

# BONSAI TIMES



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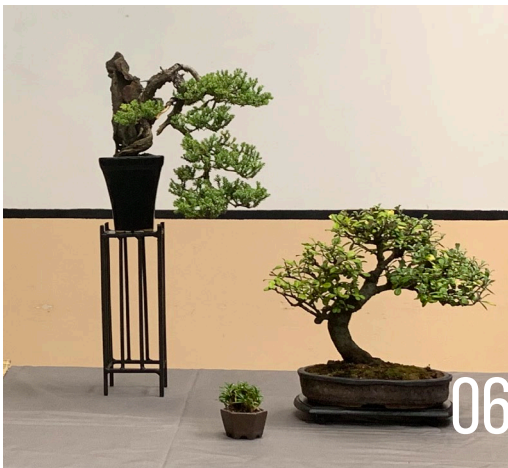
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# BONSAI TIMES

Brings you the inspiration, motivation and encouragement to create remarkable bonsai.



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**COVER:** National demonstrator, Sandra Quintal, giving a demonstration on the display of shohin bonsai to the members of the Auckland Bonsai Society.

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# SUBMISSIONS

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Contact the editor if you have any queries.

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# FROM THE PRESIDENT



Les Simpson

I attended the 90th Birthday celebrations for Bob Langholm in February. Bob has been involved with bonsai for a very long time and is still actively involved in teaching, demonstrating and maintaining a reasonably large collection of bonsai. He was president of the Auckland Bonsai Society soon after it was formed back in the mid 1960's and was the president for 18 years (at that stage the club had a different name). He was awarded the Queen's Service Medal several years ago for services to bonsai. In July 2017 he was awarded a Certificate of Commendation, by the Consul-General of Japan in New Zealand, in recognition of his distinguished service in contributing to the deepening of mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and other nations. One of the things that I recall about Bob is the number of demonstrations he has given. He is particularly good at giving demos to people new to bonsai. Over the years he would have attracted a very large number of people into the world of bonsai.

Our club is presently involved in bonsai beginners classes on Thursday nights. We have a series of four classes with a different tutor each night. Places were limited to 10 people. We had about 20 register so it was sad to have to accept just the first 10 who registered. I took the first session 'An Introduction to Bonsai' which included a brief history of bonsai. As part of the research for this introduction I read



the history of the Auckland Bonsai Society. I was interested to see that the person who started the bonsai club in Auckland before Bob Langholm became president was in the N Z J Force that occupied Japan at the end of World War II. He no doubt became first acquainted with bonsai as a result. The bonsai books that contain a blurb on the origins of bonsai all mention that this was the way bonsai spread to the West particularly the USA.

I had an interesting tramp recently to a place called Waitanguru which is about 12 km from Piopio south of Te Kuiti. This is limestone country. There were interesting limestone formations and the bushy bits featured trees with long roots growing over the limestone formations. Both settings were very good inspiration for saikei. The

farmer who owned the property guided us and gave us a good commentary. He showed us some fossilised shark teeth embedded in the limestone that had been there for millions of years. A lot of the bush on this farm was fenced off and placed in trust so that no future owner of the farm could destroy the bush. There was a Lord of the Rings site a short distance away from the farm we visited.

Don't forget to register for the Hamilton Convention 2019. Also note the closing times for the various NZBA competitions as indicated in the NZBA newsletter to clubs which is included in this edition of the Bonsai Times.

Les





# SANDRA QUINTAL DEMO IN AUCKLAND

By Martin Walters  
Auckland Bonsai Society

As part of the New Zealand Bonsai Association travel grant, the scheme to get national demonstrators to other clubs by helping with paying for their travel expenses, the Auckland Club arranged for Sandra Quintal to do a shohin presentation at our regular Thursday monthly meeting.

With Facebook promotions and advertising done by the club beforehand, we expected a good turnout, with members keen to learn new aspects of shohin from one of New Zealand's leading artists on the subject.

Sandra didn't disappoint. With her obvious love of shohin and her enthralling manner while talking on the subject, she kept the crowd captivated for over two hours. With questions being asked on display and cultivation I think everybody left looking at the smaller trees they own in a different light and wanting to use the ideas she put forward.

We would highly recommend Sandra for a talk or demonstration at your club and indeed any of the New Zealand national demonstrators.







# SANDRA QUINTAL'S VISIT TO DUNEDIN

By Lynne Slobbe  
Otago Bonsai Society

The Otago club took advantage of the Waitangi Day holiday to invite Sandra Quintal down South. On the Tuesday night she gave a demonstration to our club meeting and the following day held a couple of workshops.

The emphasis for the demonstration to the club was on the shohin class of trees – this is more than just small trees, 20 cm from the pot rim. She had brought down in her luggage some of her trees to show how she transports trees around. See the last issue of the Bonsai Times for more

details, not only from Sandra, but other people also. Many of the principles Sandra discussed apply to all bonsai in general, although there were some things specific for Shohin. I like the idea of a Sumo Shohin – this is “fat tree” with the ratio of 1 to 3 (width to height). It is always interesting to discuss soil mixes as there are probably as many different options as there are bonsai artists. How she treats moss to place on the trees was interesting; I have since heard of at least one club member who has tried it. Anyone got an old food mixer?







For shohin, displaying the trees is an important factor and Sandra showed how it is easy to do this without the need for expensive stands by using cloth over boxes. The orientation and placement within the display is important and the display should comprise different species. Unfortunately, we ran out of time before Sandra could show us how to air-layer – will leave that until the next visit.

We decided to have a shohin section in our Trees of the Month display and had a large number of trees brought along by members. Sandra was asked to judge this section; the winner was a Kowhai by Joy Morton.

We always finish the night with supper, which gives us a chance for an informal chat. Our club meeting had members with many years of experience as well as

some new members to the club, their first meeting. All enjoyed the night.

The next day we held two workshops. It was nice to have one of our out-of-town members involved. The tree she worked on with Sandra transformed significantly. People worked on a various range of trees, though not all would be shohin. It is always fun at workshops to see the trees transform over the space of a few hours. One of our members has found it more useful to be an observer than to work on a tree as you get see and hear the comments about all the trees.

Our thanks to Sandra for a very informative demonstration on shohin trees and we all look forward to the further development of the trees she gave guidance on in the workshops.





# CREATING AN AGED LOOK FROM YOUNG MATERIAL.

By Les Simpson  
Hamilton Bonsai Club

I recently did a workshop on this subject for the Hamilton and Bay of Plenty bonsai clubs.

You may well ask 'why create an aged look?' After all, people spend a fortune trying to look YOUNG. In the bonsai world we do the reverse and put a big effort into creating AGE.

Age gives a tree character. One of the things most valued in a bonsai is age. Those of you who have exhibited bonsai will be well used to the question 'how old is your tree?' It is often a bonsai novice who is asking. They realise that age is an important feature to have. In its annual shows Hamilton Bonsai Club indicates the years in training as a bonsai on the name tag for the tree. It is vital to note that it is perceived age and not actual age that is important. You can have a tree 100 years old which does not look old. A tree dug from the ground and placed in a pot with the right techniques applied can have an aged look in just a few years. Picture in your mind a bonsai that you have seen that is appealing to you and has

an aged look. What are the features that contribute to this aged look? I asked this question of both the Hamilton and Bay of Plenty bonsai clubs and this is the list that resulted.

- 1 Nebari and roots - exposed roots. Nebari means root flare. Drama in this area can certainly enhance a feeling of age.
- 2 Trunk taper - good taper from bottom to top.
- 3 Trunk movement - primary and secondary bends in the trunk. A branch is normally present at the primary node points.
- 4 Height/diameter ratio 6:1 or less
- 5 Bark texture i.e. pines normally have very good bark texture.



## 6 Branches.

- General downwards movement.
- Branch movement - sharp turns and twists. If you regrow branches they always appear more juvenile than the originals.
- Branch placement - smaller internodes between branches towards the apex.
- Length and diameter of branches reduce towards the apex with the bottom branch the longest and thickest and normally located about one third the height of the tree.
- Ramification - primary, secondary,

tertiary etc growth.

7 Leaf, flower and fruit size - small leaves; small flowers; small fruit. All have to be in scale.

8 Jins and sharis - they can tell a story about past happenings or accidents that the tree has been exposed to.

9 Foliage clouds - on young trees you can get one solid mass of foliage. On older trees the foliage masses become more isolated and sparse. Individual clouds will fragment seeming to consist of multiple smaller clouds.

10 Crown - domed or rounded crown. Young trees tend to be spiky.





# AUCKLAND BONSAI: TONY BEBB WORKSHOP

By Martin Walters  
Auckland Bonsai Society

This March the Auckland Bonsai Society hosted a Tony Bebb workshop and, although this has been done many times over the years, this occasion was a little different. With the club focusing this year on attracting new members, hosting more workshops and collecting trips, it was a good chance for new people to get to interact with Tony and be inspired for their future endeavours.

This workshop was hosted by Brendon and was an opportunity for members who haven't visited his garden before to see some more established trees and collected pines that Brendon has worked on for over 20 years.





While Tony helped people with trees with advice on styling etc, Martin worked in the background with wiring to allow the newer members to leave with a more stylised tree and a positive outlook for where they can head with their tree and a sample of what they can do on other trees they might own.

As usual it was a fantastic day, with Tony's laid-back attitude beginners felt that no question was silly and that as a group we could come up with answers and provide any tree with a future as a bonsai!









# IT PAYS TO HAVE GREAT NEIGHBOURS

By John Vercoe  
Bay of Plenty Bonsai Society

Recent events in our country have highlighted the need for us all to stick together and support each other and as a small group of bonsai enthusiasts in the Bay of Plenty this has been especially true in the last few months with us receiving great support from our neighbours; Hamilton and Rotorua bonsai clubs.

In reading the Hamilton club's newsletter a few weeks back I saw that they were holding a training session on "Creating an Aged Look from Young Material", I thought that this type of session could inspire our members and so approached Les Simpson and Sandra Quintal to see if we could entice someone to come over and undertake the session for us. What a response; Les and Sandra both volunteered their Sunday, but as Sandra was already committed to a training session in Dunedin, Les came over the Kaimais and spent a very successful Sunday afternoon going through the principles of creating an aged look. With support from the NZBA and the willing commitment of Les, we all learnt a lot about the major early design of a young

tree to start it on a path to creating that old mature look that we all enjoy.

We had just finished receiving Hamilton's help when we received an invite from our other "neighbour", Rotorua Club, to join them for a subsidised session with Tony Bebb. Rotorua had decided to commit to a Tony Bebb workshop for two days and generously invited us to join them. A number of us took up the offer and transported our trees over to Rotorua for an enlightening session with Tony. Any session you have with Tony comes with information overload; as I knew I would forget half the "gems" that Tony provides, I decided to take notes and write them up later; well a great idea but after three hours I had writer's cramp and the notes got more and more cryptic.

But a great day and one that provided me with a week of wiring on our "Club Tree". Because there was approximately 20 attendees with trees (excluding the observers) Tony decided to stay put in front and have each of us bring trees up

to him, rather than revolving around the room with a great flotilla of people in tow.

The range of trees of all varieties and ages made the day an excellent learning session, and I am certain all the participants got a massive amount out of the session. Sue and I came home with great enthusiasm and with fine weather the following week managed to implement a number of improvements to our trees.

So, two great sessions thanks to our neighbours; with this type of support, I

am certain we smaller clubs are going to be able to continue to grow and improve. We are looking forward to the next big upcoming co-operation when the three clubs join to create the Regional Display at the National Convention in October 2019.

Finally I would like to acknowledge Les, Sandra, Rick, Jocelyn and Tony for your great support.



Preliminary wiring on the Club Tree following Tony Bebb Workshop in Rotorua



# NOTES FROM THE NZBA COMMITTEE

## NZBA Facebook

NZBA is currently running a video on their Facebook page promoting bonsai in New Zealand with links to the clubs who consented to having their details included. Some clubs have already had success with enquiries.

## NZ Shohin Trophy

A new trophy has been donated by the NZ Shohin Club & Lindsay Muirhead. This will be awarded this year at the National Convention for the best shohin display in the National Show.

## Lindsay Muirhead Trophy

Lindsay has donated a trophy for best overall suiseki in the national show (this includes both the NZ and imported suiseki). This will be awarded for the first time at the 2019 National Convention.

## Club Manual

A hard copy of this manual was sent out to all clubs at the end of last year. A copy will be placed on the NZBA website. The Club Manual brings together all NZBA policies and rules along with ideas and suggestions on how to recruit and retain members, organise an annual programme of activities, or an event. It is designed as a repository for all NZBA policies, rules, forms, and ideas to assist clubs in running and operating their clubs.

NZBA committee members will be making a second telephone contact with the president of all clubs in the next month or two. This is so the NZBA committee members can pass on what the NZBA committee have been up to and find out what clubs have been up to.

## NZ Demonstrator Proposal

Our current list of national demonstrators is being updated and will be placed on a clubs-only section of the NZBA website. This is not yet operational; we will advise

all clubs when it is.

We are looking to develop and promote our demonstrators. This will include a brief interview with them at the convention this year and a training session with Suthin.

We have had two travel grant applications so far this year for demonstrators to travel to clubs around the country. These have been well received by the clubs hosting the demonstrator.

## Bonsai Times

Apologies for the delay with the previous issue of Bonsai Times but we have had to change to a new printing company and I hope you agree it has been worth the wait.

Kirsa is always looking for articles so please put pen to paper about what has been happening in your club and send to her ASAP.

## Convention 2019 Hamilton

The national convention this year is in Hamilton from 11-13 October. The demonstrator will be Suthin Sukosolvisit from the US. Visit the convention website for more information: <http://bonsaiconvention.net.nz>.

Early Bird Registration closes 30 April, closing date for registration 27 September. Registration is through the convention website.

Closing dates for the National show:

National Show & Shohin - 14 June

Suiseki - 30 June

Photographic competition - 30 August

Emerging Talent - 19 July

As mentioned already to further develop our national demonstrators Suthin will run a special session with them on the Tuesday morning. The purpose of this is to teach how to demonstrate. If you are on the national demonstrator list you can attend, if you are not but have demonstrated at your own club and have a desire to learn how to demonstrate you also can attend.

The NZBA has composed a list of questions, all of which are related to how a demonstration should be delivered and Suthin will answer these during his demonstration. The charge will be \$30 per person.

# NEW ZEALAND BONSAI CONVENTION 2019

HAMILTON – 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 13<sup>TH</sup>  
OCTOBER 2019



## Hamilton Bonsai Club

in association with the New Zealand Bonsai Association

presents

### SUTHIN SUKOSOLVISIT



Born in Thailand, Suthin has extensive experience with tropical bonsai, Japanese maple, Juniper, Azalea, Black Pine and many other species.

Suthin has won multiple National Bonsai Awards in Thailand and the United States. His latest award being the National Award at the 2018 US National Bonsai Exhibition where he also presented a critique on some of the trees.

As well as demonstrations and talks by Suthin, some of our own NZ demonstrators will be there to enlighten you.

Trade stands will be there for all your bonsai needs.

The Exhibition will not only feature the NZBA National show, but also displays from the Hamilton, Rotorua and Bay of Plenty Bonsai clubs, making it (probably) the largest ever display of bonsai trees in New Zealand.

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E-mail: [engelbrecht@xtra.co.nz](mailto:engelbrecht@xtra.co.nz)

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# CLUBS

**Auckland Bonsai Society**  
Joint Presidents: Moira Carill (main) &  
Kelly O'Meara  
aucklandbonsaisociety@gmail.com  
Secretary: Kelly O'Meara  
Meetings: 2nd Thursday 7:30 pm,  
Auckland Horticultural Council, 900 Great  
North Road, Western Springs, Auckland.

**Avon Bonsai Society**  
President: Kees De Jager  
Kees.dejager162@gmail.com  
Secretary: Alison McIntosh  
alisonmc99@gmail.com  
2/15 Celia Street, Sumner, Christchurch.  
Meetings: 1st Wednesday 7:30 pm,  
Isleworth School, Farrington Avenue,  
Bishopdale, Christchurch.

**Bay of Plenty Bonsai Society**  
President: John Vercoe  
jvercoe@xtra.co.nz  
Secretary: Sue Vercoe .....(07) 572 4345  
Meetings: last Sunday

**Blenheim Bonsai Group**  
John Simpson.....0294783464  
Rod Wegener..... 021755100  
Ainsley Vincent ..... 03 5728335  
Meetings: 2nd Sunday, 1:00 pm  
Selmes Nursery, 141 Battys Road,  
Springlands, Blenheim

**Bonsai Study Group**  
Bob Langholm .....(09) 629 3362  
bob-si@ihug.co.nz  
41 Taumata Road, Mt Albert, Auckland

**Christchurch Bonsai Society**  
President: Wendy Gibbs  
chchbonsai@yahoo.com  
Secretary: Jon Westbury  
jon.westbury17@gmail.com  
Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 pm,  
Cotswold Preschool, Colesbury Street,  
Bishopdale, Christchurch.

**Eastern Bay of Plenty Bonsai School**  
President: Sam Brierley.....(07) 307 8483  
eudaimoniabonsai@gmail.com  
18 Rambler Drive, Whakatane  
Meetings: 1st Sunday pm, phone for  
details.

**Franklin Bonsai Club**  
Gerry Boy.....(021) 0236 1499  
gerry2013@yahoo.co.nz  
Meetings: 2nd Saturday, various locations

**Gisborne**  
Heather Deere.....(06) 868 9519  
tetia@slingshot.co.nz

**Gore Bonsai Society**  
President: Fionna Burgess .(027) 715 1557  
Secretary: Lisa Anderson.....(03) 207 1856  
beak.lisa@gmail.com  
Meetings: 3rd Saturday or Sunday after  
Phone for details of time and venue.

**Hamilton Bonsai Club**  
Presidents: Marshall and Melody  
marshallgray2009@hotmail.com  
Secretary: Gordon Bowers...(07) 868 6787  
PO Box 879, Cambridge, 3450  
Meetings: 2nd Sunday 2.00pm, St Francis  
Church Hall. 92 Mansel Ave, Hamilton

**Hawkes Bay Bonsai Society**  
President: James Wilkie ..... 0210 241 2736  
barrelstacker@hotmail.com  
Secretary: Cam Ashfield.....027 934 2983  
Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 7:30pm, Clive  
Community Church Hall, Napier

**Matamata Bonsai Club**  
President: Graeme Hancock  
kaimaigc@gmail.com  
Kaimai View Garden Centre, State  
Highway 27, Matamata.  
Meetings by arrangement, contact  
Graeme.

**Manawatu Bonsai**  
President: Greg Tuthill  
manawatubonsai@gmail.com  
Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 pm,  
PN Community Leisure Centre, 569  
Fergusson Street, Palmerston North.



### Nelson Bonsai Club

President: Nigel Sutton

nigel.sutton@ihug.co.nz

11 Torlesse Street, Wakatu, Stoke, Nelson.

Meetings: 1st Monday, 7:30 pm, members house (Apr to Aug); Stoke Garden and Landscape, Saxton Road (Sept to Mar).

### New Plymouth Bonsai Club Inc.

President: Paul Urbahn.....(06) 758 6995

paulurbahn@xtra.co.nz

Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 7pm, last Sunday, 2:00 pm, The Royal New Zealand Foundation for the Blind, 131 Vivian Street, New Plymouth.

### Otago Bonsai Society

President: Pete Dular .....(021) 105 2339

Secretary: Lynn Slobbe

lynn.slobbe@xtra.co.nz

325 Kenmure Road, Kenmure, Dunedin

Meetings: 1st Tuesday, 7:30 pm, Mercy Hall 42 Macandrew Road, South Dunedin, Dunedin.

### Rotorua Bonsai Club

President: Jocelyn Van Raalte (07)3493306

Secretary: Rick Merrington....(07) 3474065

rick@gargoyles.co.nz

Meetings: 2nd Sunday, phone for details

### South Canterbury Bonsai Society

President: Brian Blackwell ....(03) 615 8775

Secretary: Alyson Guthrie .....(03) 684 5363

wayne-mc2@xtra.co.nz

Meetings: 1st Wednesday (February to November), 7:30pm, Arts Centre, Gleniti Road, Timaru.

### Wellington Bonsai Club

President: Harry van Enkevort

Secretary: Brian McKeon

PO Box 30-621, Lower Hut 5040

info@bonsai.org.nz

Meetings: 1st Sunday (except January), 1:00 pm, Hutt Valley Tramping Club rooms, Philip Evans Reserve, Birch Street, Waterloo, Lower Hutt.

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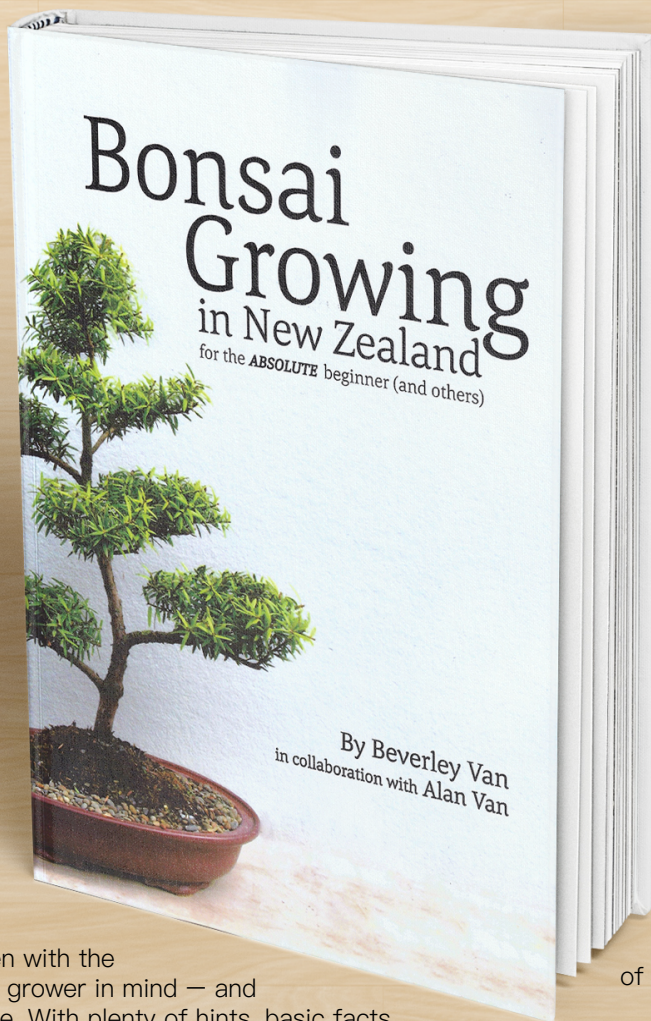
bob-si@ihug.co.nz



# Bonsai Growing in New Zealand

By Beverley Van

in collaboration with Alan Van



This new book has been written with the new-to-bonsai grower in mind — and others of course. With plenty of hints, basic facts, case histories, and plenty of illustrations, this book also explains how some of the author's own bonsai were created. Written for all New Zealand enthusiasts but especially for those about to start growing bonsai, this is going to be the perfect addition to everyone's bonsai library.

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of text and photos.

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- YAMADORI HUNTING  
- TREE STYLING SERVICE

CONTACT : AUCKLAND CLUB PRESEDENT  
MARTIN WALTERS ON 0216 29192

OR EMAIL:

[AUCKLANDBONSAISOCIETY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:AUCKLANDBONSAISOCIETY@GMAIL.COM)