



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION  
OF NZBA

# BONSAI TIMES



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## From The Presidents Desk

**G**reetings to all once again, another winter not far away, it is time to start looking at our deciduous trees and start planning what we need to do in wiring and also for our spring Pruning. Some parts of NZ will also be looking at repotting.

I would also like at this stage to pass sincere thanks from NZBA to Colin Klenner on all the work he has put in over the years into our website. This was set up by Colin and has been our window to NZ and the world of bonsai in NZ.

At this stage I would like to welcome Peter Mudie as our new webmaster and I encourage all to have a look at what Peter has done with it. Please can all clubs make sure that both Dianne as newsletter editor and Peter as webmaster get the info of what is going on in your club and area.

Over past issues I have had to mention the sad passing of some of our members, this issue I have to mention the tragic passing of my very good friend Louis Nell in South Africa. Louis was a fellow International Consultant with WBFF and was killed when hit by a car whilst out for a run. A big loss to the world of bonsai.

Any clubs that are interested in hosting NZBA conventions please get in touch with Brian or myself, as we have some gaps in the calendar.

My challenge to all clubs is remember this is your magazine. Please keep the info coming to Dianne, we need this info - share it with us all don't keep it to yourself

**Lindsay**





***BONSAI TIMES  
brings you the  
inspiration,  
motivation and  
encouragement  
to create  
remarkable  
bonsai.***





# BONSAI TIMES

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**Preparation** is the key to a lot of bonsai activities. Something we often fail to do not only in bonsai but in life. The time spent getting ready for your next goal, creating your dream or doing the mundane can make that job far more fun and rewarding.

As the winter months are now upon us and the demands of pinching, styling, constantly watering and watching etc. are not there so what a great chance it is to plan what you intend to do with that difficult tree come spring. There is nothing like curling up in front of the fire with a good book or bonsai book. The ideas and inspiration that can come from these can be transforming. Give it a go!

There is so much information out there it is difficult to make choices and often when you are new at this art the decisions can be frightening. Preparation is the key. Spend time studying your subject. If it is a deciduous tree this is great as you get to see it without its clothes on. Its true shape is revealed. Learn about what will happen if you make certain choices - that way the decision will be easier. You have done your research.

In addition to all this we often complain that we never have time to sort out our tools. All those pots need to be cleaned, stored away so that you can view them easily when trying to make a pot choice. Check all the pots that your trees are currently sitting in, maybe they need to be replaced, repaired or changed. Something you have learned has suggested you have the shape or colour wrong.

Shopping. Yes well that is fun. Go out and spend the time researching your potting mixes. Sourcing other material, tools, wire, pots and classes. Come home with your boot full of potential material. Oh dear - a vicious circle, don't we know it.

The most important thing though, is that the best laid plans often don't work, as Malcolm Potts has shared with us in this edition of the Bonsai Times. This is a case in point - write an article for the Bonsai Times or your local clubs newsletter. I seriously need material and for us to grow in this art we have to share our experiences so we can learn from others experiences, mistakes and successes.

So don't be blue get out there and commune with your bonsai.

*Dianne*



# WHATEVER HAPPENED TO

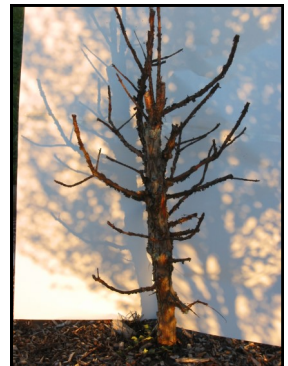
*At the convention Robert Steven worked on a Dawn Redwood which had been collected from Tauranga and worked by Peter Mudie. He kindly allowed this material to be restyled as one of the demonstrations. This is the story of this tree from collection till now. As told by Peter Mudie*

**T**hose of you who attended the 2010 Convention may remember the large Dawn Redwood that Robert worked on. This article explains where the tree came from and what has happened to it since.

After we arrived in New Zealand in January 2005 we needed to find some material for working on. We had been told about this place in Tauranga where we could get some good trees and so we went on the first of our trips to see Adriaan and Poppie. We came back with six large trees crammed in the car and it was dark when we started planting them by the light of the car headlamps.

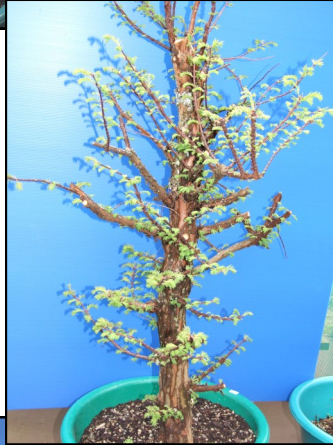


In the two years that they were in the ground the trees were given a couple of rough trimmings to get some shape into them whilst we concentrated on building our house.





In the spring of 2007 the tree was put into a plastic training pot and allowed to grow unrestrained for twelve months.



In July 2008 the tree was taken along to a Hamilton Club workshop with Clinton Nesci from Australia. At this workshop the major area of focus was in defining how the top of the trunk would develop.





With regular watering and feeding the tree thrived. Then September 2008 saw it repotted into a large oval pot we had acquired from Ken Wong in Auckland.

Regular feeding and pruning saw the foliage thicken and the tree grow into the shape Clinton and I had in mind.

As we needed some large trees for the centre piece of the exhibition at the Convention, the tree was taken along to sit on a plinth in the middle of the hall. It was there that Robert decided he could use it to illustrate a point he wished to make during his talk. I remember him saying he would talk about the tree at the end of his demonstration.

Little did I know that rather than using the tree as an illustration Robert had decided to make a dramatic change to the design of the tree.





Robert started by changing the angle of the trunk and removing a large root from the one side.



swiftly removed virtually all the branches and the top of the trunk.

He then



The resulting tree is very different from the original plan.



Once back home the tree has been left to recover. Foliage has sprouted all over the trunk and the few remaining branches. Where this is not in keeping with Robert's vision this has been removed.

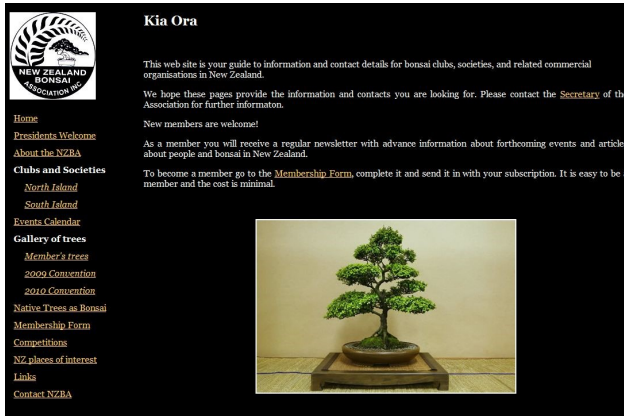


Over the forthcoming winter the tree will be repotted back into the same pot but at the angle Robert chose. The top will be jinned but not treated with lime sulphur to encourage the 'natural' decay Robert envisioned. After one to two years of pruning I will be repotting it into a smaller pot – when I can find the right one.

The other large tree and the larch group Robert worked on are also doing fine.

# New look Website for NZBA

On June 1st the NZBA's new website went live.



The new look site is still at [www.bonsainz.com](http://www.bonsainz.com) and now includes details of the competitions sponsored by NZBA (including the entries for the Vision to Reality Award and the Emerging Talent competition), profiles on some of the members of the demonstrators list, an events calendar, a list of stolen trees and more about what the NZBA does.

The site has been designed Peter Mudie from the Hamilton Club. Peter and his wife Ann started growing bonsai in the UK in the early 1990's and when they moved to Hamilton in 2005 they had to leave behind a collection of over 120 trees. Peter is an IT professional working for a small IT company in Hamilton and was the winner of the 2009 Emerging Talent competition.

As with the Bonsai Times, the website will only be as up to date as the information supplied to it by you. Please email details of your club events for the calendar, details of any stolen trees or photos of your trees for the gallery to Peter at [webmaster@bonsainz.com](mailto:webmaster@bonsainz.com). He will then make sure that the site is kept up to date.

To make the website a valuable source of information about bonsai in New Zealand we need pictures of NZ native trees as bonsai for one of the sections. Photos should be of the tree on a plain background if possible. You can also send him pictures of your trees for the member's gallery – pictures in here will be rotated when we have sufficient.

For security reasons we are not publishing the details of the owners of the trees.

If your club does not have a website and would like a free page of its own on the NZBA website then give Peter a call on 021 873 026

# **WINTER PREPARATION ODDS & ENDS**

*Lake Charles Bonsai Society in Louisiana, USA share their newsletters with several clubs in New Zealand and have kindly give us permission to share some of their wisdom and experience. This article by Dave Bogan gives us lots of advice on things to do in the months ahead.*

## **In-House Trees**

Remember, keep a real close eye on any trees over wintering in your house. Keep the pot and soil areas clean and free of dead leaves or debris. Remove old moss which is dead and or covered with minerals from your water. Moss is a good place for diseases and insects to hide in during winter. If they're close to a window make sure there aren't any drafts or cold air. Occasionally turn them so they receive better light on all sides. Occasionally add a fungicide and or systemic to the soil helping prevent soil born problems. If you can, they will occasionally love a shower. Cover the pot with plastic and take them to the shower. You'll be amazed at how much old debris will wash out of the canopy areas. If you can't shower them, at least run your fingers through all the foliage especially at branch intersections. As leaves fall they will become lodged and start building up. This is an especially good area for insects and diseases to start or hide.

## **Tools**

Get all your tools together. Give them a through cleaning and sharpen them. Sharp tools are a must. If your tools are dull they will crush the wood fibres instead of cutting cleanly. Most tools will only need a quick honing with a stone or diamond file. Always try to maintain the original bevel. Using a marker, paint the bevel with ink. The ink will be rubbed off as you sharpen the tool showing you if your angle is correct. Always sharpen against the edge or up the bevel. Sharpen a cutting tool until you can feel a slight edge forming on the bottom. This is a slight curling of the metal, showing you have created a very fine edge. Once you feel this curl, lightly run this edge across a very fine hone, which will remove it. This only takes one or two swipes. Don't over do it. Never allow a pair of shears or scissor type cutters to close until you have removed this burr from the bottom side. Once clean and sharp, wipe your tools down with some lightweight oil. Always protect the cutting edges; don't just throw them into a box or tool bag.

## **Winter Branch Bending**

Be careful if you're attempting any wiring on dormant trees. With the sap down, some branches can be brittle and break easier. Always test bending a branch prior to wiring if you're unsure of its hardness. Of course, wiring in winter allows you more access to all areas (due to foliage drop) and it is a good time, just be careful.

## Temporary Pots

I'll never forget, when I first started bonsai one of our club members made temporary pots from wood. To be honest, after they have been water soaked, stained, and sun bleached; they will have a nice character. Sure, they are temporary but you will have very little invested. So, if your budget just won't allow for new pots or if you need one temporarily for a starter tree, consider making a couple over the winter. Once made, set them out to weather for a while. Don't worry about finishes or sealers, they are temporary.

## Rocks for Bonsai

As mentioned in a previous article, I used a piece of coral for a root over rock planting. Other than size, I picked this type of stone for its other characteristics. Coral is a rough textured stone. Actually not a stone, it's a grouping of old sea creatures, much of which gives it the coarse texture and look. The other reason for using it is that moss loves to grow on it. Generally coral is formed from marine animals containing a lot of calcium in their skeletal structure. Some types of coral are used in creating Portland limestone.

Apparently, Coral must have a low pH and other minerals which moss loves. As with typical limestone, moss loves to grow on it. In the case of my root over rock, I didn't use muck but I still like the look of some moss growing on the stone to make it look older and have character. If you have moss growing on a rock you must keep it moist especially in the early growing stages. To get moss to grow, I first "plug" small pieces into crevasses and holes in the rock. Next, I mix some dried moss spores with some very fine sifted bark. Once mixed and moistened, it is brushed or rubbed again in crevasses or holes in areas I want moss. If possible, keep the setting out of direct sun for a couple weeks and mist the stone daily (more if possible) and you will eventually have beautiful moss growing. During the hot summer, the moss may brown and seem dead but it will come back later and become stronger every year.

## Winter Pruning

Some practitioners do a lot of their pruning in fall once the leaves are off. Of course, this is a great time when you can see the entire structure of the tree. I only have two suggestions. First, be careful wiring since the branches will be more brittle this time of year due to the withdrawal of sap. Secondly, remember that the plant has slowed or stopped its upper growth. With this in mind, after a branch has been pruned this time of year, the tree will be very slow to compartmentalise or seal the wound. Callus growth will be slow at a maximum. This is probably one of the few times I suggest using a wound sealer, especially if the tree will over winter outside. Winter winds could cause the wound to dry quicker and possibly deeper than normal. You may have a little more dieback in a branch. So, go ahead and apply a THIN layer of sealer. Once applied, wipe it off and add a little bit of wood ash to help prevent disease. If you don't have any wound sealer, simply use white glue. Another helpful addition would be a little mouth wash or peroxide on the bare wound. Mouthwash has good bacteria fighting ingredients. I use Listerine.

## Winter Insect Protection

Hopefully you did this already but if not, consider treating your trees with a systemic insecticide. I use Dyhiston in a granule form. I prefer the granular type now so it penetrates slowly over time as I water. Remember that the root system continues to work, grow and be active as long as the temperatures are above freezing in fall. Insects may have laid their eggs in the soil. Depending on the weather, some of these could hatch into their larvae stages. Larvae and young grub type insects love to eat roots and burrow into the trees softer areas. They will stay here till spring, feeding and creating holes and tunnels through the plant. Systemics are the only way of killing these off once they enter the plant. Once temperatures start to warm again in spring, make sure you apply another application. Always be extra careful with cork bark or heavily barked trees. In the case of heavy bark, it doesn't hurt to spray the trunk with a liquid systemic.

## Temporary Lighting

To grow properly, most people utilise some type of supplemental lighting through the winter. I'm not going to go into the types of lights, lights are like soil, and everyone has an opinion on the type you should use. The issue here is timing and duration. You are adding the lights for one or two reasons, one, to maintain the plants in a better atmosphere, and two, to help the plant grow. Stop and think when plants grow their strongest. Generally, it's late spring to early summer, the time of year that we experience the longest periods of daylight. In order for your plants to mimic this, they will need lights to stay on longer. In my greenhouse, I run my lights for a 16 hour period then allow them 8 hours of darkness. Keep in mind, plants do need a rest period just like we do. In order to give them darkness, the lights need to be off at night. I run by lights from 4:00 a.m. till 8:00 p.m. I use HID motorised track lighting, which puts off a lot of heat. I bring them on at 4:00 a.m. so that I can also utilise the additional heat during the coldest part of the night. So, when you set your lighting timers, remember to give your plants some rest at night.



***Some of this information is not what we experience here in New Zealand but I chose to keep it in here to make us all grateful that we have sufficient light and warmth in our winter months. I don't know about the experiences of those of you in the South Island who get snow and ice during the winter months and the effect it has on your bonsai. I think it would***

***be an excellent idea for some of you down there to share your experience and advice on how to deal with snow during the winter months.***



# COLLECTING FIELD TRIPS

*Adapted by Alan Walker from articles by  
Vaughn & Donna Banting*

**This article first appeared in *BONSAI NEWS*, (the LCBS Newsletter) Vol. 1, No 5, December 1989 and was adapted from earlier articles by both Vaughn and Donna Banting in *NEW ORLEANS BONSAI*.**

Late fall and winter are among the most exciting times for many bonsai growers, because the collecting season is in full swing then. Collected specimens often turn out to be your favourite bonsai. Of course, the fact that you "bagged it" yourself makes it better, just like the fish you caught yourself tastes better than the one purchased at a market. Unless you travel more than a day's drive, your specimen will be native and adapted to our climate already. In addition, it's much easier to find great material almost ready for masterpiece status in the field than in the nursery, and the cost is only your time, effort and transportation.

Your needs on a collecting trip fall into three basic categories: tools, clothing and food and drinks. A shovel, preferably what is known as the "sharp shooter" or balling and root pruning spade is a must on any collecting trip as are the sharpened pruning shears and a small saw. Bring some large pots, old nursery cans (the larger, the better), or buckets with drainage holes if you plan to pot as you collect. Otherwise, large burlap bags, already cut into squares, are good for balling and burlapping your collected trees. If I can't find burlap, I often substitute heavy duty garbage bags, but this should only be used for a day or so until you can get the tree potted up or planted in your yard. You will also need some cord or flat headed two-inch nails to ball and burlap (B&B). A small garden shovel is useful if you come across smaller trees or possible companion plants. Small pots or cans will be needed to pot them unless you recycle your sandwich bags. An anti desiccant, such as Cloud™, is a good idea to help reduce transplant shock.

If several people are attending the collecting trip, it is wise to bring some sort of colour coded marking tape or tags to stake your claims. Colourful rags torn into six inch lengths will also do nicely, as will aluminium foil strips. I use plastic tagging tape sold by A. M. Leonard, Inc. (<http://www.amleo.com>)

Depending on the weather you should wear your most comfortable clothing. Jeans or khaki pants are best. Even if it's a little warm, shorts or skirts are impractical because of insects and thorny vines in many collecting areas. Always bring an extra shirt that you can wear over the one you have on in case of a sudden chill, or to replace the one you're wearing in case you get wet. In fact, it is wise to bring a complete change of clothing. Socks and shoes must be comfortable. Often tennis shoes are adequate, but hiking boots and even rubber wading boots are used on many collecting trips. You should check with the leader of the trip for recommendations on this. Scarves or sweatbands are handy to keep your hair out of your face or to wipe the sweat from your brow. For this last, I usually keep a washcloth in a sealed sandwich bag. Throw a jacket into the car even if the weather seems fine, just in case the weather changes or the climate at the dig site is different from home. Some prefer hunting jackets or photographers vests. On very cold days, wear clothing in layers, so you can strip them off as you get warmer from the activity.

Working in the great outdoors creates a very healthy appetite, and plain old bologna sandwiches will taste great on these collecting trips. Of course, some of you will be a little more creative and bring your own deli. Don't plan on your fellow members to feed you, unless you made arrangements. You should also not plan to eat at a joint on the way, unless you have been so advised by the leader of the collecting trip. Bring lots of cold drinks and a jug of water. Many trips begin rather early in the morning, so a coffee thermos is a popular item. Some trips last the whole day, so make sure you have enough food to keep your energy up. The group will usually take a picnic break around noon, taking time to discuss what has been found and where as well as tossing out appropriate compliments to fellow collectors in order to recruit help to dig up that "big monster".

One thing not mentioned above is a first aid kit. I hope this is never needed, but the Boy Scouts have the right idea when they suggest, "Be prepared." One item you will be glad to have is hand or skin lotion. Digging around in the soil makes one's hands very dry. Also, don't forget sunscreen. I use an SPF 50 when I remember. A broad brimmed hat will also help reduce solar exposure, especially if your hair is very thin (or gone!) like mine. You can get a sunburn regardless of the air temperature with enough exposure, and even though we're digging trees, there is usually little or no shade in the best collecting areas.

At the collecting site you will probably have difficulty recognizing suitable material at first. However, as your leader and others start pointing out various species such as cypress, water elm, sand pine, sweet gum, black gum, swamp red maple, hawthorn, or hornbeam you start to see them everywhere. Human nature dictates that you will want to start digging right away in order to collect as much as possible. Restrain this urge, however, and you will be much more satisfied with your efforts when you return home. Vaughn Banting suggests that you consider the following ten points before digging a tree.

- **Is it alive?** The trees will usually be dormant, so you don't want to accidentally collect a dead tree. To avoid this, scratch a twig with your thumbnail. If there is a light green color exposed, the tree is alive. This is the cambium layer.
- **Rootage.** Check to see if you have some large surface roots by digging at the base of the trunk with your fingers. See that they radiate out in at least three distinct directions.
- **Flared base.** Although not essential, the base of the trunk should flare out to some degree. This will contribute greatly to the desired illusion of age.
- **Trunk diameter.** Since you are not restricted to the small trunks available in nursery stock, take advantage of this and try to find the thickest trunks, with regard to the total height.
- **Taper.** Does the trunk taper from a large base to a fine twig for the apex? If not, is there a secondary branch that can be wired up for a new apex, thus allowing you to remove the upper portion of the tree?
- **Overall height.** Remember, a bonsai is not really considered a bonsai when it is over 48 inches tall, so don't collect trees that cannot be reduced in height and still have a convincing taper.
- **Ratio of overall height to trunk diameter.** Is the trunk thick enough to account for the height? Remember, the thicker the trunk and the shorter the tree, the older it will appear.
- **Low branching.** Are there branches at least as low as one-third the total height of the tree now or after you have topped it?

- **Branch arrangement.** Are the branches spaced evenly enough to allow the later removal of all “bar branches”, “crossed branches”, etc., without removing all the branches on one side or disfiguring the tree?
- **Twig ramification.** Look for specimens that have developed more than just secondary branches. Secondary branches should have an abundance of tertiary branches which should give rise to an abundance of fine twiggling.

Finally, practise good collecting manners. Obtain permission to dig from the landowner. Fill in your holes. Don't dig more trees than you can care for. And don't litter. If you pack it in, pack it out!

One last suggestion is that you need to allow time to care for your newly collected trees after your return home. Why go to the bother of collecting, if you neglect this very important step and subject the tree to neglect just when it needs the most care? You will need to pot or replant your tree to protect the rootage. You will also need to clean up any rough cuts, both above and below the soil line, to reduce the risk of insect or disease damage. This is also the time to add your gris grig, like Superthrive™ or Transplantone™ or other root stimulants. If you know how you want to style the tree, you can save a lot of work later by getting the potting angle perfected now. And, of course, don't forget to water it and protect it from direct sunlight for a couple of weeks.

Happy hunting, and don't forget to invite me along.



*Weekend collecting trip in the Redwood Forest in Rotorua between the Hamilton and Rotorua Bonsai Clubs*





# MAKING A STAND



**No 234:**  
Rimu,(recycled) measures 270 x 245 x 90mm high.  
Oiled and finished with satin polyurethane  
Price: NZ\$115-00 + GST & Fgt

**T**hese beautiful stands have been designed and handcrafted by Rob Smith of Tauranga.

They are made from recycled timbers wherever possible and are unique products as no two are the same unless requested. All the tables have felt feet to protect your furniture and are finished in a range of methods from natural oiling to polyurethane in satin or gloss.

These tables are examples of what Rob makes and as said above not standard designs.



**No 225:**  
Rimu, measuring 270 x 205 x 95mm high.  
Natural finish with satin lacquer.  
Price NZ\$105.00 + GST & Fgt



**No 237:**  
Rimu,(recycled) considerable fretwork to base - measures 400 x 225 x 90mm high  
Oiled and finished in satin polyurethane.  
Price: NZ\$145-00 + GST & Fgt



**No 223:**  
Rimu, measuring 360 x 237 x 100mm High.  
Natural finish with satin lacquer.  
Price NZ\$128.00 + GST & Fgt

Please note that all these products are individually designed and crafted, and should you wish us to make a table that has been previously sold then we will not guarantee it to be identical since each end product is a result of unique raw materials and individual craftsmanship. All these products are made in New Zealand and only raw materials may in a very few cases be of imported origin.

Our range of tables is changing all the time so please contact us for updates to our inventory.

Please ask if there is a design of any display product that you would like and we will price it for you!

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**No 233:**  
Rimu,(recycled) Hexagonal measuring 410 at widest (point to point) x 85mm High.  
Oiled then sealed with satin polyurethane  
Price NZ\$134-00



**No 220:**

Rimu measuring 200 x 200mm x 85mm high.  
Finished in satin polyurethane  
Price NZ\$68.00 + GST & Fgt

# GET POTTED

***At this time of year we have begun thinking about Spring and the work ahead. The planning can start now by cleaning and preparing your pots. Peter Mudie gives a few pointers to help you with your choices (thanks to John Pitt for the photos of his pots).***

**O**ne of the most difficult decisions you have to make with your prized tree is “What pot should I put it into?”

In choosing the ‘right’ pot for your tree there are a number of factors you have to consider. The clues for making the right choice are all provided by the tree itself, it’s up to you to interpret the clues to make the right choice.

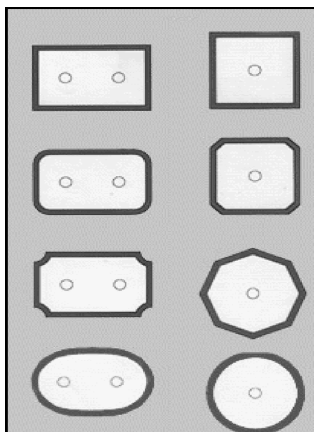
Bonsai pots are usually made from clay which has been fired at a high temperature to make it frost proof (generally called stoneware). Although there are other materials which can be used including:

- Natural materials such as rock or wood
- Plastic
- Resin
- Cement
- Fibreglass
- A combination of the above



Ce-

*ment and fibreglass pots*



The finish on a ceramic pot can be unglazed (showing the natural colour of the fired clay) or have either a gloss or matt glaze. Pots can be decorated or plain.

Conventional bonsai pots are based on either a rectangle or circle with modifications to the corners such as rounded corners or concave corners to give a variety of shapes.

There are specific shapes of pots for more specific styles of bonsai.

- Cascade
- Semi-cascade
- Slab
- Crescent / Moon
- Drum
- Primitive / Freeform

## Pot Shape

When looking for the right shape you need to consider how 'Masculine' or 'Feminine' your tree is.

Masculine trees tend to have a thick trunk, heavy branches, give an impression of power, are angular and have a rugged bark.

Feminine trees are slimmer, have fine branches, give an impression of being delicate, have a rounded shape and a smooth trunk.

You will find both masculine and feminine features in your tree, it's the degree of masculinity or femininity which guides you to your choice of pot shape. Masculine trees tend to have squarer pots and feminine trees tend to have rounder pots.

The style of your tree also has a bearing on the shape of pot:

Literati trees are usually in a round pot with a diameter less than third the height of the tree (try to choose a pot that the top of the tree would look good in).

Landscapes and groups tend to be in a low pot or on a slab.

Cascades and semi-cascades are usually in a square or round pot.

## Pot Size

When looking for a pot we need to make sure it doesn't overpower the tree, the pot should complement the tree and not draw your eye away from it.

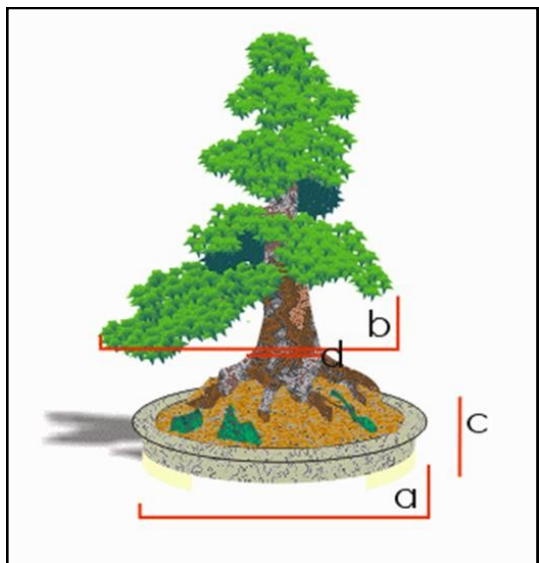
## Proportions

To get the right size we need to consider the size of the tree. In general the pot width (a) should be 2/3 of the tree height or width (b)

The depth of the pot (c) should be equal to the width of the trunk at the point where the root flare ends (d).

However there are some exceptions which I will explain later.

For cascades or semi-cascades the pot width should be about half the span of the tree and its depth no more than half the depth (height) of the tree.



## Optical Weight

When looking at a tree and pot together they should have the same 'optical weight' - namely for a tall delicate tree we should have a pot that looks light, a heavy tree should have a heavy looking pot. This 'optical mass' for the pot should be about 1/3 of that of the tree. If you have the right size of pot you can alter the look of the pot by choosing a pot with a curved side



Adding a lip increases the optical weight whilst curving the sides in decreases the optical weight.



## Pot Colour

When choosing a colour for the pot look at all the colours in the tree (bark, foliage, flowers, fruit) and either choose a colour similar to those you have found or use the colour wheel to find a contrasting colour. For example many red maples are shown in a blue pot.

Conifers are usually shown in pots with earthen colours, browns or greys.



## Exceptions to the rules

When choosing your pot be aware some trees will need bigger pots than the guidelines suggest because they are drought intolerant, do not like root disturbance, are subject to temperature intolerance.

# FROM DELIGHT TO DESPAIR

*Malcolm Potts of New Plymouth shares his experiences with us. Something I think we all feel at times.*



**I**t took ten years to create – ten days to ruin. And I can blame only myself.

Just eighteen months ago this Kahikatea raft won “Best in Show” at the Hawkes Bay Convention. Since then it moved into a lovely Noel Plowman dish and thrived until late this summer.

Then the automatic watering system sprinkler to this tree failed and, judging by results, it must have been dry for over a week before the owner noticed. Woe is me. There are some signs of life in a few of the trunks but I fear most will not

recover. Certainly it will take many years to make anything of this poor tree again.

Automatic systems are a great help when there are many bonsai to water but should only be a back-up when you are home. Hand-held watering means every tree gets looked at every day.

“Do as I say, not as I did!”



# EXHIBITION IN NORTHLAND



I have now been living in Northland for three years, two of which have been in Paihia so I decided it would be an opportunity to promote bonsai and try and gauge interest in setting up a bonsai club or beginning a friendly group of artists.

I held the exhibition in the local community hall and setting up and preparing the trees and was a mission in itself. Fortunately I had Noel Plowman to help me and my club in Hamilton allowed me to use their display materials.

I enjoyed the challenge of getting enough trees from my collection to hold a one woman exhibition. It was extremely rewarding and inspiring to see years of my work on display like this. All the skills and knowledge that I have learnt over thirty years went into creating this show.

**Dianne Miller**



# AVON BONSAI SOCIETY



**T**he Avon Bonsai Society was delighted to present Bernice Lenz and Alison McIntosh with Life Membership at their AGM in May this year in recognition of their work for and support of the Avon Bonsai Society.

Alison was among the small group of enthusiasts who had attended bonsai classes in 1992 and who then met in 1993 to discuss forming an informal group of people interested in bonsai. As their numbers grew from these classes it was realised a more formal group should be made. And so the Avon Bonsai Society came into being.

In the years that followed Alison has served as Secretary, plus sometimes as newsletter editor and librarian. In all that time she has been a loyal supporter, assisting at all manner of club events.

Bernice also started at the beginning of the club's life having also attend one of those first bonsai classes. In the years since she too has been a committee member, serving as Hostess in welcoming club members and visitors to our meetings. Besides this Bernice has always been on hand to assist at the many club events.



# AGM DEMONSTRATION



**B**esides electing a new committee for the next twelve months, our members were treated to an extremely interesting demonstration by our new President.

Wayne is one of those people who, if he has a problem, goes that little bit further to find a solution. Wayne's problem had been finding bonsai pots large enough for his bigger bonsai and came up with the following idea of making them.

His materials are very simple.

He used "NO STEEL CON-CRETE" (obtainable from most supply outlets such as Bunning's), water and colouring oxide. Using these he created a most attractive, rugged container for us.

A large bowl/tray filled with garden soil hollowed to shape acted as the mould. A cork was put in place in the soil to create a drainage hole. Once hardened sufficiently the pot will be removed and the colouring oxide, (red iron, or magnesium or whatever colour you want) applied to the outside. Material such as vermiculite can be patted on the wet outer surface first to give a different texture.

Above is a photo of a 'mountain' Wayne had created by draping soft sheeting material over polystyrene blocks and then applying the concrete mix. Trees on this have only just been planted, but once they are established this promises to be a most attractive planting.

Here is a great way to get those otherwise very expensive imported pots for your treasures! Our thanks to Wayne for this solution to what has been a perennial problem.

## BRIGHT IDEA



# OTAGO BONSAI SOCIETY



**T**he Otago Bonsai Society, as a member of Australian Associated Bonsai Clubs, was able to access the Visiting Tutor programme. Lee Wilson from Sydney was invited for the first weekend in May. On the Friday evening Lee gave a demonstration following a pot luck tea. He took three very ordinary looking trees and converted these into a fine group planting much to the surprise of those present.





Over the following two days Lee conducted three workshops which were attended in total by 16 members. Everyone who attended found the instruction very useful and enjoyed Lee's relaxed and friendly style.

The weekend was very successful and everyone would like to see Lee back again. We can certainly recommend joining AABC and using their Visiting Tutor programme.



# STOLEN



**Bad news** Sandra Quintal's beautiful Golden Totara (as pictured above) potted into one of Noel Plowman's freeform trays was stolen at night from the Hamilton Gardens.

The alarm went off in the Chinese Garden but the guard didn't find anything and it wasn't till the staff went in the next morning that they found it gone. The thieves took it over a three metre high white wall of the room, into the pond area and then there is no trace.

The Gardens have given the police all the details. This was obviously stolen to order, or for a private collection theft as it would have needed to be well planned and (done in the dead of night) and executed. It was obvious that more than one person was responsible.

This is a warning to all of us no matter how secure you think your collection is there will always, unfortunately, be someone out there who would like to help themselves for profit and personal gain.

***Take care out there.***

# Notes from the NZBA Committee

The Committee met by teleconference on Sunday April 17 and the following were some of the items discussed.

## Convention 2013

We have approached several clubs in the North Island to host the 2013 convention without success to date. Unless we can secure a club to host this then we may need to consider other options for 2013. We also note that attendance at conventions recently has been lower than anticipated. We will have to consider not only what we do in 2013 but the future for our annual national convention. What are your suggestions for future conventions?

## Bonsai Times

It has been suggested by a member club that this is circulated electronically which would enable wider distribution of a coloured version to all club members on the internet. While this could achieve wider distribution it may discourage individual membership and some may prefer a hard copy. What do you think?

## Webmaster

We are pleased to announce that Peter Mudie from Hamilton will be taking over as our webmaster. Colin Klenner was responsible for establishing the website and maintaining it for a number of years. We would like to thank Colin for his valuable contribution to NZBA. Please encourage members to view our website regularly. How do you think it could be improved?

Ideas and suggestions from clubs and members on these issues are welcome. Please send these to the Secretary.



## SNIPPETS

Over recent months a wonderful amount of moss has grown over everything! This is much to all bonsai lovers delight. The sad thing is as soon as summer arrives most of this green stuff vanishes. So what can you do?


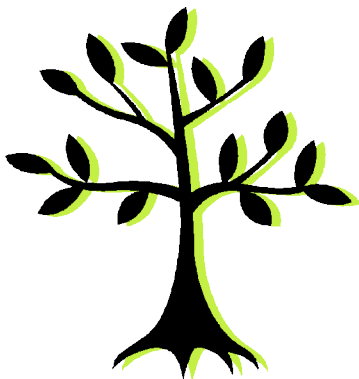
### **Moss Cocktail**

Remove some of this moss off trees and other surfaces and place four or five times its volume with water in a blender. Whip the mix and then pour your Moss Cocktail over moss free surfaces. Water carefully and regularly until moss grows. Rain water is best for this mixture as tap water is normally chlorinated and contains fluoride which in turn kills off the moss. Also watch out for stones and unwanted pests!

## New Members

We need new members. Refer your friends today, encourage your club members to support the association.

**May great things grow from  
this small beginning**



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# DVD FOR HIRE

| TITLE                                      | DESCRIPTION  | FEATURES                          | Rating |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Bonsai at his home                         |  | John Naka                         | 4      |
| Finding the Bonsai Within<br>98 minutes    | Working with difficult trees.<br>Ponderosa Pine Wiring<br>Techniques | Andy Smith                        | 7      |
| In Full Circle                             | Japanese-Style Garden.<br>Design and Implementation                  | D Slawson &<br>P Krause           |        |
| NZBA National Convention Napier 2008       | The demonstrations, speakers<br>and exhibition trees                 |                                   |        |
| NZBA National Convention Christchurch 2009 | The demonstrations, speakers<br>and exhibition trees                 |                                   |        |
| NZBA National Convention Hamilton 2010     | The demonstrations, speakers<br>and exhibition trees                 | Robert Steven                     |        |
| Juniper Forest Demonstration               |  | John Naka                         | 6      |
| 111-Tree Florida Elm Demo                  |  | John Naka                         | 5      |
| 39 Tree Stewartia Demonstration            |  | Saburo Kato                       | 6      |
| Two Shimapaku Plantings                    | Includes Rock Plantings  | Yuji Yoshimura                    | 6      |
| US National Bonsai & Penjing Museum        | Comments on trees viewed<br>one by one                               |                                   | 7      |
| Demonstration                              | Accent Plants  | Keiko Yamane                      | 6      |
| Newstead 2 Bonsai Extravaganza 2006        | UK selection display for the<br>Ginkgo Exhibition                    | John Hanbys<br>Newstead<br>Bonsai | 7      |

## HIRE RULES

- \* DVD's are available at \$10 per month each
- \* Alternatively you can hire 2 DVD's at \$15 per month
- \* To hire you or your club/society has to be a member of NZBA
- \* Forward postage by NZBA
- \* Return postage to NZBA payable by the hirer.
- \* To arrange the hire of a DVD contact

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Bonsai hedge by Dan Barton



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Dunedin Rugby Club, St Clair, Dunedin  
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