



# Goldfields Bonsai Society

Founded 2001  
Incorporated 2002

Alex McKee **President** 53451074  
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David Rojo **Treasurer** 54 285271

Website, <http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/gbonsai> Newsletter-[trevorwheeler@westnet.com.au](mailto:trevorwheeler@westnet.com.au)

**MEETINGS-** Trades Hall Mostyn Street 1 30pm Third Sunday each month (ex July, Dec)

**Dig at Franklinford** with the Ballarat club Everyone collected trees with potential -after the dig we drove to Shepherds Flat for a picnic lunch at Diederik and Tara's property. Thanks to **Diederik** for organising the day.

**Also this month-Tom** is workshopping the art/craft group- creating a bonsai.(pot and tree)

**Trevor and Helen** had a brief look at Waverly Exhibition and some retail Garden World , Orient ( with the Bendigo club).

**Diederik and Tom** visited Don at Hay (notes soon)

**Alex and Tom** visited several bonsai nurseries in the Dandenongs and were treated to guided tours and cuppas (with the Ballarat club)



The dig Site was part of the Djadjawurrung peoples land.

A 'Loddon Protectorate' was establishrd at Franklinford ( 1841-1849 ) run by Edward Parker to 'educate and civilise'

The goldrush and aggressive pastoral expansion in the district saw the few survivors moved to the Healsville area in the 1860s

<http://www.egold.net.au/biogs/EG00042b.htm>

'We learn from history that we learn nothing from history'.

George Bernard Shaw

### View from the dig site.

Inspiration for a watercolour?  
(Not himself in the foreground with some collected hawthorn)

**Tom** workshopped the art/craft group-making brushes for calligraphy & painting

**Pictures** from the web last month were from

Bert Christensen's Gallery -

[http://bertc.com/magritte\\_menu.htm](http://bertc.com/magritte_menu.htm)



**Above-Alex with David Phipps** (Ballarat) & David's two-man tree

**Above Right** Tree with a twist collected by **Tony Hendy** .

Tony has been a Ballarat club member of two years.

**Castlemaine Copy Centre** Supports our club

54 722666 [ccc@windarring.org.au](mailto:ccc@windarring.org.au)

Jenny's group are pleased with the copy centres printing of their scrapbooking pages

## Olives make great bonsai

Quentin Valentine

‘Olives grown in the pot are no longer indestructible as they are in the field. They need to be kept reasonably moist (they do very well in deep pots), fertilise regularly (they respond well to foliar feeding), keep surface roots covered until plant is well established. **Leave suckers to grow rampantly**, when growth begins, as strong roots grow directly under them. Cut sucker off when the vigour of the top of the tree is threatened.’

- Be prepared to grow the branches very long until they reach the desired thickness.
- Olives may be wired but branches may die back if taken far below the horizontal.
- When trimming olive branches below 3mm in diameter try to keep at least one pair of leaves on the end of the branch. Die back may otherwise occur. Doing this will ensure leaves breaking back further down the branch, thus allowing one to shorten the branch back to the desired length. General pinching to maintain shape may be done at any time of the year To obtain good ramification, trim vertical growth back to the last pair of leaves, or remove entirely, and only use horizontal branches wired in different planes to give the branch correct profile.
- Olive wood is very hard and responds well to carving and subsequent treatment with lime sulphur.’

### The Web -Carving Olives

For many years the Arbortech has been a popular carving tool for bonsai enthusiasts, however the recent introduction of a bit for the Makita called a “Samurai” has made the Arbortech second best. The Samurai bit will hog out large amounts of material quickly like the Arbortech and is less expensive and easier to control. The bit tips are carbide steel, making them last longer than the Arbortech bits, which are high speed steel.’

<http://www.bssf.org/meetings/january-2007-general->



Noticed for sale at the bonsai shop at Mahoney’s Rd several olives possibly from the dig area. Those potted wired and ready for carving like the one **left** were priced around \$600.



A **good potting mix** is 2 parts absorbolite, 1 part fine orchid mix, 1 part copra peat plus ½ part propriety bonsai mix. Top dress with slow release fertiliser. Scale insects are sometimes a problem (which leads to sooty mould) – treat with garden spraying oil. A fungal disease, called Peacock Disease, sometimes affects olives. This shows up as mottling of the leaves, gradually turning them yellow, and eventually defoliating the tree. Treat by using a systemic fungicide during the growing season and then a copper spray (eg. Kocide) in late autumn.

Given the option

### October is the best time to dig olives.

Quentin is member at Bendigo and Bonsai NW his notes were published in BNW March 05 Newsletter- for more click <http://www.bonsainorthwest.com.au/March2005.pdf>

Right

Quentin’s Raft of olives-

Picture From the above site



**Olives** are fast growing, and have small, beautifully colored leaves. The trunks become gnarled with age showing all sorts of interesting texture and character.

**Generally collected olives from seed are superior** to nursery stock because the leaves are smaller and the trunks larger and more interesting. Nursery stock is generally propagated for fruit characteristics, not bark or leaf characteristics’.



**Record Keeping**

A valuable tool for bonsai care  
 Let me know your method for the newsletter. Below is Barry's example.  
**'A simple and effective way of keeping records'**  
 A4 sheet top half for the bonsai photo then under this the date it was collected.  
 The dates are recorded with symbol-wired-w, feed f, repot r, and trim t.  
 Keep these pages in a slipcover in an A4 folder. **Barry Lacey**  
 (Example attached)



**Left and above** Diederiks large mirror bush air layered. All tanks are now full and the overflows are pined to the dam

**Bonsai Calendar-**

Spring can be ideal for repotting.

Generally, deciduous trees are repotted first, late winter / early spring. Junipers, conifers, and broad-leaf evergreens are best done mid spring. Azaleas are best done after flowering. Ficus prefer the soil to be warm so their best time is late spring / early summer. The season has been unusual this winter; the temperature has not been down to anywhere near the usual minuses in double figures. Watch for your own trees coming out of dormancy it is the best guide eg bud swell on deciduous trees. If they don't all get repotted then some can be done in the autumn it is also a good time.



**Left.**  
 Just potted  
 Typical interesting elm trunk about 8" high found in a crater after the dig



**Proposed**

**Tom** has found a local area of interesting **oaks** and already obtained permission for another dig -A date to be decided at the meeting. Not a Sunday .He also proposes we have an **olive dig** in **October**.

**CupWeekend Exhibition**

**Right** Mature looking Oak already collected by Tom



**Above** This innovative rock/slab planting includes snow. It was shown by Ali Polili. at the Waverly Bonsai club Exhibition last weekend

**Lost** Tom has lost his best pair of red Felco **Secateurs**  
**54 721096**

**Meeting This Sunday August 19<sup>th</sup> Trades Hall**  
**Meeting 1pm Workshop 1.30**  
**Slab/rock planting.**

Help & materials will be available for creating your bonsai  
**Bring** trees rock s and tools plus any surplus material to swap. &  
 Trees for display/advice

Newsletter **Contributions welcome, articles, hints, pictures interesting web sites etc**  
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Note- If pictures seem small try zooming (not the web picture)