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'Suiseki Australia'

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Our last gathering for this year will be held at Ray's on the 23rd November starting at the normal time of 9am. This will be our Christmas party as well as a small workshop on using the hot glue gun techniques on our very small stones. It was suggested by one of our members who gathered some nice small stones in Europe.

Bring a plate of Christmas 'goodies' to be shared and this will be our final break-up for the year. Hope to see you all there?

Dear Members,

Well, here we are nearly at the end of another year of sharing our passion for suiseki. All our members have produced some amazing daizas and collected some amazing stones over the last 12 months. I hope that we can all continue to share and help one another so we can learn more about this fascinating art form.

On behalf of our members, I would like to thank the Nesci family who have accommodated our presence every month so we can advance in our knowledge of suiseki. Every month Rose has made special hot 'rock cakes' for us on our arrival to get us started, especially on those cold winter mornings! This is a great way of catching up on the news from our members from far and wide. So, thank you to the Nesci family for all that you have done for us over the past year.

Last weekend we put on a suiseki display at the School of Bonsai Show (of which we are affiliated with), and it was a huge success with a 'difference'. I thought of the idea to showcase Australian stones, but not in the traditional way of displaying. It was a gamble, but from the public opinions that we got, it was very, very successful!! I wanted to display our Australian stones as we would find them out in the outback. Small sandbags were placed under ocre coloured material to imitate the undulating surface of the outback and then our stones were placed accordingly (with no daizas)!! There were a few small Australian animals, a homestead, and some aboriginal people gatherings to complete the picture. Amazingly, the children (and even their parents) found it compelling, and they loved the small scenes that we created.

Another addition to the show, I thought of, was that we all have those obsolete small stones that we collected over the years but are not suitable suiseki material, so I told the members to wrap them up in pretty paper and we would give them out as FREE lucky dips for the children. Well, to our surprise on the **first day** they were all gone by morning teatime and the children absolutely loved them. We told them that they would be their 'lucky stone', so they must look after them. One little girl kissed her stone when she opened the wrapping paper!! I then had to rally the troops again to bring some more in for the next day. Surprise, surprise again they were all gone again by morning tea break!! I hope that in the future those children will be future stone collectors and get into suiseki!!!!

Another surprise that we had on the weekend was that a professional man attended and took a video of our display, and he was utterly intrigued with it. He asked for my permission to video our display so he could put it on you tube? I gave our combined consent and if you want to view it go to [youtube.com/@alanhumphreys](https://www.youtube.com/@alanhumphreys) and you can see it there. He is also a fully licensed drone pilot.

All in all, our gamble on this display paid off and was very well received by everyone, and it was something that they related to, so maybe that was secret???

Here are some photos.....enjoy!!

Till next year,
Brenda



Above: The homestead



Above: One part of the display



Above: Another part of the display



Above: The end of the display.

In all the full continuous display took up 4 trestle tables and to see it all in one view it took your imagination away to the outback.

Thank you to all our members who supported my 'brain wave' and by bringing in all those great stones all collected here in our country!

So, till next year, let's enjoy our last workshop together for this year and bring any new ideas with you for our program for next year.

Stay safe,
Brenda



Amazing on what some people think of arranging stones as seen here.



Wishing all our members both here and in distant places, a very safe and Happy Christmas season.

Looking forward to sharing another New Year of sharing our passion for suiseki.

Stay safe and be kind to each other.



