

# SHIBUI BONSAI KAI

## NEWSLETTER

P O BOX 81084, PARKHURST, 2120

E-MAIL: bonsaikebana@mweb.co.za

MONTH: JANUARY 2023

--0--



Dear Bonsai Friends

Apparently, our last meeting, although not well attended went off well. I was unable to attend but with the washaway in Hendrik Potgieter Road and the complicated detour, some members got horribly lost and never made the meeting either. Our apologies, but what can we do about it? Being such a very busy road, one would think it could have been repaired by now. It was supposed to be a wiring exercise meeting and members were requested to bring a bonsai or tree to wire and take before and after photographs for the newsletter. To date, I have only received photo's from Mike H (see below) and on making enquiries, no photo's were taken. Shame on you all!! When the cats away, the mice come out to play. Anyway, our thanks to Erika and Fred for the use of their home, garden and hospitality for a very pleasant hot afternoon. Being able to view Erika's Bonsai collection alone is very worth while and a privilege indeed.

As The Floreum is still out of commission, our next meeting is to be held on Saturday 18 February at 14:00 at Brenthurst Estate in the Bonsai area only. **Naturally, the usual security arrangements will apply so I will need you to reply to me by Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> at the latest, if you will be attending – email or WhatsApp is fine. If you have not been there before, I will need your name, ID #, car registration and cell #.** As our last wiring exercise was not too successful, we will be trying it again, so we would like you to bring one tree to wire and work on. Please bring your tools, wire, garbage bag, etc. We will be working in the work area at the back and possibly under cover in the display area as well so you will be responsible for clearing up any mess you cause. Please let me know what you will be bringing as I will need to prepare pass-outs for you for when you leave to go home. Being a private estate, these arrangements need to be strictly complied with and if you don't respond, you will not be permitted to enter the property. We will have a break for refreshments and have a supply of wire available for sale as well as the watering duty roster for the collection for March.

Now, a response from Mike H after the last meeting:

Sorry for my non-appearance on Saturday. I had no car due to a prang earlier in the week. Hope you had a good turn-out and some constructive work done.

Please find attached before and after photographs of my assignment.

The tree was (almost) completely wired in a three hour period after having been previously cleaned up to access the branches.

The difficulty in wiring secondary branches was an indication that there were too many unnecessary branches in the crown. After thinning out the result was far more pleasing. Unfortunately, photos don't do justice to the result obtained.

I have turned my wiring exercise into an article for the newsletter. See attachment.

### **New Year Wiring Assignment.**

I was sorry to have missed the January meeting but have subsequently wired two olives that were prepared as described in last month's newsletter.

In that article I pondered why wiring is not fully utilized in the club or more generally in South Africa. Yes, we all do a bit of wiring – more on trees undergoing initial styling – but less for purposes of refinement on more established trees.

I set myself the task of performing as much wiring as possible in a three-hour meeting period. In the end I spent three hours on my first tree and a further two hours on my second tree on a subsequent occasion.

During the exercises I noted the following:

1. Total branch wiring takes a longer time than anticipated, even on a prepared tree!
2. It is mentally and physically tiring (Maybe this is just my problem...)
3. It requires concentration to use the correct gauge of wire, get the wiring direction correct depending on the direction in which you want to move the branch, prevent crossing wires, and keep an appropriate tension to prevent early wire bite or inadequate holding strength.
4. It requires willpower to remove and replace wires if any of 3. above are found to be inappropriate!
5. We tend to leave too many branches in the crown of our trees which restrict light access and air circulation. Lack of access to wire a branch, highlights this, and excess branches need to be removed.
6. It takes several different wire gauges to achieve the best wiring results (I used five).
7. One consumes a lot of tea, coffee, juice, beer, etc. as is your preference!
8. I was reminded of one club that hold regular wiring workshops where correct wire application and care taken, are judged as an essential component of styling a tree.

Unfortunately, "Before" and "After" photographs don't do justice to the finished work, due to their 2-dimensional nature, but I attach pictures of both trees below:



**Olive 1 before and after wiring**



**Olive 2 before and after wiring**

I look forward to seeing the finished results of other members' trees.

Thank you for this Mike, I knew you would send something, so far, the only one received.

I was unable to attend the meeting as well, but did do the exercise. I used an old crab apple which has been on my shelves for years. This was originally nursery stock, an old tree which had lost its upper portion and partially died back. It has quite an interesting base so I decided to try and make something out of it. It was transplanted into this container a few years ago and was completely pot bound. The photo on the left is the before shot, weeds and all, and the photo on the right, after being rewired completely and given a make-over and viewed from the new front.



It has since been repotted into the same container.

In Spring last year we repotted the Parotia at Brenthurst from its Japanese container into a slightly larger Chinese pot. It has been growing extremely well and recently started growing out of its new pot, even though being tied into the container. So, last week we decided to lift it out to see what was happening and this is what we found.



Amazing, about 5 months growth. I think the reason being there are no drainage holes in the corners of the container and when the Bonsai is being watered, it is collecting and lying in the corners and only draining from the holes in the centre of the pot. We cut off the wad of new roots, about 2.5 cm all around and repotted it into the container again, so hopefully no damage was done.



One week later, on a very rainy afternoon. We have moved it to a slightly shadier position so we will get the benefit of the colours of autumn. As you will see, some of the leaves have been burnt by the sun during the very hot weather we had a few weeks ago but it is none the worse of the root trimming.

All the Bonsai in the collection are growing well and we have decided in future Godfrey, Johan, Paul, J-P and I will be meeting on the first Sunday morning of each month to do maintenance on the collection. These four guys have been doing excellent work over the past year with repotting and maintenance and without their help and support the Bonsai would not be in the condition they are today. So, on behalf of all the Shibui members, Thank you to the 4 of you!!!! Your dedication and hard work is very much appreciated.

I received this mail from Kobus this morning:

Best wishes for the New Year!

Elizabeth and I sold our house in Bedfordview and are relocating to the Cape and *volunteer for Cake duty at the 18 February meeting to say goodbye.*

We have not been active participants in Shibui affairs recently due to personal circumstances. I joined as one of the Founder Members and have enjoyed many years of club activities and growing Bonsai and learning from Shibui Club members!

I have been reducing my collection during the past few years, but still enjoy our hobby immensely!

Kindly confirm that we can go ahead.

Best Regards  
Kobus & Elizabeth de Beer

Thank you Kobus and Elizabeth, confirmed, and we look forward to having you with us for the last time at Brenthurst. Once again, we are losing members to the Cape, but we wish you both everything of the best for your future happiness in your new home.

Birthdays in February: Only three this month, Richard on the 10<sup>th</sup>, Roy Nagatoshi on the 19<sup>th</sup> and Helen on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Many happy returns to you all, and we wish you many more happy and healthy years.

Hoping to see you all on the 18<sup>th</sup> and please stay safe.

Sincerely  
*Derry*

CAKE DUTY ROSTER:

February: Kobus and Elizabeth de Beer

It would be appreciated if you would provide one plate of 'sweet' and one plate of 'savoury' please.

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
	JOHAN NEL	(082) 575 6951	ANTHONEY BOSMAN	(084) 357 7348

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 18<sup>th</sup> at Brenthurst**

**Reminder: RSVP needed for attendance at our next meeting!!!**