

THE MIDWAY NEWS



Inside this issue:

- Chairman's report.
- Club News.
- August's meeting: Carving and Kintsugi continued
- Editors Letter

Chairmans Report



Hi all,

I hope this letter finds you all well.

Thanks to all who attended our meeting on the 16th Aug25, and the topic of the day was a Carving Workshop by Denise and Jonathan, as usual a very detailed introduction to this kind of work was shown to all.

Carving is something that takes a lot of time and planning, and if properly executed, really makes a difference to the specimen being displayed. And the equipment variety that is available is considerable, especially now that the carving bits are going to be a challenge to get hold of, as these are usually handmade by craftsmen and expensive, ie Tool & Die Makers, who are becoming scarce.

We also had the usual practical workshop on trees brought in for the day, (Mark, our newest member, was very surprised by the transformation of his tree) and much work was done on these trees.

This time of year, it is about being neck deep in the repotting of your trees that require this to be done, it is essential to keep all repotted trees sheltered from the cold and wind, till they begin to sprout, and this time is also about cleaning up your display area and working your way through all the pruning and trimming of your trees.

For 20th September, our meeting will be about "Tree Design" by Hardus Scheepers (should be interesting), who will do a demo/workshop. For those who attend the day, bring trees to be discussed and designed. Hands on discussion always helps everyone get better with their own trees.

A reminder to all that the BRAT Day (30th August 2025) is going to be held in Pretoria and one of the demo's is by our Pieter Bosch on Spekboom (*Portulacaria Affra*). And he knows quite a bit about these!

Desiree is trying to organize the raffle table, please support @ R10.00 a ticket, please bring some goodies as well.

Thanks all and keep those scissors sharp



Mack

(John Hecht)

Club news

You're Invited to our next meeting!

Join us on **20th of September 2025**, as we gather for a “Tree Design” by Hardus Scheepers .

Here's the agenda:

- 12:00-14:00: Work on your own trees
- 14:00: “Tree Design” by Hardus Scheepers.

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

20 September 2025:

Our upcoming meeting will focus on “Tree Design” presented by Hardus Scheepers, who will be leading a hands-on demo and workshop. It promises to be an engaging and insightful session.

If you're attending, please bring along any trees you'd like to discuss or work on. Interactive, practical discussions like these are a great way for everyone to improve their own designs and techniques.

August's meeting: Carving workshop and Kintsugi follow-up

On Saturday, 16th August 2025, the Midway Bonsai Society gathered for an engaging Carving Workshop led by Denise and Jonathan. The session kicked off with a detailed introduction to bonsai carving, a meticulous process requiring careful planning and time. Their presentation highlighted how effective carving can transform a bonsai, enhancing its aesthetic appeal and character.

They emphasized the importance of precision, as a well-executed carve elevates the specimen's display quality. The discussion also touched on the challenges of sourcing carving tools, as many bits are handmade by skilled craftsmen, like Tool & Die Makers, who are increasingly rare, making these tools both specialized and costly. Attendees were captivated by the insights shared, sparking enthusiasm for this intricate art form.



Practical Workshop: Hands-On Transformations

The meeting featured a practical workshop where members had the opportunity to bring their bonsai for hands-on carving and refinement. The highlight was the transformation of a tree owned by our newest member, Mark, who was astonished by the dramatic improvement in his specimen. Under the guidance of Denise and Jonathan, members worked diligently, applying carving techniques to enhance their trees' structure and visual impact.

The collaborative atmosphere fostered learning, with members sharing tips and observing each other's progress. This practical session underscored the value of community workshops in refining skills and boosting confidence in bonsai care.



Seasonal Tips: Repotting and Maintenance

With spring approaching, the meeting included timely advice on repotting, a critical task this time of year. Members were reminded to shelter repotted trees from cold and wind until new growth appears, ensuring their health and stability. The discussion also covered the importance of cleaning up display areas and tackling pruning and trimming tasks.

These seasonal chores are essential for maintaining healthy, visually appealing bonsai collections. The group exchanged strategies for managing these tasks efficiently, reinforcing the importance of preparation and care during this busy period for bonsai enthusiasts.

Below: Last week it only the blossoms. This week the leaves appear. Thanks for sharing, Kayroon.



Upcoming Events: Tree Design and BRAT Day

Looking ahead, the next meeting on 20 September 2025 will focus on “Tree Design,” led by Hardus Scheepers. This demo and workshop will offer hands-on guidance, and members are encouraged to bring trees for discussion and design input. These interactive sessions are invaluable for improving individual techniques.

Additionally, the BRAT Day event on 30th August 2025 in Pretoria was highlighted, featuring a Spekboom (*Portulacaria Afra*) demonstration by me, a recognized nut for this species. Members were urged to attend and support this exciting event.

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| BRAT Day : 30 August 2025 | | |
| Venue: NG Church, Dickensonlaan 1402, Waverley, Pta | | |
| Entrance Fee R70.00 | | |
| <u>Time</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Details</u> |
| 8:00 am-9:00 am | Registration and placing of trees | Show trees (BRAT Top 10) |
| 9:00 am-9:15 am | Welcome and intro to Artisans | PBK & BRAT |
| 9:15 am-10:00 am | Artisans intro | Self intro and brief discussion of trees |
| 10:00am-10:30 am | Coffee/tea break | Coffee/tea available |
| 10:30 am-11:30 am | Ian Pringle | Baobab |
| 11:30 am-12:30 pm | Pieter Bosch | Spekboom |
| 12:30 pm-13:30 pm | Lunch | Judging of trees by Club members |
| 13:30 pm-14:30 pm | Christa Vermaak | Azaleas |
| 14:30 pm-15:00 pm | Wrap up of Artisans | Artisans will present their final composition |
| 15:00 pm-15:30 pm | Artisans voting | Judging of Artisans' trees by Club members |
| 15:30 pm-16:00 pm | Awards | BRAT President hands out awards |
| 16:00 pm | Closing | Pta Chair & BRAT President |
| Parking available inside the grounds | | |
| There will be a Raffle as well | | |
| Coffee and tea available | | |



SOUTH AFRICAN
Bonsai
Association



SABA MINI-CONVENTION 2025

BONSAI

Road trip

across South Africa

29-30 NOV 2025

Woodlands
International College
Boksburg



WOODLANDS
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE



Editors Letter

Dear Readers,

I hope you enjoyed this month's issue of the Midway News. I was unwell and unfortunately missed the meeting, but it seems everyone had a good time in my absence.

If you have any questions, comments, or would like to share your own tree photos, please feel free to contact me directly. I would be happy to include your trees in a future edition of the newsletter.

Best regards,

Pieter Bosch