



Will you be back for our
GEELONG BONSAI CLUB INCORPORATED MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL NEWS 2018

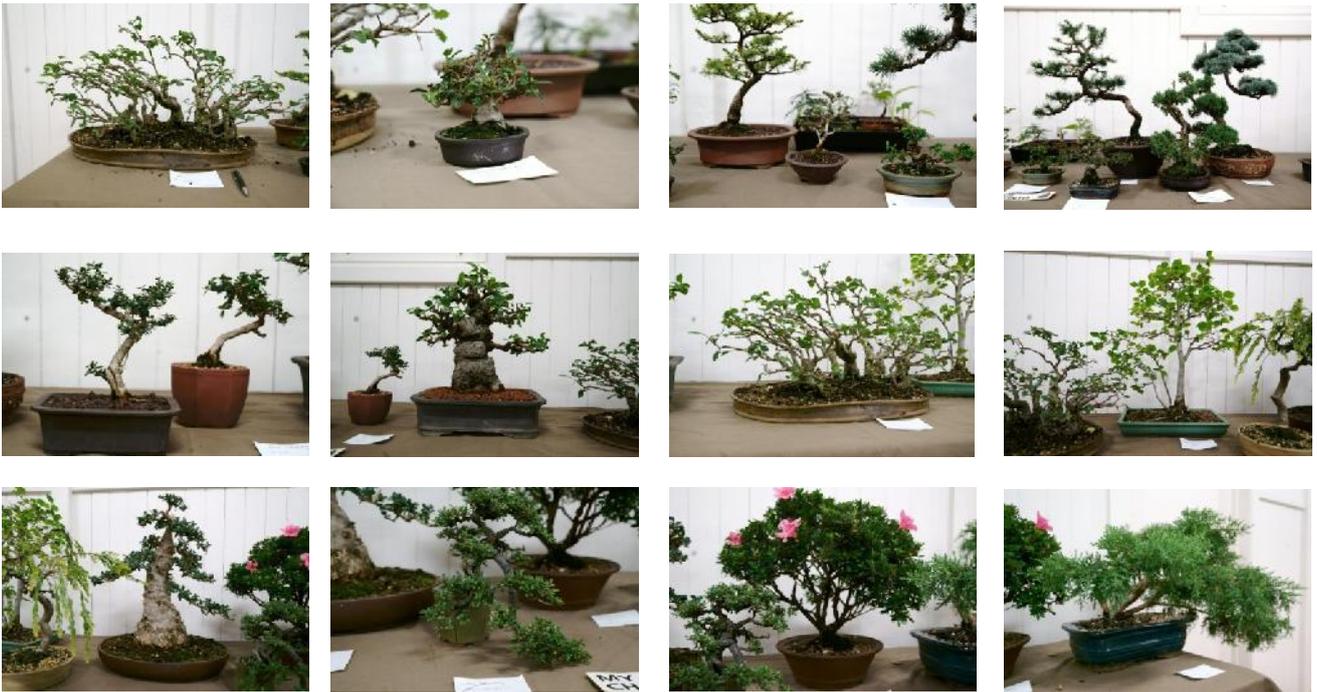
Demonstration/Mark Ludlow, Master Apprentices Bonsai School and Nursery

Mark delivered a challenging talk about cascade style bonsais and sub styles. He emphasised the need to know and understand the Japanese names for the various cascade styles.

APRIL MEETING



APRIL 2018 SHOW BENCH



MAY SHOW BENCH

- Tree of the month – Autumn Foliage.
- Style of the Month – Twin or Multi-trunk
- “Your Choice”, --**anything** that looks especially good to you at this time of the year.

HOW THE SHOW BENCH WORKS

Each month there will be a “Tree of the Month” and this can be any style. There will also be a “Style of the Month” this can be any species. The section “Your Choice” can be any species and style. There will be three sections. Novice, Intermediate, and Open. Judged as follows:

- 1 point will be awarded for every tree shown.
- 3 points for the best-judged tree in that section.
- 2 points for the second tree.
- 1 point for the third.

The “Your Choice of tree” is open to all sections. All trees presented must be in show condition, i.e. clean pots, trimmed etc. At the A.G.M. in December, there will be a prize for the Winners of each section. **Please be aware to display trees at the show bench they need to be in bonsai pots. Others to be placed elsewhere.** Check with Jason who does the monthly judging for more information.

Bonsai Happenings for the Diary

Mauro Stemberger Tour 2018 (BFA) June 23. -24 Senior Citizen Hall, Golden Square, Bendigo

**31st AABC Australian National Bonsai Convention July 20-23
Mantra Bell City Hotel, 215 Bell Street, Preston**

The South Australian Bonsai Society Inc Bonsai Exhibition 6th-7th October 2018

Annual Show open 10.00am to 4.00 pm both days Admission: \$4.00 for Adults-Children under supervision Free. Goodwood Community Centre, 32 Rosa Street Goodwood, behind the Goodwood Library

Bonsai Society of Victoria Inc. 14th –15th October 2108 exclusively presents workshops & demonstrations

Ballarat Bonsai Society Annual Exhibition on 3-4th November 2018

GBC Annual Show Masonic Hall, Regent Street, Belmont. 10th-11th November 2018

A magnificent display of Bonsai and a well stocked trading table that offers Bonsai requisites for sale, including pots, tools, wire, books including trained and semi-trained Bonsai and nursery stock. Continuous demonstrations of shaping and re-potting of bonsai each day. Meet and talk with Geelong's top Bonsai exponents. Light refreshments available.

BONSAI ACTION FOR MAY

Autumn

Autumn is the time of year when our trees are slowing down, changing colour, losing leaves and preparing for winter.

- Continue Fertilizing through Autumn, but reduce the frequency as the trees slow down growth into winter. this will "Harden" the foliage off so it will be prepared for winter
- Deciduous trees will be turning colour (hopefully) and then dropping leaves. Do not leave the spent leaves on your soil as it can keep it to wet and rot can result
-

The weather should be cooling down now and trees will not need so much shade. Continue to turn your trees so that they get sufficient light on all sides. Make sure you give your trees enough space to grow without growing into the trees in other pots.

Continue to check all the wire on your trees, and remove any that is digging into the bark. If wire has already marked the tree remove the wire immediately and leave the tree to grow on without pruning.

Most trimming should have been finished by now. Every two years or so however, it is a good idea to trim back pines reasonably hard in autumn. The current year's growth can be cut off, leaving perhaps a few needles at the base. Buds will develop below the cut and subsequent growth will be more compact and the needles will be smaller. Deciduous trees can also be trimmed back to their minimum proportions after leaf fall. Evergreen trees will shed some of their old foliage at this time so cleaning away dead needles and leaves will improve their appearance, allow more air circulation and improve hygiene around the trees.

This is a good time to give your plants a feed to encourage autumn fruit or spring flowers as there is still some time before the cold weather really sets in to stop plant growth. Continue to give weak doses every two to three weeks, especially of organic fertilizers that are high in potassium and phosphorus to discourage winter die back.

Some trees may be potted during Autumn. These include evergreens and some of the Cypress species such as Cypressus, Picea, (spruce), Taxus (yew), and Pines. Azaleas may be potted during April. Pinch back new shoots on Cedars, Junipers and Spruce to maintain their outline. It is now too late to prune trees that flower in spring, such as camellias and early flowering varieties of Azaleas and Prunus. Heavy Branch Pruning of Pines should be done during April.

Repot and Root Prune Flowering Quince and Cherry. Take Leafy Semi-hardwood cuttings of Banksia now. Apply Wire to [Needle evergreens](#).

The following was written in our May newsletter back in 1989

Conifers, and japonicas, can be potted in early Autumn so that they have time to re-establish and grow their root system while the weather is still warm.

Cedars and junipers are still making growth, pinch back their new shoots to encourage thicker growth.

Pines may need to have branches shortened. This should only be back to a point where new growth can be seen, or where buds are visible.

Conifers should have all old dead needles removed from the base of new shoots, necessary to get rid of pests

Spray trees for pests, Clensel is a good spray for general use. methylated spirits applied with a brush will rid pines of woolly aphis and mealy bugs.

Fertilizing should be through till end of April using half of recommended strength of mixture.

Potting of deciduous trees is usually left until the end of winter when the buds begin to swell, however, they may be repotted as soon as the leaves fall, but care should be taken not to damage the flower buds (seen as triple buds on flowering shrubs).

Trees for Autumn Colour are best chosen before the leaves fall, so that the tree colour can be seen Cuttings will come true to the parent plant, but seedlings show considerable variety in their colours.

Reliable trees for autumn colour are liquid amber, trident maples and pistacid chinesis. The liquid amber have rather large leaves, but will reduce in size with pruning.

There are many beautiful varieties among Japanese maples. Acer palmatum and some of the small leaf ones make beautiful colour bonsai in autumn, and look particularly good in spring.

The trident maple Acer buergerianum, is much hardier, and if kept growing well during season, will give good red colour.

The berrying shrubs are another reliable source of colour. There are many varieties of cotoneaster, crategus, pyracantha, all hardy, easy to grow and suitable for bonsai.

The fruit of the dwarf pomegranate punica granatum nana, is a shining orange-red colour and will hang on until well into winter. In addition to spring blossom, some varieties of prunus have very colourful leaves in autumn.

clean	benches, bonsai area of fallen leaves to reduce slugs, snails and moisture
defoliate	clear out old needles from pines and cedars
fertilise	evergreen - high potash for winter vigour Deciduous only if still in leaf. Flower - potassium
fruit	remove most fruit or berries to conserve energy for next crop
growth	has come to an end for winter, but keep checking wire, etc. Evergreens still grow
moss	remove because it keeps soil cold & wet; store on paper in pizza box for reuse
pots	prop up one edge for air circulation and to prevent rot from excessive moisture
prune	lightly if needed
repot	evergreens can still be repotted but do not feed repotted trees
select	trees for autumn colour, from seed or nurseries
shape	check that top growth does not dominate tree
snails	scatter pellets around bonsai area
sow	broad bean in medium to large pots to aerate and put nitrogen into soil
spray	
sun	place trees in as much full sun as possible
trim	to bring trees back into shape
water	reduce daily watering, but beware of windy days, which dry pots fast even when cool.
water	
wire	to position any wayward branches and fine tune fine branches. Deciduous now too

brittle

Place your trees out into full sunlight. Turn your trees frequently. Keep a constant check that top growth does not dominate the tree. Lower branches will die out if they are sheltered by top branches or by branches from other trees.

It may not be necessary for daily watering but look out for windy days as well as long dry spells as pots will dry out very quickly and may be hard to rewet.

Remove any fruit or berries, if there are any left after the birds have had their way. This will stop the trees from being depleted of energy for next seasons growth and fruiting. Also remove any thick moss that may have survived from the base of trees as it can impede the flow of water through the soil causing it to become stale. If the moss is of good quality then keep it for later on by drying it out and storing it in a paper bag in a dry place. It will regenerate quickly when sprinkled over damp soil.

It is a great time for selecting trees with good autumn color as cuttings can be taken and seeds grown from these specimens continuing their growth habit into new trees.

MAY PLANT PROFILE

Bamboo

One of the exciting aspects of bamboo is that so many species make wonderful bonsai. For instance, the Lucky Bamboo, also called Lotus Bamboo or Pachira is a favorite among [bonsai](#) growers. In addition to making a beautiful choice for bonsai, bamboo, especially "Lucky" Bamboo is also said to bring good fortune to its owner. With this plant, you can plant a single stalk or 40, bundled up and displayed. In either case, the bonsai is simply mesmerizing.

Other great species to consider for bonsai include Pseudosasa, Sasa, Phyllostachys, and Arundinaria. If you plant Bamboo as a bundle, what happens is that rhizomes are produced that coil up in the bottom of the container. With this, the soil is pushed up, meaning the rhizome must be cut back every year.

In most cases, Bamboo produces immature stems during the first year of growth. Then the following year, the Bamboo reaches its full height and maturity. The stems then last one to five seasons, which depends on the type of Bamboo being grown. To keep your Bamboo bonsai healthy, it is important to have a succession of stems.

Proper Care

To maintain Bamboo, you want to provide it with dappled light and partial shade. If kept outside, the Bamboo must have adequate protection from frost. As far as watering, Bamboo enjoys moist soil. However, to avoid root rot, you want to make sure the plant is never left standing in water. Then about every two weeks during the spring, you would need to feed it fertilizer that is high in nitrogen. In late spring and during the summer months, the Bamboo should be fed to help build up strength for the long stems. To prune Bamboo, you want to remove all the old leaves in the fall and winter. Then occasionally, the stems would need to be thinned although

you want to leave a few alone. If you have a dwarf species of Bamboo, cut the stems back in early spring prior to new growth appearing. For the larger Bamboo plants, peel back the higher leaf sheaths to control height

Bamboo can be propagated simply by dividing clumps in early spring just prior to new growth. Then, repotting should be done every one to two years, using a good but basic bonsai soil. Best of all, Bamboo is primarily trouble free. The only problem is an infrequent slug, which can be controlled with an organic insecticide.



<http://www.bonsaigardener.org/bamboo-bonsai-care.html>

- **Bud back**
 - **Cuttings:**
 - **Fertilising:**
 - .Nitrogen fortnightly in spring.
 - Also likes new manure.
 - **Flowering:**
 - **Habits:**

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 - five seasons, which depends on the type of Bamboo being grown. To keep your Bamboo bonsai healthy, it is important to have a succession of stems .
 - If you plant Bamboo as a bundle, what happens is that rhizomes are produced that coil up in the bottom of the container. With this, the soil is pushed up, meaning the rhizome must be cut back every year.
 - **Location:**
 - Partial shade with dappled sunlight.
 - Protect from frost.
 - **Pests, diseases:**
 - Bamboo is primarily trouble free. The only problem is an infrequent slug, which can be controlled with an organic insecticide.
 - **Pinching:**
 - **Pots**
 - Looks best in shallow, unglazed pots.
 - **Propagation:**
 - Early spring, just before the new growth starts, is the ideal time, but provided the roots are not allowed to dry out, winter, summer and autumn are fine too. Bamboo tends to clump, and these clumps can be divided readily and repotted.
 - **Pruning:**
 - Stripping the brown sheaths from growing stems helps keep the internodes short.
 - Can be cut right back in winter to encourage new spring growth.
- Repotting:**
- The roots grow vigorously, so every one to two years might be necessary.
 - Another source suggests potting up in winter.
- **Seeds**
 - **Styles:**

Usually an accent plant.

- **Varieties:**
 - One of the exciting aspects of bamboo is that so many species make wonderful bonsai. For instance, the Lucky Bamboo, also called Lotus Bamboo or Pachira is a favorite among [bonsai](#) growers. In addition to making a beautiful choice for bonsai, bamboo, especially "Lucky" Bamboo is also said to bring good fortune to its owner. With this plant, you can plant a single stalk or 40, bundled up and displayed. In either case, the bonsai is simply mesmerizing.
 - Other great species to consider for bonsai include Pseudosasa, Sasa, Phyllostachys, and Arundinaria.
 - Variegated bamboo looks great as a Bonsai, and is available from nurseries in dwarf form.
- **Watering:**
 - Prefers a moist soil, but don't let the roots go soggy by being immersed. Well-drained soil.
- **Wiring:**
- **Sources:**
 - GBCI Special Needs document
 - <http://www.bonsaigardener.org/bamboo-bonsai-care.html>

BONSAI TIP OF THE MONTH

Sieves: Soil-sieving screens can be constructed from 1x2 wood (furring strips) and several sizes of screen, available from hardware stores. Use a 1/4" and 1/2" "hardware cloth", and 1/16" window screening. The 1x2s are cut and glued/nailed together to form a tray about 1'x2' wide and 1 1/2" deep (1x2's are actually about 3/4" by 1 1/2"). The screens are cut to the 1'x2' dimension to fit, and stapled to the bottom of each tray. These hold a couple of handfuls of soil, and can be stacked.

The standard keeper soil is too large for the tiniest, "shohin" pots, and the soil which does pass through the 1/16" screen contains too much dust for any pot. A plastic re-usable drip coffee filter with a small, nylon mesh which does a good job of sifting out dust from what passes thru the 1/16" screen.

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

Good, better, best - never let it rest - till your good is better - and your better best.
John Furphy 1898.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

[New Websites Directory](#) - Bonsai Directory

new-websites.net/1168-5/Bonsai. Is an American website with 40+ sites of clubs and general information – Bonsai Directory , all Bonsai websites ,forums and blogs. Worth a look as there is sure to be something of interest to everyone. e.g. www.bonsai-nbf.org, www.bonsai-trees-for-beginners.org www.matsubonsai.com www.raynescibonsai.com www.bonsaihungary.com Welcome feedback.

BONSAI NURSERY OF THE MONTH

Bonsai Farm, Hawthorn

67 Church St Hawthorn, VIC 3122 03 9819 0888

They have a large range of both mature stock and starter trees for the would-be master bonsai artist. The premises has a good atmosphere, with a large range of both bonsai and bonsai accessories. The staff are very knowledgeable and friendly.

BONSAI TRIVIA OF THE MONTH

Don't get frustrated; don't feel you have to be held to steadfast rules. Just grow your tree, spend time crafting your masterpiece, and enjoy the results.

HOUSEKEEPING

Meeting setup/tidy-up

The hall will be open from about 7pm to set up tables and chairs. As is the case for each of our meetings, extra hands to help set up are always welcome, as is help appreciated at the end of each meeting to pack away afterwards. Those who regularly assist would very much be pleased if more of us lent a hand.

GENERAL BUSINESS

SUGGESTION BOX

Let's reintroduce the suggestion box. Please take the time to consider your ideas of how to improve the way we do things to make our club even more than what it is today. Ideas also about topics during the year you would like discussed, speakers to invite, number or workshops versus speakers etc.

Additionally what are the reasons you regularly attend and what would be the reasons some of our members only occasionally attend and what are the contributing factors why some only remain members for a short time.

GBC Website

Nathan Rhook has taken over managing our website and all things social Media from Daniel Novakovic. A sincere thanks to Daniel for all he has done getting our club's profile into the Content will always be the challenge and please submit relevant information to Nathan. Go to www.bonsai.org.au

SALES ORDER FORM

There is no commission to pay the club for workshop night sales

One needs to be financial to do so.

Commission still applicable during the show.

GBC Library

An extensive library of bonsai books, magazines/journals, DVDs are available (as part of membership benefits) for use by members. Borrowed items must be returned in the month following their removal for loan. Non-financial members aren't eligible to borrow from the library and borrowing privileges may be revoked for members who do not respect the borrowing process. See John and Steph Dearnly our Librarians

Memberships

Due annually at our December Annual General Meeting

Banking Details/Geelong Bonsai Club BSB/633000 Account Number 152 895 694

Please renew now - membership form is attached

Individual \$20.00

Family \$30.00

Students & Pensioners \$15.00

Meeting setup/tidy-up

The hall will be open from about 7.15 pm to set up tables and chairs. As is the case for each of our meetings, extra hands to help set up are always welcome, as is help appreciated at the end of

each meeting to pack away afterwards. Those who regularly assist would very much be pleased if more of us lent a hand.

Meeting/Events Calendar & Agenda

A copy is available at the meetings and is enclosed in this newsletter.

Calendar & How the Show Bench Works?

Each month there will be a "Tree of the Month", 'Style of the Month' and 'Your Choice' and this can be any style. Detailed notes sheet is available from the Club, and copies will be provided at the meetings

Wearing of Badges

Reminder to please wear your badge at our meetings.

It is a requirement to be able to claim the door prize if you are the winner.

Mentors:-

If any club member would like to volunteer their time as a mentor to other club members, please put your name down on the mentors list at the next meeting. Likewise if any club member would like to have the help of another person outside of club meetings.

Our Committee: Sieglinde Jobson, Karen Van Der Lee, Graeme Kelleher, Mark Tevan, Phil Wall, Paul Buttigieg & Nathan Rhook.



**NEXT MEETING:
Monday 11 June - Workshop**

GBCI CLUB DETAILS

Established 1980 Registered 1984 (#A2342S)

**Please address all correspondence to:
The Secretary**

**Geelong Bonsai Club Inc.
P.O. Box 1175, Geelong, Victoria, 3220**

President:	Paul Buttigieg 0412 604 211 geelong@bonsai.org.au
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Committee:	Mark Tevan 0401 494 172 mark@barwon.net
Committee:	Sieglinde Jobson 0438 522 192 siegjobson@gmail.com
Show Managers:	John Dearnly, Michael Tukavkin and Nathan Rhook
Librarian:	John & Steph Dearnly/0407 342 928: dearnley1@bigpond.com
Newsletter Editor:	Paul Buttigieg 0412 604 211 geelong@bonsai.org.au
Sales Table:	Phil Wall/0418 315 324p.wall@cfa.vic.gov.au
Show Bench:	Jason De Vries/0409 753 244 jasonde@dodo.com.au

Meetings are held at Grovedale United Services Memorial Hall, Reserve Road Grovedale at 8pm on 2nd Monday of the month. No meeting in January. Meetings in 2012 on the second Monday of the month except November which is the first Monday because of the show.

PO Box 1175 Geelong VIC 3220

Registration No: A0001342S

**President: Paul Buttigieg,
Vice President: Karen Van der Lee,
Secretary: Nathan Rhook,
Treasurer: Paul Buttigieg**

2018 EVENTS CALENDER

Day	Date	Program
Monday	12-Feb	General Meeting – 3 Ninja's Demonstration
Saturday	17-Feb	Free Batesford workshop
Monday	12 March (Labour Day)	General Meeting – Workshop
Saturday	17-March	Workshop – Joe Morgan-Payler
Monday	9-April	General Meeting – Demonstration/Mark Ludlow/ Master Apprentices Bonsai School and Nursery
Saturday	28-April	Free Batesford workshop
Tuesday	8-May	Committee Meeting
Monday	14-May	General Meeting – Workshop
Sunday	27-May	Nursery Crawl
Monday	11 June (Queens Birthday)	General Meeting – Workshop
Sunday	24-Jun	Dig
Tuesday	3-July	Committee Meeting General Meeting – Demonstration/Tien Liao-Bonsai Sensation
Monday	9-July	
Sunday	22-July	Nursery Crawl
Saturday	28-July	Free Batesford workshop
Saturday	4-August	Workshop - Joe Morgan-Payler
Monday	13-August	General Meeting – Demonstration Quentin Valentine
Monday	10-Sep	General Meeting – Demonstration/Trevor Wicks
Tuesday	18-Sep	Committee Meeting
Saturday	22-Sep	Workshop - Quentin Valentine
Monday	8-Oct	General Meeting – Workshop
Sunday	14-Oct	Nursery Crawl
Saturday	20-Oct	Workshop - Joe Morgan-Payler
Monday	5-Nov	General Meeting - Show Workshop
Sat – Sun	10 – 11 November	BONSAI CLUB ANNUAL SHOW
Saturday	24-Nov	Free Batesford workshop
Tuesday	27-Nov	Committee Meeting ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (Critique/Christmas Pizza Party)
Monday	10-Dec	

ANNUAL SHOW BENCH ACTIVITY

DATE	TREE OF THE MONTH	STYLE OF THE MONTH
February	Figs and Natives	Group Planting or Saikei
March	Elms	Raft or Clump
April	Cedars and Minis	Informal Upright
May	Autumn Foliage	Twin or Multi-trunk
June	Pines and Junipers	Full or semi cascade or Minis
July	Deciduous Species	Formal Upright
August	Any Evergreen	Windswept or slanting
September	Olives	Root over rock/rock planting
October	Flowering or Fruiting	Literati or Broom
November	Maples and Liquid Amber	Shari's – Jin's and Driftwood
December	C'site Leaves Ash/Wisteria	Your Choice (Anything)