



THE SCHOOL  
OF BONSAI

# BONSAI INTERMEDIATE HANDBOOK

This handbook is designed for students of The School of Bonsai who have completed the Beginner's Course and wish to further their knowledge.

It has been compiled with the invaluable input of Mr Clinton Nesci.

# SYLLABUS - INTERMEDIATE COURSE

## TERM 1

### WEEK 1

#### Summer Report

- ❖ How did Plants Fare in the Heat?
- ❖ Plant Rescue

#### Sacrifice Branches - When, Why & How to Grow Them

- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

### WEEK 2

#### Plant Profile - Lantana

- ❖ Which Species are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Maintenance & Styling

#### Air Layering Part II - What to do when Roots Appear

- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

### **WEEK 3 – Soes/Companion Plants**

- ❖ Which Plants are Suitable
- ❖ How to Construct Them
- ❖ Which Pots to Use
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

### **WEEK 4 - Rock Plantings**

- ❖ Which Plant and Rock to Use
- ❖ Putting it all Together
- ❖ After-care
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

### **WEEK 5 – Plant Profile - Jade**

- ❖ Which Species are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Maintenance & Styling
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

#### **Advanced Wiring**

- ❖ Wiring Recap
- ❖ Direction of Wire
- ❖ Tips for Perfect Wiring
- ❖ Demonstration

## **WEEK 6 – Root Exposed Style**

- ❖ Which Species are Suitable for this Style
- ❖ How to Start
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

## **WEEK 7 – Root-over-rock Part II – Review Last Year's Plant**

- ❖ The Best Way to Unwrap Them
- ❖ After-care
- ❖ Where to from Here?
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

## **WEEK 8 – Displaying a Bonsai at Home or in an Exhibition**

- ❖ Guidelines and tips on how to use display tables, mats and Soes with your Bonsai
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

## **WEEK 9 – Collecting Trees**

- ❖ What to Dig for
- ❖ What Tools are Required
- ❖ How to Prepare Collected Trees
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

**終わり**

## **TERM 2**

### **WEEK 1 - Trees with Autumn Colour & Autumn Jobs**

- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

### **WEEK 2 - Plant Profile – Camellia**

- ❖ Which Species are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Maintenance & Styling
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

#### **Potting Mixes**

- ❖ What to Use
- ❖ Fundamentals of Soil for Bonsai
- ❖ Different Potting Mediums
- ❖ Should Mixes Vary According to Species?

### **WEEK 3 - Plant Profile - Australian Native Plants Revisited**

- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

### **WEEK 4 - Let's Build a Rock**

- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

## SYLLABUS – INTERMEDIATE COURSE TERM 2 (CONT)

### WEEK 5 - Refining Pots & Tool Maintenance

- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

### WEEK 6 - Tree Style – Weeping

- ❖ Which Trees are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

### WEEK 7 – PUBLIC HOLIDAY – (NO CLASS)

### WEEK 8 - Tree Style – Miniatures

- ❖ Which Trees are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Maintenance & Styling
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

### WEEK 9 - Developing Trees in the Open Ground for Bonsai

- ❖ How to
- ❖ Tools Needed
- ❖ How Long Should They Stay in the Ground?
- ❖ Is it Practical?
- ❖ Workshop

終わり

## **TERM 3**

### **Week 1 - Plant Profile – Corokia & Serissa**

- ❖ Which Species are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Maintenance & Styling
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

### **WEEK 2 - Raffia**

- ❖ How to Prepare it
- ❖ Why Use it?
- ❖ How to Apply it
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

### **WEEK 3 - Tree Style – Clump Style**

- ❖ Which Trees are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Maintenance & Styling
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

### **Week 4 - Plant Profile – Chinese & Japanese Quince**

- ❖ Which Species are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Maintenance & Styling
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

## SYLLABUS – INTERMEDIATE COURSE TERM 3 (CONT)

### WEEK 5 - Problem Trees

- ❖ How to find a better tree within the tree
- ❖ Students' Problem Trees to be Discussed
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

### WEEK 6 - Video Night

- ❖ Kevin Wilson, European Bonsai Artist (60 minute duration)
- ❖ Workshop

### WEEK 7 - Critique

- ❖ Learn to Spot Problem Areas in a Series of Trees
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

### Week 8 - Plant Profile – Metasequoia & Taxodium

- ❖ Which Species are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Maintenance & Styling
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

### Week 9 – Plant Profile – Gingko

- ❖ Which Species are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Maintenance & Styling
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

### Striking Large Cuttings

- ❖ Demonstration

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## TERM 4

### Week 1 - Plant Profile – Crab Apples

- ❖ Which Species are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Maintenance & Styling
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

#### **Penjing** (*Guest lecturer*)

- ❖ What is Penjing?
- ❖ History
- ❖ Styles

### Week 2 - Grafting

- ❖ Approach Grafting
- ❖ Thread Grafting
- ❖ Root Grafting
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

### Week 3 - Plant Profile – Hornbeams

- ❖ Which Species are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Maintenance & Styling
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

**WEEK 4 (cont) - Tree Style – Broom Style & Ramification**

- ❖ Which Trees are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Different Types of Broom Style
- ❖ Building Ramification
- ❖ Demonstration

**WEEK 4 - Grafting to Change Plant Varieties**

*(Guest speaker Ray Nesci)*

- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

Week 5

**- Plant Profile – Oaks & Liquidambar**

- ❖ Which Species are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Maintenance & Styling
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

Week 6

**Plant Profile – Azalea Sao Tome**

- ❖ Maintenance & Styling
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

**Plaiting Trunks**

**Week 7 – Plant Profile – Gardenia, Murraya & Crepe Myrtle**

- ❖ Which Species are Suitable for Bonsai
- ❖ Maintenance & Styling
- ❖ Demonstration
- ❖ Workshop

**Week 8 – Miscellaneous Plants for Bonsai**

- ❖ Workshop

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