 <p data-bbox="518 257 901 414">SOUTH AFRICAN <b>Bonsai</b> Association</p>	<p data-bbox="954 134 1173 161"><a href="http://www.saba.org.za">www.saba.org.za</a></p> <p data-bbox="954 165 1268 192">Reg. No: 2022/271010/08</p> <p data-bbox="954 197 1077 224"><b>President</b></p> <p data-bbox="954 228 1197 255"><a href="mailto:tola@buhlebetfu.net">tola@buhlebetfu.net</a></p> <p data-bbox="954 259 1189 286">+27(0)83 680 7574</p> <p data-bbox="954 291 1085 318"><b>Treasurer</b></p> <p data-bbox="954 322 1236 349">Terence O'FLAHERTY</p> <p data-bbox="954 353 1324 380"><a href="mailto:Terence.OFlaherty@smec.com">Terence.OFlaherty@smec.com</a></p> <p data-bbox="954 385 1189 412">+27(0)72 265 4039</p>
--	---

## Newsletter – May 2022

### President's report:

Autumn has crept upon us in a blink of an eye and all the autumn work has started on our bonsai trees. The autumn colours have started to show on the trees and before we know, we will be in winter waiting in anticipation for the new growing season!

The last couple of months have been quite eventful from a SABA perspective with the possible bid for WBC10 to be held in 2026 taking centre stage. Jonathan Cain from ABA put SABA in touch with the South African National Convention Bureau (SANCB) in September 2021. SANCB is a division of the Department of Tourism and indicated that they will be keen to be a sponsor for the bid and for the actual convention if we are successful.

The sponsorship from SANCB included sponsorship for at least 3 AGMs until the convention but one of the requirements of the sponsorship was that SABA had to be a registered Non-Profit Organisation and register on the Government's Central Suppliers' Database to enable SABA to receive any Government funding.

In addition to this the SANCB was prescriptive with 3 Towns in each Province in which the AGM's can be held and SABA had to put all the requirements together for an AGM which was offered to each Province via a bidding process co-ordinated by the SANCB.

The only Province that put in a bid for hosting the AGM was the Western Cape (WESGRO) and the town selected was Grabouw with the venue being the Houwhoek Hotel and Conference Centre.

With all the above requirements, and the bidding process from the provinces taking at least six weeks, the initial date for the AGM had to be re-scheduled twice and eventually the 1<sup>st</sup> date available from the venue after all the above was

in place, and with only a month to arrange the AGM, the weekend of 1-3 April 2022 was selected.

Carl Morrow and Dawn Collier from the SABA EXCO had to do a site inspection and liaise with the hotel regarding the venue and the requirements and did a sterling job of putting together a day of bonsai activities in conjunction with the AGM. The activities with photos of the occasion will be featured in an article by Carl which will be distributed soon.

The minutes of the AGM are also attached to this newsletter for the perusal of all.

A new SABA EXCO was appointed, and it comprises:

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Tola Smit          | - President            |
| 2. Carl Morrow        | - Vice President       |
| 3. Dawn Collier       | - Secretary            |
| 4. Lesley Haw         | - Member               |
| 5. Phil Levitt        | - Member               |
| 6. Viky Petermann     | - Member               |
| 7. Terence O'Flaherty | - Treasurer (Co-Opted) |

At the AGM it was identified that SABA and ABA need to work close together on the bid to host WBC10. In this regard ABA and SABA had a meeting on 28 April 2022 to discuss various points of mutual interest and what the bid process entails.

A separate WBC10 committee was formed of ABA, SABA and SANCB representatives which had their 1<sup>st</sup> meeting on 10 May 2022. This meeting will decide on the way forward in the compilation of the bid which needs to be presented to WBF in Australia at WBC9. Sadly, WBC9 will be a virtual convention because of the travelling restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and has already been opened for registration. The positive part of the virtual convention will be, that if registered, one will be able to re-play all the demonstrations etc. if it is not possible to attend these live.

Apart from the bid being a priority, the immediate goals for the new SABA EXCO are:

1. To create a better platform for the bonsai clubs throughout South Africa to share their common love for the art of bonsai.
2. To improve communication to/from regions and clubs by utilising the website and widely used social media platforms.

Executive Committee:

Tola Smit (President), Carl Morrow (Vice-President), Terence O'Flaherty (Treasurer), Dawn Collier (Secretary), Lesley Haw, Phil Levitt, Viky Petermann

3. To pursue the SABA constitution's objectives, namely:
  - a. To promote co-operation between South Africa Bonsai and associated arts and International Bonsai organisations, irrespective of race, colour, creed, or national origin for the purpose of improving the art and image of bonsai.
  - b. To serve as the official accredited representative of members in matters of national and international concerns and to nominate a person or persons to act as representative(s) of the Association.
  - c. To promote and provide information on bonsai through activities such as symposia, conventions, demonstrations, workshops, newsletters, magazines and other meetings.
  - d. To be responsible for the definition, maintenance, and implementation of bonsai policy for South Africa.
  - e. To honour the autonomy and undisturbed identity and authority, of all member clubs.

We will keep you updated on the progress with the WBC10 bid on a regular basis and as requested at the AGM, make a recommendation to the clubs in respect of the EXCO's opinion of whether ABA/SABA would be able to host an event of this magnitude before end September 2022 since this is the closing date by when WBFF needs to be notified of a Region's intention to put in a bid.

Yours in SA bonsai,

**Tola Smit**

#### **SABA subscriptions early warning**

Here is the early warning that as we have become active again, the moratorium in subs comes to an end (sorry but we need to get some income from somewhere) and subs will be due in July 2022 for the year running from July 2022 to June 2023. Please prepare to make payment based on the number of members you have. Subs are as follows: Club member R40, individual member R100 and Organisations R200. Payments are to be made to the Standard Bank account and please avoid making cash deposits as the fees are exorbitant.

Executive Committee:

Tola Smit (President), Carl Morrow (Vice-President), Terence O'Flaherty (Treasurer), Dawn Collier (Secretary), Lesley Haw, Phil Levitt, Viky Petermann

## **SABA - Bonsai going forward in South Africa:**

*By Dawn Collier*

In the beginning of April, the South African Bonsai association - SABA, had its AGM in the historical setting of the Houw Hoek Hotel in Grabouw. This is only an hour or so from Cape Town, so of course most of the delegates that attended were from there. This was open to All SABA members in the country, we only needed 50 people, which we managed to achieve at the last minute. I think because it wasn't a mini- convention, we struggled to entice people from other provinces. The AGM usually takes place at the conventions, both regular and mini, every year at which time, a new committee is formed to promote South African Bonsai. Since the Last convention in 2019 - Bonsai participation has been very fractured in many clubs. Covid was the thorn in our side that spoilt many events, gatherings, and general club meetings from happening. Yes, some of us had more time for our trees as individuals, but not being with our bonsai friends and family it was hard.

It was great to mix and meet like-minded people again and most of all to get SABA back in shape again. Last year I decided to join the SABA EXCO as I wanted to find out what they do for us as an organization promoting Bonsai in South Africa.



Knowing nothing of the politics and the baggage of the past, which I still prefer not to know, it's like any other club/ organization ruled by a constitution that often suits whoever is in the power at the time to adhere to the rules or not.

Friday was spent setting up the trees on display and socializing with people you have only seen on zoom, WhatsApp, and face book over the past 3 years. There are always some interesting characters that love Bonsai as much as I do!

Executive Committee:

Tola Smit (President), Carl Morrow (Vice-President), Terence O'Flaherty (Treasurer), Dawn Collier (Secretary), Lesley Haw, Phil Levitt, Viky Petermann

On Saturday morning Carl had the members mesmerized in his landscape demo on an old somewhat neglected Juniper from the 1980's. Carl loves the challenge of using marginal stock. He has such a way of multitasking the practical with the theory, I would say he is the Ryan Neil of SA. There was much participation from the audience, but Carl knew all along what his vision for the tree was.



*Carl -The Natural - busy with his demo which he does with such ease, taking us methodically through the steps.*



Executive Committee:

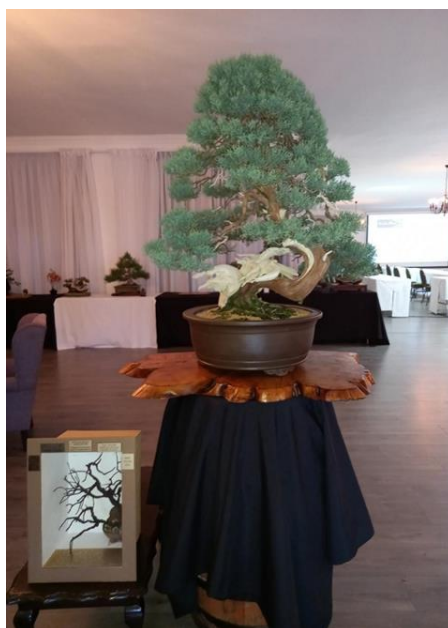
Tola Smit (President), Carl Morrow (Vice-President), Terence O'Flaherty (Treasurer), Dawn Collier (Secretary), Lesley Haw, Phil Levitt, Viky Petermann

Before Lunch we had 2 more presentations - myself doing my first power point presentation on how the Pandemic had created new opportunities for Bonsai and Bonsai clubs. Then, Cindy from Oyama club, gave us a slide show of the clubs last 2 bonsai shows - They are without a doubt, the top Bonsai club in the Western Cape at the moment.

After lunch the main event took place- the AGM. We always knew there would be drama, unanswered questions, blaming and shaming. 3 hours later we managed to vote in a new SABA EXCO, ready to deal with the great opportunity to host the World Bonsai convention 10 in 2026. SABA has agreed to go ahead with the bid for now and if the committee finds that this project is NOT viable, we have until October 2022 to let ABA- The African Bonsai association know if this is beyond our capability.

I certainly felt the weekend restored my faith in SABA and what we can do for Bonsai in South Africa in the future. I would like all our club members to support SABA going forward and to take some time to visit the New look website <https://saba.org.za> It still has some work to be done, but hopefully now we have the right people in place. The minutes of the AGM will be sent out by the end of the month, so please do read this, and support us.

Most of us were relieved that the meeting finally ended, and we could get back to the bonsai. Jonathan and Willem from ABA gave us a critique of some of the exhibition trees at the conference. By now many of us were all bonsai-ed out and just wanted to relax at the bar or participate in the wine tasting. I found it to be a very well-organized sponsored event and hopefully more of our club members will attend SABA AGMs in the future.



Executive Committee:

Tola Smit (President), Carl Morrow (Vice-President), Terence O'Flaherty (Treasurer), Dawn Collier (Secretary), Lesley Haw, Phil Levitt, Viky Petermann



## **Regional news:**

This section of the newsletter will highlight regional events taking place around the country. To include the latest regional happenings into the SABA Newsletter, the editor requests that you please email regional news to [viky-@hotmail.com](mailto:viky-@hotmail.com) by the third Saturday of each month.

- **BRAT:**

1) The first meeting will take place on the 30st July at Hectors Nursery in Boksburg. It will be a bring a non-styled tree for discussion. There will also be a Bonsai show. The AGM will also take place

2) October the 29 will be hosted by Midway. Feedback will be given as to where it will take place

### **3) Tips on taking photos of your trees**

*By Arnold – Article from: Midway News*

“Photography is a way of feeling, of touching, of loving. What you have caught on film is captured forever... It remembers little things, long after you have forgotten everything.” - *Aaron Siskind*

Taking photos of the journey that your trees take from raw stock to Bonsai is an easy way to capture the thought and feelings of the moment.

#### The Gear

- Best is a “professional” set up with a good camera, backdrop, light boxes and tripod.
- But good photos can be taken with cheaper cameras and without expensive gear. The skill of the person behind the camera makes a huge difference.
- If a studio and lightboxes are not available, use natural light or even strong electrical lamps but remember the tripod.

Executive Committee:

Tola Smit (President), Carl Morrow (Vice-President), Terence O’Flaherty (Treasurer), Dawn Collier (Secretary), Lesley Haw, Phil Levitt, Viky Petermann



### Use a Backdrop

- Probably the biggest mistake and reason for bad bonsai photos not using a backdrop.
- Bonsai is meant to be seen individually the pot and tree form a union. If you have other things in the picture it will distract from this unity.
- A uniform wall can be used if a backdrop is not available.

### Correct Position

- Every bonsai has a perfect vantage point. Shoot from this point. This is where the tripod comes in. One cannot hold on to the camera while taking time getting the correct shooting position.
- This should be level with the soil or slightly raised where one can see the full base of the bonsai.

### Lighting

- If lighting boxes are used, use one high and one from the bottom. Lighting the bottom of the bonsai works well.
- If natural light is used the box can be emulated with a reflector. This can be a bought out item or white polystyrene sheet or even white painted (matt) cardboard.

#### Executive Committee:

Tola Smit (President), Carl Morrow (Vice-President), Terence O'Flaherty (Treasurer), Dawn Collier (Secretary), Lesley Haw, Phil Levitt, Viky Petermann



A plastic bonsai photographed in three different ways:



1. the cell phone in moderate light.



2. the cell phone with flash forced on.



3. A digital camera with two soft boxes.

### Exposure

- Be careful of “blow out” of pixels with a digital camera. This happens when something is too white/light and a pixel just goes to the maximum white value with no more information in that pixel.
- Rather shoot a bit “darker” and change the light setting afterwards in software.

Executive Committee:

Tola Smit (President), Carl Morrow (Vice-President), Terence O’Flaherty (Treasurer), Dawn Collier (Secretary), Lesley Haw, Phil Levitt, Viky Petermann

## Colour

- White light has different senses of colour as the lighting conditions change.
- Digital cameras have white balance settings to compensate for this.
- Be aware of this as a wrong white balance setting will affect the colour of the bonsai on the photo.

## Depth of Field

- The ideal bonsai photo is where the background is blurred, and the bonsai is in perfect focus. This is also called “bokeh” in Japanese.
- Depth of field is where there is a certain distance from the lens where objects are in focus. The rest in front of this field and at the back of this field is out of focus.
- You want to have the bonsai in this field with the back out of focus and blurred.
- This is usually not achievable with cell phone or point and shoot cameras, because they have a too small aperture (or hole at the lens).
- It is achieved with good lenses that have wide apertures.



### Executive Committee:

Tola Smit (President), Carl Morrow (Vice-President), Terence O'Flaherty (Treasurer), Dawn Collier (Secretary), Lesley Haw, Phil Levitt, Viky Petermann

#### 4) Shibui Bonsai Kai

- Next meeting will be held on Saturday 21 May at 14:00 in The Floreum and we will be having a hands-on workshop so we would like you all to bring a tree to work on. Trevor will start the meeting and give us a short talk on the correct time to prune our Bonsai and Mike Hardisty will also be bringing back the Privets he worked on for us to see.

- The committee has agreed to stage a small exhibition on 23 and 24 September if the Covid situation allows.

- **CENTRAL REGION:**

Have not provided any information

- **CRAB:**

#### 1) World Bonsai Day – A Day spent at Bishopsford Bonsai Nursery

*By Dawn Collier*

On the 14th of May this year we were able to gather a group of 20 or so people at Bishopsford Bonsai nursery in Constantia, Cape Town. It's been far too long, as Gail Theron and her daughter always planned and prepared for this event every year, but due to the pandemic, have not hosted for over 2 years now. This was our first CRAB event for the year, where all the clubs in the Cape get together and share ideas, knowledge and friendship.



Executive Committee:

Tola Smit (President), Carl Morrow (Vice-President), Terence O'Flaherty (Treasurer), Dawn Collier (Secretary), Lesley Haw, Phil Levitt, Viky Petermann



The Topic and workshop for the day was Junipers, any kind, and if you knew the actual species, that was a bonus. Mark Polson was the presenter for the day and as most people in the Cape know, he is passionate for Junipers and Pines! He has been doing Bonsai for about 18 years now, and over this period he has experimented and pushed the boundaries on these species to the extreme, which shows in his trees.

His Trees are delightful! Each has their own uniqueness and Character. He works with all the different species of Junipers, trying many ways and techniques to compact the foliage, which is often problematic on some of these types of trees. He has trees that are palm size- tight, compact shinpaku 'Itoigawa', with simple Shari' and jins that don't overpower, as well as the very large dramatic Juniper that has everything you would want in a tree worthy of winning the Forbidden branch floating Trophy.



We had an in depth look at why he finds it advantageous to do - scion and approach grafts of the Sargent and Itoigawa species onto standard and often marginal juniper stock trees that already have the thicker trunks, plenty of movement and show visible age. His shohin trees appear so tortured, but so neat and visually appealing that you just want to have one in your collection. After at least an hour plus of what, when, how and the maintenance of his trees, we eventually tackled our own. Most had brought *Juniperus procumbens nana* to work on, some still very raw black bag stock, others just needing re-designing and Mark went to each person individually giving guidance and perhaps other options that you might not have thought of.

Executive Committee:

Tola Smit (President), Carl Morrow (Vice-President), Terence O'Flaherty (Treasurer), Dawn Collier (Secretary), Lesley Haw, Phil Levitt, Viky Petermann



One thing that I have learnt over the years, is that you still must wire the whole tree from top to bottom, no matter how small a tree or branch. Because when you start with your design in mind, you will find the placement just falls into place much easier. Some of us had to finish off our trees at home on the next day as we just ran out of time. A most enjoyable time was had by all who attended.

For further interest please go to [bonsaitree.co.za/blogs/tree-talk/5-tips-for-better-junipers](https://bonsaitree.co.za/blogs/tree-talk/5-tips-for-better-junipers) this is Terry Erasmus of [bonsaitree.co.za](https://bonsaitree.co.za)

World Bonsai Day was initiated by the WBFF (World Bonsai Friendship Federation) to honor the memory of Saburo Kato (1915-2008), a renowned Bonsai Master and 3rd generation owner of the 'Mansei-en' Bonsai nursery in Omiya Japan, one of the most famous bonsai nurseries in the world. Mr Kato an author, teacher and philosopher inspired countless people around the world to learn the art of bonsai. In 1989 he became one of the founder members of The WBFF and there first Chairman.

This day is celebrated on every 2nd Saturday of May all over the world. The primary aim is to promote understanding and awareness of Bonsai worldwide. We celebrate the power of Bonsai, bringing people together in peace and friendship, and to help us develop a stronger connection to our natural environment. On this special day, clubs, individuals and businesses throughout the world are encouraged to reach out into their respective communities and spread the Joy of Bonsai!

Executive Committee:

Tola Smit (President), Carl Morrow (Vice-President), Terence O'Flaherty (Treasurer), Dawn Collier (Secretary), Lesley Haw, Phil Levitt, Viky Petermann

## 2) Oyama Show

*Photos: Cindy Rodkin– Article: Andrew dP Legg*

One of the highlights of the bonsai calendar for Oyama Bonsai Kai is the yearly show up at Kirstenbosch.



As always members pitch in to help make the show a memorable event in club life, but this year, 2022 was something special for me personally. Why? Not only was the show well executed and supported by our club family, but the centrepiece display was special. Not because I designed it, or built it, because I didn't, but because it linked at last, beautifully and specifically, to another important aspect of Oyama life - our annual club yamadori dig - coming soon to a koppie near you!!

A little bit of group-think to come up with a design, and implementation well done by Neil and his Timeout Creations building team saw a lovely bold display of indigenous olive bonsais. What a treat!

Executive Committee:

Tola Smit (President), Carl Morrow (Vice-President), Terence O'Flaherty (Treasurer), Dawn Collier (Secretary), Lesley Haw, Phil Levitt, Viky Petermann





As someone actively involved in the dig site, it has been particularly special to see many trees originating at this site making it at last to our show. For many years we have removed trees from the farm and previous sites and occasionally one makes it onto the show, but with the centrepiece this year full of them, it was quite awesome.



Executive Committee:  
 Tola Smit (President), Carl Morrow (Vice-President), Terence O'Flaherty (Treasurer), Dawn Collier (Secretary), Lesley Haw, Phil Levitt, Viky Petermann



Some beautiful trees indeed and a testament to the talent in our club to see them making show quality.



Neil put together a lovely entrance with a weathered wood encased display of bonsai and orchids. Very pretty and artistically done indeed. Cindy and her mame-homies rocked the small trees large by putting together the same display with her eye for visual art and her lovely collection of eclectic accompaniments.

Executive Committee:

Tola Smit (President), Carl Morrow (Vice-President), Terence O'Flaherty (Treasurer), Dawn Collier (Secretary), Lesley Haw, Phil Levitt, Viky Petermann





Executive Committee:  
Tola Smit (President), Carl Morrow (Vice-President), Terence O'Flaherty (Treasurer), Dawn Collier  
(Secretary), Lesley Haw, Phil Levitt, Viky Petermann



Thanks to all the other club members for their contribution of trees and stands, suiseki and scrolls as well as simply their time in putting it all together from clearing out the previous tenants, to laying tables, tablecloths, screens and all the way through to final touches on the display. It was great to see the interest taken by a lot of the team on receiving teaching from Carl and Viky on designing the tree layout to achieve best visual appeal, with importance of flow, points of interest/dominant trees and how to ensure that the viewer gets the best experience.



Gavin for putting together the progression section and of course to Phil for so willingly doing the sales area. It was lovely to see guest artists bringing in locally made pots as well, and to have the local nurseries smousing their wares.

**Onwards and upwards to next year - well done team!**

Executive Committee:

Tola Smit (President), Carl Morrow (Vice-President), Terence O'Flaherty (Treasurer), Dawn Collier (Secretary), Lesley Haw, Phil Levitt, Viky Petermann

- **EASTERN:**

Have not provided any information

- **KZN:**

- 1) **Club news and activity**

The clubs hold regular meetings dealing with the normal fertilizing, watering, soils and growing mediums, workshops on styling of trees. As we go into the quite winter season everyone looks forward to spring repotting and the odd club dig and, yes weeding.

- 2) **Durban bonsai**

They are considering their options on hosting the convention /AGM in 2023 and trust that all regions will support them by attending. They meet every second Sunday of the month, normally at the Lions Club (Durban North) but the venue did have some flooding issues.

- 3) **Kengai (Hillcrest):**

The club meets every last Sunday of the month at Misty Moon in Assegai

- 4) **Richards Bay and Pietermaritzburg**

Have not provided any information

Executive Committee:

Tola Smit (President), Carl Morrow (Vice-President), Terence O'Flaherty (Treasurer), Dawn Collier (Secretary), Lesley Haw, Phil Levitt, Viky Petermann



## **Bonsai Classified**

If you are a business affiliated to SABA and would like to advertise in the SABA Newsletter, please send an 8cm wide by 5 cm long size advert in word document format, or a jpg. Image to [viky-@hotmail.com](mailto:viky-@hotmail.com) by the third Saturday of each month.



**The Bonsai  
Yard**

Phil Levitt                      082 557 1066

Bonsai Nursery located in Bishopscourt.  
Call to set up an appointment

**Specialising in :**  
**Bonsai trees in pots**  
**Starter trees**  
**Yamadori**  
**Potting mixes**  
**Tools, pots & wire**  
**Tuition & courses**  
**Services for client trees**  
**And much more...**

Executive Committee:

Tola Smit (President), Carl Morrow (Vice-President), Terence O'Flaherty (Treasurer), Dawn Collier (Secretary), Lesley Haw, Phil Levitt, Viky Petermann



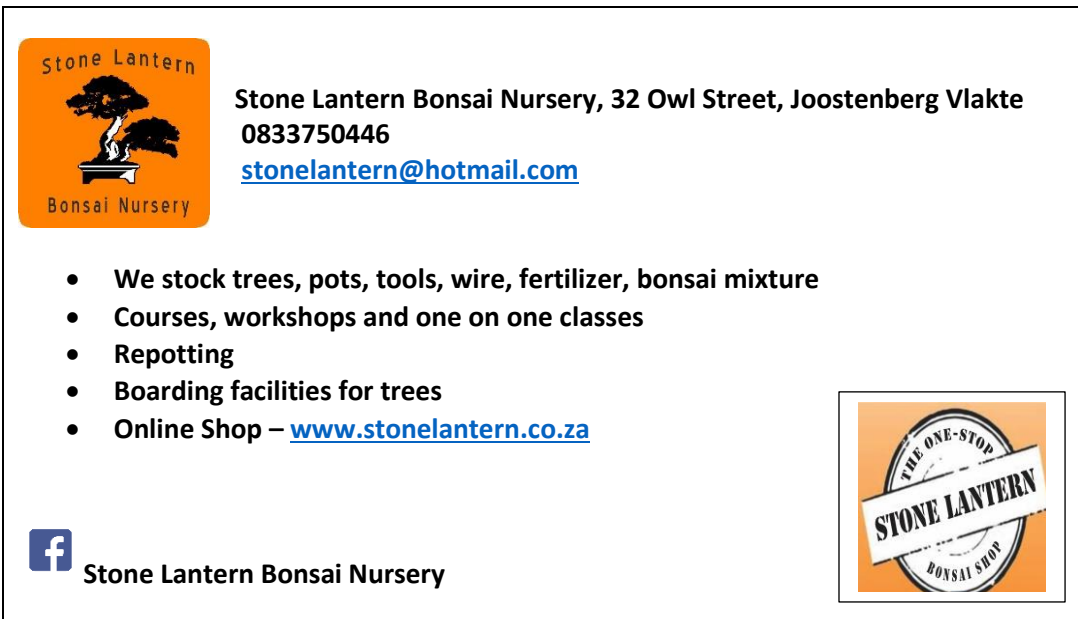



 **Jo-Da Bonsai**

**Bonsai and Bonsai accessories**

[www.jodabonsai.com](http://www.jodabonsai.com)    [info@jodabonsai.com](mailto:info@jodabonsai.com)


 061- 584 4079     




 **Stone Lantern**  
Bonsai Nursery

**Stone Lantern Bonsai Nursery, 32 Owl Street, Joostenberg Vlakte**  
0833750446  
[stonelantern@hotmail.com](mailto:stonelantern@hotmail.com)

- We stock trees, pots, tools, wire, fertilizer, bonsai mixture
- Courses, workshops and one on one classes
- Repotting
- Boarding facilities for trees
- Online Shop – [www.stonelantern.co.za](http://www.stonelantern.co.za)

 **Stone Lantern Bonsai Nursery**



## Executive Committee:

Tola Smit (President), Carl Morrow (Vice-President), Terence O'Flaherty (Treasurer), Dawn Collier (Secretary), Lesley Haw, Phil Levitt, Viky Petermann



# TO BE A BONSAI

Bonsai and accessories

Cnr 4th Ave and 8th Str,  
Linden, Johannesburg

Tel: 083 325 0509



@tobeabonsai



## VIKY PETERMANN

Exclusive, handmade Bonsai pots



Commissions & enquiries:  
082 493 1818  
[viky\\_@hotmail.com](mailto:viky_@hotmail.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/viky.petermannrueda>

Executive Committee:  
Tola Smit (President), Carl Morrow (Vice-President), Terence O'Flaherty (Treasurer), Dawn Collier (Secretary), Lesley Haw, Phil Levitt, Viky Petermann