

THE MIDWAY NEWS



Inside this issue:

- Chairman's report.
- Club News.
- July's meeting: Kintsugi
- Editors Letter

Chairmans Report



July 2025

Hi
all,

I hope this letter finds you all well, especially with this very cold weather, and that your trees are safe, remember to ensure that all your deciduous trees are leaf free, and defoliate if required by at least the end of July 2025, as this ensures that they rest and come back strong in spring.

Thanks to all who attended our meeting on the 18th Jul25, and the topic of the day was a Demo/Workshop of Pot Repair Workshop (Kintsugi) by fellow member Ella, and this will be followed next month with part 2, regarding the finalizing of the pots worked on this past meeting.

I will say that it was a fun day to do something so different, and those that attended enjoyed themselves as well, I know that I did. I used Gorilla Glue, and the others used either Pratley Mix, or Super Glue, etc, and I am sure that this is something we will do again sometime. Tossing away broken pots is now a thing of the past!

And thanks to Ella for this and your enthusiasm.

The next meeting will be 16th Aug25, and the topic will be the finalizing of the pots by those who worked on them, and a Carving Workshop by Denise Cain (the Carving Guru), so if you have something that she can help you with, please bring it, and if you have the equipment bring that as well.

And reminder to all about our having the raffle table, 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 **16 August 2025**, as we gather for a follow up presentation by Ella to tell us more about Kintsugi, and a carving workshop.

Here's the agenda:

- 12:00-14:00: Work on your own trees
- 14:00: Follow up workshop on Kintsugi, a Japanese technique that beautifully repairs, by Ella, and Carving.

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

16 August 2025:

We had a Kintsugi session and now we are continuing with a follow-up.

Ella will teach us the art of Kintsugi, a Japanese technique that repairs broken pottery with gold, embracing imperfections rather than hiding them.

This practice shows how broken things can be transformed into something meaningful and beautiful.

Join us to learn this unique skill and give new life to your broken ceramics.

We will also be looking at carving. Feel free to bring your tools and trees that needs carving.

July's meeting: Kintsugi by Ella

The Philosophy of Kintsugi

Kintsugi is more than a repair technique. It's a philosophy that embraces flaws and imperfections as part of an object's history. Instead of hiding cracks, it highlights them with gold, turning damage into beauty.

In the photo, Arnold stands with a pot breaker tool, ready to start from scratch. While I admire his commitment to transformation through destruction, my own path is about restoration. Kintsugi offers a way to honor what was and make it even more meaningful.



Tools of Care

Not every broken item is valuable in the traditional sense. Some are inexpensive, some are worn, and some are forgotten. Kintsugi invites us to reconsider worth. A repaired pot may not be rare, but its story becomes unique.

The pot breaker in Arnold's hands is a tool of change. It reminds us that value is not always in the object itself, but in the care we invest in its restoration. Through Kintsugi, even the simplest bowl can become a symbol of resilience.



A The Value of What We Repair

This square-shaped pot carries its history in gold. The cracks are no longer signs of damage but part of its design. Kintsugi does not erase what happened—it makes it visible in a way that adds meaning.

The pot is still a work in progress. We will continue the Kintsugi process during our August meeting. Each step adds to its story and deepens its transformation. Through care and attention, it becomes more than a vessel. It becomes a reflection of time and intention.



The Beauty in the Details

This pot has been repaired with golden that follows the cracks in a clean and decorative way. The result is visually appealing and adds character to the pot.

We discussed the glue during the last meeting and how different types affect the look and finish. In the August meeting, we will compare the results of using different adhesives and see how each one contributes to the final appearance.



Hoping It Holds

The bowl in the photo has been carefully repaired. The cracks are visible and the glue has set. It is being inspected closely, and there is a quiet hope that the repair will last.

We used different types of glue during the session and talked about how each one behaves. In the August meeting, we will compare the results and see which adhesives worked best. This bowl is part of that process, and its condition will help guide our next steps.



Preparing for the Gold Finish

The bowl in the photo has been glued back together. The cracks are sealed, and the structure is holding. The adhesive is still visible, marking the places where the bowl came apart.

The next step is to apply the gold finish. This will highlight the repaired areas and complete the transformation. In the August meeting, we will compare how different glues respond to the gold application and how they affect the final look. This bowl is ready for that stage.



Getting Ready for the Gold

The bowl has been glued and is holding together. The next step is to apply the gold finish. This part of the process adds the final visual detail and brings out the repaired lines.

The glue we used was chosen after testing different options. One type had a slow drying time and was replaced with a better one. In the August meeting, we will compare how the different glues performed and how they affect the final look.

The gold is not real lacquer, which is expensive and hard to work with. Instead, we will use a method that works well and is more accessible. After the glue dries, excess material is removed with a blade. Then a new layer of glue is applied and dusted with glitter.



Hands at Work

The green ceramic piece in the photo shows visible cracks, held gently in both hands. The surface is glossy, and the shape is clean. This is the stage before the gold finish is applied.

The process takes time. After the glue sets, excess material is removed with a blade. Then a new layer of glue is added and dusted with glitter. We are not using traditional Urushi lacquer, which is costly and slow to work with. The method we are using is more practical and still produces beautiful results.

In the August meeting, we will continue with this step and see how each piece responds to the final layer.



Working Together

Repairing ceramics is not just a solo task. In this photo, two people work together to apply glue to a cracked piece. One holds the object steady while the other focuses on placement.

This kind of collaboration brings a different rhythm to the process. It allows for more control and care, especially when working with fragile pieces. Each person contributes to the outcome, and the result reflects that shared effort.



Precision and Patience

The Kintsugi process is slow and deliberate. Each step builds on the last, from bonding broken pieces to applying the gold finish. We've explored tools, techniques, and shared moments of care and collaboration.

In the August meeting, we will continue with the final touches and compare how different materials shaped the outcome. Each pot tells its own story, and together they reflect the spirit of repair, patience, and quiet transformation.





Midway Bonsai Society
July 2025

Hardus at Kwanba, Natal

As Hardus had to honour to do a demonstration and to judge a New Talent competition in Kwanba, Natal. He took some picture of the beautiful trees on display. Keep making us proud Hardus.





Hardus in Kwanba, Natal





BRAT Day : 30 August 2025

**Venue: NG Church, Dickensonlaan
1402, Waverley, Pta
Entrance Fee R70.00**

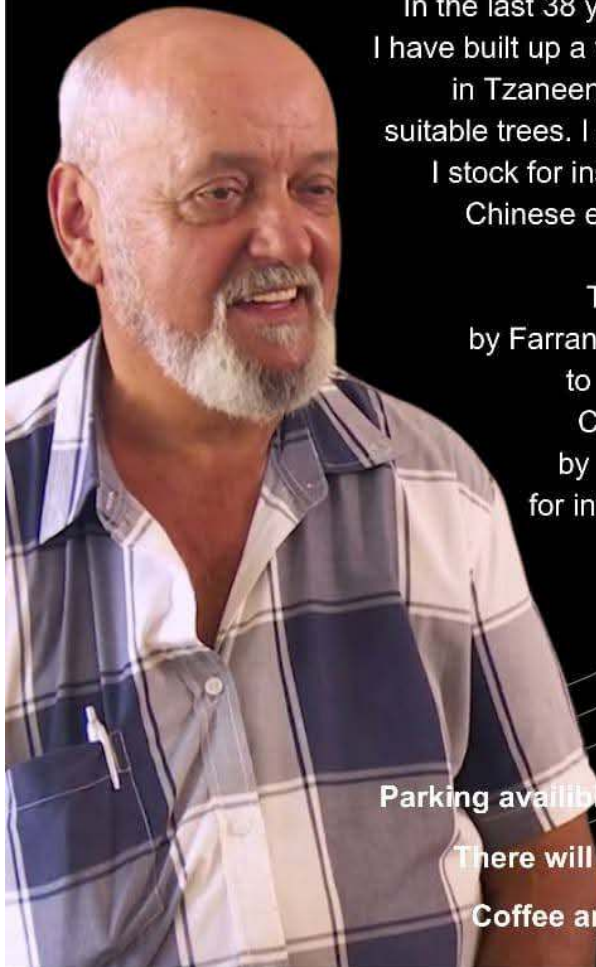
Guest Speaker's bio's : Hennie Smit

"My interest in bonsai trees started in the seventies after I watched a movie called The Invincible Boxer in the drive-in cinema in Potgietersrus (Mokopane).

The small trees in a pot caught my attention. It was only in 1992 that I met Willie Erasmus in Phalaborwa when I bought my first bonsai, a Celtis Africana. He was my first teacher from whom I learned a lot about Bonsai.

In the last 38 years I have been growing and styling my own trees. I have built up a vast collection of trees. I also have a bonsai nursery in Tzaneen where the beginner as well as the collector will find suitable trees. I also sell young bonsai trees wholesale to nurseries. I stock for instance baobab, celtis, olives, bougainvillea, maples, Chinese elm and a variety of acacia and fig and many more."

The Bonsai Focus Certificate of Merit was presented by Farrand Bloch of the International Magazine Bonsai Focus to Hennie with his baobab at the South African Bonsai Convention held in Pretoria in 2009. Hennie is known by his nickname 'The Baobab King' and is also notable for introducing many South Africans to Azalea as bonsai.



Parking available inside the grounds

There will be a Raffle as well

Coffee and tea available

Editors Letter

Dear Readers,

I hope you've enjoyed this month's issue of the Midway News!

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

If you would like to showcase your trees in our newsletter, please send me your photos.

Best regards,

Pieter Bosch



BRAT Day : 30 August 2025

**Venue: NG Church, Dickensonlaan
1402, Waverley, Pta
Entrance Fee R70.00**

Guest Speaker's bio's : Pieter Bosch

I began my bonsai journey in January 2012, when my sister gave me a truffle spore inoculated Oak tree sapling. This gift sparked my interest in bonsai, and I soon joined the Midway Bonsai Society. Under the guidance of experienced bonsai growers like Jonathan Cain, Hennie Reyneke, and Johann Espach, I developed my skills and knowledge.

Over the years, I've had the privilege of serving as Chairman of the Midway Bonsai Society on multiple occasions, with breaks in between, allowing me to contribute to the growth and development of the society. During this time, I became particularly interested in cultivating Spekboom, specifically the *Portulacaria afra* 'aurea' variety, thanks to Gustavo, who provided me with my first specimen.

Currently, I'm focused on growing a stock of fat and healthy Spekboom in my garden, which will eventually become the foundation of my future bonsai projects.

Those who know me through the Midway Bonsai Society have come to realize that I'm unapologetically obsessed with Spekboom – and given the slightest opportunity, I'll enthusiastically share my knowledge and passion for this incredible species, whether you asked for it or not!

Parking available inside the grounds

There will be a Raffle as well

Coffee and tea available

