



Newsletter January 2025 in this issue

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President's Message

President's Message

Firstly, thank you to all Redlands Members, for your amazing support last year. Whether you gave a presentation, helped run, set up or pack up our events or meetings, or offered advice to another member, you have all contributed to this great club.

The committee have been hard at work refining the program for 2025, balancing the requirements for teaching, opportunities for you to display your trees, workshops and getting guests to present and provide workshops. We are excited to bring 2 brand new presenters to Brisbane for our club this year.

To keep our club strong, we need to continue to attract new members. I know that one of the reasons I am with Redlands is that I felt incredibly comfortable with the experience and was assigned a buddy (thank you Gerry) at my very first meeting. We are calling for volunteers in 2025 for our buddy system for new members, to help introduce them around to the people and facilities for our club, and quietly ask some of those questions that newbies may be afraid to ask out loud or at the time during a meeting. If you are happy to be a buddy for a new

Upcoming Events 2025

- ❖ January Meeting – Saturday 25th
- ❖ National Bonsai Convention 16-19 May 2025
- ❖ RBS Annual Show 23rd March

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

member, can you please let a member of the committee know.

Still thinking about going to the 2025 AABC Conference in Canberra? Get your skates on, as over 80% of delegate spots have already been filled, which is no surprise given the great line-up of local and international demonstrators. Saturday and Sunday registration is \$395, and there are several workshops being held by the featured bonsai artists on the Friday and Monday. Proceeds of these conventions go towards AABC's Visiting Tutor Program that assist with travel costs for visiting presenters such as Hugh Grant. And you won't be alone, as there are several Redlands Members making the journey. Details and registration can be found on the Canberra Bonsai Society special page - [2025 AABC Bonsai Convention - Canberra Bonsai Society](#)

As a volunteer organisation, at February's AGM we will be looking for new faces and fresh ideas to join our committee. Although the current committee members have indicated a willingness to continue this year, it is natural to bring on new members each year to broaden the skill set and allow committee members to step down when they'd like to. At the AGM all roles are declared vacant and are available (to be determined by popular vote). If you think you might have something to

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contribute, please contact myself or a committee member about more information. Roles include President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, along with other committee members looking after areas as broad as event planning, membership, trade table, governance, social media and grants/sponsorship.

It is a great opportunity to learn new skills, and whatever support you need will be provided.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our next meeting on Saturday 25th January. We would love to see as many faces as possible to welcome the new year back in.

What's in your soil

There are many different components in a modern bonsai soil mix. Years ago, the only mixes available were Debco Bonsai Mix or Plugger. While they were an improvement on standard potting mixes, they didn't really address the specific needs of a bonsai tree. The mix needs to be free draining, so the roots don't rot. The mix needs to be open – larger size particles – to allow air to assist in root development. It needs to have the ability to hold and release water and nutrients. Mixes also need to be dense enough to keep the tree stable in the pot and give it some weight to stay on the benches.

Below is a list of some of the more common components and what they do. Remember – what works for someone in their area with their watering habits and local climate may not work for you. Always experiment with a new mix on your crappiest tree first. If it thrives then you can try another and so forth.

SCORIA

This is a volcanic rock that is dark coloured and is ejected from a volcano during an eruption. It is covered in holes from gas bubbles and is heavier than pumice. These holes are called vesicles, and they can hold water and improve your soil mix. The dark colour is pleasant to look at and its relative weight to other components adds to pot and tree stability.



ZEOLITE

It is a rock with many facets and due to its porous nature, it retains water and nutrients and provides aeration. Zeolite serves as a wetting agent due to it being highly porous and can hold and release cations. These are positively charged molecules including Potassium and Nitrogen. It gradually releases them into the tree and makes very effective use of the nutrients. Another weightier component that helps with stability.



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AKADAMA

Almost exclusively mined in Japan, Akadama is another product from volcanic activity. It can be used as a single component or combined with others such as scoria and pumice. One advantage of Akadama is that it turns a darker brown when moist which can assist with determining when to water. It has a very high moisture retention for an inorganic component and a high cation exchange capacity.



PUMICE

This is also a volcanic rock, but it is lighter and much more porous compared to Scoria. It is usually light coloured, even white in colour. It is basically porous volcanic glass. When super-heated high pressured rock is ejected from a volcano it forms pumice. Because it is rapidly depressurized and cooled the bubbles are formed in a matrix. It is these bubbles which give it a high cation exchange rate and the ability to hold water.

Tony Sumpton



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A Bonsai Journey

With the opportunity of reflection and a new year dawning I look back at what I have achieved in 2024 and what I was challenged with in my bonsai journey.

I have started listening to a bonsai podcast and one fact that stood out to me that I will be taking on board for this year and that is ***"doing nothing is worse than doing something on your tree"***. I can attest to this fact as several of my trees have grown out of all proportion and the opportunity to correct the branch and trunk structure has bypassed me and only a drastic trunk chop will bring the tree back into proportion and then another 2-3 years of waiting and further refinement work.

The good news is most of my plants are now natives and with their fast growth habits it gives me the opportunity to have a quicker learning path in styling and care. If you're new to the bonsai community these are worthwhile subjects to gain achievements more quickly and are a very delightful tree to work with before you may be considering moving on to more challenging species.

I will be looking to take the opportunity to work consistently and frequently with the 5 native tube stock giveaways that we received from the club. I hope all your trees that you received are growing well and achieving a good style early in the growth habit of the tree.

I have Included some photos of my young trees from the native stock giveaway. I would love to share through the newsletter your journey with the native stock you received.

Rod



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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

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

Other useful sites:
Canberra tourism: VisitCanberra.com.au
Rex Hotel: canberrarexhotel.com.au
National Arboretum Canberra: nationalarboretum.act.gov.au
National bonsai collection: 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 Whillam 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.

Jarryd 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, tokonoma 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



Market Day Photo's



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Native trees show case

We will be showcasing a new tree from our last market day each month here in the newsletter. Some photos on the day are below.



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AGM - February 22nd

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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Tony's Bonsai Supplies

Tony@handeesolutions.com.au 0405 137 996

Items we stock

Akadama

Japanese Pumice

NZ Pumice, Kanuma

Zeolite, Scoria

3 types of pre-mix substrate

Kiryuzuna, Sakadama

Precision Pine Bark

Orchid Pots - all sizes



RBS Meeting Protocol

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

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

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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.

Sign-in and Raffle

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

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.

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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
			Members Workshop & Learners Group	10:30am - 12pm
August	23	Sat	Senior Members Presentations & Winter Warmer Session	12:15pm for a 12:30pm start
			Members Workshop & Learners Group	10:30am - 12pm
			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
			Members Workshop & Learners Group	10:30am - 12pm
November	23	Sun	Members Workshop continues + Side Demonstrations	from 12pm
			Members Workshop & Learners Group	10:30am - 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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