



AABC Update to Clubs January 2025

Welcome to 2025. I hope this year is a great one for all clubs and their members. With the hot weather being experienced during summer time I hope members are not losing bonsai and are coping with the extra stress of maintaining their collections under these conditions.

We held our 2024 AGM on-line and I am pleased to report that Nick Justo from Redlands Bonsai Society was elected as an AABC Director along with my re-election as President. Board Director positions retire in alternating years and the other Board members will be up for election at the 2025 AGM. Please also keep in mind that all organisations benefit from renewal and new ideas. I note that while we have three Directors from Queensland clubs we don't have any representation from the larger states of NSW and Victoria. We welcome nominations to join the Board and you can contact me or any of the other Directors to find out more information on how you can become involved in your Association. We hold our regular board meetings online via Zoom so participation is very convenient.

This year the AABC National Convention with the theme of "Future Directions" is being held in Canberra from 16 – 19 May. With a great response already please encourage club members to book soon as there are only about 40 places left. This is wonderful news as the Canberra Bonsai Society team are working very hard to make it a great event and reunion. There is the added opportunity to also visit the NBPCA where bonsai from around Australia are displayed and where local bonsai enthusiasts volunteer. Further information is available on the Canberra Bonsai Society's website

<https://www.canberrabonsai.club/> or on their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/canberra-rex-hotel/37th-aabc-national-bonsai-convention/>

It is always great to see new faces attend our conventions which are the major fundraising events for AABC and importantly the surplus funds the Visiting Tutor Programme (VTP). I encourage each club committee to promote the Convention to their members, explaining the opportunity not only for increased learning and viewing high standard trees on display but also networking and having great fun.

To the larger or more financially well off clubs, I ask why not think about encouraging an enthusiastic member from your club to attend the convention by providing some level of financial support. You could also raffle off a convention registration as a prize.

We have finalised the outcome from last year's convention in Brisbane and the Bonsai Society of Queensland have forwarded to the AABC an amount of \$ 11,100. This was a fabulous reward for the effort from the BSQ convention organising committee. We applaud the club and members for their time and effort over a number of years in the planning and running of the 2024 Convention, especially given the unexpected hiccup of the NRL holding their combined round of football on the same weekend putting pressure on accommodation availability.

The AABC's Visiting Tutor Programme (VTP) has continued to be popular and we expended \$4,386.90 on travel assistance to get VTP Tutors to clubs and provide demonstrations and conduct workshop last year. Club members attending the AABC conventions assist as surpluses from convention receipts are shared with the host club and provide funding of the VTP.

To assist clubs and their members with planning I am giving early notice that the 2026 Convention will be held in Hobart, Tasmania, on the first weekend of May. This is a fortnight earlier than usual but was necessary as there was a prior booking at the venue for our usual mid-May timing. Full details will be announced at the end of the Canberra Convention. It will be 10 years since our last convention in Tasmania.

In preparation for an expected large Australian contingent attending next year's 10th World Bonsai Convention in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the Board has been considering whether there is member club support to have a polo or Tee-shirt designed for Australian delegates. Those of us who have attended recent overseas conventions have seen other countries delegations wearing identifying clothing and it is good advertising of where they come from. Australia was the co-host of the 9th World Bonsai Convention and we had a polo shirt produced. Even though COVID necessitated the WBC being held virtually as an on-line event, when I and other Australian delegates attended overseas conventions in 2018 and 2019, we proudly wore these polo shirts. See photos below of our 9th WBC shirt together with designs from other countries for recent conventions as well as the one designed by the Malaysian Bonsai Association as the host of the 10th WBC.



Perhaps clubs could consider submitting a design for a polo / tee-shirt. Also it would be great to be able to support a local business to produce the items and we would appreciate receiving information in this regard. There are also opportunities for sponsors to assist in defraying the costs of producing these items.

Happy Bonsaiing

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President AABC
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