



# WIRED

The Quarterly Magazine  
of the Association of  
Australian Bonsai Clubs Ltd



SPRING 2009



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- Bonsai in New Zealand
- Visiting Tutor Profile
- Suiseki Australia
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## BONSAI ARTIST-TREE

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# From the Editor's Desk

## Welcome

Spring has arrived and many people are still praying for good Spring rains to assist with the precious water needed to keep our households, gardens and bonsai trees alive.

Enthusiasts will be busy doing all the cleaning and minor restyling required on their bonsai trees in preparation for the many exhibitions planned around the country (more details on page 9).

The AGM is the next event for the AABC Ltd and we look forward to seeing our delegates in Canberra, at the Canberra Press Club and whilst you are there, visit the National Collection and Floriade Festival.

**Glenys Barnes, Editor**

secretary@aabcltd.org

*Remember this magazine is only as good as the information I can obtain and pass onto member clubs. Email any information to me at the above address regarding upcoming events, exhibitions or items of interest so it can be included in the coming issues.*

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## AABC Ltd – Association of Australian Bonsai Clubs Ltd

ACN 115 230 861



President – Lee Wilson  
president@aabcltd.org

Vice President – Lindsay Bebb  
vicepresident@aabcltd.org

Secretary & Editor  
Glenys Barnes  
secretary@aabcltd.org

Treasurer – Ian Glew  
iglew@b022.aone.net.au

Publicity Officer – Kym James  
publicity@aabcltd.org

**AABC Ltd – PO Box 513  
Ascot Vale Vic 3032 [www.aabcltd.org](http://www.aabcltd.org)**

## President's Report

The AABC is very proud that our Aussie talent in bonsai is improving with age, like our trees. We have always been behind the eight ball as we have had to grow all our own trees virtually from seed, or propagating, because of our importation laws, and lack of suitable native flora. (*Yes we are finding lots of suitable trees now*). When we look at bonsai in books or on the internet, we say Wow! Sometimes though if you look very closely these trees you thought were great have been imported from Asia.

Encourage all your club members, friends and family to visit local shows.

You will get a lot more out of visually seeing the trees than looking in books. Plus you get to meet the bonsai artists and usually get to have a cup of tea or coffee to make it a pleasant day out. You will find something to interest you, perhaps see new techniques and methods you never thought of. You can also see some faults with trees and have a different viewpoint (*keep these thoughts to yourself though*).

Spring is here, and so are the shows, so go and visit as many as you can.

**Lee Wilson, President**

## Coming Events:

- New Zealand Bonsai Association  
2009 Convention  
23 - 24 October 2009  
**St Albans Shirley Club, Christchurch, NZ.**  
[www.bonsainz.com](http://www.bonsainz.com)
- 10th Asia-Pacific  
Bonsai and Suiseki Convention  
31 October - 2 November 2009  
**Taiwan, ROC.**  
[www.aspac2009.tw](http://www.aspac2009.tw)
- AABC Ltd - 2010 Convention  
Celebration of Bonsai  
14 - 17 May 2010  
**Bankstown Sports Club, Sydney, NSW.**  
[www.illawarrabonsaisociety.org](http://www.illawarrabonsaisociety.org)



# Visiting Tutor Program

## Visiting Tutor Profile – Derek Oakley

Derek first became interested in Bonsai in the 1980's when he won a Ficus in a raffle. In 1985, he was given a copy of *You Too Can Grow Bonsai In Australia* by Vita and Dorothy Koreshoff. Since then Bonsai has become an integral part of his life.

Thirsting for bonsai knowledge, Derek read all he could and joined the Bonsai Society of Western Australia (BSWA), where he attended all the workshops on offer by visiting tutors, including Peter Adams, Bill Valavanis and Barrington Chee.

Derek served on the committee of BSWA with two years as the president. He is now a life member and also a member of the Bonsai Workshop Inc.



Derek has taught 'Basic Bonsai' at a Bonsai Nursery, TAFE Colleges and the Murdoch University of Horticulture. He has also conducted many demonstrations and workshops in Western Australia and has won numerous awards. He currently has two trees in the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia, Canberra.

Derek is conversant with all styling and specialises in Melaleucas.

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Each year a member club can select a tutor from the Register of National Demonstrators to come and be a guest demonstrator and/or hold workshops at their club. The club will receive some reimbursement of the tutor's travelling expenses or fees.

Comprehensive information about the VTP, along with all the necessary forms, can be gained from the web-site:

[www.aabcltd.org](http://www.aabcltd.org)

### **Level 1 registered demonstrators:**

Mick Balzary, Megumi Bennett, Glenis Bebb, Lindsay Bebb, Tony Bebb, Grant Bowie, Chris Di Nola, Kym James, Dorothy Koreshoff, Ian Lawson, John Marsh, Ted Poynton, Janet Sabey, Brian Sampson, Carole Waller and Lee Wilson.

### **Level 2 registered demonstrators:**

Sue Brennan, Don Deluca, Ian Glew, Takeshi Hamano, Roger Hnatiuk, Roger Lunt, Daniel Mueller, Derek Oakley, Brenda Parker, Richard Roberts, Arthur Robinson, Leigh Taafe, Andrew Ward.

# New Zealand Bonsai Scene

## Report by Dianne Miller



**In New Zealand we have had a great challenge to create our own identity in the art of bonsai. Being at the bottom of the world and upside down can cause different thinking and points of view.**

The first recorded origins of bonsai in New Zealand go back to the 1950's; it could be earlier. There were a number of keen artists who had seen visions in books or on their travels, so the journey began. When I started bonsai in 1980 there was only one book available to purchase, the internet did not exist and confusion reigned supreme. I decided there and then that this art would never develop if one did not just take the bull by the horns and have a go. I was prepared to take risks and experiment. I had nothing to hold me back. The book that I purchased didn't make any sense as, to be honest, trees just did not look like that in New Zealand. Being a purist at heart, to me bonsai was about the tree, not about me making the tree be what I wanted. I tried to bring out the inner beauty that was there for my eyes to see and what I created was an expression of my visions from the reality around me.

This is the true spirit of bonsai design in New Zealand. As we had not been influenced too much in the beginning by imported trees or visiting experts, and are free spirited, our trees reflect this. This country is long, narrow at parts and essentially coastal. There are

extremes of weather. Overall there is a temperate climate and ideal growing conditions for all types of plants. Rain is rarely in short supply so this is 'bonsai heaven'.



The visual panorama is of windblown Kanuka and tea tree, huge Pohutukawa, massive stands of White Pine, lush ferns, and massive Kauri, as well as a vast array of introduced species that grow well in the environment - Pines, Oak, Maples, Juniper and Cedars.



Eventually in the late 1980's, after a few clubs had formed, bonsai in New Zealand began to grow.



# New Zealand Bonsai Scene



This was happening on both islands with club 'get togethers' and eventually conventions. By the 1990's supplies and advice became readily available. Those with a mind for business set up Bonsai Shops, potters got to work and teachers came out of the woodwork. With organization, influence begins. Visitors arrived from afar passing on their great knowledge. Many made great journeys of discovery and came back with words of wisdom. Debate began and confusion reigned supreme.

Eventually out of the dust friendships began to form. Understanding and growth began. Minds opened. Opinions became varied and views were aired and listened to. This was great for bonsai in New Zealand as we were able to share something unique in the world, 'our bonsai vision'.

Bonsai in New Zealand is alive and well and growing stronger every day. There are over seventeen clubs, a national bonsai association, and hundreds of individuals who practice bonsai on their own without this support. There is a national convention held each year, alternating between islands. These are looked forward to and well attended. Exhibitions are held by individual clubs and workshops are held with local and internationally known artists. There are several established artists who are keen to share their knowledge and views.



Now it is up to the artists of New Zealand to grow along with their trees and from the friendships and bonds formed nationally and internationally the sprout of knowledge will grow continually and fill all of us with pleasure and happiness from being a part of nature and it's beauty.

**Dianne Miller**  
**Editor, Bonsai Times**

**New Zealand National Bonsai Convention**

**BEST OF BRITISH**

**Wendy Gibbs**

23 - 25 October 2009

*www.bonsainz.com*

# 2009 BCI Convention - New Orleans, USA

## Report by Ian Glew

Bonsai Clubs International decided to hold their convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, to lend their support to a city trying to rebuild after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.



'Survivors of the Storm' was held in the Botanical Gardens, which opened in 1926 as the New Orleans Rose Garden. The Gardens survived the storm after being under eight foot of water, mainly due to the hard work of volunteers.



The President of BCI, Mr I C Su welcomed delegates to the convention along with the international Bonsai Artists, Peter Chan (UK), Nacho Marin (Venezuela), Sandro Segneri and Massimo Bandera, (Italy), Willi Benz (Germany), Tedy Boy and Budi Sulistyo (Indonesia), I C Su (Taiwan), Glenis and Lindsay Bebb (Australia); America artists were Jim and Linda Brant, Guy Guidry, Ed Trout and Bill Valavanis.



The Bonsai was fabulous and as with all of these conventions old friendships were rekindled and new ones made.





## 2009 BCI Convention - New Orleans, USA

Temperatures were in the high 30's most of the time and fluids needed to be kept up (like most conventions).



A small band of Aussie Bonsai enthusiasts; Lindsay and Glenis Bebb, Ian and Sheila Glew and Dianne Boekhout, ventured to New Orleans to attend the convention. After I prised myself out of the Bourbon Street ND BCI board meeting I headed to the

convention site for a three day action packed Bonsai Convention.



As part of the festivities a book, *The International Bonsai Instructors Registry* was launched by the president. This is a collection of over 100 international artists and an example of each of their trees are reproduced in this book. The book is being sold for US\$150 and a copy was given to every participant at the convention.



To purchase your copy of the *The International Bonsai Instructors Registry* go to [www.bonsai-bci.com](http://www.bonsai-bci.com)

A BCI member club can win one of these books by getting fifteen of their club members to join BCI.

Individuals can also join BCI.

Glenis Bebb and Ian Glew are the Australian directors of BCI and would be happy to provide further information.

Email addresses respectively:  
[glen@bonsainursery.com.au](mailto:glen@bonsainursery.com.au)  
[iglew@b022.aone.net.au](mailto:iglew@b022.aone.net.au)

# Suiseki Australia Update

Report by Brenda Parker

A colleague asked me what do we look for in a stone and after explaining a few tips I thought that it could be a good topic to not only pass on information, but to reaffirm what we have already learnt or maybe have forgotten.

When you go out looking for stones you should always bring two or three home with you that you found interesting. Once you have them home changing them or creating a flat bottom is not necessary. The only thing that is important is that you have the imagination and sensitivity when you look at them. A stone is a natural element and it is possible that you can see in it the embodiment in miniature of a larger natural formation.

When out collecting, our pre-conceived mental pictures are those of a mountain range for example, but there are stones that you may find amusing and charming and there are those that maybe attract your attention. Stones have many colours, designs, patterns



and when you pick them up you may like the feel of them, the coldness of them, the hardness and denseness of them and even their age.

With these thoughts in mind, when you are out collecting think, 'where are you?' Does your area contain coal mines, granite quarries, caverns or even the head of a river? When you start noticing the surroundings where your stone(s) came from you will better appreciate them. Inspect your stone properly before bringing it home and make sure the stone is genuine. Sometimes fragments of brick, concrete or slag have been commonly misidentified as natural stones.

Remember, finding stones that are important to you and that you find joy in are good suiseki. After all, we all can't find perfect mountain stones or animal stones.

**Brenda Parker**

President Suiseki Australia (Sydney)

[www.suisekiaustralia.com](http://www.suisekiaustralia.com)



# Exhibitions and Events



## **ACT:**

Canberra Bonsai Society  
Exhibition has been cancelled.

## **NSW:**

Bonsai Society of Australia  
18 - 20 September 2009  
Baulkham Hills Community Centre.

School of Bonsai  
24 - 25 October 2009  
Ray Nesci Bonsai Nursery, Kenthurst.

Newcastle Bonsai Society  
30 October – 1 November 2009  
Club Macquarie, Argenton.

## **SA:**

South Australian Bonsai Society  
10 – 11 October 2009  
Goodwood Community Centre.

## **QLD:**

Toowoomba Bonsai Club  
18 – 21 September 2009  
Newtown Rose Garden, (New venue).

Redlands Bonsai Society  
20 September 2009  
Donald Simpson Centre.

Sunshine Coast Club  
26 – 27 September 2009  
School of Arts Hall, Woombye.

Bonsai Society of Queensland  
10 – 11 October 2009  
Mt Coot-tha Botanical Gardens.

Gold Coast Tweed Bonsai Club  
14 – 15 November 2009  
Robina Community Centre.

## **VIC:**

Bonsai Society of Victoria  
3 – 4 October 2009  
Box Hill Town Hall.  
Yarra Valley Bonsai Society  
17 October 2009  
Montrose Town Centre Building.

Bonsai Northwest  
24 – 25 October 2009  
Yarraville Club.

Ballarat Bonsai Society  
31 October – 1 November 2009  
Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic  
Gardens.

Geelong Bonsai Group  
31 October – 1 November 2009  
Geelong Masonic Centre, Belmont.

## **WA:**

Bonsai Society of Western Australian  
10 – 11 October 2009  
Fremantle Town Hall.



## AABC Ltd Club Spotlight

### Victorian Club – Bairnsdale Bonsai Group

Bairnsdale Bonsai Group was established in 1988 and we still have several members who joined when the club was formed. Currently membership is twelve.



Every second month is a formal meeting to plan events, trips and workshops. The alternate month is a workshop at the hall.

We also have workshops at members' homes, which are enjoyable social times. As an example, we had a special grafting day where we grafted Weeping Silver Birch on to a standard Silver Birch. Richard Vuat from the Wildseed Nursery at Tambo Upper demonstrated grafting the scion onto understock. We began preparation for this day by collecting and storing the dormant cuttings in the fridge for at least three months prior. The timing is important because the understock needs to have the sap rising and the scion is dormant. This is then bound tightly with a waterproof tape (we used vet tape).



This needs to be left on for at least six months or when the tape falls off.

Every month at the hall we have a 'popular vote competition'. This means that people are encouraged to work on their trees regularly. Members' trees are placed in groups e.g. Forests, Natives, Deciduous, Evergreens, Flowering or Fruiting. Members then cast one vote in each section, for the trees they like. At the end of the year, the highest scoring member will move from novice level to intermediate.

This year the group inaugurated 'The President's Tree', it is an *Acer Palmatum*, Japanese Maple.



## AABC Ltd Club Spotlight Victorian Club – Sale Bonsai Club Inc

The Sale Bonsai Club began in March 1992, when three blokes who knew each other, turned up at a demo by Paul Sweeney at a local Nursery. None of them knew of their shared interest in Bonsai. This led to a public meeting in May 1992 at a local nursery and a committee was formed with John Mowbray as president. The Club felt its way for the first few years, with much guidance from members of Bonsai Society of Victoria in Melbourne.

Membership was quite healthy in those early years. But numbers fell away over a few years from 25 to about 8. In mid 2002 Sale Bonsai Club went into recess.

A group of old members decided to 'get back together' in August 2004. Membership grew and has remained steady at between 10 to 12 since then.



The group meets on the first Saturday of the month, at the local neighbourhood house. These meetings are in the form of workshops and our members also try to make it to as many shows and events in Melbourne as possible through the year.



A photo of this Sale Bonsai Club tree won the 2007 Convention Photographic Competition.



# AABC Ltd 23rd National Convention 2010 - A Bonsai Celebration

The Illawarra Bonsai Society is the host club for the AABC Ltd 23rd National Convention, *A Bonsai Celebration*, in 2010, which will be held at the Bankstown Sports Club in Sydney.



Grant Bowie, curator of the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia, heads the local bonsai talent, along with some of Illawarra Bonsai Society's finest demonstrators Jamie Milner, Janet Selby, and Brian Wasson.

The International guest demonstrator will be **Salvatore Liporace** from Italy. He is the founder of the Studio



Botanica in Milan, and many of his former pupils are now international bonsai artists in their own right.

The Convention commences with a Welcome Cocktail Party on Friday 14 May while Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 May are the main demonstration days.

There will also be a convention dinner on the Saturday evening which will celebrate the 40th birthday of Illawarra Bonsai Society. The Convention will conclude with workshops on Monday 17 May, with Salvatore Liporace and Grant Bowie.

- Early Bird Registration \$195  
(closes 1 November 2009)
- Full Registration \$230
- Day Registration \$135

**For Convention information and forms visit:**

**[www.illawarrabonsaisociety.org](http://www.illawarrabonsaisociety.org)**

## Important AABC Ltd Dates for your Diary:

- Membership renewal – fees due on 1 July 2009  
Information was posted out to clubs in June 2009.
- Insurance renewal – 30 November 2009  
Information posted out to clubs September 2009.
- Magazine contribution deadline for the Summer issue - 1 November 2009

# Hawthorn Bonsai Dig

## Report by Greg Watson

A few years ago the Goulburn Bonsai Society (GBS) had an opportunity to dig some really good Hawthorns (*Crataegus Monogyna*, common Hawthorn), and because there were a large number available, invited other clubs from the southern area of NSW to participate. These were great days of BBQ, bulldust and bonsai collecting and this was usually done on the coldest day we could find. In the Goulburn area Hawthorn are usually dug around the last week in August, and as such you can get a wide variety of weather, from warm sunny 'Spring like' temperatures to wild wind and sleety, snow-like conditions.



At this year's club exhibition, a Hawthorn won the People's Choice Award. At the Canberra Bonsai Society 2008 Exhibition, there was a great looking Hawthorn on display, that was dug out at one of the digs. A Hawthorn, again procured at a club dig, is also displayed at the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia.



The Club has 'found' another dig site full of wonderful Hawthorns for our dig activity this year. These trees will be bulldozed in the coming years, as they grow on a property that run Merino for superfine and fine wool and the thorns of the Hawthorn do not mix.

The reason the GBS likes to invite other clubs to participate in such an activity is that:

- It encourages bonsai clubs to get together for fun.
- The trees would have been destroyed if they were not dug out.
- Quality dig sites should not be exclusive, they should be shared.

*I would encourage all bonsai clubs to think about inviting other clubs to 'interesting' activities.*

**Greg Watson**

## **lindsay farr's WORLD OF BONSAI DVDs**



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Salem, Mass, USA

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Phoenix, Arizona

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Japan

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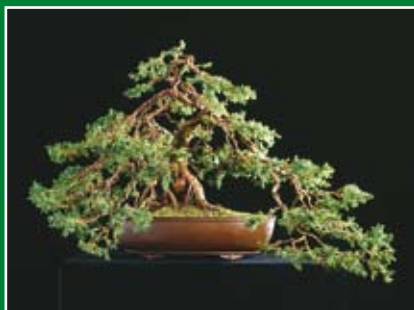
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