



Midway Bonsai Society
September 2025

THE MIDWAY NEWS



Midway Bonsai Society
September 2025
www.midwaybonsai.co.za



Inside this issue:

- Chairman's report.
- Club News.
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On the front page is Jonathan bonsai that placed first in the larger than 300mm BRAT TOP10 category.

Chairmans Report



Midway Bonsai Society

September 2025

Hi all,

I hope this letter finds you all well.

Thanks to all who attended our meeting on the 20th Sept25, and the topic of the day was a demo talk about “the Principles of Design”, by Hardus, even though very summarized (as requested by me) the level of detail and info was still very good, also many questions were asked, which shows that the attendees were interested. And going forward, this will be a regular feature at our meetings.

I have asked Hardus, to take the lead in helping members with their designing and such work, especially the newer members, and this will help with our preparations for competitions, Heinrich is also a very competent tree designer 😊.

The meeting discussion of the day also revolved around the planning for the future New Talent competition being planned for next year 2026, and we will need to do more practical work with trees brought in for the meeting day, so please continue to bring more workable trees to meetings, as this will help you and everyone to learn.

At this time of year, the weather has been a bit uncertain, either hot & dry or blustery, with possible splashes of rain, so keeping an eye on watering your trees is essential, fingers crossed it will rain more soon. Try to keep all repotted trees sheltered from the hot wind and too much of the hot sun.

As the weather continues to heat up, everything should be sprouting like crazy now, and you should be working your way through all the pruning and trimming of your trees. Be careful not to over prune/trim though, as this will slow things down, you need the initial growth, try and allow all flowering to finish, and then trim, while keeping an eye on your size of tree.

For our 18th October meeting the topic will be, Root Over Rock, by Pieter, so please bring suitable cuttings (with roots), rocks, soil, string, plastic wrap, tie downs, tin foil, etc., and container to hold it, should be a great afternoon.

Another item that we need to discuss and agree on, are the choices being put forward to change our club logo, have a look at the WhatsApp pics and please, make your vote for the change (or any other proposals) or to keep the current one, we need to get this decided soonest as a club.

Thanks to Desiree for organizing the raffle table again, and please guys keep bringing some goodies for the next time as well.

Thanks all and keep those scissors sharp



Mack

(John Hecht)

Club news

You're Invited to our next meeting!

Join us on **18th of October 2025**, as we gather for a “Root over Rock” by Pieter.

Here's the agenda:

- 12:00-14:00: Work on your own trees
- 14:00: **Workshop** “Root over Rock” by Pieter

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

18 October 2025:

For our 18th October meeting, we're excited to host a hands-on workshop on Root Over Rock, presented by Pieter. This promises to be a creative and practical afternoon where everyone can get their hands dirty and try out this classic bonsai technique.

What to Bring:

- Trees or cuttings with roots
- Interesting rocks to work with
- Soil, string, plastic wrap, tie-downs, tin foil
- A container or pot to hold your creation

Whether you're a beginner or experienced, this is a great opportunity to experiment, learn, and share ideas. Don't miss it.

September's meeting: Tree Design by Hardus

At our recent meeting, Hardus presented a compelling Tree Design demonstration that engaged attendees and laid the groundwork for future sessions. The event saw strong attendance, with several new members adding fresh perspectives to our community. Hardus skillfully outlined essential tree design principles, sharing techniques for shaping and styling bonsai trees to enhance their aesthetic and health. The session encouraged active participation and discussion, creating a rich learning environment.

Given its success, we plan to incorporate tree design as a regular feature in our meetings. This will strengthen our understanding of design fundamentals and support skill development. Rather than offering beginners' courses, our club emphasizes New Talent Development at every meeting. This approach fosters continuous growth and aligns with our preparations for the New Talent Competition. By integrating tree design into our regular gatherings, we aim to build skills and confidence, positioning our members for success in the upcoming competition.

Stay tuned for further updates and join us at the next meeting to deepen your bonsai knowledge.





A tiny little Bougainvillea. Just look at those beautiful leaves.





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Our youngest member attentively observing the demonstration. His presence brought a delightful charm to the meeting.





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September 2025

Oom Hennie is well known for his small trees.



Upcoming Events: Tree Design and BRAT Day

Looking Oom Hennie is well known for his small trees.





If you want to know anything about keeping Mames alive or creating them, ask Oom Hennie.





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A lovely Juniper in progress.



Demonstration time

Hardus telling us the fines secrets on trees design.





Hardus telling us the fines secrets on Bonsai design.





We encourage lively discussions. From 12h00 to 14h00 members have the opportunity to work on their own trees and ask for advice.





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Lovely flowering bonsai belonging to Oom Hennie.





Irene Farm Show

On the 6th of September, we hosted a delightful mini show day at Irene Farm, where we showcased a selection of our finest trees. The event was well-organized and warmly supported by attendees, creating a vibrant atmosphere for both display and sales. Overall, it was a rewarding experience that highlighted the enthusiasm and appreciation for our work within the community.





Finer adjustments by Hardus





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We were very worried about this tree balancing on such a wonky table. I'm glad nothing happened to it.





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Lovely “Kanniedood” shot.





Many visitors engaged with us throughout the day, showing genuine interest in our trees and asking insightful questions. Their enthusiasm and curiosity added a lively and interactive element to the event, making it not only a showcase but also a valuable opportunity for meaningful conversations and knowledge sharing.





Arnold snipping away at the Japanese Maple





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Some more shots from the Irene Farm show.



Some more shots from the Irene Farm show.





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Jonathan's Maple caught everyone's eye



BRAT TOP 10 at Pretoria Bonsai Kai: Celebrating Bonsai Excellence

On 30 August, the BRAT Top 10 event brought together some of the best bonsai trees in our community. Five trees were selected from each size category: under 300mm and over 300mm. It was a day of appreciation, learning, and celebration.

Jonathan took first place in the over 300mm category with a beautifully structured tree that stood out for its balance and presence. Oom Hennie placed third in the under 300mm category with a compact tree full of character and charm. Their winning trees will be shown in the photos below.

I also did a demonstration on Spekboom, a species I enjoy working with. It's hardy, forgiving, and full of personality. The demo was informal and relaxed. When I cook, I consider it a success if nobody dies or ends up in hospital. The same applies here. I wasn't booed off stage, and people seemed to enjoy it, so I'll take that as a win.

Photos from the day, including the winning trees and moments from the demo, will be shared below. The picture below is me in action, listen carefully now...



Hidden behind his winning tree, Jonathan is pictured receiving his certificate for the best tree above 300mm. His tree, recognised for its balance and presence, is also featured on the cover page.

The photo captures a proud moment and a standout entry in this year's BRAT Top 10.





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Oom Hennie Places Third with a Beautiful Small Tree

Oom Hennie secured third place in the under 300mm category with a beautifully crafted tree. He is well known for his work with small trees, consistently keeping them not only alive but thriving. It is an artform he has truly mastered, and this tree is a fine example of his skill and dedication.





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Arnold Shines in BRAT Top 10 Artisans Competition

We are thrilled to share that Arnold proudly represented our club in the prestigious BRAT Top 10 Artisans competition. He did exceptionally well, securing an impressive 3rd place. His dedication, craftsmanship, and attention to detail truly stood out among the talented participants. We are incredibly proud of Arnold and his achievement. Below, you'll find a photo of him hard at work on his project, followed by a striking before-and-after comparison (on the next page) showcasing the transformation he achieved through skill and passion.





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Arnold Shines in BRAT Top 10 Artisans Competition

The tree Arnold was working on. Before.





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Arnold Shines in BRAT Top 10 Artisans Competition

The tree Arnold was working on. After.



Arnold Shines in BRAT Top 10 Artisans Competition

The tree Arnold was working on. Close up shot of the carving.





SOUTH AFRICAN
Bonsai
Association



SABA MINI-CONVENTION 2025

BONSAI

Road trip

across South Africa



WOODLANDS
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

29-30 NOV 2025

Woodlands
International College
Boksburg





Editors Letter

Dear Readers,

I hope you 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 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