

Mornington Peninsula Bonsai Soc Inc

APRIL 2024

NEWSLETTER

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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)

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Social Media

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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,



Last month we had a very entertaining and informative presentation by Val Garth, on the technique of making very realistic looking rocks out of foam . It was a lot of fun, but has anyone had the urge to have a go?

Now that Autumn is upon us, it is a good time to give your trees a good feed, to set them up for next Spring.

At the next meeting on April 17th, we will be having a presentation on why, when and how, to repot your trees. Repotting is probably the most important task you need to carry out, to ensure the continued health of your trees. Come along and share your views on the topic as we can all learn from the experiences of others. See you at the next meeting.

Cheers Steve.



CLUB NIGHT WEDNESDAY 17/04/2024

7.00pm for 7.30pm start.

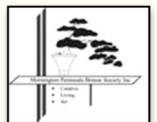
Next Wednesday the 17th April is our Club Night. Looking forward to seeing as many people as possible attending. Please Remember your tree for the Display Table, and I am always interested in any stories members might have about their trees that can be placed into the Newsletter.

Don't forget to book yourself into the Don de Luca Workshops being held Saturday 20th July at my house. AM & PM. See Jill for bookings.

I still have trees to sell if anyone is interested.

Please don't forget, membership payments for 2024 are long overdue if you have not already paid. If your not sure, ask our Treasurer Gwen. Thank you.

Jillian
Secretary
M.P.B.S



March Club Night—Presenter Val Garth—By all accounts, a very good night.



Rock Pot is made



Cutting up the pieces



A very large rock made by Val and planted with trees. Only just been created in the last month.

Rock Painting Time

A Polystyrene pot with planting.



Polystyrene Rock In middle of pot. Left

Polystyrene flat pot with rocks allowing trees To be planted. Middle

Polystyrene pot. Last

6th April Open Workshop at Advance



A Cyprus of Mine purchased from Garden World around 15 years ago as a very small plant. I put it into this pot and this is the first time that it has been re-potted since I purchased it. I soon realised that Cyprus are very slow growers. That being said, the root system was massive and if Lou hadn't helped me out, I don't think I would have gotten it out of the pot. It was stuck fast, took a while. Thanks Lou. Every year it has the candles, looks rather nice when they are out, they last for quite a while.



A Gum tree, originally purchased from Gwen, but the grubs got to it after I got it home, thought I would lose it. Then it started sprouting from the bottom and so I let it grow. Saturday was the second time of shaping and styling.—It will get there!

Apologies. The above photos at the Open Workshop, are the only ones I have. I forgot to run around and get photos of people working on their trees, and no one else did either.



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

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 - April & May—Courtesy of Alex - Bonsai Art

Early Autumn

During the months of April and May the weather is getting cooler and the days are noticeably shorter. The deciduous trees are changing to their autumn colour.

No doubt you are all pondering this as you look at your bonsai and say what should I do next.

Re-potting

I would advise that if you haven't done your figs and natives you should be doing them now or wait till August. Pines, in particular, White pines and other more root sensitive trees in relation to Sydney heat are fine to re-pot from now.

Deciduous / flowering trees are able to be re-potted. In essence, if it is a northern hemisphere tree now is the time to re-pot your tree.

Autumn is my favourite time to repot. The reason is the length of time the season offers. Warmish weather and cooler nights whilst the soil is still warm.

As opposed to Spring where from November it can be too hot for some trees It is quite short time in Sydney and where certain root sensitive trees go into shock too easily, in particular, trees that have already bloomed from re-potting.

Your tree needs re-potting if it shows these signs:

- Dries out too quickly and starts to wilt;
- Drains slowly and stays wet for a long period of time;
- Isn't responding to any fertilisers you give;
- Has suffered some water related stress in particular during summer; premature shedding of foliage or unexplained yellowing of foliage, And the more unusual; the tree did not like to pot.

These signs are related to the fact that the soil has been exhausted or the tree is root bound or has poor root growth. Try to not let the tree dry out, but do not let the tree dry out completely.

I may recommend watering the tree every two to three days depending on the relative toughness of the tree. Do not let the tree go an entire week without water. That is unless the weather has turned exceptionally cold.

Autumn Seasonal Notes ctd

Wiring

For those who are interested in wiring now is the best time of year to be wiring. I would advise against any real heavy bending. This technique is more for mid-winter. It would be ideal to remove any wire on your trees that was attached last year. Try to cut the coils as opposed to unwiring by hand. As it may break branches unnecessarily or

If you do find that you are uncertain, water the tree anyway. Keep in mind while root rot is always a possible risk and the signs are similar to dry out when viewing the foliage. It is not something that happens frequently. Simply put the factors that would keep the trees soil constantly wet would have to include:

Very little sunlight to no direct sun.

A position that is poorly ventilated.

Watering

For those who are interested in wiring now is the best time of year to be wiring. I would advise against any real heavy bending. This technique is more for mid-winter. It would be ideal to remove any wire on your trees that was attached last year.

Try to cut the coils as opposed to unwiring by hand. As it may break branches unnecessarily or bump off very important buds.

Fertilising

At this time of year use a mixture of seaweed extract such as Seasol or its equivalent and a high potassium fertilizer such as Manutec Bloom Booster or Richlea Better Bloom.

I also found if your tree is lagging in health Nitrosol, Amino gro, and other nitrogen balanced fertilisers are great to bring growth too.

My advice is use discretion depending on your overall trees need. I would recommend fertilizing at half strength every 2 to 3 weeks or once a month at full strength until the leaves drop off your maple trees. (That is usually my sign to stop fertilising)

Your ratio should be at half strength and that is regardless of the size of your watering can.

We use this type of fertilizer because it will stimulate them after the long summer; causes a thickening of the trunk.



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– or 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. Bookings Now Available. Contact Jillian—0407 361 989**
- Sat-Aug 3: Open Workshop Advance Native Nursery 10.00am-2pm.**
- Wed-Aug- 21: Club Night and Workshop—Ways for mixing a soil that will stay on a flat surface to grow a tree 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 the last Club Night for the year. Please bring along a Plate to Share for supper.

2025 Club Nights will resume again on Wed, Jan 15th

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

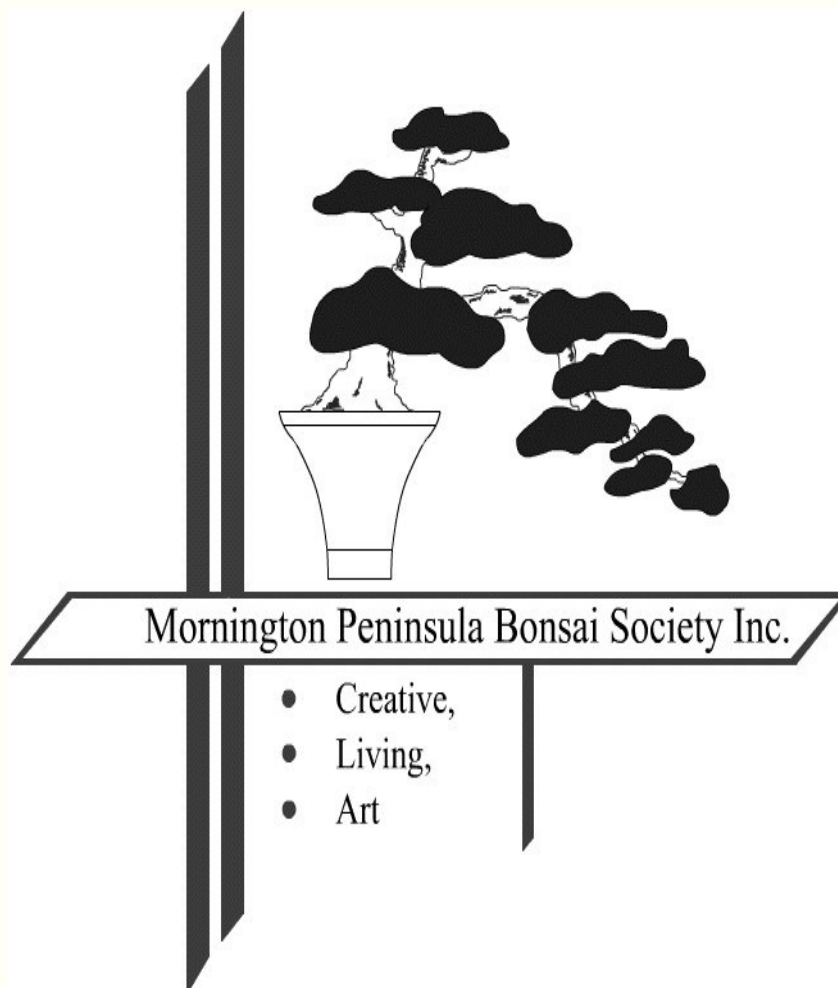
**Our Sickies: If you know of a member who is not well,
please let me know.**



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/176077959775277/?mibextid=oMANbw>



Established: 1979