

# THE MIDWAY NEWS



November 2024  
[www.midwaybonsai.co.za](http://www.midwaybonsai.co.za)



# Chairmans Report



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# Chairmans Report

Hi all,

I hope this letter finds you well. Although I was unable to attend our last meeting at Midway Bonsai, I've heard great things about the event. I'm thrilled to hear that it was well-attended and that Jonathan's work on a Black Monkey Thorn was a highlight of the meeting. I look forward to seeing the photos in our latest Newsletter.

As we approach the holiday season, I wanted to remind you that our next meeting won't be until January next year. But trust me, it will be worth the wait! We have an exciting workshop-style meeting planned, focusing on everything related to Ficus.



With multiple contributors sharing their expertise, this meeting promises to be an enjoyable and educational experience for bonsai enthusiasts of all skill levels.

Until then, I wish you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season. May your bonsai trees thrive, and may you find peace and happiness in the art of bonsai.

Thanks all and keep the scissors sharp 😊

Mack

(John Hecht)

# Club news

You're Invited to our next meeting!

Join us on **18 January 2024**, as we gather for a **Ficus Workshop** and share knowledge.

Here's the agenda:

- 12:00-14:00: Work on your own trees
- 14:00: Talk and workshop on Ficus.

Please bring your favourite trees to display on the show table.

Everyone is welcome!

If you have a specific topic, you would like us to cover, please let me know and I'll pass it on.

Looking ahead to our upcoming **workshops**, please note that these are interactive, hands-on events that may require some preparation in advance.

We'll share more details through our Newsletter and WhatsApp group, so stay tuned!



# Membership fees

R350.00 for Single

R510.00 for Family

You can pay into the Club Account,  
state your name as reference to:

FNB

Heinrich Crystal

Account No: 63021469689

Branch: 250063



# Program for 2025

January 2025:

## Ficus Workshop

We are pleased to announce that our first event of 2025 will be a comprehensive Ficus Workshop. This interactive session will bring members together around a shared table to exchange knowledge and expertise on various aspects of Ficus cultivation.

Key topics will include:

- Best practices for Ficus styling and wiring
- Root management and care
- Recommended Ficus varieties for bonsai cultivation
- A special focus on Root-over-Rock techniques, for which Ficus is particularly well-suited

This workshop promises to be an invaluable learning experience for bonsai enthusiasts of all levels. We look forward to sharing knowledge and inspiration with you.



# November's meeting: Acacias



Deeply rooted in African culture and folklore, the Acacia tree, commonly known as the '**Black Monkey Thorn**', has been a symbol of resilience and protection for centuries. This majestic tree, with its twisted branches and menacing thorns, has been a familiar sight in the African savannah for millennia. Its name, however, has undergone a transformation over time. Historically, the tree was known as '**Acacian burkei**' or '**Black Monkey Thorn**', due to its dark, blackish-brown heartwood and sharp thorns.

However, in 2011, the tree was reclassified and renamed '**Vachellia burkei**', as part of a broader effort to reorganize the Acacia genus.

To the right, **Jonathan** can be seen working on his magnificent Black Monkey Thorn.



Despite this change, the tree remains widely known and revered as the 'Black Monkey Thorn', a testament to its enduring presence in African culture and tradition. Throughout history, the Black Monkey Thorn has been prized for its strength, durability, and medicinal properties. Its wood has been used for furniture-making, tool handles, and even musical instruments. In traditional medicine, the tree's bark, leaves, and roots have been used to treat a range of ailments, from fever and rheumatism to snake bites and skin conditions. Today, the Black Monkey Thorn remains an important part of African heritage, featuring prominently in folklore, art, and literature. Its image has been used in traditional crafts, such as woodcarvings and textiles, and has inspired countless works of art, from paintings to sculptures. As a symbol of resilience and protection, the Black Monkey Thorn continues to captivate and inspire people around the world.





Jonathan Cain did a presentation on his Black Monkey Thorn during the November club meeting. Everyone enjoyed it tremendously and the tree was stunningly beautiful. Below is what the tree looked like in 2002. To the right is the final product after the November 2024 styling and pruning.



Before Jonathan started working on the tree.



Right: Piet with his Acacia grouping. Looking good.  
Below: A candid photo of Oom Hennie with a very nice-looking Wild Olive.



Right: Lizette working on a Bougainvillea semi-cascade. The small colourful leaves are always popular.

Below: Sheila and Oom Hennie.



# Sensei Hardus our new Champion.

We are thrilled to announce that Hardus Scheepers took top honors at the National New Talent competition, held at the prestigious ABC6 Bonsai Convention in Stellenbosch! His outstanding achievement has earned him a well-deserved recognition. As a testament to his growing expertise, we would like to offer him the opportunity to lead a wiring lesson and demonstration on Junipers in 2025. Congratulations again, Hardus!



Hardus and his tree



# BRAT Artisans competition

Jonathan and Mack took part in the BRAT Artisans competition. From all accounts they enjoyed it tremendously. Heinrich and Hardus assisted them on the day. Jonathan placed in second position with his beautiful tree that can be seen to the right.





More photos of the Tree Jonathan and Heinrich worked on.





Jonathan and Heinrich.



Mack also worked on a beautiful Bald cypress.  
Our team from MBS can really be proud of  
themselves. They all did a marvelous job.



# Jonathan Cain at the International Bonsai and Suiseki Confluence



We are delighted to announce that Jonathan Cain has been invited to be a demonstrator at the prestigious International Bonsai and Suiseki Confluence!

This esteemed event, hosted by the Asia Bonsai Federation (regional organization of the World Bonsai Friendship Federation), will take place in Mumbai from March 21 to 23, 2025.

We are incredibly proud of Jonathan and are confident that he will make Africa proud with his exceptional bonsai skills. Congratulations, Jonathan!

**South Asia Bonsai Federation**  
A Regional Organization of The World Bonsai Friendship Federation (WBFF)

**International Bonsai and Suiseki Confluence**  
March 21 to 23, 2025

Venue: Radisson Blu Resort & Spa, Karjat, Near Mumbai

- A two-and-a-half-day residential
- A world class Bonsai exhibition
- An elaborate exhibition of best in class Suiseki-Viewing Stones for the first time in India.
- International Bonsai & Suiseki Masters from across the globe.
- Lecture series on Suiseki by the international Authority
- A unique mentorship program for the Indian delegates
- Commercial stalls – Bonsai, material, suiseki and bonsai tools

**BLISS 2025**  
an initiative by SABF

# Editors Letter

Dear Readers,

I hope you've enjoyed this month's issue of the Midway News! On the right, you'll see a lovely photo of a busy bee on the flowers of one of my Spekboom trees. What a thrill it would be to get my Spekboom to bloom in time for a show!

If you have any questions, comments or would like to share your own tree photos, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

As always, I extend my gratitude to Arnold for his stunning photography. If you would like to showcase your trees in our newsletter, please send me your photos. The tree on the front page is a Buddleja and featured on the SABA and WBFF web home pages. It belongs to Denise Cain.

Best regards,

Pieter Bosch

NOVEMBER 2024

MIDWAY BONSAI SOCIETY

