



## Newsletter February 2025 in this issue

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## President's Message

### President's Message

Bonsai meetings are now back in full swing, and I'm hoping that you are enjoying applying new and old skills to develop your tree while they are growing vigorously.

For 2025, the committee has been working hard to come up with an informative and entertaining program, featuring some favourite events and speakers, plus some new ones. As we are a club run for it's members, please let us know what works and what doesn't; and what you want less of or more of. And if you have a desire to help, why not join the committee in 2025 by nominating yourself for election at our AGM on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February?

Committee's work best by having people with a broad range of views and experience to fill executive roles such as President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, but also Membership Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster & Social Media Liaison or Community Engagement Officer. All positions are declared open during the AGM, and committee members will be voted in by members. Although most of the current committee are standing for re-election, it is important that there is renewal of people and ideas to guide the club's future.

Nomination forms have been sent out to all members by email, but will also be available from the sign-in desk prior to the meeting starting at 12:30 pm. It is important that these are filled in and

## Upcoming Events 2025

- ❖ February Meeting – Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> (AGM)
- ❖ National Bonsai Convention 16-19 May 2025
- ❖ RBS Annual Show 23<sup>rd</sup> March

*Membership fee now due*  
*Banking details for on-line renewals are:*  
*Name: Redlands Bonsai Society Inc*  
*BSB: 633000*  
*Account Number: 169724416*

handed back prior to the beginning of the AGM. Also please remember that only financial members are eligible for election or voting at the AGM.

After the AGM, Stephen Cullum will be providing a presentation on getting your bonsai "show" ready, what judges will be looking for, and providing a preshow critique (where you would like it) for trees put up the front for display.

Speaking of which our Annual Show will be held on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at the Donald Simpson Centre in Cleveland.

- Set-up will be from 12 Noon on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March (in place of our normal meeting).
- The show opens to the public from 9am to 3pm on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Karen is collecting names for volunteers to help set-up (Saturday) and pack down (Sunday), as well as look after the various positions on the Sunday. We'd really appreciate as much help as possible to make the set-up and pack down especially, both swift and painless.
- We will soon have Display Agreement Form and Sales Agreement Forms available by email, on put up on the website. A limited number at February's meeting for those without access to a printer.

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From the show, we are also looking to attract new members. We have already put out the call for "buddies" to introduce new members and guests around, and to show them the ropes at our meetings. A positive experience at the first meeting is so important for enjoyment. Thank you to those that have volunteered so far, but please let Karen know if you can assist with this.

*Looking forward to seeing you all on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.*

Happy Bonsai

Nick

## *What's in your soil part 2*

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Following last month's excellent article from Tony on soils we are now presenting Part 2.

### **KANUMA**

Even though it is different with its pale yellow colour Kanuma is also a volcanic soil. It is mined near the city of Kanuma, 100km away from Toyoko. It is dried to 300 degrees after being mined. It has a pH of 5.5 which is more acidic than Akadama. Because of its pH it is suited for plants that love acidic soil such as Azaleas and Camellias. Kanuma can promote fibrous roots and encourage oxygen in the soil. Its lightweight nature ensures it is free draining which can prevent root rot.

### **Kanuma**



### **COIR**

This is sourced from coconut husks and is a natural fibre. It is easily rehydrated and can hold approx. 8 times its own weight in water. It aerates the soil which promotes root health and has a neutral pH. It has the advantage of being a sustainable product and is lightweight. Another advantage is that it does not shrink before rehydration, and it can contain up to 22% air.



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## ORCHIATA PRECISION PINE BARK 3 – 6 mm

This product is also sustainable and sourced from radiata pine bark in New Zealand. It is a renewable product grown in plantations and is suitable for many different uses. The pH is balanced and its air filled porosity is approx 50 %, as is its water holding capacity. Because it is aged it does not suffer from nitrogen drawdown. Helps with aeration and is used in a mix to help with water retention.



## SAKADAMA

This product is a kiln fired clay that is fired at 600 °C in a rotary kiln which creates a hard, wear resistant particle which retains the natural attapulgite clays absorbent properties. Sakadama is typically mixed with Pumice, Perlite, pine bark etc. to create an ideal growing mix for each Bonsai's specific climate. Sakadama promotes root growth and branch development. This is accomplished by the product being low density, improving drainage and increasing nutrient and moisture retention.

## SAKADAMA



## IN SUMMARY

You can use these components in many different combinations. The club mix I retail contains equal parts scoria, zeolite and pine bark. Keith's mix which is similar to the mix Boon uses is Akadama, pumice and scoria. Pine bark can be added to this mix to retain more moisture. I have also been experimenting with a mix using coir and sakadama, which has mostly the same properties as Akadama. You must also use caution when changing your mix, especially when using a free draining or inorganic mix. NEVER put your best tree into a new mix until you try it in your micro climate and watering regime. Just because it works really well for Joe in Blogsville doesn't mean it suits you in your area. Another important aspect is particle size. The premixes I retail are put through a sieve and all particles are 3-6mm. This is very important – if you use the fine components they can settle to the bottom and stop the water draining. I grow on lots of species in or over a tray of water, and a free draining mostly inorganic mix presents no problem being wet all the time.

*There is no right or wrong mix, just what works for you. Don't be afraid to experiment and see if there is something that can improve your trees.*

Tony

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## *A Bonsai Journey*

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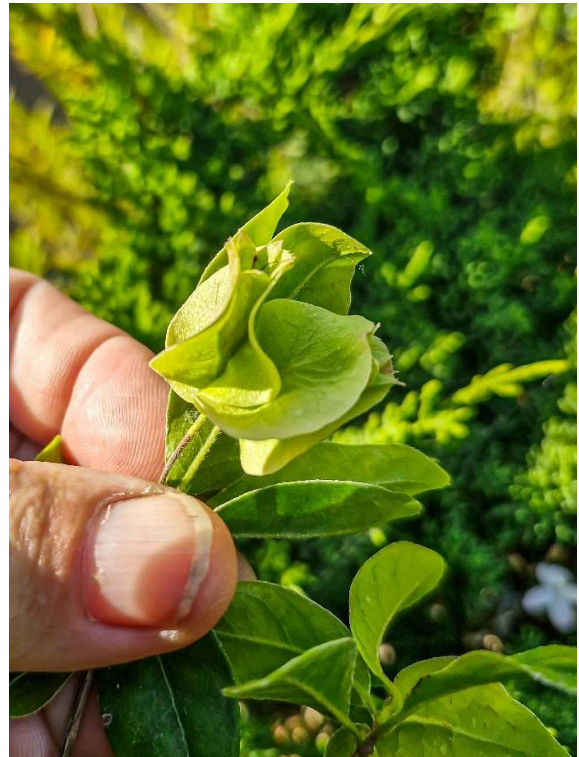
I need to issue a warning ahead of reading the following it can be taken as "R" rated if talked about in mixed company or with family members.

I often look to varying my tree growing interests through air-laying, cutting and growing trees from seeds. Seeds give me the most pleasure seeing them break through the soil surface and I believe that trees grown from seeds deliver with more vigour early in it's development.

I removed several seeds from a small "Fukin Tea" that has been sitting not doing much in it's pot (please be careful of the annunciation). Putting six seeds into a small punnet within the first week they started to push through the soil and they have never stopped growing strongly.

I have now collected some fruit from *Ligustrum Australianum* (Australian Privet) where I will be washing the seeds and hope to germinate some new plants. The other Australian native that I have collected seeds from are *Dansea Elliptica* and hope to successfully germinate these as well.

Rod



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# REDLANDS BONSAI



Sandy recently when on a walk at the Glasshouse Mountains where *Leptospermum luehmannii* is endemic to the area and shared some great photos of this tree growing in its native habitat in the mountains. It is noted that it is a rare shrub with most attractive smooth reddish-brown bark that sheds in long thin strips. Small white flowers and requires a well-drained sunny site. The Glasshouse Mountains are located near the sunshine coast in QLD.





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# REDLANDS BONSAI



## National Bonsai Convention

### All roads lead to Canberra



Canberra is the easiest Australian capital to get to – a short drive or a shorter flight from Sydney and Melbourne and just a few hours flight from other capitals. If you are driving – particularly from regional NSW – all roads lead to Canberra.

Canberra and the ACT are ablaze with autumn colour in the cooler months. The deciduous bonsai of course follow suit, making another reason to take in a unique Canberra experience.

### Natives: where do they fit in Future Directions?



#### For more information:



SCAN THE CODE to visit  
Convention website:  
[www.canberrabonsai.club](http://www.canberrabonsai.club)

Here you'll find detailed profiles of the demonstrators, the complete program and pricing for the four days, venue information, video links and access to registration.

The website is where you can book your place for the 2025 convention.

Email us with any questions or queries at: [aabc2025@cbs.org.au](mailto:aabc2025@cbs.org.au)

#### Other useful sites:

Canberra tourism: [VisitCanberra.com.au](http://VisitCanberra.com.au)

Rex Hotel: [canberrarexhotel.com.au](http://canberrarexhotel.com.au)

National Arboretum Canberra:

[nationalarboretum.act.gov.au](http://nationalarboretum.act.gov.au)

National bonsai collection:

[nationalarboretum.act.gov.au](http://nationalarboretum.act.gov.au)  
(National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia)



Produced by



37th AABC  
**National  
Bonsai  
Convention**  
Canberra Bonsai Society Inc

### We invite you to join us in Canberra for the 2025 Association of Australian Bonsai Clubs Convention

The four-day program is packed with internationally and nationally recognised demonstrations, discussions on the future, masterclasses, a dinner, welcome reception and tours.

Join the 50th birthday celebrations of the Canberra Bonsai Society and see an exhibition of high-quality trees from members' collections.

Future

### Five reasons to join us in Canberra in May 2025:

- 1. Your future.** The convention gives you the opportunity to have a voice in the future directions of bonsai in Australia. The Canberra Bonsai Society marks 50 years of achievement in 2025 – and now with AABC wants the bonsai community to look ahead at trends into the future – that's the theme for the convention – Future Directions 2025. Demonstrators and discussion leaders will raise questions and invite discussion on the changing influences on Australian bonsai practice.
- 2. Venues.** Venues are international standard including Canberra's 4.5 rated Rex Hotel conference facilities and the Margaret Whitlam Pavilion at the award-winning National Arboretum Canberra.
- 3. Canberra's best.** The opportunity to look over the Canberra Bonsai Society's convention exhibition of members' bonsai – curated as the best in the ACT in 2025.
- 4. Trees aplenty.** Whether your interest is in Australian natives or exotic species, there will be trees aplenty (some for auction) and also pots a plenty (there's a session on ceramics on Sunday), auctions and raffles and with a planned vendors section, there's a feast for the bonsai enthusiast.
- 5. Only in Canberra.** In Canberra you will get an insight into the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection (with its nationally famous bonsai) and the National Arboretum Canberra (a mosaic of living forests with over 44,000 rare and endangered trees across a 250-hectare site).

### International and national demonstrators

Our acclaimed demonstrators will bring their expertise, experience and artistry to the convention in demonstrations and masterclasses.



**Jennifer Price**, from Chicago, developed the art of movement as a ballerina, and now trains her bonsai to dance. Jennifer views bonsai as a living art that is constantly evolving. She emphasises the importance of continuous learning.



**Michael Hagedorn** is an artist in various media from Portland, Oregon, and is well-known internationally as a writer, teacher and leading bonsai practitioner.



**Jarrod Bailey** is a Tasmanian bonsai artist who draws inspiration from the wild hill country where he lives and works. He has adapted traditional bonsai techniques to Tasmanian natives despite the lack of information on many species.



**Marcela Ferreira** is a Victorian bonsai artist who has followed her love of Australian native flora to make her reputation as a specialist in Australian native bonsai.



**Sam Thompson** is a young Canberra bonsai artist who has created some of the most innovative bonsai displayed at recent exhibitions, by thinking outside the pot. Sam has been the Assistant Curator of the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia since 2017.

### Future Directions

In a changing world,  
Australian bonsai artists  
ask what the future holds.



The Association of Australian Bonsai Clubs (AABC) and the Canberra Bonsai Society are taking up this challenge at the 2025 National Convention.

Across the four days of the 2025 Convention the demonstrators and leaders will raise and invite discussion on the twists and turns in the road ahead.

What will influence Australian bonsai practice and what does that look like? Influence from Europe and Asia, emerging technology and the changing environment are just some of the possibilities.

#### The sorts of questions that will get an airing include:

- How does a 21st-century future fit with an ancient and traditional art form?
- Should future directions be guided by the philosophical roots of bonsai rather than the specific Japanese canon that arose from these?
- Does the use of native species constitute a distinct school of bonsai?
- Where is the balance between bonsai as a home hobby and the display of elite trees?
- Is the tree the item of focus? Or can the pot or the display setting be the star?
- Does the scope include things associated with bonsai such as viewing stones, accent plants, tekonomas and scrolls?
- Should future directions be led by civic and often local objectives such as environmental sustainability – including water consumption, winter heating, collecting native or invasive species.

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# REDLANDS BONSAI



*January Meeting Day trees show case*

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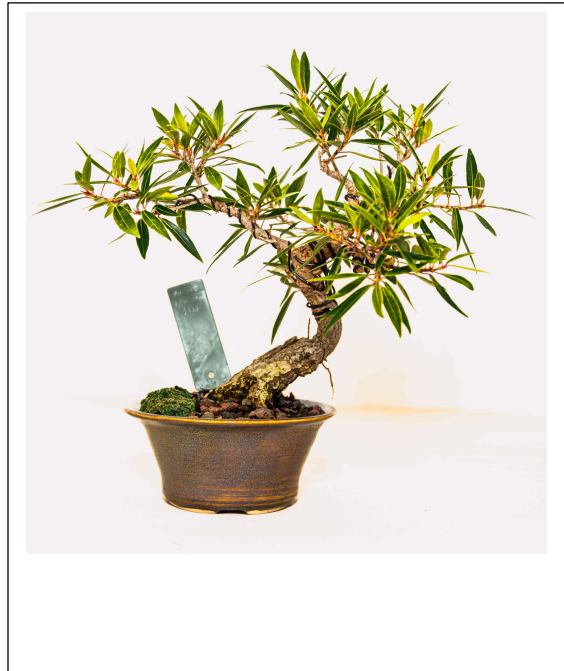
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*AGM - February 22nd*

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**Important Note: to be eligible to vote you must be a financial member.**

If you are looking for a great opportunity to get involved in your club, think about joining the committee. There is no skill required only your enthusiasm and love of all things bonsai.

Our AGM is scheduled for February 22nd at our meeting.

**All positions will be open for nomination and voting**, and we hope you take the opportunity to nominate for a position and become involved.



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Zeolite, Scoria

3 types of pre-mix substrate

Kiryuzuna, Sakadama

Precision Pine Bark

Orchid Pots - all sizes



### *RBS Meeting Protocol*

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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*

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See Course information above - please talk to Steve C if you wish to join in this program.

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## *Learners' Group*

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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*

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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*

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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

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## 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 2024

President: *Nick*

Vice President: *Heather*

Treasurer: *Karen*

Secretary: *Noreen*

Newsletter: *Rod*

Member: *Eugene*

Member: *Ryan*

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
	29	Sun	Guest Demonstrator - Quentin Valentine (VNBC & Bonsai Northwest)	12:15pm for a 12:30pm start
July	26	Sat	Workshops with Quentin	2 Sessions - 8:30am - 4:00pm
August	23	Sat	Members Workshop & Learners Group	10:30am - 12pm
			Senior Members Presentations & Winter Warmer Session	12:15pm for a 12:30pm start
			Members Workshop continues + Side Demonstrations	Demonstrations from 12:30pm
September	27	Sat	Members Workshop & Learners Group	10:30am - 12pm
	28	Sun	Guest Demonstrator - Marija Hajdić - Meleda Bonsai Studio (Croatia)	12:15pm for a 12:30pm start
October	25	Sat	Workshops with Marija	2 Sessions - 8:30am - 4:00pm
November	23	Sun	Members Workshop & Learners Group	10:30am - 12pm
			Members Workshop continues + Side Demonstrations	from 12pm
			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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