



Mornington Peninsula Bonsai Soc Inc

JANUARY 2025

NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 15th January, 2025

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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.



Hi members,

Here we are, at the start of 2025, I hope all your trees have survived the spate of hot weather we are having and have had over the last couple of weeks.

Happy New Year from Steve, Jeff, Russell, Gwen, Thelma and myself.

Our first meeting for the year on the 15th February will be all about the Ficus Fig, so bring along your trees for the Display table and any that you might be having a problem with—now is the time to be working on Figs, they love the hot weather. Steve will be putting together a grouping of Fig trees.



PORT JACKSON FIG—This Fig I inherited from my mother, it is now 60 years old.

INFORMATION FROM OTHER CLUBS

Head Start for the 2025 Convention

Members of the Mornington Peninsula Bonsai Society have been invited to register early for the AABC 37th National Bonsai Convention to be held in **Canberra in May next year (2025)**.

President of the Canberra Bonsai Society, Tony Gill, has encouraged AABC club members to register before the Early Bird registrations close at the end of October.

Early Bird registration is important for two reasons. It gives club members a \$50 discount on the convention cost and second it means you are more likely to secure a place in the workshops and masterclasses – which are already filling up.

The Canberra Bonsai Society has been working on making the Convention the best it can be.

The four-day program (16-19 May 2025) is packed with demonstrations from internationally and nationally recognised demonstrators, discussions on the future of bonsai, masterclasses, a dinner, welcome reception and tours.

Demonstrators include Jennifer Price from Chicago, Michael Hagedorn from Portland Oregon, Jarrod Bailey from Tasmania, Marcela Ferreira from Victoria and Sam Thompson from the ACT.

The convention also marks the 50th birthday of the Canberra Bonsai Society and will feature an exhibition of high-quality trees from members' collections.

The convention will give delegates the opportunity to have a voice in the future directions of bonsai in Australia. Demonstrators and discussion leaders will raise questions and invite discussion on the changing influences on Australia bonsai practice.

Registration and all the information on the convention (including a welcome video) can be found at www.canberrabonsai.club. Email inquiries can be directed to aabc2025@cbs.org.au

2025 Convention Brochure

<https://www.canberrabonsai.club/images/2025%20Convention/Convention%20brochure%20web%20final.pdf>

https://canberrabonsai.club/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=139&Itemid=2374



Courtesy of the National Bonsai
Aboretum in Canberra

SEASONAL NOTES - January

January Summer

- * Over the Summer, a high nitrogen fertiliser is beneficial to promote strong growth in young plants. Established trees (such as Maples) however will thicken their branches if supplied with too much nitrogen and the overall balance of the tree's design can be lost. For flowering/fruited trees, food higher in potassium promotes better flowers and fruit. This type of fertilizer should be used from January on for most of these species, to encourage good flowering next spring. Once again, do not fertilise when the temperature is above 30 degrees. Seasol is a year round tonic for healthier trees.
- * Check wires on all trees regularly as trunks and branches expand/grow rapidly at this time of year. As new branches harden you may start to apply wire.
- * Pinch back new growth on shoots as early shoots start to grow and elongate. More frequent pinching and nipping will promote the development of fine branches and thicker foliage pads.
- * Maples grow rapidly and put out long shoots. Pinch back to first pair of leaves. Remove shoots with long internodes.
- * As azaleas finish flowering, prune back to maintain shape of the tree. Repot after flowering. Do repotting of natives in January and February.
- * With the warmer weather here, ensure your plants are obtaining sufficient water...remember to water thoroughly and regularly.
- * Regularly check plants for pests and diseases You can defoliate now, if you haven't already done so Sit back and enjoy your trees whilst sipping on your favourite beverage.
- * **Remember that deciduous plants come from cooler climate areas and therefore may need shelter from the hot burning rays of the summer sun Reduce fertilizing during January and February.**
- * **For pines, allow the soil to dry out between watering as this reduces the size of the pine needles.**
- * **Use mesh over your moss to keep the blackbirds away and to go eating elsewhere.**
- * **To keep mosquito larvae from growing on your water trays, put a layer of sand in the bottom.**
- * Keep your trees as free from weeds as you can, so that all the nutrients and space in your pots is available for your trees' roots to utilize. Also remember to rotate them occasionally, so all branches receive an appropriate amount of light. This practice is very important in collections where there are many trees clustered close together and sometimes shading each other from the sun. Branches that don't receive enough light may become weak, or even die, forcing you to alter the design you had planned for that tree.
- * Move tender leafed plants, such as maples into shaded areas to avoid leaf burn. Lots of water is still needed.



Courtesy of the National Bonsai Arboretum
in Canberra

BONSAI CALENDAR 2025

- JAN: Check/Remove wires, Water/Feed regularly Good time to work on Figs, 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, check for pests and diseases, water regularly.
- DEC: Fig pruning and repotting, water regularly.

VIETNAM—BONSAI that I found when arriving at one of the Hotels we stayed in just before Christmas, beautiful, but I couldn't find out how old they are. Photo at the Bottom is the root and branch structure of the tree on the left.



Diary Dates 2025



- Wed-Jan 15: **Club Night** - Steve Fig Grouping Demonstration—7.30 pm
- Sat-Feb 1: Open Workshop Jillian's house. Coffee provided, BYO Lunch.
- Wed-Feb 19: **Club Night TBA**
- Sat-Mar 1: Open Workshop Jillian's house. Coffee provided, BYO Lunch
10.00am-2pm.
- Wed-Mar 19: **Club Night TBA**
- Sat-Apr 5: Open Workshop Jillian's house. Coffee provided, BYO Lunch
10.00am-2pm.
- Wed-Apr 16: **Club Night TBA**
- Sat-May 4: Open Workshop Jillian's house. Coffee provided, BYO Lunch
10.00am-2pm.
- Wed-May 14: **Club Night TBA**
- Wed-June 18: **Club Night**—Don de Luca talking about all that is Bonsai
- Sat-June 21: Don de Luca Paid Work shops at the home of Jillian. 9.00—12MD and 1.00 to 4.00pm**
- Wed-July 16: **Club Night TBA**
- Sat-Aug 2: Open Workshop Jillian's house. Coffee provided, BYO Lunch
10.00am-2pm.
- Wed-Aug 20: **Club Night TBA**
- Sept 6: Open Workshop Jillian's house. Coffee provided, BYO Lunch
10.00am-2pm.
- Wed-Sept 17: **Club Night TBA**
- Sat-Oct 4: Open Workshop Jillian's house. Coffee provided, BYO Lunch .
- Wed-Oct 15: Club Night - Quentin Valentine—Natives & Others
- Wed Nov 19 : Club Night-AGM-Christmas Breakup and the last Club Night for the Year. Please bring along a Plate to Share for supper



**2026 Year will resume again on Wed, Jan 21st, Club Night.
Open Workshops will still be at the home of Jillian Lewis from
Saturday, Feb 1st, 10.00am–2pm. Probably for all of 2026.**

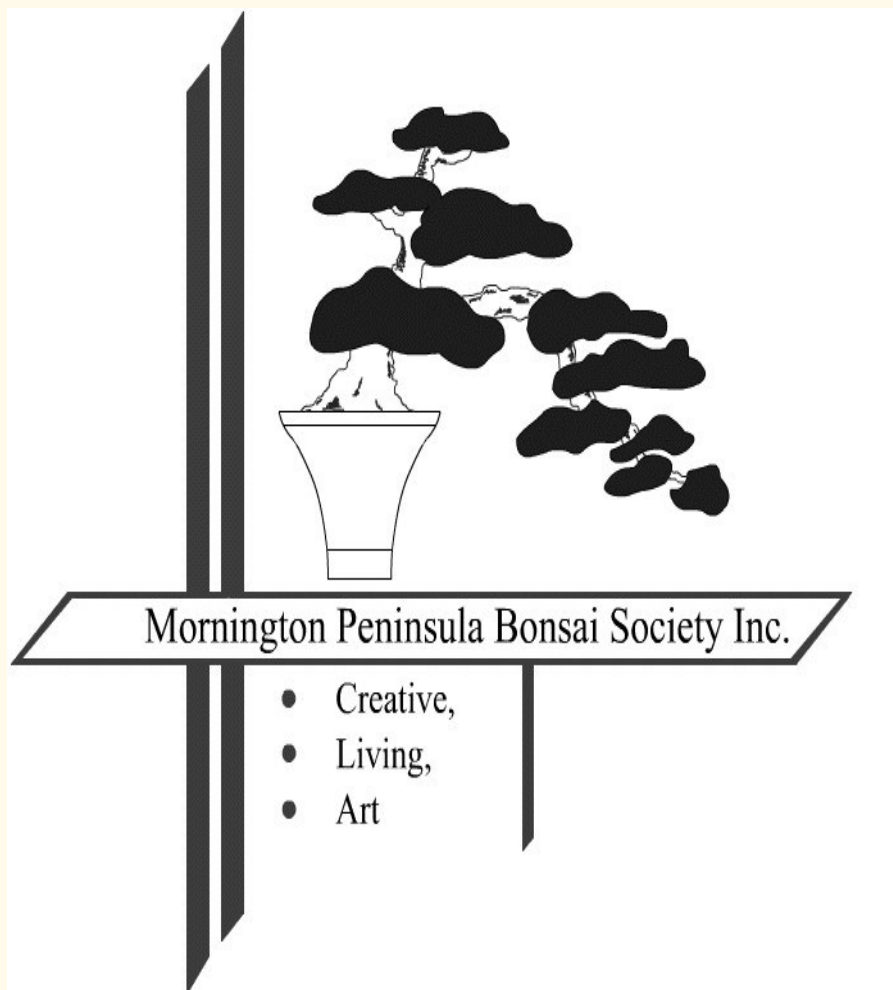
Please, do not forget to bring along a tree for the Display Table each month.

Thank you.

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/new members in 2024.

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

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



Established: 1979