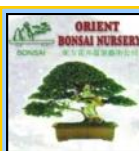



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Reg. Assoc A0052264P

Pres: Rudi J 0418 369 852

Sec: Lindsay H 0403 800 671

Treas: Julie H 0419 870 240

Marktg: Mike C 0414 553 746

**The YVBS meets on the  
second Tuesday of each  
month now at Morrison's  
(Morrison House)  
Old Hereford Road,  
Mount Evelyn**

*Informal 'Review & Overview'  
sessions begin at 7:00pm with  
a call to order at 7:30.*



**118 B8**

**Saturday Workshops** are 2-  
5pm 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 July & August 2011

A busy two months for YVBS!

The monthly meeting in July featured the T(h)ree Stooges....three of our own club Bonsai artists, Craig W, Jeff B and Jarrod S, each focusing on one element of Bonsai crafting during simultaneous demonstrations. A great learning experience for all members, novice and experienced.

The August meeting featured a review and demonstration of re-potting techniques by Jeff B concentrating on deciduous trees. Members then repotted their own trees in the following workshop session, receiving first-hand advice from Jeff and other experienced club members.

A number of special events were also held. Chris Di Nola from NSW presided over a styling workshop which satisfied attendees said provided a new and refreshing insight into styling options for their trees.

At the second special grafting workshop, many members went home with new grafts in strategic positions on their trees following practical hands-on advice from guest demonstrator Michael Simonetto.

*The Chris Di Nola Workshop.  
Upper— Chris with Jarrod's  
pine before (left) and after  
(right).*

*Lower— Mike's juniper before  
and after*



## Calendar Dates:

- 10 September (Saturday) YVBS-sponsored Nursery Crawl #3—The Deep South.
- 13 September (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:00pm Morrisons.
- 24 September (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop, including Kids Workshop. 2:00pm Morrisons.
- 3 October (Monday) Presentation at Bonsai Northwest featuring American expert Bill Valvanis. 8:00pm Clifton Park Bowling Club, Essendon
- 8 October (Saturday) YVBS-sponsored Nursery Crawl #4—Home Stomping Ground.
- 8 and 9 October (Saturday & Sunday) Bonsai Society of Vic. Exhibition, Box Hill Town Hall.
- 11 October (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:00pm Morrisons.
- 29 October (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 2:00pm Morrisons.

See also the Events Calendar on our website: [www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au](http://www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au)

## *Intermediate Tutored Workshops*

Ten YVBS members are currently participating in the Intermediate Tutored Workshop program run by our own Craig Wilson at Morrisons.

The program allows members to bring in their own trees for individual tutoring and guidance from Craig along with advice on techniques for further development. Trees from basic nursery stock, through plants developed in the ground or in growing containers, to semi-finished bonsai have all appeared before Craig's appraising eye, and in every case the owner has taken home a tree which is dramatically improved over that which they brought into the session.

This course provides a more advanced approach than the Novice Course also run by Craig, and extends the bonsai learning experience. Even the most expert YVBS bonsai artists are participating in the workshops, proving the worth of a new appraisal and approach. All of us have more to learn on our bonsai journey.

The current workshop program is fully subscribed, but hopefully the club will sponsor another Novice and Intermediate course next year. Interested members can register their interest with any committee member.



*Above—Hard at work at the Intermediate Workshops!*



*Left—Jeff's tree before workshop action, and above, afterwards.*

**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.



## Getting to Know You...

Jeff B, our new Vice-President, was originally from Vancouver in Canada but since 1999 has lived locally with his Australian partner and his 18 month old daughter. He has been involved with horticulture his whole life from planting veggies at home to working at orchards and nurseries. The first spark of interest towards Bonsai was seeing a show on Vancouver Island sometime in the mid 90's. He has been working in the bonsai industry for the past 11 years and has gained his technical experience through work.

His personal collection consist of 50 or 60 trees, and at the moment, he says that his favourite species would be the Japanese Black Pine. In the next future he hopes to travel to Asia to learn more about the bonsai art and to continue to improve his knowledge and collection.

His other interests outside of bonsai—"I love to surf, play music and I'm a horrible golfer".



*In each newsletter, we profile a member or two as a means of getting to know each other better. In that spirit, and as our group continues to grow, members are reminded to bring their nametag/membership cards to meetings*

## Ask Mr. Miyagi.....



**Q: Mr Miyagi, What is Raffia and what do I do with it?**

**A:** Raffia is a reed-like plant material commonly found in craft shops. Bonsai artist use it to provide additional support to the bark and cambium layer of a tree trunk or branch, when heavy bending is performed. To use Raffia, start by soaking the strands of raffia in water for approx. 30 minutes. Soaking softens the strands and makes them easier to apply to the tree. Carefully wind 3-5 strands of raffia tightly, around the length of the trunk or branch you are bending. I suggest at least 2 layers of raffia be applied, followed by two rows of an appropriate size wire.

By adding raffia over the branch before bending, you increase the thickness between the cambium and the wire. The raffia supports the branch during the bending process as the bark on the outside of any bend will be stretched in order to allow the branch to move.

It is important that any small tears in the bark are supported, and encouraged to heal as rapidly as possible. If the bending stresses along the outside edge are allowed to concentrate on one single point, it is likely that you will snap the branch.

As the raffia dries, it tightens slightly, giving any areas of the cambium that may have split support over a much larger area and it provides coverage, keeping all splits enclosed from the elements like a Band-Aid.

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

## New Committee

The new Committee is up and running and looking forward to continuing with the further development of our club and building on the great work of the previous committee members. Many thanks go to the retiring committee members for their valuable contribution to forming and developing our society.

The new committee comprises:

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| President - Rudi J                                     | Vice-President – Jeff B |
| Secretary – Lindsay H                                  | Treasurer – Julie H     |
| Membership & Marketing Director – Michael C            |                         |
| General Members – Marlene J, Trevor J, Steve M, Ross R |                         |

The new committee actively seeks input from members on suggestions for club activities, and any other comments on the structure and management of YVBS.

## Accolades, Kudos, and Thanks..

- To Bill McK for his magnificent effort in leading the production of the newsletter since the club's inception in 2008. The new editing committee hopes to continue at his high standard.
- To all retiring members of the old Committee of Management, thanks for all of your efforts in growing and developing our club, and fostering the informal and vibrant atmosphere that is apparent at all club functions

# “The Natives are Restless”

## Australian Teatrees

The genus *Leptospermum* (Teatree) is represented by over 80 species in Australia, with a handful occurring in New Guinea, Indonesia and Borneo. Teatrees have a wide range in Australia, occurring from tropical to cool temperate zones, and from rainforests to the semi-arid areas.

### *Leptospermum* – attributes for bonsai

1. Bark - very striking, even on relatively young trees. Often flakey, papery or fibrous
2. Trunk – often develops over time with a ropey appearance (muscles!) Very striking
3. Generally adapt well to pot culture
  - reliable as a potted plant
  - branches wire well when young (thus being adaptable to many styles)
  - will often shoot back from older wood
  - usually healthy (but watch out for scale and the ensuing sooty mould)
4. Small leaves, flowers and fruit (as a woody capsule), so nicely in scale for bonsai
5. Can develop an aged look, when relatively young (courtesy of bark and trunk)
6. Flowers are very showy (and are now available in a myriad of designer colours)
7. The woody seed capsules can also be very ornamental



### *Leptospermum* - propagation and cultivation

#### Seed

Teatrees produce a prolific amount of seed. It is easily collected and easily germinated. Collected, unopened seed capsules, when placed in a closed paper bag on the window sill, will soon dry out, and open to release hundreds if not thousands of tiny, black, slender seeds. You can sow these seeds by sprinkling them sparsely over a punnet, pot or tray of propagating mix, then keeping moist till germination, which may be anything from 10 days to 4 weeks, depending on the species and temperature at the time. The safest time to grow from seed is spring. When the seedlings are about a centimetre tall, carefully transplant them into fertilised potting mix in 75mm tubes or similar

#### Cuttings

Many teatrees will grow quite easily from cuttings, especially with bottom heat and misting to keep the leaves from drying out whilst they grow roots. Firm young growth usually gives best results.

#### Collection of in-ground plants

Not actually propagation, but still a means to establish a plant in a pot, digging one from the ground is certainly possible, but unless done carefully, can be fatal. (For the plant, less often the collector) We should be leaving our wild plants in their natural habitat, and admiring them there, however exceptions, are digging plants from your garden, or from places where bulldozers are just about to strike. If this is the case, then there is definite chance of success (maybe 50/50), depending on favourable circumstances. Favourable circumstances are:

- the plant is not too big or too old (say less than 3m and less than 20 yrs)
- the ground is not a dry soil (in dry soils, the feeder roots will be too far out)
- it is not mid-summer (the cooler and moister the season, the better)
- the plant has lots of feeder roots near to the trunk (often pure chance)
- you take maximum roots, and prune off most of the foliage; say 90%
- you keep the roots and foliage moist till you get home
- you keep it in a shady, protected site for a month or two, with regular water or misting
- you chant incantations at dawn

#### Pot cultivation

Teatrees generally grow very well, in a standard potting mix, with low phosphorous fertilizers. To grow them quickly, pot them on regularly (say every 6 months if they are growing vigorously), and trim to keep them bushy and/or wire them, to get some movement in the trunk.

Check your teatrees regularly for pests and disease, as you should with all your bonsai. At the first sign of scale or sooty mould, either remove the scale by hand and/or spray with white oil.

*The above is an extract from “Australian Teatrees.....Styling for Bonsai”, by Will Fletcher, Island Bonsai, Tasmania, reproduced with permission. A full copy of the comprehensive article with extensive pictures of teatrees in the wild is in the YVBS Library.*

## *International Demonstrator at Bonsai Northwest*

Bonsai Northwest presents Bill Valavanis, the proprietor of the International Bonsai Arboretum in Rochester, New York - <http://www.internationalbonsai.com/> in a presentation on Monday 3rd October at 9:00pm and a workshop on Tuesday 4th October. He is a highly regarded International Demonstrator with 40 plus years of dedicated bonsai study (30 years with Japanese Masters).

Venue: Clifton Park Bowling Club, Batman St, Essendon. (Mel 28 B4)

Costs: Presentation = free admission, workshop participant \$50.00, observer = \$5.00 (BNW member), \$10.00 (BNW non-member).

## *YVBS Membership Renewals*

Membership renewals for the 2011/2012 year are now due, and may be paid by cash or cheque to Julie or by direct deposit to the YVBS bank account (Bendigo Bank, BSB 633-000, Account No. 134721257, Yarra Valley Bonsai Society). If paying by direct deposit, please include your name in the reference field.

As voted at the last Annual General Meeting, membership renewal fees are now \$30 for individuals and \$40 for families. Initial joining fee is an additional \$10 for new members signing on.



### **Library Check-out!**

YVBS has subscribed to the new bonsai magazine produced by the Association of Australian Bonsai Clubs. A copy of the first two issues is 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 to Bill at Morrisons during office hours 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. Don't forget the club's tool sharpening kit, available for use at meetings. Anything else you would like to see stocked? Eg special Japanese tools, branch-benders, etc. Just advise at the trade table or to any committee member.



### **The Bonsai School of Victoria**

Enroll now for our Novice and Intermediate Bonsai Course and learn from the best. Our teacher, Maurice, has been involved with Bonsai for over 25 years. Maurice has taught some of the finest bonsai exponents in Australia, including the now legendary, Quentin Valentine and Brian Sampson.

Maurice studied Bonsai at the Japanese school of Arts - Japan Seminar House (JSH), along with Paul Sweeney (who he also taught for a short while). At JSH, Maurice was taught by two of the best Bonsai teachers around – Max Leversha and Jeff Acland. When Max could no longer work due to vision impairment, Maurice was asked to take over Max's role and taught there for four years, from 1994 – 1998, alongside Jeff Acland.

Maurice explains, "I had the good fortune of being at the right place, at the right time – I was there for 10 years – six years as a student, and a further four years as a teacher. It was an incredible place and time. Jeff had a very close and personal relationship with the Korreshoff family, and was personally taught by Vita, so we had a strong bond and connection with them.

"Another close friend of Jeff and Max's was Joe Micaleff, from Canberra. He was an absolute genius – an inspiration to all who knew him and saw his work. Joe used to visit Jeff quite often, and would be a "guest" demonstrator at JSH, whenever he was in Melbourne, and from time to time we even travelled to Sydney and Canberra to stay with the Korreshoffs and the Micaleffs. Those were really amazing times, seeing private collections not many other people ever saw.

"So as you can see, we were really exposed to the very best there was around – a truly incredible platform to learn from, and consider myself to be very lucky.

"Jeff and Max were very generous of spirit, and I hold true to that legacy where nothing is held back in the pursuit of knowledge, artistic excellence and personal integrity."

JSH was the "premiere" school of Bonsai in Victoria – and WE, now offer THAT level of education here at Bonsai The Imagination Tree. No matter what level you're at, whether you're an absolute beginner, or well advanced, we offer YOU that level of commitment.

Our company is a non for profit organization that employs and helps a large percentage of physically or mentally handicapped people. By supporting us, you are also giving these needy people a chance we so often just take for granted, a chance to be able to jump out of bed in the morning and say, "life is beautiful". PLEASE HELP US HELP THEM... and put a smile on their faces...

Bonsai - The Imagination Tree, 136 York Road, Mt Evelyn, Victoria. [www.sashieda.com.au](http://www.sashieda.com.au)



## Tree Mini-Profile : Cherry - *Prunus*

**General information:** Few trees exemplify the spirit of Japanese Bonsai more than a lovely cherry in bloom. Unfortunately, the blooms last only a short while and you must be careful to design the tree to generate interest when not in flower. One of the true joys of spring and autumn for deciduous bonsai are flowering and/or fruiting species.

**Lighting:** Full sun, but semi-shade in summer.

**Watering:** Most varieties need frequent watering, especially in summer. Reduce watering in winter. Do not allow the flowers to get wet or they will rot.

**Feeding:** Every two weeks after flowering has finished through late summer. Use liquid fertilizer or half-strength general purpose food, switching to a formula high in potassium towards the end of summer. They require a break in feeding through the heat of summer, but it can be resumed till mid-autumn.

**Repotting:** Every second year in spring, using basic bonsai soil. *P. serrulata* may need annual repotting and can also be transplanted in late autumn, after leaves fall. Always be sure to add some Seasol to the soil when potting your trees.

**Propagation:** By grafting in early spring. Difficult to grow from cuttings!

**Pests and diseases:** Not tolerant of air pollution. Birds love to eat the flower buds, some protection may be necessary in spring. Lots of bugs love to chomp the leaves, although some varieties are more resistant to insects and disease than others.

### Some species suitable for Bonsai:

*Prunus* 'Hally Jolivette': pink flowering cherry - Bears small white flowers tinged pink. Notable for its delicate twigging.

*Prunus sargentii*: Sargent cherry - Of interest due to its masses of small flowers in spring and its scarlet autumn display.

*Prunus serrulata*: flowering cherry, Japanese cherry, Oriental cherry, Japanese flowering cherry.

*Prunus serrulata* 'Kanzan': flowering cherry - Used mainly for its remarkable flowers, which are large, pink, and so profuse they can completely obscure the branches.

*Prunus serrulata* 'Kiku-shidare sakura': flowering cherry - This cherry's pink double-flowers appear before the leaves in spring.

*Prunus serrulata* 'Shirotae': flowering cherry - Bears white and fragrant semi-double flowers.

*Prunus sinensis*: bush cherry - This small-leaved cherry bears pink or white pom-pom shaped flowers.

*Prunus subhirtella* 'Autumnalis': autumn cherry, Higan cherry - a lovely cultivar, for multiple reasons. Its small leaves color well in autumn and it bears sporadic white or pink flowers on bare wood during frost-free periods in winter. It has the added advantage of more delicate twigging than most cherries.

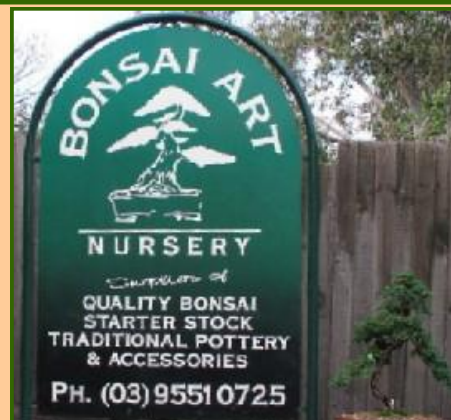


## BONSAI ART NURSERY

*Come down and see our newly acquired stock of JAPANESE pots!*

236 Old Dandenong Road, Heatherton  
Closed Wednesdays and Sundays

<http://www.bonsaiart.com.au>



## ***Bonsai Calendar: September - October***

*By Jeff Barry*

Early spring is a busy and exciting time for a bonsai enthusiast. The short cold days are slowly beginning to stretch out and our trees are usually the first indicator that the change of season is upon us. Do yourself (and your trees) a favour by forgetting about the calendar season and let nature be your guide. Each year is different and presents a certain amount of variables that will determine where a tree is in its growing cycle. One back yard to another may offer a different microclimate. Even changing the position in the same yard may make a difference. Let your trees and the weather dictate "when".

The main tasks to focus on during this time of year are Repotting/Rootpruning, Wiring, Pinching/Pruning and Fertilizing/Watering.

### **Repotting/Rootpruning**

When repotting, look for ways to improve the overall appearance of your bonsai. For example, changing the position of the tree by turning, lifting or leaning the tree. Also consider alternative pot choices.

Watch for the buds to swell on deciduous trees. Repot before buds break into leaf.

Begin your repotting with deciduous varieties such as, maples, oaks, elms (approx. End of September) and then continue with varieties such as, cryptomerias, azaleas, pyracanthas and pines (approx. End of October).

### **Wiring**

Wire all trees before repotting. This will minimize any movement to the tree after being repotted.

Deciduous trees should be wired before breaking into leaf. Be careful not to damage the delicate buds while wiring branches.

Watch carefully for wire damage at this time of year as most trees are growing at a rapid rate.

### **Pinching/Pruning**

Begin to pinch back new shoots as soon as they appear.

Frequent pruning/pinching will improve ramification and help reduce leaf size throughout the growing season.

Remove dying flowers from the tree as it weakens the plant and encourages pests.

### **Fertilizing/Watering**

With new growth, the need of water and fertilizer increases. Try to observe your trees individually to establish the amount and frequency of water is necessary.

Avoid overwatering. Remember it is a process of wetting and drying.

Use a slow release fertilizer (Osmocote/Dynamic Lifter) in combination with a liquid fertilizer (Maxicrop, Charlie carp).

It is better to fertilize regularly and frequently in small weak doses than give a strong dose now and then.

With flowering species, fertilizing should commence after flowering.

Water your trees (with plain water) before using liquid fertilizer.

## ***End-Of-Month Saturday***

The club holds a regular monthly workshop on the last Saturday of each month at Morrisons, from 2:00pm to 5:00pm. This is an ideal opportunity for members to socialize while working on their trees, and plenty of advice is available if needed. Prospective members, or those with just an interest in learning more about bonsai, are welcome to drop in and check us out, while enjoying a cup of coffee or tea.

*Right—a hive of activity at the August Saturday workshop!*



# ヤラ谷間盆栽会

Volume 5 No 1  
July & August  
2011

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[www.yarrawalleybonsai.org.au](http://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  
Sept & Oct 2011*



The club's third nursery crawl 'DEEP SOUTH' will take place on **Saturday 10th September** - we'll have two Nurseries (also interesting for "non bonsai" partners) and one Pottery place in the program, which will include the following:

Wrights Nursery (Azalea Wholesaler), Pearcedale

Pearcedale Garden Centre (low prices + 10% discount), Pearcedale

Lorraine Simpson Pottery (wholesale prices!), McCrae/Rosebud



Our next club meeting on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September**, 7:00pm - 9:00pm at Morrisons will have - without question, one of THE foremost bonsai artisans in Victoria - Quentin Valentine(!) he's an acknowledged authority on just about any bonsai topic. This is a session not to be missed! Due to the distance that Quentin will be traveling, there will be no Review/Overview session at 7pm. Display Table—Japanese Maple and Members' Choice.



We will be finishing the month with our normal monthly workshop on **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September**, but this time with the addition of a "**Kids Workshop**" as well from 2:00pm - 4:30pm at Morrisons. RSVP is required for the Kid's section by emailing [yarrawalleybonsai@gmail.com](mailto:yarrawalleybonsai@gmail.com) by Sunday 18 September. The session will be overseen by a member with a "Working With Children Police Check". The parent/carer is expected to sign in, sign out, AND remain on site for the duration of the child's attendance.



The club's fourth nursery crawl "HOME STOMPING GROUND" on Saturday 8th October will take us in and around the Dandenong Ranges:

Bonsai—The Imagination Tree

A to Z Bonsai Starters Nursery

Paddy's Plants

Gentiana Nursery



The October club meeting on Tuesday 11th October will be a workshop night. A valuable session well worth attending for ones who can't attend our Saturday workshops. There will also be a Review/Overview session on Pests and Threats—identifying remedy and prevention. Display Table—Deciduous various styles and Members' Choice.



Workshop on Saturday 29th October, 2:00pm to 4:30pm at Morrisons.

## *Events from Other Clubs*



Saturday 8th October and Sunday 9th October the Bonsai Society of Victoria holds its Annual Exhibition at the Box Hill Town Hall, 1022 Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill (Mel 47 E9) - admission \$5.00.



Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October and Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October the Ballarat Bonsai Society will hold its Exhibition from 10:00AM - 4:00PM at the Robert Clark Centre, Botanical Gardens (Lake Wendouree) Gillies Street, Ballarat - admission: \$3.00 adults, \$2.00 concession & children under 12 free.



Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October and Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October the Goldfields Bonsai Society will hold its Exhibition from 10:00AM - 5:00PM at the Ray Bradfield Rooms, adjacent to the Market Building, Mostyn Street, Castlemaine.



**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](mailto:info@yarrawalleybonsai.org.au)