



ISSUE

JANUARY

2026

MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER OF
THE GEELONG BONSAI CLUB INC



this issue

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MEMBERSHIP IS NOW DUE

2026 Fees can be paid
via bank transfer
(preferably) or if you
would rather cash to
the treasurer at a
monthly meeting.

Banking Details

Geelong Bonsai Club Inc

BSB 633000

Account Number

152 895 694

Presidents Report

Our December meeting was our AGM where we elect our office bearers for 2026. All positions almost remained unchanged with 2 people leaving the committee. Ernst Power and Jason DeVries. Thank-you both for your time you've given the club and your contributions, especially Jason with 25 years continually at the table. A congratulations to David Smith for nominating himself for the Show Manager position and a big thank-you to Hugh for help setting up the display over the last few years.

Every year we have a competition where we bring our trees to the monthly meetings and they are judged and trophies are awarded. The categories are beginner, intermediate and open and we also have the Owen Griffin award which is where our newer members select their favourite tree of the month. As people win each category they are bumped in to the next category and eventually the open.

This years winners are

Beginner Ketut Suwitra

Intermediate David Nguyen

Open Tom Cockram

Owen Griffin Mark Ludlow



Congratulations guys and thank-you for bringing your trees throughout the year and sharing with the members. (More info on how our display table works on page six)

Contributions welcomed.

We would love your contribution!

Do you have Bonsai knowledge you'd like to share?

Perhaps on pots, soil, species, wiring techniques, pest management or any other aspect of the art?

We welcome articles for our upcoming newsletter.

If you'd like to submit, please email:
socialGBCI@outlook.com

Following the AGM we had pizzas as usual which has become a little tradition lately. The best thing about the Christmas party is that it's a great time for the members to have a chat and get to know each other a little better while eating pizza.

Workshop spots are open for Joe Morgan-Payler's first workshop for the year. The cost is \$40 for a 3 hour session. Please see Ian or myself to book a spot. The date is Saturday 17th January and are filling up fast.

We have a great year of bonsai lined up for 2026 and to kick off the year we have Marcela Ferreira coming to our club for the first time. Marcela has over 30 years experience doing bonsai specializing in native species. She is a potter, an accredited AABC demonstrator who travels Australia teaching the art of bonsai and also runs bonsai classes to suit all levels. Her website is Native Inspiration Bonsai where you can see what she offers and to book a private session with Marcela.

Wishing everyone a wonderful 2026

Michael



TSHIRTS AVAILABLE

We have a selection of club tshirts available for sale. \$20 each

December
Display
Table,
And
Xmas
Meeting



MONTHLY DISPLAY TABLE

Our January meeting has the theme of own choice... So bring along anything you are particularly proud of or that looks good right now. We would love to see more members sharing their trees each month.





Final 2025 JMP WORKSHOP

BONSAI ACTION FOR JANUARY

While we have had quite a bit of rain lately, managing watering is still the most important task during summer. High heat and lower rain fall can mean high fatality rates, especially in miniature trees and shallow potted bonsai, such as groups and root over rock settings.

On very hot days it may be necessary to increase watering from daily to twice daily, avoiding the middle of the day when it is hottest.

Miniature trees are best placed in shaded areas in trays containing a layer of pebbles and water. This creates humidity around them. Make sure the water level is quite shallow and constantly check that it does not dry out. An alternative solution is to use horticultural sand in the tray and push small pots into the medium. Keep adding water as it evaporates.

Move tender leaved plants, such as maples, into shaded areas to avoid leaf burn.

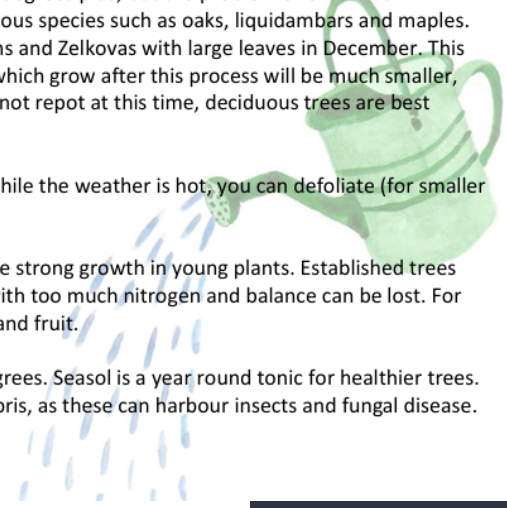
Lots of water is still needed, especially when temperatures are 40 degrees plus, but the problem of excessive transpiration can be solved by removing larger leaves from deciduous species such as oaks, liquidambar and maples. You can even defoliate Trident Maples, Liquidambar, Chinese Elms and Zelkovas with large leaves in December. This should be done only if the tree is in good health. The new leaves which grow after this process will be much smaller, which can make your bonsai look better proportioned overall. Do not replot at this time, deciduous trees are best reotted when dormant during the winter months.

The most important trees for repotting during summer are figs. While the weather is hot, you can defoliate (for smaller leaves), prune and replot to your heart's content.

Over the summer, a high nitrogen fertiliser is beneficial to promote strong growth in young plants. Established trees (such as maples) however will thicken their branches if supplied with too much nitrogen and balance can be lost. For flowering/ fruiting trees high potassium promotes better flowers and fruit.

Once again, do not fertilise when the temperature is above 30 degrees. Seasol is a year round tonic for healthier trees. Clean up your benches and remove dead leaves and any other debris, as these can harbour insects and fungal disease.

(Adapted/Summarised from What to do in December and January | BSA (bonsai.asn.au))



General Business

Club Banking details

Transfer of funds for Membership Fees, Workshop Fees or supplies can be paid to the treasurer via bank deposit or cash.

Banking Details Geelong Bonsai Club Inc

BSB / 633000 Account Number 152 895 694

Membership Fees/ Contact Details

2026 Fees can be paid via bank transfer (preferably) with the details above, or if you would rather cash to the treasurer at a monthly meeting.

Please help our great club to move forward in 2026 and renew your membership. If you have changed any of your contact details or are a new member, please fill out the membership form and either hand in at the next meeting or email to secretarygbc@gmail.com

Single \$30.00, Family \$35.00, Concession \$20.00 (prices incl GST)

Meeting setup/tidy-up

The hall will be open from about 7pm to set up tables and chairs.

As is the case for each of our meetings, extra hands to help set up are always welcome, as is help appreciated at the end of each meeting to pack away afterwards. Those who regularly assist would very much be pleased if more of us lent a hand.

Wearing of Badges

Reminder to please wear your badge at our meetings. It is a requirement to be able to claim the door prize if you are the winner. Members who are yet to receive a name badge let us know.

GBCI Library

The club has a large collection of Bonsai magazines available for loan by members.

“Bonsai Focus”, which we currently subscribe to covers a huge variety of Bonsai related subjects that would suit the beginner through to the experienced Bonsai practitioner! They include articles on everything from styling a tree, selecting a pot, developing roots on a tree, advanced air layering, watering, feeding and pest control, creating deadwood etc.

Mentors

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

Sales Area

A large selection of tools, pots and wire available at club meetings at a discounted price for members. Members are also welcome to bring bonsai stock and pots to set up on the stage to sell each month.

Monthly Display Bench

Each month members may enter a "Tree of the Month" which can be any style.
They may also enter in the category "Style of the Month" which can be any species.

The section "Your Choice" can be any species and/or style.

You can also bring trees just to share with no intention of competing! We love seeing members trees.

Month	Tree of the Month	Style of the Month
January	Own Choice	Own Choice
February	Figs & Natives	Group Planting or Saikei
March	Elms	Raft or Clump
April	Cedars & Minis	Informal Upright
May	Autumn Foliage	Twin or Multi -trunk
June	Pine & Junipers	Full or Semi cascade or Minis
July	Any Every green	Formal Upright or Suiseki
August	Deciduous	Windswept or Slanting
September	Olives	Root over rock / rock planting
October	Flowering / Fruiting & Wisteria	Literati or Broom
November	Liquid Amber	Shari, Jin & driftwood
December	Ash	Own Choice

Exhibitors can only present one tree per section, as per the calendar below.

Entries are judged in three divisions.

Novice:

New members starting the Bonsai journey or haven't shown trees in the past.

Intermediate:

Members with a couple of years' experience and workshopped trees.

Winner of the Novice section previous year will now compete in intermediate.

Open:

Members who have a number of years experience and workshopped trees.

Winner of the Intermediate section previous year also moves into this division.

Points awarded as follows:

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

Upon completion, the winner of each section is calculated by above number greatest score.

GBCI Perpetual Trophy is awarded to winner of the Open category. The Owen Griffen Perpetual Trophy & Award is given to the best show bench total over the three categories Novice, Intermediate and Open sections, (Using the 3,2 ,1 score card system).



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GEELONG BONSAI CLUB INC

Established 1980 Registered 1984 (#A2342S) Meetings are held at the Grovedale United Services Memorial Hall, Reserve Road Grovedale at 7:30pm on the 2nd Monday of the month except November, which is the first Monday because of the show.

COMMITTEE

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Monday 12 January 2026 at 19:30

Demo Marcela Ferreira - monthly club meeting



Saturday 17 January 2026 from 09:00-16:00

Joe Morgan-Payler workshop - limited spaces



Monday 9 February 2026 from 19:30-21:30

Geelong Bonsai Club Inc Monthly Meeting WORKSHOP



Saturday 14 February 2026 from 09:00-16:00



Joe Morgan-Payler workshop - limited spaces

2026 EVENT CALENDAR

Date	Event Details	Time
Monday January 12	 Presentation Marcela	7:30pm - 9:30pm
Sunday January 18	 Committee Meeting	7:30pm - 9:30pm
Saturday January 17	 Workshop Joe Morgan-Payler	9:00am - 4:00pm
Monday February 9	 Workshop Night	7:30pm - 9:30pm
Saturday February 14	 Workshop Joe Morgan-Payler	9:00am - 4:00pm
Saturday February 21	 Social Day	9:00am - 4:00pm
Monday March 2	 Committee Meeting	7:30pm - 9:30pm
Sunday March 8	 Workshop Tony Bebb	9:00am - 4:00pm
Monday March 9	 Presentation Tony Bebb	7:30pm - 9:30pm
Monday April 13	 Workshop Night	7:30pm - 9:30pm
Saturday April 18	 Workshop Quentin Valentine	9:00am - 4:00pm
Saturday April 25	 Social Day	9:00am - 4:00pm
Monday May 4	 Committee Meeting	7:30pm - 9:30pm
Monday May 11	 Presentation Steve Jarrold	7:30pm - 9:30pm
Saturday May 16	 Workshop Joe Morgan-Payler	9:00am - 4:00pm
Monday June 8	 Workshop Night	7:30pm - 9:30pm

2026 EVENT CALENDAR

Date	Event Details	Time
Saturday June 13	 Workshop Joe Morgan-Payler	9:00am - 4:00pm
Saturday June 20	 Nursery Crawl Melbourne	
Monday July 6	 Committee Meeting	7:30pm - 9:30pm
Monday July 13	 Presentation Don Deluca	7:30pm - 9:30pm
Saturday July 18	 Workshop Joe Morgan-Payler	9:00am - 4:00pm
Monday August 10	 Workshop Night	7:30pm - 9:30pm
Saturday August 15	 Workshop Quentin Valentine	9:00am - 4:00pm
Monday Sept 7	 Committee Meeting	7:30pm - 9:30pm
Monday Sept 14	 Presentation Quentin Valentine	7:30pm - 9:30pm
Saturday Sept 19	 Workshop Joe Morgan-Payler	9:00am - 4:00pm
Monday October 12	 Workshop Night	7:30pm - 9:30pm
Saturday October 17	 Workshop Joe Morgan-Payler	9:00am - 4:00pm
Saturday October 24	 Social Day	9:00am - 4:00pm
Monday November 2	 Presentation Joe Morgan-Payler	7:30pm - 9:30pm
Monday November 2	 Committee Meeting	7:30pm - 9:30pm
Saturday Nov 7th	 Geelong Bonsai Show	
Sunday Nov 8th	 Geelong Bonsai Show	
Saturday Nov 14	 Workshop Quentin Valentine	9:00am - 4:00pm

2026 EVENT CALENDAR		
Date	Event Details	Time
Monday December 14	 A.G.M/Christmas Party	7:30pm - 9:30pm
Saturday December 19	 Workshop Joe Morgan-Payler	9:00am - 4:00pm

38th AABC National Bonsai Convention – Tasmania 2026



Join the Bonsai Society of Southern Tasmania for the 38th Australian National Bonsai Convention, taking place at the Wrest Point Conference Centre on the scenic banks of the River Derwent from Friday, 1 May to Monday, 4 May 2026.

A decade after the highly successful 2016 event, Tasmania once again welcomes bonsai enthusiasts to celebrate the unique beauty of 'Southern Bonsai.' Tasmania is renowned for its rich and diverse flora, making it an inspiring destination for bonsai lovers. From dramatic alpine landscapes to rare and endemic species, the island offers endless creative possibilities for both exotic and native bonsai trees.

This year's headline international artist is Matt Reel from the Pacific Northwest, USA, known for his expertise with rugged, windblown coastal trees. The convention will also feature demonstrations from experienced Australian bonsai artists, including Jarryd Bailey, Hugh Grant, and Sean Hartley.

Enjoy a vibrant exhibition of bonsai works by talented artists from across Tasmania, plus a warm Welcome Reception and the official Exhibition opening on Friday evening. Attendees can also take part in special tours, including a visit to MONA (Museum of Old and New Art) and an all-day field trip to explore Tasmania's remarkable flora, such as Pencil pines, Athrotaxis species, Pandani, and more.

Whether you're a seasoned bonsai artist or just starting out, this convention promises inspiration, learning, and the chance to connect with the friendly Tasmanian bonsai community.





**Geelong
Bonsai Club Inc.**



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ACCOUNTS**

Stay Connected & Join the Community!

