

# SHIBUI BONSAI KAI

## NEWSLETTER

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MONTH: MAY 2021

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Dear Bonsai Friends

Bonsai greetings to you all in this cold and miserable weather we have been having for the last couple of days. I am sure you are all bundled up in your warm winter woolies, but have you taken care of your tender Bonsai and your figs? They should all be indoors or protected from possible frost damage by now. Most of the deciduous trees have lost their foliage at this stage, but we have had some very good autumn colour this season. An interesting article from our friend Pieter below, shows us how he protects his figs in winter and there are also a few pictures of the Bonsai at Brenthurst in all their autumn glory.

Our last meeting was not well attended, but those who did arrive enjoyed the demonstration/workshop of Trevor working on, and removing the Juniper planted on a Pelindaba rock. Mike B planted it on the rock many years ago and gave it to Trevor when he was downsizing, prior to his move. It came off the rock easier than expected and was planted into a large black plastic basin and given a slight pruning. It will now be left to grow and Trevor intends using it as workshop material with a future International Bonsai demonstrator. He has also landed up with a large, very interesting Suiseki. Many thanks Trevor for making our afternoon so interesting for us as well as the providers of the raffle prizes and to Godfrey and Stan for the goodies for our tea break.

With the latest publication of Covid statistics in Gauteng, we may have to consider the possibility of not having meetings again. The position is now very serious and with some of our members not being permitted to attend meetings, and others unable, we will schedule the meetings as provisional and let you know a day or two if it will be happening. We are pleased to hear and very glad Erich is over the worst and back home again. The doctors have told him it will take six months to get over it, so, please folks, it is very serious. Some of us have had our first Injection, but it is still necessary to continue to wash hands, sanitize and wear the dreadful masks at all times.

Provisionally, we will have our next meeting on Saturday 19 June at 14:00 in The Floreum. We will be having a hands-on workshop, not on our Bonsai, but on our Bonsai tools. Please bring your Bonsai toolboxes as well as any sharpening or other equipment, oil and stones, and necessary goodies to get

your tools back into peak condition. The sales table and raffle will operate as usual. Please wear masks properly at all times.

Derry, I've set up a short file on my Ficus trees in the garage. It is attached. Note that I ask members to show pictures of their Winter protection. Sorry, but I keep on showing my stuff.

#### WINTER HOME



It's Winter time once more and my Ficus trees have temporarily migrated to my garage. I'll show you some.



A close-up of the messy one.

You will notice that this year I am hiding my succulents in the garage between my bonsai. They were damaged by severe cold last Winter.



Some smaller ones above!



And some more against another wall.

I need to do this to keep them alive. This lasts about three months, but I check the weather conditions continuously towards middle August to guess when to take them outside again.

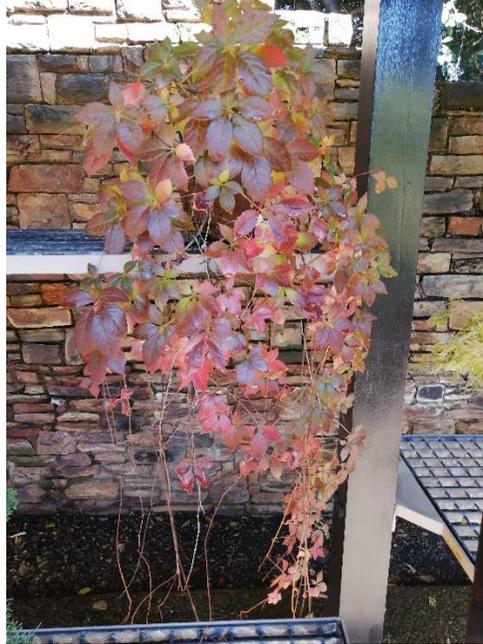
Surely there are pictures of how you members of Shibui protect your trees from the cold. Please show us.

Regards,

Pieter Loubser

Many thanks Pieter for showing us your 'stuff'. I certainly appreciate seeing it and I am sure many of the members, 'now in hibernation, I assume' as we neither hear from, nor see them anymore, do as well.

I thought I would share some autumn colour from Brenthurst with you:



The Boston ivy or Virginia creeper, don't know which as different people have different ideas. They are from the same family, and here, in all its glory. This is heritage tree # 46, donated by Sandy Sandison. Planted in a Chinese container with a large trunk. A natural creeper, and considered by some as not Bonsai material but some excellent specimens in Japan, so good enough for us. What do you think?



Heritage tree # 11 *Acer buergerianum*, Chinese maple, planted on the rock in the early 80's by myself

at a Melba Tucker workshop, planted in a hand-made Shigaraki cream container. Front and back view, with autumn and winter foliage, photographs taken two weeks apart.



Group planting. Heritage tree # 1 Acer buergerianum, Chinese maple, originally created by Alf Jones in the early 80's and donated by the Jones family. Planted in a Tokoname, round inner lip, Tama-buchi container.



Heritage collection # 26 Acer palmatum, Japanese maple, in semi cascade style, created by myself in the mid 80's after seeing the beautiful maples in Japan, growing on the banks of lakes and streams in a similar fashion. Planted in a hand made, signed Tokoname container.

Due to so many of our members being under the weather, some worse than others, the watering of the Heritage collection is being maintained by a few dedicated members. Thank you one and all for the help, it is very much appreciated. Fortunately, at this time it is not necessary to water every day.

Hopefully, things will get better by the time repotting season comes along as there is much work to be done. In the meantime, Erich, Dave, Eddie M and Erika, we hope things get better for you soon, and to Johan, hopefully you will be fine after the quarantine period is over.

Birthdays in June: We only have two birthdays in June, Erika on the 15<sup>th</sup> and Helen on the 17<sup>th</sup>.  
Many happy returns to you both and we wish you many more happy and healthy years.

Sincerely

*Derry*

CAKE DUTY ROSTER:

June: .....Volunteer required

July: .....

Each person to provide one plate of 'sweet' and one plate of 'savoury' please

**REMINDER!!** Please note, it is the duty of the members providing goodies for the tea break to set out the cups etc as well as to wash up afterwards and repack the tea trolley. Many thanks.

COMMITTEE:

President:	RUZA WHITAKER	(082) 873 7955	TREVOR BOTHAM	(082) 784 7581
Treasurer:	DERRY RALPH	(082) 435 7126	GODFREY JONES	(082) 958 0771
Secretary:	STAN SIMCOX	(082) 467 8571	MIKE BULLIVANT	(071) 821 0272
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Banking Details: Nedbank – Rosebank Gardens Branch – 195 805:  
Shibui Bonsai Kai: A/C # 1958 289 906

**PS: All committee members, we will be having a committee meeting at 13:00 sharp on the 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**WE WILL CONFIRM ON THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> WHETHER THE MEETING IS ON OR NOT, SO PLEASE CHECK YOUR INBOX BEFORE GOING TO THE FLOREUM ON SATURDAY.**