrold –Pines**
- Sat-Oct 5: Open Workshop 10—2pm at Jillian's House.**
- Wed-Oct 16: Club Night - Quentin Valentine—Natives & Others**



Wed Nov 20 Club Night-AGM-Christmas Breakup and Last Club Night for the year. Please bring along a Plate to Share for supper.

Please, do not forget to bring a tree for the Display Table each month. Thank you.

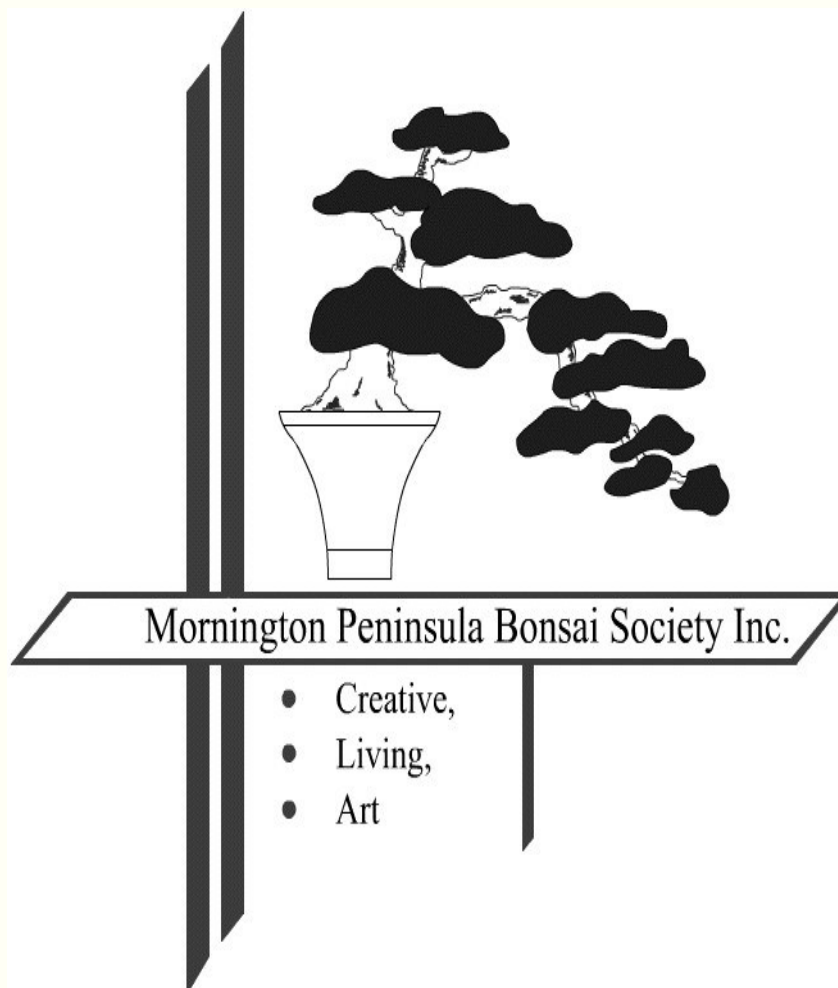
Our Sickies: Please let us know of any members who may not be well or are ailing. Thank you. **If you know of a member who is not well, please let me know.**



Facebook & Website—Remember, we have a Facebook Page and Website. On the Facebook Page, feel free to put up any photos of your trees or items that you may think are of interest to members, we would love to see them and on the Website you are able to see what is happening during the year. Thank you Jeff for co-ordinating the Website. We have received a few enquiries in the last couple of months.

WEBSITE: <https://bonsaimornington.com.au>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1760779597755277/?mibextid=oMANbw>



Established: 1979