



## *Newsletter June 2023 in this issue*

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## *President's Message*

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Hello

I hope you are all well and enjoying the cooler weather. I have just chopped down 90% of the trees in my bonsai area and now my trees are getting a lot more of the sun light and seem to be enjoying it.

Our last meeting was a demo by Tony Watt on his tiny trees. A very informative afternoon for all who attended. Thanks to Tony for sharing his knowledge and tricks for keeping these small bonsai alive and thriving. Great arvo. We also had our first learners' group for the year with our seniors assisting us with their expertise and advice for the new members. Thanks guys. Our next meeting is Saturday June 24th at midday. We are having our second "Ugly tree day". Last year this was a great success with heaps of members bringing in their problem trees for advice from the group. This time we thought we would add an extra spin on it with the opportunity to swap or sell your ugly tree with other members if you want to, could be a bit of fun. After afternoon tea, you can work on your tree to implement the suggestions made if you want to. Hope to see you all on the 24th. Karen 😊

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## *Upcoming Events 2023*

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- ❖ **Mid-Year Meeting – June 24<sup>th</sup> Ugly Tree Day**
- ❖ **Next Meeting July 22<sup>nd</sup> Workshop/Deciduous tree wiring & pruning. Learners Group 11am**
- ❖ **"Bonsai Gone Native" 15-16<sup>th</sup> July**
- ❖ **Bonsai Society of Queensland – Annual Show Sep 10<sup>th</sup>**
- ❖ **Toowoomba Bonsai Society – Annual Show September 16th & 17th**

## *Club update membership fee*

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Your committee has decided to reduce the membership fees back down to \$25 single and \$35 for a family. Those of you who have paid the \$40 fees are eligible for a refund. If you would like a \$15 refund, please send your bank details to me at karen.freeland@outlook.com and I will reimburse you.

## *Gone Native bonsai event*

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On 15-16 July 2023, Bimer will be holding the Bonsai Gone Native event to showcase native bonsai. We would like to invite all members of bonsai clubs in the Southeast QLD area to participate by displaying a native tree. The event will be held at the Mt Coot-Tha Botanic Gardens Auditorium. We are hoping to showcase the best native bonsai. If you would like to display a tree, could you please submit a photo along with details (tree type, height and width dimensions) to [info@bimerbonsai.org.au](mailto:info@bimerbonsai.org.au). Submissions for consideration need to be sent by the end of Friday 7th July. Multiple tree submissions are welcome. We hope to get as many of the clubs involved in what is shaping up to be a big weekend and we would like to see a great variety of trees. We are making this a native only event, so would like any accent plants to be native as well.

# REDLANDS BONSAI



*In My Garden - June 2023*

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The cool weather has certainly arrived and with it a time when there is nothing really to be gained by anything more than the lightest touch on our trees. Best to allow them to marshal their resources for the spring.

And so, while there is not much to do right now with our collections there is always something happening of bonsai interest. Bimer are putting on an event in from July 14 to 16 which is all about the use of native species in bonsai. They are running it in collaboration with the Botanic Gardens at Mt Coot-tha and have engaged Marcella Ferreira and Hugh Grant as demonstrators/tutors.

In the bonsai game, getting some exposure to a variety of ideas, approaches and aesthetics is very helpful to help refine our own choices and preferences as well as techniques. The event offers workshops and demonstrations, some paid and some not. Bookings are essential for the paid workshops.

An exhibition will also be mounted of only native trees and Bimer are looking for bonsai from all clubs in SEQ. If we can pull in the best from that large pool of enthusiasts, it should be a stellar display of what can be done with native species. There will be other info in the newsletter about that but do please consider what contribution you might make to such an exhibition. There will be a photographic selection process.

So, while there's not much work to be done on your trees take the time to do some on yourself and let's see what we can do to aid the promotion of natives in bonsai too.

Happy Bonsai

Steve



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## *Insight of a Bonsai beginner*

In the last couple of newsletters in this column I have discussed growing trees from cuttings and seeds. I thought I would now discuss and hopefully encourage you to take on a quicker method in the form of air layering to cut down the time and to give you an instant tree to grow and develop.

When I first started growing plants and cuttings to start a bonsai what I then thought was the correct way which was sourced from multimedia was to grow the tree to have a large trunk. What I ended up with was several small trees in pots 5 foot high, but I did achieve thicker trunks but not in a form good enough to turn into a bonsai not in the short term anyway.

Having grown the material to work with and seeing a demonstration at the club some time ago I decided to give it a go. I started with air layering a Benjamina Fig as I thought it would be the easiest to start and using the three top branches of the tree I ended up with three trees what I hope will turn into bonsai.

Now all three have a good root structure where I can start to wire and cut back to initiate the shaping process. Also, a number of attempts failed where the callus tissue grew back over the Cambium layer, this happened on what I believed would have been the easiest tree, i.e. Chinese Elms and Natal Figs. I can only think they were in such a growth mode they rejoined the layers, later I had success when re-attempted.

I have achieved great success with Melalaleuca linarifolia where they looked have the fastest to obtain root growth of all the trees I have tried.

Although I started to air layer as a bonsai learning lesson and to understand the idiosyncrasies of trees I know have the understanding to be able undertake the process to a treasured tree and have the knowledge and tools to undertake a successful procedure.

*Has anyone else tried air layering and on what trees and what are your learning outcomes?*

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Air layering of a Benjamina and a Sand Paper Fig



Callus tissue regrowth and good set of roots on a Melaleuca Bracteata



Melalaleuca linarifolia root growth



## Banksia spinulosa

### Hairpin Banksia

Banksia spinulosa, the hairpin banksia, is a species of woody shrub, native to eastern Australia. Widely distributed, it is found as an understorey plant in open dry forest or heathland from Victoria to northern Queensland. It generally grows as a small shrub to 2 metres in height, though can be a straggly tree to 6 metres. It has long narrow leaves with flowers which can vary considerably in colour from black, purple, red, orange or yellow. The hairpin banksia's floral display and fine foliage have made it a popular garden plant with many horticultural selections available. With the recent trend towards smaller gardens, compact dwarf forms of Banksia spinulosa have become popular; the first available, Banksia 'Birthday Candles', has achieved a great deal of commercial success and wide recognition, and has been followed by several others. There are more than 75 species of banksia across Australia and can be found in many habitats. They are often used in bonsai cultivation. Banksia are one genus of a small number of native trees which are intolerant of one of the primary ingredients of garden fertilizer, phosphate.



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## *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 2023 program calendar or check out the website.

The hall will be open at 11am for members and visitors' meetings, with committee meetings to be held from 11am before each normal meeting.

### **Foundations Development Program**

This is a course of 8 x 3hr lessons, please talk to Steve C if you wish to join in this program.

### **Learners' Group**

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.

### **Workshops**

Meetings generally consist of workshops and/or demonstrations. Tables will be provided for members to work on their trees.

Bring trees that need work, or trees for which you would like some advice. More experienced members are encouraged to share their accumulated knowledge with the newer members.

### **Name Badges**

Name badges are provided by the club, and we encourage everyone to wear them at the meeting allowing everyone to converse with other members by name.

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## **Door Prize / Raffle**

At each meeting there will be door and raffle prizes drawn. Members displaying trees will be given a free raffle ticket. Do not forget to let the people on the front desk know you are entitled to a free ticket if you have brought a display tree.

## *Annual Fees*

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### **Fees for 2023.**

Our membership fees for 2023 have now been reviewed and the updated fees are included in the newsletter above for your information. There will still be a raffle for those who want to participate. Fees are due by the end of this year (2023).

Banking details for online renewals as follows:

Name: Redlands Bonsai Society Inc – BSB

633000 – Account 169724416

Fee arrangements are as follows:

- ❖ Annual fees are payable from the date of the AGM in November, for the following calendar year.
- ❖ For members, fees unpaid on 31st March in the year make the member unfinancial and no newsletter or other club services will be available until membership fees are paid.
- ❖ New Members who join the club in the first 6 months of the calendar year pay full membership rates.
- ❖ Members joining after 30th June pay ½ fee for that year. They will thereafter be required to pay a full year fee from November for the following calendar year.
- ❖ Participation in exhibiting in the annual show, selling product at the show or at meetings, receiving the newsletter and voting at the AGM are not available to non-financial members.

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## *Workshop Meetings*

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Workshop Meetings are scheduled as outlined below in the yearly calendar.

The purpose of these workshop meetings is for both novice and experienced members to work on and discuss their bonsai trees in an informal environment. Experienced bonsai artists are available to answer and assist with any queries and questions. Please reach out to any of these members. Always remember advice comes with many opinions so weigh up all the information provided and follow the advice you are most comfortable with. What story do you want your trees to tell?

### **Your Committee Members for 2023**

President: Karen F.

Vice President: Heather L.

Treasurer: Nick J.

Secretary: Noreen C.

New member greeter: Julie B.

Newsletter: Rod C.

Member: Mel B.

Member: Julie B.

Member: Sandy C.

Member: Ryan M.

You are welcome to join the committee to help add your voice to the operation of the club. It is always good to get feedback and suggestions and your input is always welcome to advance the club experience.

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REDLANDS BONSAI SOCIETY - PROGRAM FOR 2023				
Month	Date	Day	Meetings and Workshops	Additional activities
January	28	Sat	Committee Meeting	11am
			Foster tree return / Show raffle tree rework with Steve	Learners group from 11am
February	25	Sat	Committee Meeting	11am
			AGM 2022/2023 Prep your trees for show / Workshop	From 12pm
March	25	Sat	Show Setup	
	26	Sun	<b>Annual Show</b>	
April	22	Sat	Committee Meeting	11am
			Forest trees bring back and forest making demo	From 1200
May	27	Sat	Committee Meeting	11am
			Talk on Minis with Tony Watt and arvo workshop	Learners group from 11am Meeting 12pm
June	24	Sat	Committee Meeting	11am
			Ugly Tree day Problem tree advice session	From 1200
July	22	Sat	Committee Meeting	11am
			Workshop / Deciduous tree wiring and pruning	Learners group from 11am Meeting 12pm
August	26	Sat	Committee Meeting	11am
			Jeff Bray from Gold Coast Tweed Club	From 1200
September	23	Sat	Committee Meeting	11am
			Workshop	Learners group from 11am
October	28	Sat	<b>RBS Market Day</b>	
November	25	Sat	Committee Meeting	11am
			Native Tree bring back and native workshop Q&A	From 12pm
December	9	Sat	<b>Christmas Party</b>	

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