

BONSAI TIMES



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BONSAI TIMES

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



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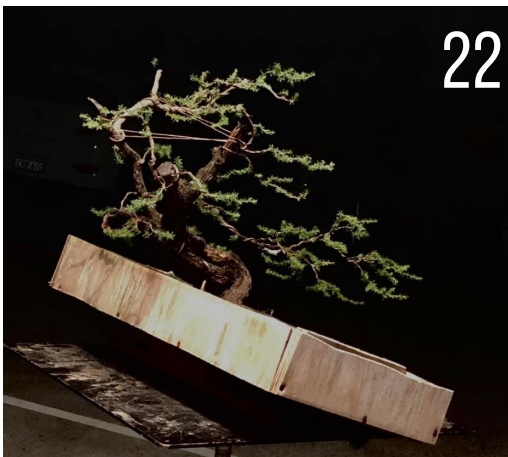
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COVER: New Zealand Bonsai Association Patron, Keith Lowe, teaching one of the staff members at California Gardens some bonsai skills.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Les Simpson

Some of you will know Keith Lowe who is the current Patron of NZBA. If you are new to bonsai chances are you have not heard of Keith Lowe. I understand Keith is 92 almost 93. Keith has agreed to remain as patron of NZBA.

Keith originally came from Guangzhou in China. He has been in New Zealand a long, long time and now considers himself an established Kiwi. Keith tells me he was originally introduced to bonsai by Peter Fung a Chinese Baptist minister who produced a bonsai at Keith's nursery for Keith to sell. Keith thinks that this was about 1952. I understand Bevan Hussey and Keith started off the Wellington club about 1953 with Keith taking the names of people at his nursery interested in bonsai. About this time Keith had a retail outlet shop in Wellington close to the Japanese Embassy. With the contact he made with the Embassy he was able to

arrange Kato to visit New Zealand. The Embassy also arranged a visit to Japan to visit bonsai nurseries involving about 23 people from New Zealand. In 1974 the California Garden Centre was established in Miramar. However, this was bought out by Peter Jackson recently to expand his empire. There is still a California Garden Centre in Lower Hutt. You may recall that Keith had seven bonsai stolen from there recently. I understand that only two have been returned after the media were alerted. This is not the first time that bonsai have been stolen from the garden centre. Incidentally Keith still owns a few bonsai and still teaches bonsai. The photograph of Keith was taken recently teaching one of the staff members at California Gardens some bonsai skills.

When I spoke to Keith he volunteered to donate \$1000 to the New Zealand Bonsai Association. NZBA has now received this

donation. This is greatly appreciated by NZBA. We would like to thank him greatly for this gesture. It will be put to very good use. Some of you will be aware of the Keith Lowe Trophy awarded for the best NZ Native in the National Show. This was donated by Keith and was first awarded in 2014.

The National Convention in Hamilton is almost upon us and will take place from 11-13th October. The lead demonstrator will be Suthin Sukosolvisit from the US. Visit the convention website to register. <http://bonsaiconvention.net.nz>. If you have not already registered can I make a plea that you register as soon as possible. To make the convention viable we need a good attendance. If you cannot make it for the whole weekend I suggest you consider registering for just one day.

Suthin is an excellent demonstrator who has not previously visited Australia or New Zealand.

Suthin will run a special session with demonstrators on the Tuesday morning. The purpose of this session is to teach how to demonstrate. You are eligible to attend if you are on the NZ demonstrator list or have demonstrated at your own club or have a desire to learn how to demonstrate. The charge to attend is \$30 per person. The booking form for this event is also on the convention website. This session has been organised by the NZBA. If you teach bonsai (demonstrated, given a talk or led workshops) or have a desire to teach bonsai I suggest that this session is not to be missed.

Les



TONY BEBB WEEKEND IN HAMILTON

By Peter and Melody
Hamilton Bonsai Club

This article features Tony Bebb who was visiting the Hamilton Bonsai Club in July. During the visit Tony did a shohin workshop & critique, weekend workshop as well as club workshop

Shohin Critique

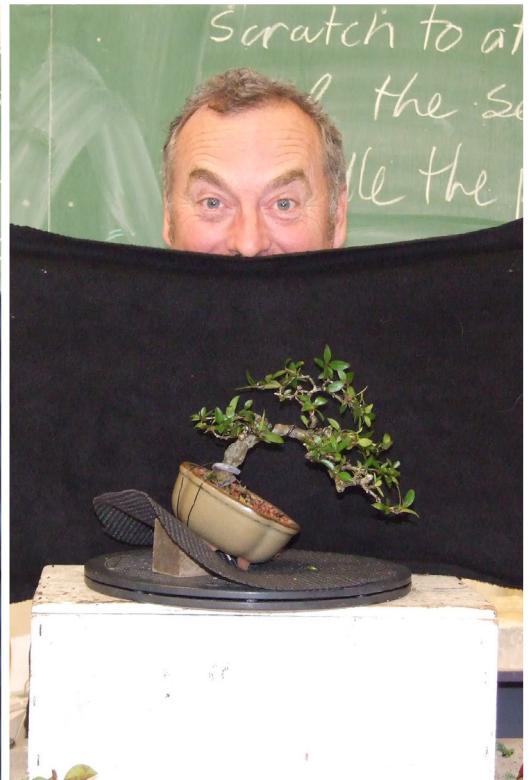
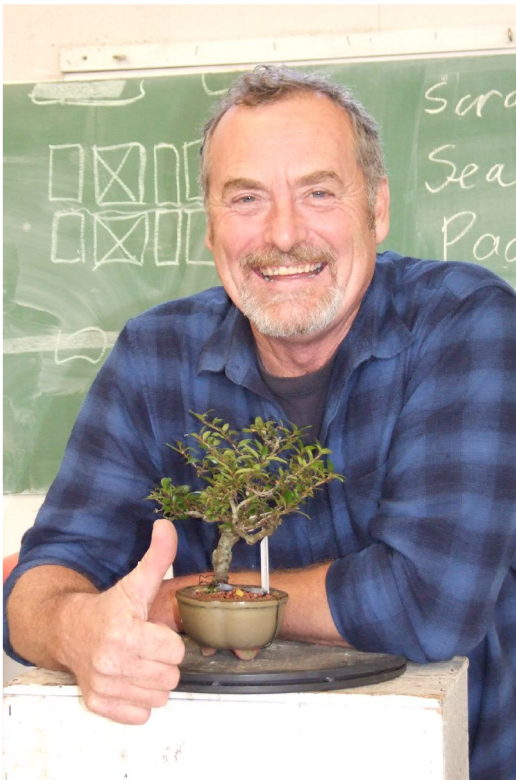
July saw four days of activities with our friend from over the ditch. Starting on Saturday 12 with a shohin critique and workshop.

Just because they are small does not mean there is less work involved! The

Saturday afternoon with Tony was proof positive that the amount of design work and refinement required for our smaller trees is probably more than for their larger cousins.

With the smaller size, the attention to detail is more important and subtle differences in pot choice, the position in the pot, taper and ramification can have a dramatic effect on the overall look of the tree. These points were discussed in some depth during the session and all the trees that Tony saw went away with some improvement.





Club Meeting

The following day was our normal meeting—as Melody now reports:

At our recent club meeting in July we were pleased to welcome Tony Bebb guest teacher and demonstrator from Australia, a regular visitor to our shores. Thank you to all the club members who brought in a wonderful selection of trees to be critiqued. The range of trees to be discussed varied from very raw material to those with more advanced training. It

covered deciduous, conifers and plain “difficult to know what to do with it!”

Tony began saying critique is “critical” to the advancement of the tree. Each tree had its pros and cons covered to take it to the next level of development. We were given tips and tricks to improve the tree. It didn’t matter what tree was highlighted, there was something for all to learn. It was an interesting and absorbing club meeting loaded with helpful advice. Thank you Tony.







Weekend Worksoop

The following weekend was the second set of workshops in the three year programme. Despite there being spaces available it was a full-on weekend. Most of the trees were those that had been worked on the previous year but there was also some new material to challenge Tony.

Some of the work done by Tony produced material useful for cuttings from a number of trees – most notably an azalea and a blue mountain totara.

The trees ranged in size from shohin to very large and a number of the newer trees underwent a significant change. One of the more dramatic changes saw three totara which had been part of a hedgerow be turned into a group planting.

Those more established bonsai which were in for the next stage of their development saw different levels of refinement. Some only needed minor pruning and wiring whilst others required a full on wiring session taking up most of the day. Both Sandra and Gordon were vying for the position of wiring champion previously reserved for Jeff.





OTAGO BONSAI SOCIETY 40TH ANNIVERSARY

By Brian Ellis
Otago Bonsai Society

In May of 2019 the Otago Bonsai Society celebrated its 40th anniversary. The first meeting of the Otago Bonsai Club was held on 1st May 1979. The first formal meeting followed on 2nd October 1979. The adoption of a set of rules was passed at the AGM in 1980. In 1981 the name was changed to the Otago Bonsai Society.

To date the organisation of the Society has been overseen by 53 committee members, 17 Presidents, 9 secretaries and 12 treasurers. Carl Christiaans and Jan Letts should be commended in serving the longest periods as secretary, both for 8 years.

The first display of trees was on March 1980 at the Dunedin Rose Show. Since then there have been regular displays at events and exhibitions. The most frequent is the seasonal Dunedin Horticultural Shows where the Otago Bonsai Society is one of the more regular contributors.

The first workshop was held in August 1980 with Merrion Baker, Joy Morton, David McLean and Peter Heenan as

demonstrators. Since then there have been regular workshops with New Zealand and overseas tutors. Some of these tutors have returned on several occasions. Many of the workshops were preceded by a demonstration to give members inspiration and knowledge of new techniques.





This year the Otago club invited Tony Bebb to demonstrate and hold workshops as part of the 40th anniversary celebrations. These were held at the Kingsgate hotel on Saturday 13 April 2019. The morning session was a demonstration by Tony Bebb from Brisbane. Tony has been a regular visitor to the Otago Bonsai Society giving demonstrations and guiding workshops. His participation in these celebrations marks the first year of a three year programme as he will return in 2020 and 2021 to help further develop and refine members' trees. At the demonstration Tony worked on a pine belonging to Joy Morton. He then refined a cedar that he first worked on at his last visit four years ago.

An important feature of the celebrations was a display of heritage trees which either belonged to the Society or were originally styled by some of the foundation members. After lunch Joy Morton gave an overview of the history of each tree. This was followed by a talk and slide show on the history of the Society

There was a display of documents, memorabilia and photographs of people and activities going back to the early days of the Society. Finally in the evening there was a dinner which included a slide show of the best of members' trees

On the Sunday following the 40th celebrations Tony Bebb conducted two workshops for members.







BLENHEIM HOME AND GARDEN SHOW

By John Simpson
Blenheim Bonsai Group

Once again we were invited to put on a display of bonsai in the annual show. Once again it was very popular with the public and we had 29 people interested in attending our workshops to learn about bonsai leave their names and emails. All thought not a good time of year to display Bonsai we mainly focussed on silhouette, pines and conifers.

It was fortunate that our next workshop was the following Sunday the 14th and after advising our email list we had five new people who came along; even in the wind

and rain. If it had been a sunny day we may have had more !! However, these hardy five either brought along a tree to work on and pot up, or purchased a starter tree from the nursery. Although Selmes Nurseries potting shed was not the warmest, after a couple of hours and a hot coffee with home baked cheese muffins they went home very happy and looking forward to our August workshop. Rod Wegener did a sterling job with help from Ainslie Vincent and myself to get these people underway.







KATHY STEYN WORKSHOP IN HAMILTON

By Peter Mudie
Hamilton Bonsai Club

Rather than running a conventional workshop our Saturday with Kathy Steyn was devoted to one of her specialities — creating miniature landscapes (saikai being one form of this art). Before the workshop Kathy sent out a list of the types of raw materials we should bring along.

The morning started with a demonstration by Kathy on how she builds a landscape. First selecting suitable rocks and positioning them at varying heights. The rocks were held in place by a mixture made from clay and compost to make sure

they did not move. Where extra height was required Kathy used small concrete blocks to lift the rocks. Once all the rocks were in place then compost was added.

Then Kathy selected trees that would fit in the landscape. The trees would be styled using the clip and grow method as wiring would be too difficult so choice of trees was critical. Kathy's main inspiration is from the typically flat-topped trees as seen on the South African plains so she chose trees which would reflect that.



Once Kathy had finished her demonstration it was our turn. Kathy began by moving around the tables giving us advice on rock selection and placement, making sure we chose rocks that would go together and provide perspective. Once rocks and soil mix were in place it was down to plant choice and placement. The end result — lots of interesting and imaginative landscapes.

Whilst all the fun was going on, Kathy managed to create a second landscape as we were busy concentrating on our own efforts. This will be raffled off at our convention in October.





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USING WHAT WE HAVE!

By Martin Walters
Auckland Bonsai Society

In May this year the Victorian Native Bonsai Club hosted a convention in Melbourne. As the name suggests they only concentrate on trees native to Australia. It was to be held over three days with Ryan Neil from the United States as the main demonstrator and Hugh Grant as the local talent.

Taking place in a hotel this was an event from the outset that was set to be a

learning curve for all, including Ryan. People were keen to see what could be done with their natives and when the discussions and demonstrations took place the main hall was packed. People watching Ryan and Hugh intently.

Ryan was quick to point out he knew very little about Australian natives but would apply his horticultural and bonsai knowledge to the material provided. He





asked many questions to the crowd as to characteristics of the species provided and tried many techniques as the days progressed to see what would happen; much different to a normal show. This time you actually follow Ryan's steps as he also learns what the trees were capable of.

The main species used was *Kunzea ambigua* very similar to our Kanuka. In fact, this tree was used throughout the three days on all the demonstrations. With its old bark, small foliage and great budding back and ramification it is a species that needs to be investigated a lot further!

On the first day Ryan needed to lift a thick branch on the back of the first *Kunzea*. Unsure of how flexible these trees were he placed wet paper towels over the area needed to be bent and left them for a few hours. This proved to be a smart move as the water soaked to the core of the branch, nearly 80% through. This provided

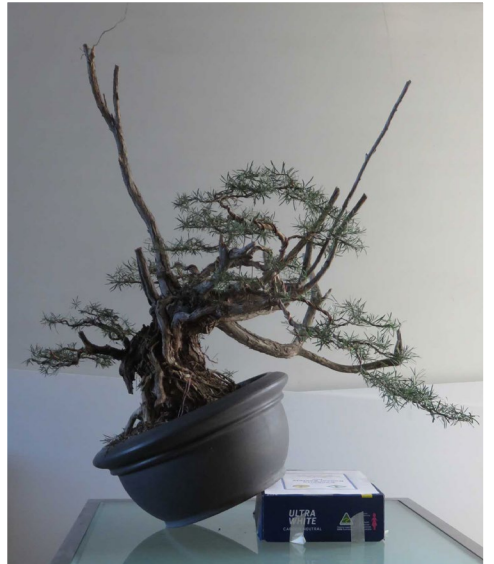
the flexibility needed with raffia and wire where he wanted to place the branch.

Ryan worked very hard on the first tree, coming in early to finish on the second day, and staying late each evening. He talks non-stop during his demos and engages the crowd like no demonstrator I have seen. A pure pleasure to watch and a learning experience like no other.

On the second day Hugh joined Ryan on stage and also worked on another *Kunzea*. A tree he collected. Hugh and Ryan bounced off each other during the day. Hugh having stayed with Ryan at Mirai for a few months helped in the chemistry they both shared and both provided beautiful trees when they finished.

Hugh Grant is to be the main demonstrator at the Auckland Club Show next February, so be sure to come along and see this great talent in action!







REPORT ON THE AABC CONVENTION 2019

By Les Simpson
Hamilton Bonsai Club

During the weekend of the 17-20 May 2019 ten people from New Zealand attended the AABC National Bonsai Convention in Melbourne. This was hosted by the Victorian Native Bonsai Club in partnership with AABC. In total 205 Delegates attended. The convention was held at Mantra Bell City, Preston, Melbourne.

On the Friday there were two bus trips. Tour 1 visited the Hachinoki Pottery Studio and Heide Museum of Modern Art and Tour 2 visited the Royal Botanic Gardens at Cranbourne. We opted for Tour 1. The Pottery Studio was in Marg Fenn's suburban backyard. It was a superb bit of driving by the bus driver on narrow suburban streets and tight roundabouts to get us there. The highlights of this visit were the pots for sale and the pottery demonstration by Marg. Lunch was at the RSL on Bell, Heidelberg Heights. We then visited the Heide Museum and Gardens with a focus on Heide history, gardens and the museum of modern art.

There was an exhibition of bonsai featuring 71 Australian Native Trees at the convention. A booklet was provided in our convention kit which named each tree in the exhibition and gave us brief details about each one. The standard of bonsai entered in the exhibition was higher than I had anticipated. Those in Australia involved with natives have progressed very fast in the last few years. The winning





tree in the exhibition was a *Melaleuca styphelioides* or prickly paperbark.

There was a sales area with vendors selling pots, stands and other bonsai merchandise.

Ryan Neil, the guest and lead demonstrator, was first on stage on Saturday morning. He continued working on his demonstration trees on stage while other demonstrations and talks in parallel were in progress for the duration of the convention. This worked out very well as it meant there was continuous talking from someone on stage. It is perhaps a point we could take on board for future New Zealand conventions.

Ryan completed three demonstration trees during the convention. They were all *Kunzea peduncularis* Burgan. This is closely related to the New Zealand *Kanuka* the botanical name of which is *Kunzea erioides*. Ryan first of all identified the environmental conditions where the *Kunzea peduncularis* were collected from.

He identified that they were dry, fibrous and added that brittleness was generally a characteristic of Australian natives. An experimental approach was required to determine how best to collect, fertilize, repot, maintain and style them. Whilst traditional Japanese styling provided a few answers as to how to shape and style, Ryan had to look elsewhere for inspiration, such as how these trees grow in nature and his natural artistic flare. Finally it was a case of let the tree lead the dance. Ryan explained that an evolutionary approach was required to determine the best method of collecting from the wild and maintaining the trees in good condition once collected. He cited ponderosa pines in the USA which were not used for bonsai for many years because of its very long needles. However, with investigation and a willingness to experiment, this obstacle has largely been overcome with ponderosa pine now back on the menu as being suitable for bonsai. Ryan's trees were sold at auction although still requiring work in future years.

Talks and demonstrations by Australians were run in parallel with Ryans demonstrations featured:

Myths and misconceptions about natives - Marcela Ferreira - Ins and outs of collecting, displaying and maintaining Australian native bonsai.

Demonstration *Kunzea peduncularis* 'Burgan' - Hugh Grant. Hugh was familiar with these trees growing in coastal situations and this was what he tried to mimic in his demonstration. He also mentioned that they have found that trees collected from the wild recover much quicker in pumice. They use New Zealand pumice which is much more expensive to buy in Australia compared with NZ.

Breaking the Bonsai Ceiling – Roger Hnatik-Talk

Collecting *Kunzea* - group presentation by the Vic Native Bonsai Club on their experience in collecting the native *Kunzea peduncularis* Burgan from the wild. They showed pictures of where they collected from which was private land for which they had approval to collect. The success rate from this initial dig was very poor. They have since made dramatic improvements in their success rate.

Wild tree virtual critique - Quentin Valentine - This was a fun session which consisted of photos taken of trees in their native wild state and use of Photoshop to change the trees into an ideal bonsai shape with interaction from the audience on what changes to make.

In addition we had a talk from the curator of the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia (NBPCA) located in Canberra.

Lindsay Bebb from the World Bonsai Friendship Federation spoke promoting the 9th World Bonsai Convention in Perth Australia in mid-October 2021. For those of you that can this would be a great convention to attend. Attendees will be from all parts of the world with Asian countries closest to Perth expected to be in greatest numbers. As trees from other countries and other states of Australia are not permitted to be taken to Perth there will be emphasis on displaying photographs at this convention. These countries including New Zealand and other states of Australia will be requested to send photographs.

The convention was well run and very enjoyable. A very nice touch was that after the convention concluded they sent the booklet handed out with the convention kit listing all 71 trees in the exhibition but with this hand out a photograph of each tree was inserted. The food was very good as was the venue. The accommodation was not so good although at the cheap price we got it for I guess it was very good value.

The next AABC National Bonsai Convention will be held in Sydney 15-18 May 2020 at the Bankstown Sports Club, Bankstown. Two overseas guest demonstrators will be featured. Juan Andrade from Costa Rica and Mitsuo Matsuda from Japan. Both speak English.



NEW ZEALAND BONSAI CONVENTION 2019

HAMILTON – 11TH TO 13TH
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.

Programme

Friday Evening

Welcome and Opening Ceremony
Critique of some of the trees in the
National Show by Suthin
Light Refreshments

Saturday

Welcome
Demonstrations by Sandra Quintal and
Dawid de Villiers
Suthin Demonstration
Les Simpson talk "Shaping and Styling
Bonsai in Aotearoa"
'Kiwi Camel'
NZBA AGM
Convention Dinner

Sunday

Suthin Talk
Adriaan & Poppie Engelbrecht
Suthin Demonstration
Presentation by the 2020 Convention
Committee
Close

Monday

Workshops with Suthin
Morning or Afternoon Sessions (a
maximum of 6 participants per 3.5 hr
session, silent observers welcome)

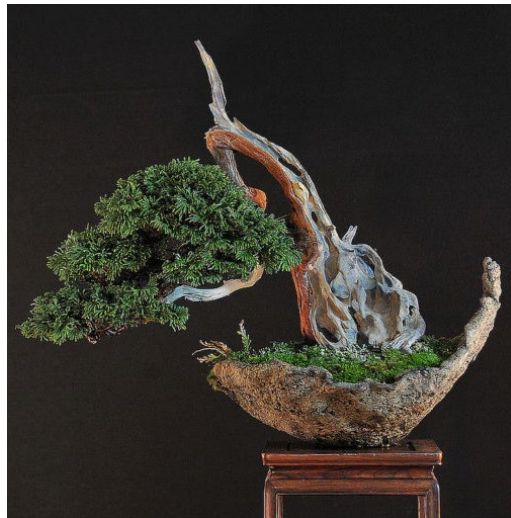
Tuesday

Morning 'Train the Trainer' session for
members of the NZBA Demonstrators List
and those who are involved in tutoring
within clubs

This year we will see probably the
largest ever display of bonsai in New
Zealand.

The whole of the 540m2 Central Court
area at Hamilton Gardens is given
over to the display.

The NZBA National Show will
highlight some of the best bonsai
from around the country with awards
for the Best Bonsai in New Zealand,
Best New Zealand Native Bonsai, Best
Shohin Display (new for 2019) and
Best Tree and Pot combination.



Normally the rest of the display area would be taken up by the host club but this year the Hamilton Bonsai Club have invited both the Bay of Plenty Bonsai Society and the Rotorua Bonsai Club to join with them to put on joint displays showing off the best bonsai in the area.

The 266m2 Exhibition hall at the Hamilton Gardens Pavilion will play host to the Trade stands. All of the available tables have been booked and you will be able to fulfil all of your bonsai needs.

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.

ROBERT LANGHOLM

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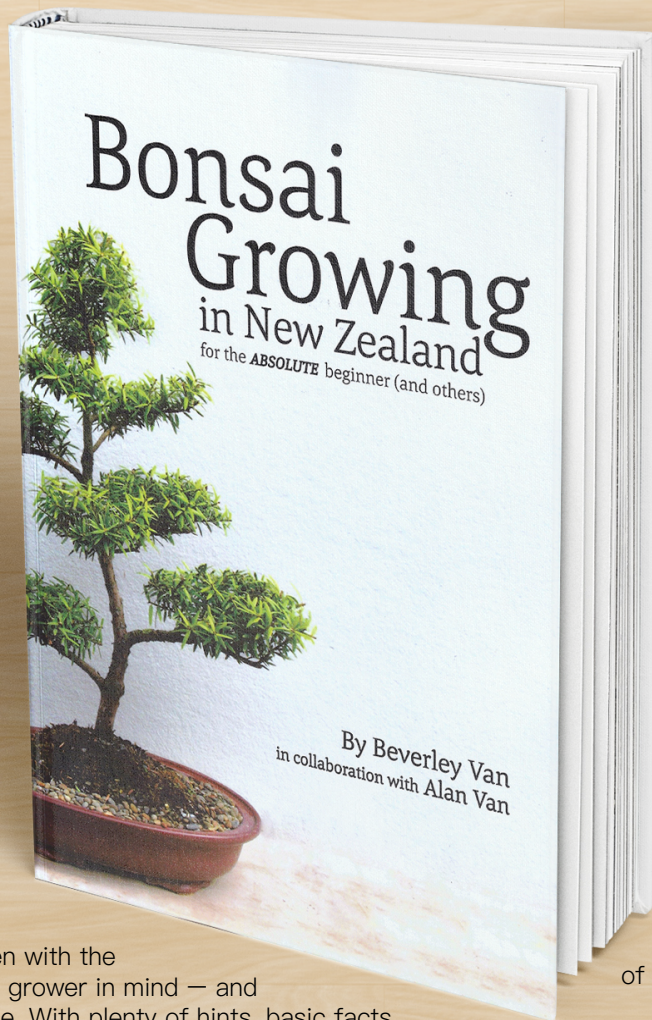
phone (09) 629 3662 or 027 286 3321
bob-si@ihug.co.nz



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.

170 pages
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