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May 2010

Dear Bonsai Friends

We have had confirmation from Johannesburg City Parks that we may use The Floreum in June and July after all as FIFA will not be using this facility. Our next meeting is to be held on Saturday 19 June at 14:00 in The Floreum. Will all members please diarise the date and read this and any future newsletters in order to avoid any confusion. We will be having a talk by Bonita Chilro from Neutrog Africa on their fertilizer products – this is the famous ‘Bounce back’ which some of us have been using on our Bonsai for a few years as well as some of their other products. If we are lucky, there may be samples available, so don’t miss the meeting. Bonita’s talk will be followed by a demonstration by Erika, at this stage, topic unknown, but we are surely in for an interesting and informative afternoon. How about having a mini display entitled ‘Winter Silhouettes’ as well. Please bring one of your deciduous Bonsai in all its winter glory for us all to see and admire. The raffle and sales table will operate as usual and a new edition of Bonsai Focus has arrived, so this will be available.

Our last meeting was well attended and we had an interesting ‘Bring them back alive’ session. Eddie Menges, Ruza Whitaker, Pieter Loubser, Erich Walter and myself brought some of the Bonsai created in demonstrations at past meetings for the members to see, discuss and note the progress to date. From the feedback received, it went down very well, and was a good, learning experience for the newer and older members as well. Many thanks to you all for sharing your talents and expertise with us. To the members who arrived the following week for the meeting, sorry you lost, please read your letters in future! Thank you to Mike and Kobus for the refreshments for our tea break, as well as the donors of the raffle prizes.

The BRAT day, hosted by Eastern Bonsai Society was also a great success. Carl Morrow from Cape Town was the headliner and as usual, he shared his very vast knowledge and did a very good demonstration using old Pyracantha stock. The food was good, as well as the other demonstrators, the raffle, the exhibition, and the general camaraderie. Congratulations to the winner of the new talent competition, and well done to the members of E.B.S.

Great progress has been made at Brenthurst on the site for the new Bonsai pavilion. The central pavilion as well as the two covered display areas are standing with their shiny copper roofs– this will change very quickly with the weather. Copper has been used as it will require no future maintenance, and looks stunning. Rain chains will be used behind the structures to drain water from the gutters. The covered display areas will have shelves on two levels for the display of more tender Bonsai which cannot take all day sun. In the central pavilion, there will be a Tok with a South African feel for the daily display of any special Bonsai. This also be used for quiet garden moments, meditation, and a place where visitors will be able to relax and enjoy the peace and contentment which we, as Bonsai enthusiasts know all about. In front of the structures, the other Bonsai will be displayed on metal grating shelves, supported on stumps of old Eucalyptus trees, as well as large stumps. This area is not covered, and in some areas the Bonsai will get full sun all day, and in others, morning sun only. We will have to take note of this once the trees are there and move them around accordingly. The whole area will



have pebbles on the ground and all watering will be done with a hose, or by hand. This whole area is going to look absolutely stunning!! After all work on this area is complete, work on the holding and workshop area, behind, in the Nursery area of the Estate will be completed. This is an extremely exciting time for the future of Bonsai in South Africa, and for me personally, the realization of a 'dream come true'. Yes it is going to involve a great deal of time and effort, but with the help and enthusiasm of Bonsai growers in the community, it is going to be one of the star attractions of Johannesburg, situated in an ideal location in one of South Africa's finest and well known gardens.

We are pleased to welcome Jethro Venter and Patrick Lacy as new members of Shibui. We hope you will enjoy a long and happy stay with us and help us to promote Bonsai whenever and wherever possible.

Birthdays in June: Only two this month, Erika on the 15<sup>th</sup>, and Helen on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Many happy returns to you both from all of us and we hope you both enjoy many more happy years.

Hoping to see you all on the 19<sup>th</sup>, in The Floreum.

Sincerely

*Derry*

COMMITTEE:

President/ Treasurer:	DERRY RALPH	788 6104	TREVOR BOTHAM	(082) 784 7581
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Banking Details: Nedbank – Rosebank Gardens Branch – 195 805:  
Shibui Bonsai Kai: A/C # 1958 289 906

CAKE DUTY ROSTER:

June: Godfrey Jones and Erika Köhler

July: Erich Walter and Stan Simcox

Each person to provide one plate of 'sweet' and one plate of 'savoury' please.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

31 July: B.R.A.T. Open day at Waterberg Bonsai Kai

PS: Committee members, we will be having a meeting at 12:30 – prior to the general meeting.

