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'Suiseki Australia'**

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SUISEKI NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2025

Our next workshop will be held on the 16th of August at 9am at Ray's Nursery. Hope to see you all there.

Please bring a 'wintery' scene to depict our cold and wet winter.

Dear Members,

Apologies for this late newsletter but time has not been on my side of late. Too many obligations on my itinerary but it is better to keep busy than to be too idle.

What I thought I would (or we) can discuss is how to display suiseki professionally, especially when we have a show for when the public attends.

At the next School of Bonsai Show in October we will be presenting suiseki a little bit differently than we have before. Every member will have ONE large stone on a daiza, presented on a stand, a scroll and an accent plant and each display will be sectioned off with a small barrier kindly made by John.

Keep the stone in keeping with the picture on the scroll e.g. if you have a mountain stone, the scroll should depict a mountain scene and then an accent plant to show what would be growing at the bottom of that 'mountain' such as a small pot of grass like Acorus or Mondo or even some trailing ferns.

If your stone is a Chrysanthemum Stone for example, a scroll with a couple of flowers or grasses on it would be the proper one to use. Also, you could have a small statue of an insect such as a grasshopper etc. to use for the accent on a bed of moss in a very small flat pot.

Some of our members have contemporary stones, so the scroll would have to depict something completely different such as a scroll with calligraphy on it.

If you don't have an accent appropriate for the display, the stone on the stand should be placed directly under the scroll that is on the wall. Alternatively, when using an accent plant or object you must observe..... direction, direction!!! For example, if the stone has a 'direction' it must face the accent and the scroll. If the scroll has direction, it must face the stone, then the stone should face the accent. They should all 'talk' to each other.

If you have any questions about the display, we can discuss it at our daiza workshop on the 16th.

See you all then,
Brenda

FINAL THOUGHT

'When I am arranging one stone after another, I am always entangling the stone with my dream and pursuing an ideal world of beauty.'

-Nakane

(A little history on my fascination with stones)

For years I have been addicted to collecting rocks and I must try to remember to call them 'stones' – a much more refined way of calling them, I think. They sound more 'human' when called 'stones'.

As a young girl, everytime we went for a drive or picnic up into the Adelaide Hills, I would always come home with some 'treasure' I had found, even back then I could see more in them than a stone that you would stub your toe on or skimming them across a river like my brother would do. I remember making tiny landscapes in shallow trays with rocks for mountains and Mum's tiny plants as trees

When I got to high school, I begged my parents to let me do the science courses, but they said the 'proper' thing for girls to do was the secretarial and home science subjects – much to my disgust, I wanted to know more about the composition of rocks etc. not how to make a successful sponge cake or take a letter in shorthand in record breaking time. How unfair!

I moved to Sydney at 21 to further my career and still wherever I went on a trip I would always have eyes down looking for that little treasure to bring home and admire.

Then I got married and I must admit I didn't tell too many of our friends that I was a keen 'rock' collector because, as most of you would agree, they would have thought that I could have had a few between the ears!! Not everyone understands what passion it can become.

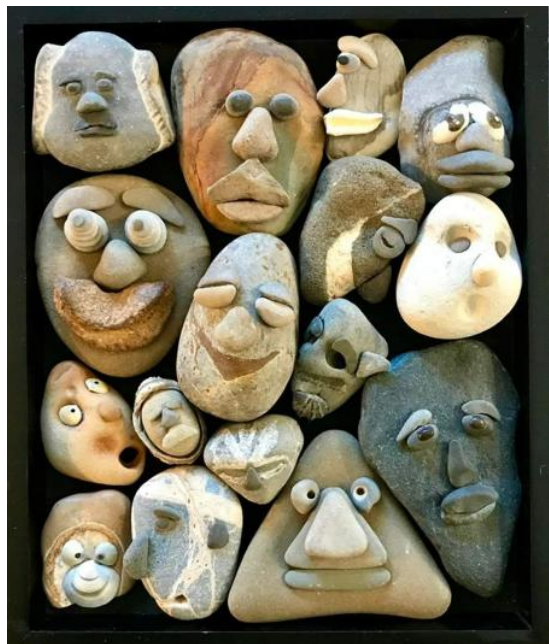
In our first year of marriage, we drove to Adelaide to see my parents. One day we went for a picnic to Hallett's Cove, which was one of our favourite beaches when I was a child. The beach is completely covered with beautiful coloured volcanic rocks of all different sizes and colours left behind many thousands of years when a volcano exploded not far in the Adelaide Hills and the lava reached down to the sea and covered the beach. I found 5 beautiful rocks with a blue haze on them and asked could we take them back home to Sydney,.....hmm I didn't get a good response from my new husband. He said that other women when they go travelling usually buy a new dress or similar as a reminder of their holiday.....but not me!! He gave in to me and to this day they are still adorning my garden. Funny times. I can tell you I had to do a lot of eyelash waving to get those rocks back home!!!!

It is so lovely that now belonging to our Suiseki Club I can feast on the great stones that our members have in their collection and we all learn from each other.

We can also proudly say that our daiza workshops have all taught us so much about the woods we use to carve each individual daiza for our stones.



This is the dish my mother gave me when I was 8 years old and everyday I would make a scene in it with the rocks (or stones) I had collected up in the Adelaide Hills. I still have that dish to this very day and it holds many fond memories of my very early years exploring and learning about nature in general. Those were the days with no television or computers.....now that is giving my age away!!!



In a recent newsletter I showed a photo of a person who collected naturally formed human faces, but I recently found this photo of 'faces' created by adding small stones to show the facial features. What a great idea to teach children to love stones. This can be done by the beach while sitting on the sand.

Last year at our show we had obsolete stones that we donated and wrapped them all in fancy paper and it was a FREE lucky dip for the kids. Well, it proved so popular we will do it again at this year's show.

See you all on the 16th

