



Proud to sponsor the Yarra
Valley Bonsai Society

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Proud sponsor of the Yarra
Valley Bonsai Society

www.bonsaisensation.com.au



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www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au

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Reg. Assoc A0052264P

Pres: Geoff P 0430 130 955

Sec: Lindsay H 0403 800 671

Treas: Julie H 0419 870 240

Marktg: Marlene J 0418 369 852

The YVBS meets on the
**second Tuesday of each
month now at Cire Services
(Formerly Upper Yarra Com-
munity House or Morrison
House)**

**Old Hereford Road,
Mount Evelyn**

Meetings begin at 7:30pm .



118 B8

Saturday Workshops are 2-
4:30pm on the **Last Saturday**
of the month, at the same
venue as monthlies!

Inside this issue:

YVBS Sale Day	2
Kudos, Accolades, Thanks	2
Workshops at Craig's	2
Trade & Lib Update	2
Training Courses	2
Member Profile	3
First Nursery Crawl	3
Mr Miyagi	3
Benvenuti Festival	4
Saturday Workshops	4
Tree Profile - Baeckea	5
On The Display Table	6
Bonsai Calendar	7
Looking Ahead	8
Other Events	8
YVBS Forum	8

The Yarra Valley Bonsai Society Newsletter

Highlights from January & February 2017

The first meeting after the Christmas break was in January, and featured a workshop night as well as a Bonsai Basics presentation on Fertilising Regimes.

Lindsay H explained that we need to fertilise our trees to replenish or add nutrients to the limited environment in our pots, to promote optimum growth for tree development and to implement clip and grow techniques.

Lindsay said that he applies liquid fertilizer once a week to all trees, and applies solid slow release fertilizer periodically when he remembers. The exceptions to this rule when he doesn't fertilize are during dormancy and for about 1 month after repotting. Also be careful with banksias and certain other species which are intolerant to phosphorus or other fertilizer elements. The fertilizing regime can also be modified under special circumstances, such as when trying to develop smaller needles on pines.

Lindsay prefers Powerfeed and Charlie Carp as liquid feeds and Neutrog products and Osmocote as solid feeds, although many other acceptable products are available and may be used.

Continued Page 2



Above - Bonsai Basics presentation at the January workshop meeting.

Below left - Craig W circulates among members at the February meeting workshop to provide valuable assistance.

Calendar Dates:

- 4th & 5th March (Saturday & Sunday) 6th Symposium on Australian Plants as Bonsai & Exhibition. 9:00am to 5:00pm. Botanic Gardens, Melbourne
- 11th & 12th March (Saturday & Sunday) Ballarat Begonia Festival incl. Bonsai display. 10:00am to 4:00pm. Ballarat
- 12th March (Sunday) Benvenuti Festival. 10:30am to 5:00pm. Killara Estate, Seville East.
- 14th March (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:30pm. Cire.
- 25th March (Saturday) YVBS Sale Day 10:30am and end-of-month Workshop 2:00pm. Japara House, Durham Rd Kilsyth.
- 29th March to 2nd April (Wednesday to Sunday) Waverley Bonsai Group Display at Melbourne Garden Show. 9:00am to 5:00PM. Exhibition Buildings, Melbourne
- 11th April (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:30pm. Cire.
- 15th & 16th April (Sat & Sun) Mornington Bonsai Exhibition. Balcombe Grammar, Mt Martha.
- 15th & 16th April (Sat & Sun) Bendigo Bonsai Exhibition. Bendigo.
- 29th April (Saturday) YVBS end-of-month workshop. 2:00 to 4:30pm. Cire.

See also the Events Calendar on our website: www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au



Highlights from January & February - Cont. From Page 1

Like many 'rules' in bonsai, different practitioners have varying fertilising practices - there is no definitive 'right way' to fertilise. It is important to develop your own routine and then stick to it.

The February meeting was also a workshop but under the guidance of Craig W who circulated around the working members to offer advice and assistance with their trees. Craig's expertise and sympathetic manner is well known around the club, and every member went away with their trees significantly improved, or at least on the right track to their future development.

YVBS Sale Day

The next YVBS Sale Day is scheduled for Saturday 25th March at Japara House, Durham Road, Kilsyth, from 10:30am to 2:00pm. All available tales have already been booked out by enthusiastic sellers, so it should be another great opportunity to browse and buy trees, starter stock, pots, supplies, and stands at what are invariably great prices.

There will also be a small bonsai exhibition in the foyer area where attendees can view trees submitted for display by the sellers, and hopefully gain some inspiration.

The entry fee for the sale and exhibition is \$2 per head, children free, which covers the cost of the venue.

Following the Sale Day, our normal end of the month Saturday Workshop will also be held at the Japara House venue - there will be no charge for admission and all members and visitors are encouraged to come along, work on their trees and/or just socialize, and receive experienced advice if required.



Above - Members and visitors alike found much to appreciate (and acquire) at the last Sale Day.

Kudos, Accolades and Thanks

- To Craig W for providing expert tutelage at the February meeting.
- To Scott M and Dynamite Printing for producing the flyers to promote our March Sale Day.

Workshops at Craig's

Small group workshops were again held at Craig's nursery in Olinda in January, comprising generally three or four individual members working with Craig for around 3 hours from typically 10:30am to 1:30pm. A great deal is achieved in this time and Craig's expert tutelage and assistance is invaluable - even the more experienced club members take these workshops as another point of view is invaluable.

Further sessions are planned for the near future - members should contact Rudi or Marlene to register their interest. Take along 3 or 4 trees to the workshop so that maximum benefit can be gained. Anything can be done at the workshop, from serious trunk chopping, trimming, styling, wiring to complete repotting or initial potting up.

Cost for each small group workshop is \$30, which represents excellent value.



Above - Adam gets seriously hot and sweaty repotting a large native at a workshop in January at Craig's place



Library Check-out!

YVBS has subscribed to the local bonsai magazines produced by the AABC and Ian Glew. Copies of all issues are in the library for perusal or borrowing. Remember, the checkout period for books and other library material is one month. If you check out a book and are not able to make the next meeting, you can return the book at a workshop or even post it to the club PO Box.

Trade Table Cheque-out!

The trade table has been restocked with new tools, wire and other accessories. Lorraine Simpson and other pots also in stock. Don't forget the club's tool sharpening kit, available for use at meetings. Anything else you would like to see stocked? Just advise at the trade table or to any committee member.

WANTED!

Somebody to run the Trade Table at Club meetings. Volunteers please contact a Committee member

Member Profile

Richard J first became interested in bonsai after attending Ted & Shirley Poynton's bonsai classes at their nursery in Clarinda in the mid 1990's. He joined the Waverley Bonsai Group and then Bonsai Society of Victoria, and in 2016 he joined Yarra Valley Bonsai Society.

He has a collection of pines, maples, figs, elms, and if that was not enough he recently became interested in Satsuki azaleas.

Richard has attended numerous AABC conventions and recommends the convention to all members as an enjoyable weekend of bonsai lectures and discussions and says that he returns from the conventions with a higher motivation to work on his own collection.

When time permits, Richard's other interests include fly fishing and golf.



Ask Mr. Miyagi.....



Q. What is the "umbrella effect" that I have heard people talking about?

A. The umbrella effect describes the fact that you really can't rely on rain to water your trees. Most trees in the ground send out feeder roots as wide as the canopy, so when it does rain it'll get some of that water more easily. Since many of our trees have a canopy as wide or wider than the pot, unless it's a long steady light rain, not much will make it to the roots; the leaves act as an umbrella actually sheltering much of the pot surface area. So a note to novices: unless it's a bare deciduous tree in winter, don't think that a rain is doing your work for you. If you don't believe me, use the old "is the cake done?" method. After a rain, stick a butter knife down into the soil. If the knife comes out dry when baking, your cake is done. Here, if it comes out dry without much sticking to it...your soil is not damp all the way through. (But note also that just because the top centimeter is moist, down below [where it counts] can still be dry.)

Members may submit questions to Mr. Miyagi c/o the YVBS web forum or per the club email: info@yarravalleybonsai.org.au

First Nursery Crawl

Our first Nursery crawl of the year, "Deep South", took place on Saturday 4th February, when a number of club members and guests from other clubs visited Bonsai Sensation, Pearcedale Garden Centre, and Plantmark Wholesale Nursery in Langwarrin.

The day was a bit on the warm side, but attendees enjoyed the



experience and seemed to all depart with one or two 'goodies' picked up along the way - both bonsai material and accessories, as well as plants for the garden.

Special thanks to Tien for his hospitality on the day.

Above - Checkout at Bonsai Sensation

Left - Breaking for lunch in Pearcedale



NEW PRODUCT LINE....for those starting out or with a handful of bonsai, I have introduced a **50/50** mix of **ORCHIATA PINE BARK** and **DIATOMITE 2-7mm** in a **20L bucket @ \$25.00**. Also available are **DIATOMITE 35L bags @ \$25.00** and **ORCHIATA PINE BARK 40L bags (3-6 or 6-9mm) @ \$30.00**. **ORCHID POTS** are available in a range of sizes. To order call Julie **0419 870 240** or email julie@bonsairoots.com.au



Benvenuti Festival

Yarra Valley Bonsai Society has been invited by the organizers of the Yarra Valley Benvenuti Festival to provide a bonsai display and/or sales and demonstration into the cultural activities associated with the Festival.

The Festival's name "Benvenuti" is Italian for "Welcome" as is the indigenous words "Womin Jeka". This family festival celebrates the diversity of the Yarra Valley from the first Wurundjeri people to the waves of migrants who came to the Valley to build new lives. All have left their mark and this festival honours their achievements which have made the Yarra Valley a wonderful part of Australia. The Festival celebrates the Valley's diverse cultures, music and food.

We intend to stage a small bonsai display in a marquee made available to us, and to perform bonsai demonstrations during the course of the festival. All members of YVBS and other clubs are encouraged to drop in and enjoy the displays and entertainment.

The Festival runs from 10:30am to around 5:00pm on Sunday 12 March 2017, at the Killara Estate and Winery, Sunnyside Road, Seville East. Entry is free but a gold coin donation is suggested, with proceeds supporting the Seville CFA.

Apart from our bonsai display, there will be a number of other displays and stalls, and entertainment from performances of art, music and poetry; Yarra Valley Food and Wine features including a cooking demonstration from prominent Victorian expert Tonia Todman; children's activities; and much more. Kayla Dwyer will be the feature attraction - this young singer is making a name for herself not only for her exceptional voice but for her original songs, and will launch



Above and left - scenes from the 2016 Benvenuti Festival; Below - the beautiful views of the Killara Estate vineyards.



End-Of-Month Saturday Workshop

The regular Last Saturday of the Month Workshop provides a relaxed atmosphere, but with plenty of advice and assistance available if required. It is great to see a variety of trees being worked on, we can all learn from each other and appreciate the trees in their various stages of development. Activities can vary from starter stock development, styling, trimming, wiring, defoliating, carving, to repotting.

All members and guests are encouraged to drop in with or without a tree, or for a coffee and chat - 2:00 to 4:30 pm.

Many present club members were first introduced to the Club through dropping in to a Saturday Workshop, and hopefully we will gain members from a couple of visitors to the January workshop.



Bonsai Sensation Nursery



Trading hours: Monday to Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm

Weekends 10:00am – 4:00pm

Visit our website www.bonsaisensation.com.au for more information

Tree Profile: *Twiggy Heath Myrtle* - *Sannantha bidwillii* (*ex Babingtonia* or *Baeckea*)

General: According to **Wikipedia** - *Sannantha bidwillii* is a species in the myrtle family, Myrtaceae. It is endemic to Australia in QLD, but also found in NT, VIC and NSW. The species also known as *Baeckea* was first formally described in 1997 and given the name *Babingtonia bidwillii*. In 2007 it was placed in the newly created genus *Sannantha*. For many years the name *Baeckea virgata* was misapplied to this species. *Baeckea virgata*, currently *Sannantha virgata*, is endemic to New Caledonia! It has been cultivated for a number of years under various names and still is available as such!

Sannantha or *Baeckea* is a very popular species for Native Bonsai with masses of small white flowers in late spring and summer. Its bark is very attractive textured, giving it a great mature look. The leaves/foliage is soft and dark green.

Lighting & Temperature: Place in full sun, but semi shade or morning sun is o.k. too, it's also frost hardy.

Protect from hot drying winds!

Watering: Daily in the morning, it's very thirsty - keep the soil moist, but don't overwater it doesn't like wet soil.

Don't let it dry out!

Feeding: Best to use a slow or controlled release type fertilizer like Native Osmocote from spring to autumn at the drip line. You can use liquid fertilizer like Charlie Carp throughout the seasons.

Don't fertilize in the middle of the hot summer and 6 weeks after repotting!

Repotting: Can be done twice a year, late spring and autumn, using a well drained soil.

Propagation: Easy from seeds in spring, semi ripe cuttings in autumn, air-layering in early summer and collecting (Yamadori).

Check with the landowners or Council first!

Pruning and wiring: Best time is early summer after flowering during its growth time or autumn to get budding before winter. Will grow a very fine ramification when regularly pruned. It responds well to repeat pinching of new shoots.

We hardly ever do some wiring and prefer the clip and grow technique, because its branches are very brittle and of its delicate bark!

Pests and diseases: Webbing worm and Looper caterpillars, best to remove manually and use a systemic pesticide like Confidor.

Keep checking regularly!

For some fungal diseases use the relevant fungicide.

Styles: Informal upright, single or multiple trunks, group plantings, semi cascades. In all sizes including Shohin!



Orient Bonsai Nursery



11 Mahoneys Road
Reservoir VIC 3073
Phone: 03 9460 3059
Email: orient_bonsai@hotmail.com

Products

Bonsai starters
Mature bonsai
Pots
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Services

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Wedding gifts

www.orientbonsai.com.au



On The Display Table



A selection of trees on the Display Table at the January and February meetings.



BONSAI ART NURSERY

New Trading Hours

Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri - 9:00am to 5:00pm

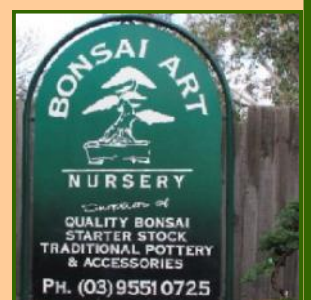
Sat, Sun - 10:00am to 4:00pm

Closed Wednesday

Great selection of bonsai, starters, and pots including a range of quality Japanese pots.

www.bonsaiart.com.au

236 Old Dandenong Road, Heatherton



Bonsai Calendar: March - April

The occasional glimpse of brilliant colours is the most rewarding sign that autumn is on its way. For many species, this can be the most exciting time in the growing season. Deciduous trees such as Maples, Hornbeams, and Elms can put on a dazzling display of yellows, oranges and reds as they would in nature.

Here are a few tips to help make the most of this time of the year.

- When the weather begins to show signs of coolness, progressively give your deciduous trees more sun. This will encourage autumn colour throughout the foliage. Watch out for the occasional hot days - especially for Japanese maples!
- Some people also believe that reducing the amount of water given to deciduous trees may enhance autumn colours - but don't go too far and stress the plant!
- Don't water the foliage on deciduous trees in the evening to avoid mildew! You can lightly mist azaleas.
- Turn your bonsais fortnightly if they get uneven light. This will ensure next years buds will develop evenly around the tree.
- Species such as azaleas, camellias and many fruit trees should not be pruned at this time if early spring flowers are desired. Azalea can still be pruned if shape/style is the priority - seal the cuts! New shoots should be reduced to two and the remaining shoots shortened to two sets of leaves.
- Late summer and early autumn growth will strengthen and increase the girth of trunks and branches. Inspect for wire damage, remove wire and rewire if needed for shape.
- Late summer provides a small window of opportunity to carefully repot some bonsai. Eg figs, most natives and some pines and junipers. Be very conservative with root pruning conifers at this time. Weather can be unpredictable, keep them in a sheltered position for a few weeks after the work.
- Use an organic fertilizer (liquid) high in potassium and phosphorus to encourage woody growth in the trunk
- Remove old fruit and flowers.
- Fertilize pines in autumn (not spring) to help reduce needle size and to prepare them for the winter.

While enjoying your autumn display, put some thought into winter survival.



Julie 0419 870 240 or

julie@bonsairoots.com.au

Pickup from YVBS/BSV/VNBC meetings, or as otherwise arranged. Also available at the YVBS Sale Day.

Bonsairoots diatomite is a SOIL CONDITIONER, it Should be used to improve the porosity and drainage of soil. Can retain 100% of its own weight in water, because of its ability to hold water, *Bonsairoots diatomite* creates aeration, provides plant available silica, has a high surface area in minute pore spaces into which liquids can be absorbed. Available in 35L bags and 20L buckets: size 2-7mm.

Bonsairoots orchata pine bark is a standalone growing substrate that can be used directly from the bag without sieving. Produced from 100% pure New Zealand pinus radiata bark, it is a unique, stable substrate for potting and re potting bonsai. Available in 40L bags and 20L buckets: sizes 3-6mm and 6-9mm.

Bonsairoots premium 50/50 mix consists on 50% *Bonsairoots diatomite* and 50% *Bonsairoots orchata pine bark*. This mix is extremely successful in the development of masses of fine roots on bonsai plants. It is very open and water drains quickly, helping to avoid root rot.



Squat orchid pots are ideal for growing-on trees, promoting radial root growth and a flat root structure. High quality UV-resistant plastic, re-usable, will last for years.



ヤラ谷間盆栽会

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Page 8

www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au

A group for all lovers of bonsai in the "far east" of Melbourne



Yarra Valley Bonsai Society
PO Box 345
Mount Evelyn, Victoria 3796
Australia

*Looking Ahead to
March & April 2017*



We'll start the month with a Bonsai Display at the Benvenuti Festival 2017 on Sunday 12th March at the Killara Estate Winery in Seville between 10:30AM and 5:00PM.



Our monthly meeting on 14th March will be a Presentation/Demo on 'Shimpaku' with Trevor McComb. **Not to be missed!** There will be NO Bonsai Basics Review! Display Table: "Members' Choice various Species/ Styles".



YVBS Sale Day & Bonsai Display, Saturday 25th March, 10:30AM - 2:00PM, at Japara Learning Centre, 54 - 58 Durham Road Kilsyth. (Melway 51/J5) Carpark entry via Tamworth Road & Tower Street! Followed by our monthly workshop at the same venue, 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM. Buyers are invited to participate for FREE!



Our monthly meeting on 11th April will be a Presentation/Demo on 'Juniperus Chinensis Blue Alps' with Michael Simonetto. **Not to be missed!** There will be NO Bonsai Basics Review! Display Table: "Shohin various Styles & Members' Choice".



Our monthly workshop will be on Saturday 29th April, 2:00PM - 4:30PM at Cire Services - former UYCH.



Other Events



6th Symposium on Australian Plants as Bonsai & Exhibition 4th & 5th March 2017, 9:00AM - 5:00PM at Domain House, Dallas Brooks Drive, Royal Melbourne Botanical Gardens. Adults \$5, children under 15 free.



Ballarat Begonia Festival & Bonsai Club display in Botanical Gardens, 11th & 12th March 2017. (Long weekend) 10:00AM - 4:00PM



Bonsai Week at NBPCA Canberra from 20th March - 26th March with Tony Tickle from the United Kingdom. More details on [FINAL%20BonsaiWeek2017_A4_Print%20-%20resized%20\(1\).pdf](#)



Waverley Bonsai Group Display at Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show, 29th March to 2nd April, 9:00AM - 5:00PM, at Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, 9 Nicholson Street, Carlton



Mornington Peninsula Bonsai Society Annual Exhibition, Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th April, at the Balcombe Grammar 389 Nepean Highway, Mt. Martha. Opening hours will be 9:00AM to 5:00 PM on the Saturday and Sunday 10:00AM to 4:00 PM. Melway Ref 151 C1-2. Admission \$5. Enquiries Bruce-0439 377 996 and Jillian 0407 361 989



Bendigo Bonsai Society Easter Exhibition, Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th April, 10:00AM - 5:00PM, Monday 17th April, 10:00AM - 4:00PM at Uniting Church Hall, Forest St, Bendigo



YVBS FORUM: For new members, it bears repeating that our club has an on-line bulletin board and archive. In addition to the announcements and discussions on topics of bonsai interest, the forum also contains many newsletters from other clubs around Australia. These are to be found (surprise, surprise) in the folder entitled "Newsletters from Other Clubs" and are kept for approximately six months. There are also publications such as "Bonsai Magazine" and the "Satsuki Society Newsletter" which are archived in the library folder available only to members. If you visit the site and register as a user, please email Rudi via the club gmail so that he may add you as a club member user. Just visit our main webpage

<http://www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au> and follow the FORUM link on the left to the forum.



Member Benefits Refer to the website for a list of discounts to members upon presentation of a current & valid YVBS Membership card. "Freebies" of donated items are also made available from time to time at monthly meetings.

ADVERTISERS & SPONSORS:

Advertising on our website and/or in the newsletter is available for any registered business or sole trader. Society Sponsorship opportunities are capped at three for any year, however supportership opportunities still remain for any business in an area related to the craft of bonsai.

For a prospectus or further information contact Rudi via the society's external email: info@yarravalleybonsai.org.au