**Theuns Roos**

Theunis Francois Roos was born on 10 July 1922.

As a young man he served in World War II as a gunner in the Allied bombers. He was a qualified motor mechanic and a specialist engine rebuilder. His first hobby was model aircraft building which he shared with his three sons, evidence of him being a loving father and family man..

During 1968 he read an article on bonsai in the Reader’s Digest and that inspired him to start bonsai as a hobby.

Theuns was one of the founder members of Pretoria Bonsai Kai.

Although he and his late wife Lulu lived in Brits for many years, he regularly travelled to Pretoria for the monthly meetings of the Kai. During the 46 years that he was an active member he hardly ever missed a meeting of the Kai.

Theuns loves nature and he preferred to imitate scenes from nature in his bonsai. Probably his best known work is the wild olive group that he created in the nineties. At a photo competition held at the World Bonsai Convention held in Munich in 2001, his group was elected as one of the best 10 trees in the world. His excellent artistic flair is expressed in the beautiful trees that he created over the years.

Theuns was the first person (in Pretoria Kai at least) to use the Natal fig as bonsai. During a holiday in KZN he took a cutting from a tree at Oribi Gorge. That cutting was planted as a Root-Over-Rock and from that tree virtually all Natal fig trees in Pretoria Kai originated. He became renowned for his knowledge and techniques to reduce the leaves of the Natal fig.

Theuns was a recognised demonstrator at many conventions and club meetings.

Later in his life he converted to smaller trees and created numerous excellent Shohin trees.

During July 2014, at the age of 92, Theuns decided that he could no longer live on his own in his house and he moved to a retirement home where a picture of his renowned Wild Olive group is hanging on his wall. Unfortunately he could take only a few trees with him and the rest are on permanent display at a bonsai nursery.

Theuns is no longer active in the Kai but his memory will stay with us for years to come.