



Tweede uitgawe  
2023

# Koeda

## Pretoria Bonsai Kai

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Johan Els  
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The word Koeda is Japanese and means: 'Graceful branch'. It is pronounced Ko-eda.

### Van die redakteur

## Beste Bonsai Kai-lede.

2023 het gekom en gegaan. En dalk het van julle, soos ek, nie by als uitgekom waarby julle wou gedurende 2023 nie. Ek wou graag opgevang het met die jaar se uitgawes van die Koeda, en ek het nie. Soos julle sal sien, het ek maar by die Maart en April se vergaderings uitgekom. Ek het dus besluit om liewer nou 2024 se uitgawes te doen en 2024 se vergaderings te dek. Ek vra om verskoning aan die persone wat tyd en moeite ingesit het met die 2023 vergaderings waarvoor daar dus nie verslag gegee is nie. Dalk kan ek hier en daar van hulle probeer insit in die 2024 Koeda's.

Hiermee wens ek almal 'n baie mooi en voorspoedige jaar toe. Mag julle geseënd wees en mag julle die beoefening van bonsai terdeë geniet.

Ek hoop ons kan mekaar gereeld by die vergaderings sien.

Enige idees, artikels of terugvoering rakende die nuusbrief kan gegee word aan Jaco Kriek by:

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### In hierdie uitgawe

Van die redakteur	1
Vergadering 11 Maart	2
Vergadering 1 April	22
Sorg skedule	28

## Jaco



## Vergadering van 11 Maart 2023

### Bonsai 'NUT'!

Elke jaar by die algemene jaarvergadering, word daar 'n Bonsai 'Nut' vir die jaar wat verloop het, aangewys. Die 'trofee' gaan aan die persoon wat die meeste entoesiasme in die Kai en in bonsai in die algemeen gewys het. Hierdie jaar het die komitee besluit om die 'trofee' aan Kobus en Mariaan Erwee te gee.

Kobus en Mariaan lewer 'n groot bydrae by die Kai. Hulle mis ontrent nooit 'n vergadering nie. Mariaan is die Kai se sekretaresse en Kobus doen gereeld die 'tip of the month', en het ook al die temas van die dag by die vergaderings aangebied.

Baie geluk Kobus en Mariaan en baie dankie vir julle entoesiasme en bydrae in die Kai!



### 'Tip of the month' - Deur Rina Nortje

Rina vertel dat sy op haar stoep aan haar boompies werk.

Wanneer sy aan haar vye werk, word haar hande baie taai van die vye se wit sap wat drup as sy die takke snoei. Sy het toe begin om die Covid-lappies waarmee jy hande steriliseer, te gebruik om haar hande skoon te maak. Die vloeistof in die covid-lappies bevat 'n baie hoë % alkohol wat die taai maklik afhaal. Sy maak ook haar gereedskap daarmee skoon.

Rina het ook genoem dat wanneer sy bedraad, al die stukkie draad wat sy afsny rondlê en sy dit dan (met moeite) moet optel. Wat sy nou doen, is om 'n groot skinkbord met plastiek oor te trek en haar boom waaraan sy werk binne die skinkbord te sit. Die draadtjies (en seker takkies en blare) val dan op die plastiek. Nadat sy gewerk het verwyder sy net die plastiek en skud als maklik uit.

Dankie Rina. Oulike raad wat werk aan bome makliker maak.



## Vergadering van 11 Maart 2023

# BONSAI POTKEUSES

Deur Jaco Kriek

A tree is a tree, a pot is only a pot. It does not become a Bonsai until these two are combined and form harmony together. A large part of the art of Bonsai is the experience of a tree that has become detached from its ground bondage and now lives a life in a pot.

While the tree itself contributes to one half of the composition, the pot completes the overall image. The 'bonsai' in its literal sense, is judged by the visual impact of both the tree and the pot. Unfortunately, choosing and locating the correct, or the best pot to plant your tree into, is not easy. While a well-chosen pot will enhance a bonsai and strengthen a design, a poorly-chosen or unsuitable design can actually lessen the impact of the tree. Ultimately, until the 'right' pot is found, the tree will never reach its full potential as a bonsai.

Many containers can actually serve as a pot for a bonsai tree if they meet certain requirements. There has to be drainage holes of course, and wiring holes so that the tree can be fixed to the pot. They may be made out of ceramic, concrete, plastics and certain metals (metals may release toxins) and one can make their own pots. But what is considered a classic Bonsai pot, is that it is made of ceramic or porcelain, and that it is stoneware burned, which means that it absorbs and holds no water in the material. It is important for the health of trees.

## Vergadering van 11 Maart 2023

### Verskillende groottes



### Nie net tradisionele potte





## Vergadering van 11 Maart 2023

Nie net tradisionele potte



## Vergadering van 11 Maart 2023

Geen pot



## Vergadering van 11 Maart 2023

### Choosing the right pot for your tree

Choosing the best pot for a particular tree is not easy. There are so many available colours, sizes and designs that it can become very difficult to identify exactly which one (s) are best for your tree. Pot choice is also subjective; ultimately some of the final decisions will be made according to your own personal tastes. Some enthusiasts prefer more conservative pot shapes, textures and glazes, other enthusiasts prefer to make more unusual 'individual' choices.

To arrive at a good decision, it is useful to break down the choices into 4 parts: pot dimension, pot shape, pot color and texture.

#### **Choice 1: Pot Dimension**

The first thing to consider is the size of the pot that you will need. The correct pot dimensions can be achieved using some basic rules according to the dimensions of the tree itself.

The *general* rule of thumb is that the pot's depth should be equal to the diameter of the trunk just above soil level. For oval or rectangular pots, the length of the pot should be  $\frac{2}{3}$  the height of the tree. For round pots, the diameter of the pot should be  $\frac{1}{3}$  the height of the tree.

For trees with especially wide canopies, a wider pot can be necessary, and one can compensate by using a slightly shallower pot. Equally, a tree with a very thick trunk (in comparison with the height of the tree) may suit a slightly deeper but narrower pot.

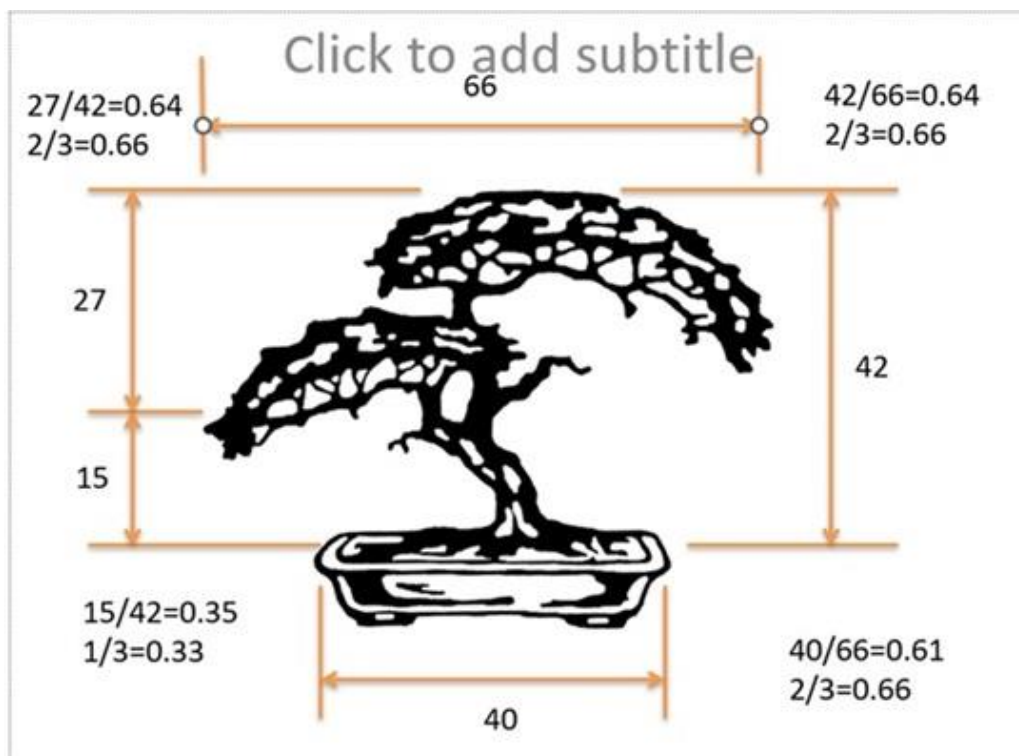


## Vergadering van 11 Maart 2023

### Choosing the right pot for your tree

It should be remembered that these guidelines are based on aesthetics only. For horticultural reasons, some tree species require larger or smaller pots. Species with very fast-growing roots such as Trident Maples, often require deeper pots, whilst flowering and fruiting species, such as Crab Apples, require more root space and therefore deeper pots. If the tree is on a rock for instance, the depth of the pot should/can be as deep as the size of the rock.

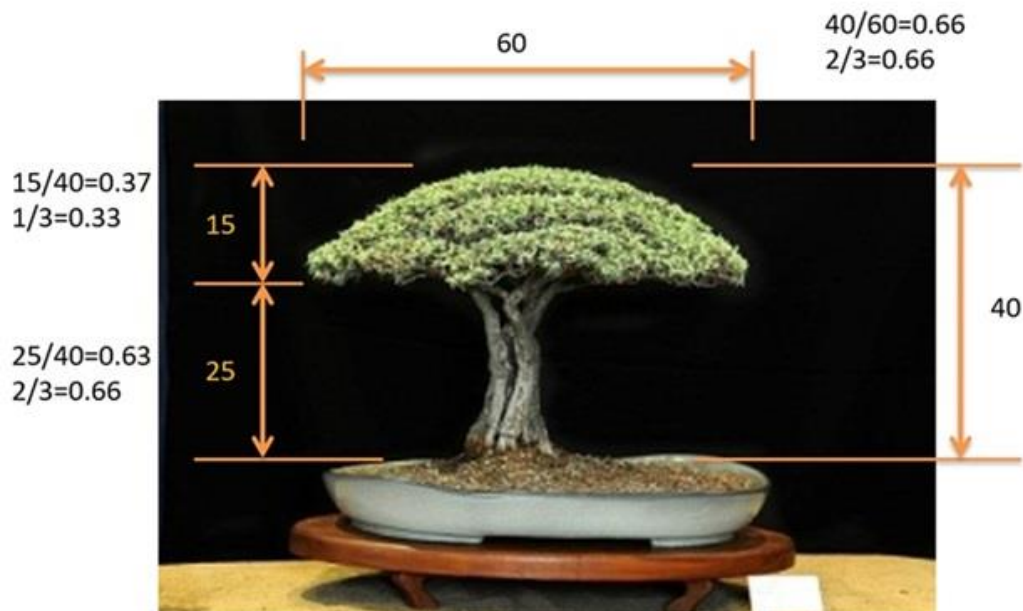
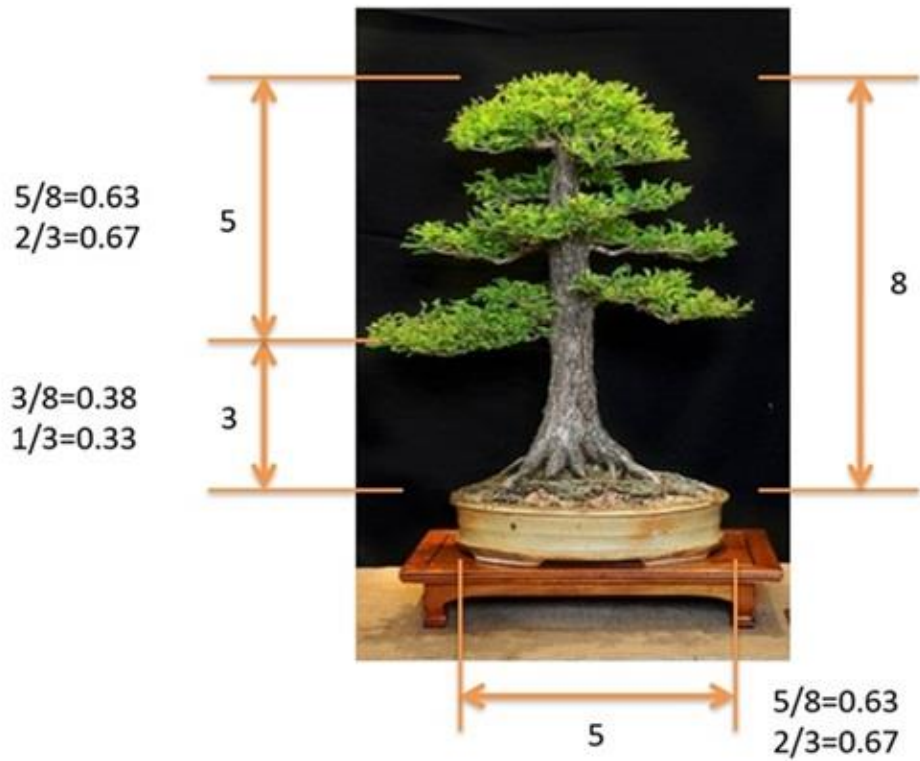
### Typical dimensions





## Vergadering van 11 Maart 2023

### Typical dimensions



## Vergadering van 11 Maart 2023



Here the pot has deviated from this rule because of that the crown is so big, almost as wide as it is high. So, it is large not only because of aesthetics and balance, but also because the branches of the tree corresponds to an equally large root system that needs space. Because of that the crown of the tree is so big, almost as wide as it is high.

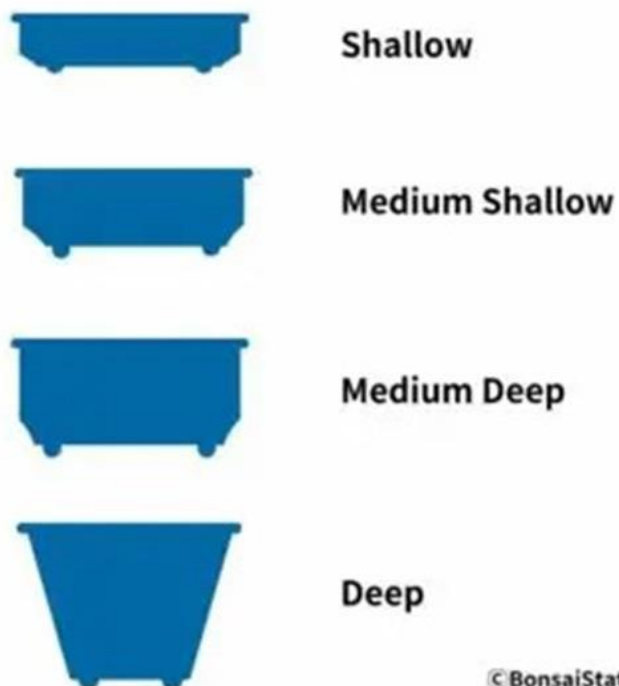
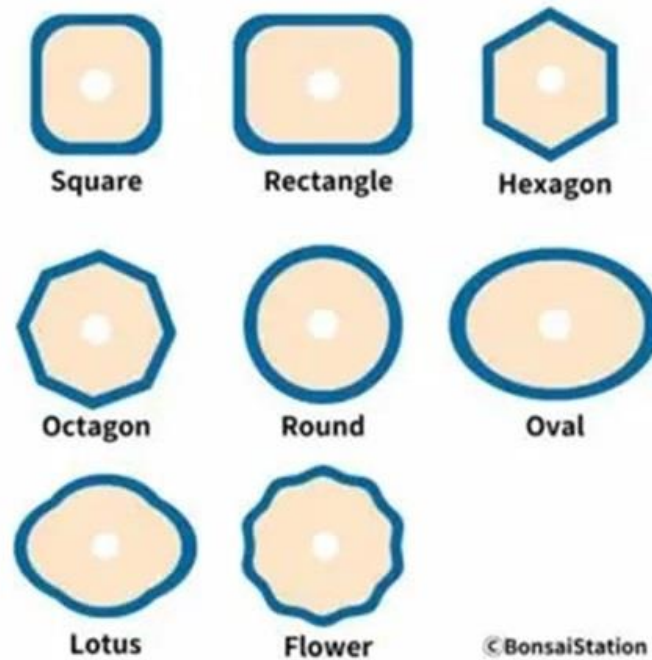
Is this pot too small?



## Vergadering van 11 Maart 2023

### Choice 2: Pot shape

Basic shapes of traditional pots



## Vergadering van 11 Maart 2023

### Choice 2: Pot shape

The style of pot that you choose will need to harmonize with the tree. You need to take a look at your tree and evaluate its characteristics. Try to decide whether your tree is masculine or feminine. Many trees are a combination of both, although one is usually more dominant. This is very subjective; for some people a tree may be masculine, for others, it might be feminine. Ultimately, as the owner of the tree, you have to decide. It should be noted though, that a firmly masculine tree will never look right in a very feminine oval pot; in turn, a feminine tree will always look awkward in a masculine pot.

#### **What makes a tree feminine or masculine?**

A masculine tree gives an impression of strength; it might have a heavily tapered trunk, have craggy, mature bark, strong angular branching or it may have deadwood. It could have a straight, powerful trunk or a dense canopy. A feminine tree will have a more delicate appearance, a smooth trunkline, smooth bark, sinuous movement in its trunk and branches, a light canopy and slow taper. Some trees could have masculine and feminine characteristics. With trees such as these, it is necessary to identify which is the strongest feature and reflect it. Is it the craggy, fissured bark or the gentle curves of the trunk that have the strongest visual impact? Is it the delicate branching or the powerful tapered trunk that attracts your eye the most? Fortunately, it is possible to find pot designs that can reflect both femininity and masculinity.



## Vergadering van 11 Maart 2023

Pots are considered feminine or masculine. Deep pots with strong angular features are considered masculine whilst more feminine pots are shallower with softer lines. For instance, strong chunky, deep rectangles with sharp corners are very masculine pots, as are square pots. These are suited to thick, heavy-trunked masculine trees, especially conifers.

For thick-trunked deciduous trees, the corners of the rectangle can be rounded, thus reducing the masculinity of the pot a little. Working down through the scale of masculinity, deep chunky ovals come next and then we have drums/round pots that are androgynous i.e. are suitable for a masculine or feminine tree. After this, we move into the feminine pots which are shallow, delicate ovals and very shallow, round literati pots.

**Rectangular** pots are suitable for coniferous species and big deciduous trees with very pronounced taper, wide base, heavy-buttressed Nebari. These are used for masculine trees to add a feeling of strength to the tree.

**Oval** pots are suitable for reflecting the femininity of deciduous trees, clump-style bonsai, groves and forests. The less taper the tree has, the more feminine it tends to become, Sinuous curves can also dampen the masculinity of a tree.

**Round:** Suitable for coniferous or deciduous feminine trees, particularly (but not exclusively) for literati/bunjin trees. Tall straight or sinuously curved trees with very little taper, are the most feminine and the pots that tend to suit these trees are very shallow rounds.

## Vergadering van 11 Maart 2023

### Pot lip or rim

- A lip on the upper rim gives additional strength to a masculine tree.
- A straight rim is softer for more androgynous trees
- A bowl/convex side is more suited to feminine trees.

### Pot corners

- Sharp, right-angled corners are masculine and suitable for masculine trees.
- Indented corners on a rectangular pot soften the masculinity of a pot.
- Rounded corners softens the pot further, beginning to resemble an oval pot and more suitable for masculine deciduous trees.

### Feet of pot

The main purpose of feet on a bonsai pot is to allow for good drainage and airflow, but feet can also be used to change the pot's appearance. Feet can be subtle and decorative or strong and robust.

These qualities can be used to influence the overall feel of the pot. Big chunky feet can add strength to the design and understated delicate feet will have the opposite effect.

### Examples of feet



## Vergadering van 11 Maart 2023

### Some more examples



### Choice 2: Pot color



## Vergadering van 11 Maart 2023

### Choice 3: Pot Color

Once you have decided on the shape of the pot, next you need to think of the color and texture.

Every tree is unique, although it is possible to generalize about a particular species, each individual tree will have something to pick up on as no two trees are exactly the same and there are always small variations that can be brought out in the color and texture of the pot.

The color of the pot can be used to pick up on a feature of the tree and therefore helps the tree and pot color 'work' well together. The color in the tree that is complimented can be that of the bark, for instance an unglazed red/brown pot picking up the bark of a Juniper. It can compliment the color of the leaves through the summer or the autumn color. On fruiting or flowering trees, the color of the pot can be used to compliment the color of the flowers or the berries.

Although you generally want the color and texture of a pot to match some characteristic of the tree, sometimes contrasts can work very well, for example, the red leaves of a red-leaved tree work well with a blue pot.





## Vergadering van 11 Maart 2023

### Choice 3: Pot Color



This pot above is unglazed and coloured with layers of grey and brown slip. This has given the pot a finish that is very close to the colour and texture of the bark.

The colour can also be used to accentuate the energy of the tree. Warm colours such as browns, reds, oranges and yellows provide a feeling of warmth and stability to the tree whereas cold colours, such as blues and greens, can balance and refresh the overall composition. Warm and cold colours can be used to contrast with a bonsai. Warm colours can be used for tiny (mame-sized) bonsai to exaggerate their colour whereas cool colours can be used to tone down bright-leaved species.

### Choice 4: Pot Texture

Textures in a pot are again used to compliment a tree. Smooth clay finishes are suitable for more feminine trees whereas heavily textured pots bring out the masculinity and wildness in a tree.

## Vergadering van 11 Maart 2023

### Choice 4: Pot Texture



## Vergadering van 11 Maart 2023

As can be seen, choosing the correct pot is not simple but it can be learnt. Ultimately, a combination of personal tastes, knowledge and experience makes the process much easier.

When buying pots for your bonsai, try to make sure you know the pot measurements needed for a tree. It is no good buying a suitable pot only to find it is too big or small for your tree. Have a good idea of the shape that will suit the masculinity or femininity of your tree. Have a good idea of the colors and textures that will suit your tree. Don't be embarrassed to ask the advice of the bonsai nursery or the potter you are buying from; an experienced potter or bonsai nursery will always be able to give you a choice of suitable pots to select from. However, always try to have a picture of your tree to show as this makes the nursery or potter's job much, much easier!

Daar was 'n hele paar lede wat bome saamgeneem het wat nog nie in bonsai bakke was nie. 'n Baie lekker bespreking het gevolg waar lede opinies en idees gegee het oor watter bonsai bak geskik sou wees vir die spesifieke boom. Hieronder volg 'n paar foto's. Die kwaliteit van die foto's is ongelukkig nie goed nie.





## Vergadering van 11 Maart 2023





## Vergadering van 11 Maart 2023



Van te veel grappies kom daar glipsies!



### **The importance of bonsai pots**

**Bonsai pots are integral to the aesthetic and health of the bonsai tree. Leaving aside the historical origins and literal meanings, bonsai pots are important to both the aesthetic and health of the tree. There are practical reasons too; such as drainage holes and the natural porosity which prevents roots from rotting.**

**The compact size of the pot allows for a harmonious relationship between the two elements, making them appear as one cohesive unit.**

## Vergadering van 1 April 2023

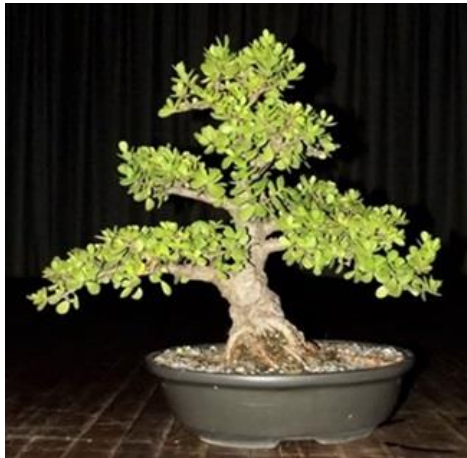
### 'Tip of the month' - Deur Francois van As

Francois het vertel dat sy tuinslang en spuitkop waarmee hy sy bome nat gespuit het, dikwels op sy skoene gelek het.

Hy het toe by 'n hardeware winkel (Chamberlans, om nou nie te adverteer nie) 'n verlengstuk, waaraan hy 'n klep en die ander nodige koppelstukke gesit het, gekoop. Die spuitkop is nou aan 'n stewige pyp wat nie buig nie en wat ver genoeg van sy skoene is en dus nie sy skoene nat drup nie.



## Vergadering van 1 April 2023 - mini uitstalling



Links: Christa se Spekboom, *Portulucaria afra*,

Onder: Louis het hierdie Apiesdoring, *Senegalia*, sowat 13 jaar gelede van n kwekery plantjie begin.





## Vergadering van 1 April 2023 - Mini uitstalling

Onder: Jaco het hierdie Spekboom, *Portulucaria afra*, in 2006 van 'n steggie begin.



Onder: Louis se Knoppiesdoring groep het hy 13 jaar gelede van boompies begin wat hy in swart sakkies by n kwekery gekry het.



Bo: Kobus se Bougainvillea het hy in 2005 uitgegrawe. Die boom het omtrent geen wortels aangehad nie.

## Vergadering van 1 April 2023

### NUWE TALENT KOMPETISIE

Gedurende die vergadering van 1 April 2023, het lede met minder as tien jaar ondervinding in die beoefening van bonsai aan die Kai se Nuwe Talent Kompetisie deelgeneem. Die wenner en naaswenner gaan Pretoria Bonsai Kai by die BRAT-byeenkoms verteenwoordig. By die BRAT-byeenkoms is al die klubs/Kais van die streek verteenwoordig.

Ons was baie bevoorreg en dankbaar dat vyf van ons lede aan die kompetisie deelgeneem het. Die deelnemers was Armand Erwee, Wouter Pretorius, Danie Jansen, Armand Koekemoer en Michael Kidson. (Waar was die dames?) Die bome wat gestyl moes word, was almal “Juniperus Procumbens Nana”.

Die deelnemers het aan die bome gewerk terwyl die vergadering aan die gang was en is ongeveer drie uur gegee om die bome te styl. Daar is nie verwag dat die boom in ’n bonsai bak geplant word nie. Nadat die lede hulle stilering voltooi het, is die bome deur Johan Els, Duvan Horn en Jaco Kriek beoordeel.

Die keuse van die beoordelaars vir die wenboom het gegaan aan Danie Jansen met tweede plek aan Wouter Pretorius en derde plek aan Armand. Al die bome was van hoë gehalte en die lede kan trots wees op hulself.





## Vergadering van 1 April 2023

### NUWE TALENT KOMPETISIE

Onder is die vyf deelnemers met hul voltooide bome.



Bo: Danie se eerste plek-boom.



Bo: Wouter (tweede plek), Danie (eerste plek) en Armand derde plek.

## Meeting of 1 April 2023

The topic of the talk was *Junipers for bonsai*, and was presented by Richard Wright.

Some notes about Junipers that Richard shared are stated below. (The man talks a lot and non-stop, so it was very difficult to take down everything he said..... 😊)

Junipers are not well-loved in South Africa. Richard is of the opinion that the reason is because people do not know enough about the species and how to take care of them. People buy mostly *Juniperus Procumbens nana* from malls or receive a tree as a gift, which then die after a short while.

Deadwood on Juniper bonsai is important, as that is how they are in nature. Bonsai growers must strive to grow them as they grow in nature. Mimic the same conditions. Junipers normally have a live vein which feeds the foliage - similar to our Buddleias. If the live vein is cut the foliage, and tree, will die. The live vein can become very prominent as it must feed all the foliage which is also normally very prominent.

Richard said that the word *yamadori* means 'mountain dug' or 'a collection from mountains' in Japanese. Junipers are never styled in the classical, left back right branches. They are very informal with twisted trunks and branches. Junipers are evergreen and if the foliage of a branch is Removed, the branch will die. In the past we were told to pinch the foliage tips, but Richard said that the Japanese do not pinch. In Japan the Junipers grow all the time. It is not like other trees that have a growth spurt and then stop. In SA. however, Richard is of the opinion that there are two growth spurts.

Do not prune branches unless there are runners. Those are actively strong growing elongated branches. Leave the tree to recover after transplanting. Our trees often have the internal root balls that are intact. When this is disturbed, the tree might die. An idea is to cut one side of the root ball the one year and then the other the following year. Remember that Junipers store energy in the foliage and not in the roots and branches.

Richard says he normally works on his Junipers in winter. He repots in spring. It is advisable to wire only portions of the tree at the same time, and the balance the next time. Wire must/can be left on the branches for at least a year. It is normal to show trees with wire in Japan. The wire can bite into the branch. That way the position is held better. Junipers must be styled asymmetrical. Junipers are never complete and requires styling for ever. Shari is also done in stages. Remember that the health of the tree comes first.

Junipers do not need a lot of soil/growing medium. They require full sun all day. They must not be overwatered and love fertiliser.

During the talk, Richard showed examples of some of his Junipers and discussed how he works on them. He also styled a tree into a cascade style.

Some photos are shown on the following pages.





## Meeting of 1 April 2023



<b>Sorgskedule</b> Seisoen: Season:		Mid-somer Mid-summer	Laat somer Late summer	Vroeg herfs Early autumn	Mid-herfs Mid-autumn	Laat herfs Late autumn		
<b>Maand:</b> <b>Month:</b>		<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mrt</b> <b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>Mei</b> <b>May</b>		
<b>Die boom se jaarsiklus</b> <b>The tree's yearly cycle</b>		Kort dormante periode, konsolideer nuwe groei Short period of dormancy, consolidate new growth			Berey voor vir dormante periode Prepare for winter dormancy			
A k s i e  / A c t i o n	Bonsai van saad Bonsai from seed			Vir beste resultate gebruik vars saad For best results, use fresh seed				
	Bonsai van steggies Bonsai from cuttings							
	Verplant Potting							
	Herpot met wortelsnoei Repot with root pruning				Immergroen bome Evergreen trees			
	Vormsnoei Formative pruning							
	Knyp groeipunte Pinch growth points							
	Bemesting Fertilizer							
	Insekdoders Insecticide							
	Somerbeskerming Summer protection							
<b>Sorgskedule</b> Seisoen: Season:		Vroeg winter Early winter	Mid-winter	Laat winter Late winter	Vroeg lente Early spring	Mid-lente Mid-spring	Laat lente Late spring	Vroeg somer Early summer
<b>Maand:</b> <b>Month:</b>		<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Okt</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Des</b> <b>Dec</b>
<b>Die boom se jaarsiklus</b> <b>The tree's yearly cycle</b>		Dormant gedurende die winter Winter dormancy			Herontwaking, nuwe groei Reawakening, new growth			Nuwe groei New growth
A k s i e  / A c t i o n	Bonsai van steggies Bonsai from cuttings							
	Verplant Potting							
	Herpot met wortelsnoei Repot with root pruning				Immergroen en bladwisselende bome Evergreen and deciduous trees			
	Vormsnoei Formative pruning							
	Knyp groeipunte Pinch growth points							
	Bemesting Fertilizer							
	Insekdoders Insecticide							
	Somerbeskerming Summer protection							
	Winterbeskerming Winter protection							