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**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.*

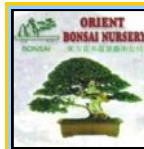


118 B8

Saturday Workshops are 2-
5pm on the **LAST** Saturday of
the month, at the same venue
as monthlies!

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CHOJO FEATURE TREES

Official Sponsor of the YVBS

The Yarra Valley Bonsai Society Newsletter

Highlights from July & August 2013

The July meeting was capably chaired by Mike C in President Rudi's absence on holidays.

The meeting started with a Review/Overview session on Cascade, Semi-Cascade, and Windswept Styles by Bill McK, which was very well-received by all members.

This was followed by a discussion/demonstration and "workshop" on root-over-rock styles and techniques, led by Craig W. Craig brought along some fine examples of bonsai in this style and then spoke at length about the techniques involved in creating the style.

The August Club meeting featured a special guest demonstrator, Steve Jarrold, who presented on "Working With Olives". Steve is a long-time member and past-president of the Bonsai society of Victoria and a very experienced and talented bonsai artist. His topic was based on extensive personal experience, having dug up his first olive in 1990.

Steve described the process of digging up the tree, cutting the top growth, and then slicing the lignotuber back at home prior to planting in a pot. A couple of years unhindered growth is permitted prior to initial styling.

Steve demonstrated styling techniques on a sample he had brought with him. He started off by showing us a couple of sketches of alternative styles, from which one was picked to work towards.



Above - Craig W explaining Root-Over-Rock bonsai techniques.



Left - one of Craig's excellent examples.

Calendar Dates:

- 7 and 8 September (Saturday and Sunday) Australian Native Bonsai Exhibition, Cranbourne Gardens.
- 10 September (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:00pm Morrisons.
- 14 September (Saturday) Workshop with Quentin Valentine. 1:30pm Morrisons.
- 21 September (Saturday) Satsuki Interest Group meeting. 1:30pm Bonsai Art Nursery.
- 21 September (Saturday) Bendigo Bonsai Club Spring Exhibition. 9:00am to 4:00pm, Kangaroo Flat.
- 28 September (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 2:00pm Morrisons.
- 5 and 6 October (Saturday & Sunday) BSV Exhibition. 9:00am to 5:00pm (4:00pm on Sun), Box Hill Town Hall.
- 8 October (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:00pm Morrisons.
- 26 October (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 2:00pm Morrisons.

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

Cont. Page 2

Left - Steve's sketch of the intended design of his olive tree.

Highlights from July and August - Cont. from Page 1

The appearance of his demonstration tree at the end of the night provided a clear vision of the first step along the way to the end result depicted in the initial sketch.

See the article on page 4 of this newsletter for details on the information presented by Steve during his presentation.



Right - Steve ponders his first styling move.

Left - the result at the end of the night - clearly in accordance with the design sketch.



Special Workshop with Don DeLuca

The Club was fortunate to obtain the services of well-known bonsai artist Don DeLuca under the auspices of the Association of Australian Bonsai Clubs (AABC) Visiting Tutor program, for a special Sunday Workshop session in August.

Don is a very knowledgeable and entertaining bonsai expert who was faced with a wide range of trees and issues to address during the workshop, thereby providing a great learning experience for all participants and observers.

All attendees could attest to the fact that all trees would show a marked improvement after Don's suggestions were followed and the work completed



Top Right - Don provides advice to Julie H - multiple thread grafts followed.

Bottom Left - working with Adam on his pine.

Bottom Right - David R receives advice on his maple.



library Check-out!

YVBS has subscribed to the new bonsai magazine produced by the Association of Australian Bonsai Clubs. 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 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. 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

Scott M and youngest daughter Brooke who is in Grade 4 live in Glen Waverley, and both have a keen interest in bonsai. Scott has been following his passion for around 22 years - Brooke for somewhat less!

Scott owns and runs Dynamite Printing which has been a supporter of YVBS for some time, and has recently started Bonsai Matsu, a bonsai services company which has just become a major sponsor.

Scott learned his bonsai art through reading and practice, but also did workshops and joined a number of bonsai clubs. In 2012 he decided to study in Japan for a period and then again in 2013 at a number of nurseries to learn varying techniques about different types of trees. He also completed a certificate of arboriculture during this period - believing that it's equally important to not just know and understand techniques for developing bonsai but also to have an understanding of the horticultural side of trees and plants in general.

Brooke is aiming to have a bigger selection of her own trees in the future and some nice pots too. She is a keen and talented surfer and is not bothered by the cold weather!



Intermediate Tutored Workshops

This is the fourth year that the club has run a Bonsai Beginners class followed by Intermediate Tutored Workshops, both run by Craig W. Both run for 5 weeks on a Tuesday night. The Intermediate workshops have just started, and many participants are doing it for the second and third times! It has become not so much a training course for members, but more an opportunity for one-on-one time with Craig to get informal advice on growing and styling their trees.

Craig is an excellent teacher and provides as much advice and assistance as is needed, depending on each participants individual requirements and their own thoughts for their tree.



Right - Adam discusses development options for his tree with Craig.

Notes on Olive Collection and Care

The following article comprises notes taken from the presentation and demonstration by Steve Jarrold at the August club meeting, and represent his personal experience on collecting and working with olive trees.

Olives can be collected from the wild between July and November for best results. The first step is to chop the tree down to a manageable size, after which dig a trench around the bulbous base of the tree. Don't worry about preserving the root system. Break the tap root, and lift the tree. While it is preferable to keep the lignotuber and remaining roots moist on the way home, it is probably not essential.

When the tree is back home, run a chain saw or other saw horizontally through the lignotuber base of the tree. Cut at an angle which will suit the desired planting angle of the tree, and cut at the widest or most interesting part of the lignotuber.

Plant the resultant stump into any good quality free-draining potting mix, and let the tree grow unhindered for a year or two.

Olives are basally dominant, and sucker heavily. They are also prone to dominant vertical growth, which must be controlled by either cutting the vertical shoots off or wiring them down. Olives respond to wiring, but the bark is soft and wire cuts in easily. Wire must be applied early before the branch hardens and becomes brittle. Olive branches are particularly weak at the junctions with the trunk or primary branch.

Repotting can be done from August to late spring.

Large scars on olives do not heal well, so it is better to carve around scars to make them a feature rather than attempting to conceal them.

Kudos, Accolades and Thanks

- To Steve Jarrold for his very informative presentation and demonstration on olives at the August meeting.
- To Don DeLuca for visiting us from his base in country NSW to run the special Sunday workshop in August.
- To Scott Martin and his company Bonsai Matsu for coming on board as a major sponsor of the club.

Craig's Corner

The regular column by Craig Wilson of Gentiana Nursery.

Due to the unusually warm winter spring seems to have arrived early this year so here's a few jobs which need to be done.

Spring is not a season for heavy fertilizing as this would result in very strong soft growth. Save the heavy feeding for summer and autumn, during the spring just regular light feeding is sufficient. Having said that if your trees are still at the growing on stage then feed away.

Your Radiata pines should be covered in new buds now. It's important to pull the needles hanging under the branches and also any strong upwards-facing needles. This treatment has a two-fold effect, firstly it tidies up the appearance of the tree and gives its branch structure nice clean lines, but more importantly it allows light into the interior buds, which are so important for the future of your tree.

The Australian natives have not really stopped growing this winter but it's still way too early to do major pruning on them. Just cut the extending shoots back to keep them tidy but save any heavy pruning or root work until early summer.

Some of the deciduous trees are starting to leaf out now. Your winter twig selection work should be well and truly done by now and for most species its good to let them grow freely during early spring. Not long enough to lose ramification. There are however two exceptions to this, each one for entirely different reasons. The first is Japanese maples, any shoot extension on this species will result in very long internodes and a quick loss of ramification. When the maples leaf out the leaves emerge in pairs, from the centre of this pair of leaves the new shoots appear this shoot must be pinched out as soon as it is apparent. This means a quite labour intensive period for the maples, as they need to be checked at least every second day. The second exception is the beech. They only grow once a year so as the new growths are unfurling, the buds for next seasons growth will also be developing, this means there is only one chance a year to develop ramification for these trees. The beech shoots unfurl very quickly so as with the maples you need to be on the job for these trees. As soon as the first two leaves on each shoot can be separated from the extending shoot then they should be pinched back to those leaves, this task must be performed when the new growth is very soft so each shoot can develop two buds for next spring's growth.

Enjoy springs bounty.

It's YVBS' Birthday!

It is hard to believe that it was 5 years ago in August that a group of local bonsai enthusiasts met to discuss the formation of a local bonsai club, and that a month later in September the first meeting of the Yarra Valley Bonsai Society was held.

We had 34 Foundation Members, meaning that they joined the club in the first calendar year of operation, and 27 of these are still active in the club. Since that time, our membership has increased to the extent that we now have 85 members on our list.

While the club does not keep track of ages or birthdays, it is probably fair to say that the ages of our members range from 9 to approaching 90. It is particularly encouraging to see the number of younger members with an interest in Bonsai.

Happy Birthday to us!



New Sponsor

The Yarra Valley Bonsai Society is pleased to announce that a new major sponsor has come on board to support our club – Bonsai Matsu, a new company run by our new member Scott Martin. Scott is also the man behind Dynamite Printing, which has been supporting our club with our printing needs for some time now. Bonsai Matsu is a business that looks to service the needs of bonsai enthusiasts within the Greater Melbourne area. They offer service which include repotting, shaping and styling, seasonal maintenance, tree minding and general maintenance, as well as product and tree sourcing together with the buying and selling of bonsai stock.

We hope that our members and the bonsai community at large will support Scott's new venture whenever his services may be needed.



Bonsai Matsu

Proud Sponsor of the Yarra Valley Bonsai Society

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- PEST & DISEASE MANAGEMENT • WIRING • REPOTTING • SHOW PREPARATION
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Tree Profile: European Oak - *Quercus robur*

General Information: *Quercus* is a genus of about 600 species of deciduous, semi-evergreen and evergreen trees and shrubs. Nearly all are slow-growing and long-lived species, some reaching heights of up to 40metres. The genus is native to the Northern Hemisphere, extending from cool temperate to tropical latitudes in Asia and the Americas.

Lighting & Temperature: Full sun and good air circulation to discourage mildew problems. Protect from hard frost below -5°C. Shaded branches on Oak bonsai have a tendency to die-back.

Watering: Give plenty of water when fruiting. Do not mist, as this encourages mildew.

Feeding: Once every two weeks at half strength after first growth has hardened off in Spring.

Pruning and wiring: Pruning mid to late Spring, trim new shoots and pinch out apical buds unless extension is required.

Wiring should/can be done from spring through the end of autumn.

Defoliation: Complete defoliation can result in larger leaves and on weaker trees, dieback of lower branches. Infrequent repotting helps reduce leaf-size, as does removal of apical/terminal buds before they extend in Spring.

The tips of most Oak branches will produce a swirl of 4, 5 or more leaves, remove all but the smallest to prompt creation of a new flush of smaller leaves.

Propagation: From seeds, sow seed outside as soon as ripe. Air-layering in late spring, but can be with difficulty. From root cuttings, many also sucker up from the roots, and the suckers may be separated from the roots in autumn or in the following Spring from their formation.

Collecting in Spring or Autumn with the maximum amount of root ball retained when planting the tree in a pot or box to recover.

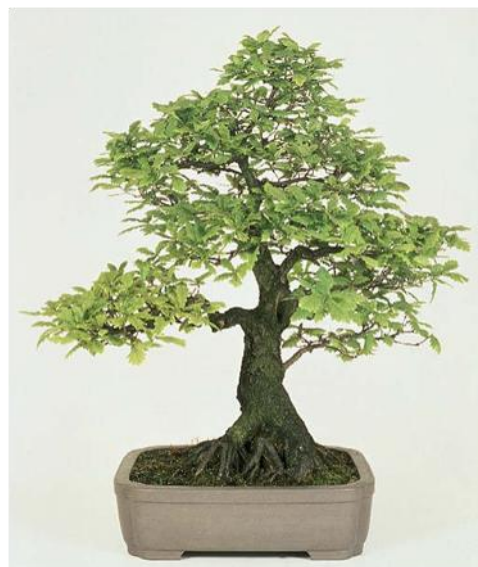
Do use the method of submerging the potted tree into water after collection for 2 to 3 weeks. The abundance of water enables new roots to easily take in water and stops the leaves from becoming limp and falling.

Repotting: Oak should be repotted yearly as buds start to move in Spring until the tree is 10 years or older, then every 2-3 years. However, it is possible that repotting after the first leaves have opened or in early Autumn, which is better for *Quercus robur*.

Pests and Diseases: Very susceptible to mildew problems unless good air circulation is provided, also oak wilt, aphids and gall wasps.

Styles: Upright and slanting styles, multi-trunk styles, group planting in medium to large sizes. Suitable for subtle deadwood features.

Pots: Glazed in light and or textured, earthy colours.



Ask Mr. Miyagi.....



Q. Hello Mr Miyagi, when is it safe to re-pot my tree?

A. Different types of tree need to be re-potted at different times of the year.

- Deciduous trees should be done now (late winter or early spring), just as the buds have swelled and just before they open.
- Pines should be done in either spring once the temperature rises or in autumn.
- Azaleas should be done after they have finished flowering.
- Junipers can be re-potted anytime, but to reduce the amount of aftercare and any chance of root rot, its better left until mid-spring.

- Natives can be potted throughout summer, just as the buds have swelled and just before they open.
- Figs can be potted from late spring through summer, just as long as the overnight temperature is above 16°C.

It is important that all the wiring has been completed prior to the re-potting as additional movement of the tree after re-potting can damage the fine roots. Re-potted trees should be given a good drink of a fish emulsion after potting and placed into a shaded and wind protected area to recover for 3-4 weeks before slowly reintroducing them back to their normal position.

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

On The Display Table



Top left and top centre - the July display bench.

Remainder are trees from the August display table.

BONSAI ART NURSERY

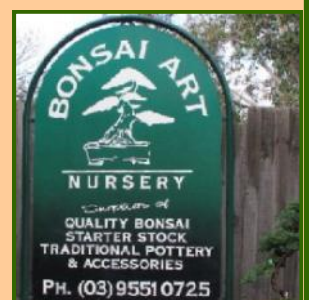
New Trading Hours Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri - 9:00am to 5:00pm
Sat, Sun - 10:00am to 4:00pm
Closed Wednesday

2nd Spring Sale, 9 Days only, Saturday 14th September to Sunday 22nd September

20% off all plant stock

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Bonsai Calendar: September - October

It's been a long cold road this winter but believe it or not, spring is in the air. 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".

Following are the main tasks to focus on during this time of year.

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 (September) and then continue with varieties such as, cryptomerias, azaleas, pyracanthas and pines (October).
- After repotting, keep your trees in a protected area away from extreme weather (hot or cold)

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 (OzmoCote/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 Workshop

The regular end of month Saturday workshops, held on the last Saturday of each month from 2:00pm to 4:30pm at Morrisons, are a good place to drop in to work on a tree or two, or to get some advice from more experienced members, or just for a chat.

It is often a first point of contact with the club for members of the public, who drop in to explore an interest in bonsai, or to get advice on a tree that they have been given. Many current club members subsequently joined us through following this path.

Drop in for a cup or tea or coffee - there is always something interesting going on!

Right—Mike C assists new members with advice on their trees.



ヤラ谷間盆栽会

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July & August
2013

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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
Sept & Oct 2013*



The Nursery Trip "DEEP SOUTH" which was scheduled for 7th September has been postponed due to the lack of suitable stock at the nurseries, to February 2014. More details will be advised closer to the date.



Our monthly meeting on 10th September will start with a Review/Overview Session on "Tips & Hints for Summer Survival" by Jeff Barry. Followed by our **AGM and Election of COM**, as well as a "Trivia Night" with Trevor Jacobson.
Display Table: "Japanese Maples & Members' Choice".



Saturday 14th September **"Workshop with Quentin Valentine"**, 1:30PM - 4:30PM at Morrisons.



Our End-of-Month workshop will be on Saturday 28th September, 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM at Morrisons.



The monthly meeting on 8th October will be a **Demo Night with Uchida Yusuke**, a Japanese Bonsai Artist who's been traveling throughout Australia, working at the NBPCA and holding workshops / demonstrations at a number of Bonsai clubs - a rare opportunity not to be missed!!! Further details will be advised closer to the date!
Display Table: "Accent Plants & Members Choice".



Our monthly workshop will be on Saturday 26th October, 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM at Morrisons.

Events from Other Clubs



Australian Native Bonsai Exhibition on 7th & 8th September, 10:30am to 4:00pm at the Cranbourne Gardens, 1000 Ballarto Rd, Cranbourne. Free entry.



Satsuki Interest Group Meeting on 21st September, 1:30PM – 4:00PM, at "Bonsai Art" Nursery, 236 Old Dandenong Road, Heatherton.



Bendigo Bonsai Club Spring Exhibition Saturday 21st September, 9:00AM to 4:00PM, at Rotary Hall, Gateway Park, High St, Kangaroo Flat. Admission \$3.00, children free.

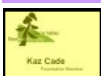


Bonsai Society of Victoria Exhibition, Saturday 5th October 9:00AM - 5:00PM and Sunday 6th October 9:00AM - 4:00PM, at Box Hill Town Hall, Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill. Entry \$5.00.



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