



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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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!

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The Yarra Valley Bonsai Society Newsletter

Highlights from January & February 2018

The January meeting, the first for the new year, was the traditional workshop night where members took the opportunity to work on their trees under the guidance where required of more experienced members.

There was also a Bonsai Basics session delivered by Lindsay H on Pinching, Trimming and Pruning.

Lindsay explained that the terms were largely interchangeable, but in particular pruning refers to major cuts for styling purposes, and pinching and trimming refers more to minor cuts for ramification or fine styling.



Above - a busy night at the January meeting.

It is important to distinguish between the stages of a bonsai life: Development, relating mainly to the trunk and branches; Fine styling, relating to ramification; and Maintenance, or maintaining the "finished" bonsai.

In the Development stage, allow unrestrained growth to thicken trunk and branches and encourage root growth - grow in the ground for even faster growth. Trunk chop at one third desired end height or length in proportion to caliper. Prune back to a bud in the direction you want froth to extend, and use sacrifice branches to achieve extra taper. Alternatively, to achieve taper without a trunk chop, keep the top cut back and let the lower branch area of the tree grow, and keep replacing the top.

In the fine styling stage, to achieve ramification or twigginess, remove tips of growing branches to shorten the branch and release dormant buds behind it. The first two internodes of a shoot are generally shorter than subsequent internodes. In general, let a shoot grow a little and harden off before trimming back to one or two nodes, perhaps leaving more nodes towards the bottom of the tree. Apply directional pruning where practicable - leave the bud at the end of the shoot pointing in the direction you want growth to extend. Make sure that inner buds and leaves get light, which may mean a partial defoliation is advantageous.

Calendar Dates:

- 10th Mar to 12th Mar (Saturday to Monday), Ballarat Begonia Festival. Ballarat.
- 13th March (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:30pm. Cire.
- 17th March & 18th March (Saturday & Sunday) Special Members Sale Days. Macclesfield.
- 19th March to 25th March (Monday to Sunday) Bonsai Week 2018. Canberra
- 21st March to 25th March (Wednesday to Sunday) Waverley Bonsai Group Display at Melbourne Flower and Garden Show. Exhibition Buildings, Melbourne
- 24th March (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 1:00pm. Cire.
- 31st March & 1st April (Saturday & Sunday) Mornington Peninsula Bonsai Show. Mt Martha.
- 31st March to 2nd April (Saturday to Monday) Bendigo Bonsai Easter Exhibition. Bendigo.
- 10th April (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:30pm. Cire.
- 14th April (Saturday) BSV Sale Day. East Kew.
- 14th & 15th April (Saturday & Sunday) Vic Native Bonsai 2018 Exhibition. Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne.
- 28th April (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 1:00pm. Cire.

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

Highlights from January & February - Cont. From Page 1

During the Maintenance phase, trim back to maintain the established profile. Without trimming, branches extend and the tree loses its shape, branches thicken out of scale with the trunk, and inner growth tends to be shaded and die back. Remember that all trees should be allocated a period of free growth to maintain health, and don't cut off ALL new growth. Continually replace thicker twigs and branches with thinner ones during winter dormancy.

Lindsay explained that this description was a generalized overview of the principles involved, and that each species may require variations to the over-

all approach. Experience, along with advice from senior members, is the key!



The February meeting was also a workshop night under the guidance of Craig Wilson, targeted particularly towards native trees but also including anything else that members brought along.

Left and Above - Workshop night at the February meeting.



Bonsai Week in Canberra

In what is becoming an annual event on the Bonsai calendar, the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection Australia will present Bonsai Week 2018 in at the National Arboretum in Canberra from Monday 19th to Sunday 25th March.

International bonsai artists Yannick Kiggen from Belgium and Carlos van der Vaart from the Netherlands will conduct workshops for bonsai club-nominated participants and for local artisans who have works on loan or donated to the national collection. There will also be a catered demonstration on Friday evening, where Yannick and Carlos will transform shaggy trees into bonsai masterpieces.

In addition, Ofer Grunwald from Europe will present on "Bonsai from Traditional Art Form to Contemporary Artistic Practice" on the Friday afternoon.

This year, YVBS has nominated Howard W for the club artist workshop and Rudi J will participate in the workshop for lenders/donors artist workshop. We are sure that they will do us proud, and will come back with an even higher level of bonsai knowledge and expertise!



Above - A scene from Bonsai Week 2017 featuring special guest presenter Tony Tickle.



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.



Member Profile

Patrick I. was born in Sydney and travelled the world as a child growing up in a military family. Now living in Healesville, married with two daughters aged 21 and 18. He currently runs an investment company, and is also a qualified horticulturalist.

His interest in bonsai began as a child when his father had a few bonsai trees and some interesting books that he had brought back from service in Japan in the post-war period. However, he is just starting out on his bonsai journey - he has a horse chestnut that he started from seed about 4 years ago, four trees picked up from Bonsai Sensation at the last nursery trip, along with a deodar cedar from Pearcedale nursery. He is interested in trees that are rarely seen in garden cultivation.

Patrick is a passionate rock climber and can be found scaling Victorian cliffs all year round. His other interests include tinkering, inventing, and helping people with mental illnesses and emotional problems. He also enjoys riding his penny farthing bicycle!



Special Member's Sale

One of our senior members Ron S. has announced that due to his changing circumstances, he has decided to dispose of his entire collection of bonsai, development trees, and pots. Those of us who have seen examples from his collection, or maybe purchased material from his table at our many sale days, will remember that Ron has many fine and aged bonsai trees in his collection, and from his personal inspection, Rudi J. has advised that he has an equally impressive collection of bonsai pots, many of which have never been used. Members are strongly urged to take advantage of this unprecedented opportunity.



Ron has kindly offered bonsai clubs first option on purchases, and to this end, will hold a sale weekend at his property in Macclesfield to take place on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th March. None of the items will be sold before these dates, and all sales are to be cash only.

Seriously interested parties may register their interest on yarravalleybonsai@gmail.com, or contact Rudi on 0418 369 852. Further details regarding opening times and the address of his property will be advised separately closer to the event. Mark your diaries now!!

Bonsai in Ballarat

Looking for a pleasant outing over the long weekend in March? Why not consider a drive to Ballarat to take in a special exhibition at the Ballarat Art Gallery - "In the Shadow of Summer - An Exploration of Design Through Bonsai" featuring a display of bonsai by Jeff Barry of Chojo Feature Trees, and also including trees from our own Craig Wilson. It should be something special, as it is possibly the first bonsai exhibition in an art gallery in Australia. Why not combine with a visit to the Ballarat Begonia Festival, which also features a bonsai display run by the Ballarat Bonsai Society.



Ballarat Art Gallery - 40 Lydiard Street North, Ballarat. Exhibition hours 10am to 5pm, Friday 9th through Monday 12th March. Free Talks Saturday and Sunday 2pm and 4pm featuring Joe Morgan-Paylor and Jeff Barry.

Ballarat Begonia Festival - Ballarat Botanical Gardens. Open 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10th through Monday 12th March. Park at Victoria Park in Gillies Street, with free shuttle bus to the Festival.



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



2018 YVBS Show

It has been a few years since we have staged a Bonsai Show, but the Committee has decided that we will run one again this year and have gratefully accepted Alan H's offer to organize and manage the event. It will be held on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th June, at the Wandin Community Hall on the Warburton Highway in Wandin. The Show will include a display of bonsai trees from our members, bonsai sales area, Ikebana demonstration, bonsai demonstration, and a kids bonsai class/workshop.

Staging a bonsai show is a major undertaking, but it is important for member's to have a mechanism for showing off the results of their hobby to their peers and the general public, to encourage the wider adoption of bonsai cultivation and artistry and hopefully to attract more members to our club. It is expected that all levels of bonsai will be displayed, from advanced through intermediate to beginners, and that all members will take the opportunity to display at least one of their trees in the Show.

There is also a lot to be done on the days of the Show in setup, manning and cleanup, and we hope that all members will put their names forward for inclusion on the roster for whatever time that they can make themselves available. This is YOUR Show, and many hands make light work!

Look around your collection with a view towards selecting trees that could be made ready for showing. There will be a workshop night at our normal June meeting dedicated to preparing trees for the Show which will add the finishing touches to our trees, but much work can be done before this. More details will be made available as the Show organisation progresses.



February Nursery Crawl

A good-sized group of members and friends attended the Nursery crawl in February, visiting Bonsai Sensation, Pearcedale Garden Centre, and Plantmark Langwarrin. The weather was again kind to us, and most people picked up a few little treasures along the way - both as bonsai starters and for the garden - and went home happy with their purchases.

David R was the biggest spender, picking up a nice old elm bonsai at Bonsai Sensation, which we look forward to seeing at our Bonsai Show in June!



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. Note the new time of 1:00pm to 4:30pm. Many present club members were first introduced to the Club through dropping in to a Saturday Workshop, and we hope that this continues into the future.



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: *Gardenia - Gardenieae jasminoides 'Radicans'*

General: According to Wikipedia - *Gardenia jasminoides* is an evergreen flowering plant of the family Rubiaceae. A genus of 142 species and native to the tropical and subtropical regions of Africa, southern Asia, Australasia and Oceania. One of our finest evergreen shrubs with strong fragrant white or cream colored flowers in various shapes/sizes and glossy dark green leaves. It's also one of the most challenging plants in the bonsai world. With the dwarf variety 'Radicans' being the most favored one.

Lighting: Partial shade - morning sun to full sun, but no strong direct sunlight.

Watering: Do not allow to dry out and remain dry. A pebble tray in summer will provide the required moisture. Prefers moist soil!

Feeding: Every 3 weeks, spring-autumn and once a month in winter. Use a fertilizer for acid-loving plants, at half strength. Do not fertilize while the plant is in bloom!

Wiring and Pruning: Wire from late winter to autumn, taking care to protect the delicate bark and branches. Do not wire while the plant is setting buds, wire only woody shoots. Young plants should be pruned after the shoots have developed 4-6 leaves, trimming back to 2-3 to establish branching. Pruning of an established bonsai is best done following flowering, every two years only once and then allowing new shoots to set buds. Never prune more than one-third of the plant!

Repotting: Every 2 years in late winter or spring, following blooming. Well drained soil high in organic matter. The roots are superficial and fine, so drastic root pruning is not recommended, and it is best if only 10% of the roots are removed. Use the same mix as for Azalea.

Propagation: Cuttings with wood 6 - 8 weeks old, with 2 or 3 sets of leaves. Cuttings may be taken any time of the year, but summer is best, they even root in a glass of water. Grafting and some cultivars by seeds.

Pests and diseases: Stem canker - distinguished by rough cracked areas that form cankerous growths near the soil line - destroy the plant. Sooty mold, aphids, scales, mealybugs and whiteflies, cottony cushion, spider mites, nematodes – use specific pesticides. Chlorosis (yellow leaves) which is a magnesium and or iron deficiency. It can be cured with a balanced fertilizer! A dose of chelated iron 2-3 times a year as well as some Epson salt will help there too.

Styles: Informal upright, multi trunk, cascade and semi cascade.

For shohin and mame use the 'radicans' only!

Species suitable for Bonsai:

Gardenia 'radicans', a dwarf variety with very small leaves. The plant is a compact grower, almost a creeping version of the species. The flowers are about 2 - 3cm in diameter, it's the latest of all varieties to flower, but well into the summer. Outstanding variety for bonsai

Two other species which are very popular for growing as bonsai trees are:

Gardenia 'jasminoides', the flowers are about 3 - 5cm in diameter.

Gardenia 'thunbergia', the flowers are about 5 - 7cm in diameter - more suitable for larger bonsai.



Picture right courtesy of: <http://www.chinesebonsaigarden.com>

Kudos, Accolades and Thanks

- To Craig Wilson for providing his excellent advice while supervising the February workshop night.
- To Tien and Bonsai Sensation for hosting our visit during our recent nursery crawl.
- To Alan H. for stepping forward and volunteering to organise and manage our Bonsai Show in June.

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

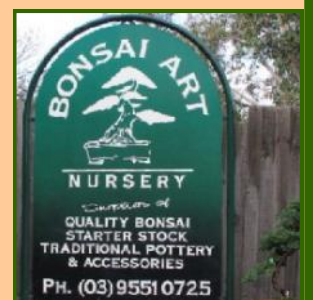
Sat, Sun - 10:00am to 4:00pm

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.



New Stock!
Empty Bucket with Lid \$10
Bucket with Mix \$25
Refill Recycled Bucket \$20

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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January & February
2018

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www.yarrawalleybonsai.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 2018*



Our monthly meeting on 13th March will be a **Presentation/Demo on Semi Cascade & Cascade** by our Howard W. There will be **NO Bonsai Basics Review!** Display Table: **Various Species/Styles & Members' Choice.**



Our monthly workshop will be on Saturday **24th March**, 1:00PM - 4:30PM at Cire Services - former UYCH. **31st March is Easter weekend!**



Our monthly meeting on 10th April will start with a **Bonsai Basics Review** on **Bonsai Styles** with our Rudi J followed by a **Team Challenge Cup** with various species - a great fun and learning night. **NOT TO BE MISSED!** Display Table: **Shohin various styles & Members' Choice.**



Our monthly workshop will be on Saturday **28th April**, 1:00PM - 4:30PM at Cire Services - former UYCH.



Other Events



Ballarat Begonia Festival in Botanical Gardens, 10th & 12th March 2018. (Long weekend)
10:00AM - 4:00PM



BONSAI WEEK at NBPCA Canberra from 19th March - 25th March 2018 with **THREE International Bonsai Artists**. More details on https://www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au/visit/whats_on/pages/discover-bonsai-week-19-25-march-a-week-of-special-events-and-activities



Waverley Bonsai Group Display at **Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show**, 21st to 25th March, 9:00AM to 5:00PM, at Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, 9 Nicholson Street, Carlton



Mornington Peninsula Bonsai Society Annual Exhibition, Saturday 31st March & Sunday 1st 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 31st March & Sunday 1st April, 10:00AM - 5:00PM, Monday 2nd April, 10:00AM - 4:00PM at Uniting Church Hall, Forest St, Bendigo



BSV Sale Day, Saturday 14th April, East Kew Uniting Church, 142 Normanby Road, East Kew 3102 (Melway 45H3). 20 stalls of bonsai, starters and plants, pots, stands, tools and wire. Entry \$2.00

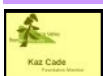


Victorian Native Bonsai Club 2018 Exhibition 14th & 15th April 2018, 9:00AM - 4:00PM at Domain House, Dallas Brooks Drive, Royal Botanical Gardens Melbourne. Adults \$5, children under 15 free. More details on <https://www.vicnativebonsai.com.au/>



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.yarrawalleybonsai.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@yarrawalleybonsai.org.au