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Proud sponsor of the Yarra Valley Bonsai Society

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

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



**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 2014

At the July Club meeting we were fortunate to have Michael Simonetto to demonstrate for us and to impart his wisdom while doing so. He worked on four trees that he had brought along - an Ezo spruce, a white pine grown from seed, a nishiki corky bark pine, and a juniper.

Most discussion centred on restyling options for the needle juniper, which had a dead apex. Once Michael had established a new apex, he styled the rest of the branches to suit. Michael believes that shimpaku junipers are more hardy than needle junipers, which he doesn't bother so much with any more.

Michael's tips on carving deadwood on junipers - identify the veins by looking for the slight swelling on the trunk, and then carve in between the veins, a little at a time. Apply diluted lime sulphur to preserve the deadwood - there are tales that straight lime sulphur can dissolve the wood after repeated applications!

Michael revealed that the Ezo spruce is very slow growing, but can be struck from cuttings. On all spruces, it is very important to pinch the new growth in spring, removing as much as 2/3 of the new growth.

The August Club meeting featured special guest presenter Steve Jarrold from BSV who spoke and demonstrated on pines.

*Cont. Page 2*

*Upper Right - Michael's Ezo Spruce. Below - restyling the juniper (final result is on the next page).*



## Calendar Dates:

- 6 September (Saturday) YVBS-sponsored Nursery Crawl #2—South Eastern Exposure.
- 9 September (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting and AGM. 7:30pm UYCH.
- 13/14 September (Saturday & Sunday) Australian Plant Expo. 10:00am to 4:00pm Eltham.
- 20 September (Saturday) Satsuki Interest Group meeting. 1:30pm Bonsai Art Nursery.
- 27 September (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 2:00pm UYCH.
- 4/5 October (Saturday & Sunday) BSV Exhibition. 9:00am to 5:00pm Sat, 9:00am to 4:00pm Sun, Box Hill Town Hall.
- 14 October (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:30pm UYCH.
- 18 October (Saturday) YVBS-sponsored Nursery Crawl #3—Go West.
- 25 October (Saturday) Northern Suburbs Bonsai Club Show. 9:00am to 4:00pm, French St Hall, Lalor.
- 25 October (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 2:00pm UYCH.

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

## Highlights from July and August - Cont. from Page 1

Steve explained that pines can be categorized into 2-needle pines (including black, red and mugo), 3-needle pines (radiata), and 5-needle pines (white pine). Or a more useful classification may be multi-flush (black, red and radiata) which exhibit a new flush of growth once new candles are removed at the end of spring, and single-flush (white, mugo, scotts, etc) which should not be de-candled in the spring. The multi-flush pines are easier to work with as they produce faster ramification and can develop smaller needles.

Steve revealed that the only way to get fat trunks with good taper on pines is to have low sacrifice branches. It is best to grow pines from seed, where you can remove the tap root from the young seedling and then treat it as a cutting, to develop a good radial root system. Plant the seed in August, cut off the roots in November, and then re-pot into 2" pots in the following April. The growing medium is propagating sand.

Steve's opinion is that pines don't back-bud on flaky bark, only on 2-3 year old wood, so it is important to work on pines continually from a young age. Small jins on pines are okay, but not large jins and shari. Seal all cuts as pines bleed profusely. Don't remove any branches unless absolutely sure that they will not be needed - the tree may grow and develop in such a way that they may be useful in design modifications in the future.

Always prune growth from whorls to sets of two shoots. Do major work on black pines in winter, and repot in early August in warmer areas, possibly late August in the Yarra Valley area. A good indicator that repotting is required is when water doesn't flow easily through the pot - typically every 4-5 years for mature trees, more frequently for younger specimens. With older trees, don't do heavy pruning or bending AND repot in the same year.

Steve uses a 50:50 mix of diatomite and a good potting mix, such as Terracotta tub mix or Debco Professional..

Steve uses Confidor and a squirt of dishwashing liquid to get rid of white scale, and warns us to watch for caterpillars, which can eat the newly-formed buds and candles on pines.. He recommends Neutrog Rocket Fuel fertilizer pellets for use on all trees, including natives.

As well as bringing along a number of pines, Steve also displayed the olive that he worked on at a meeting last year, proving that it had survived his treatment and thrived on his after care!



*Top right - Michael's redesigned needle Juniper at the conclusion of the July meeting*

*Middle - Steve contemplates the design of his black pine at the start of the August demonstration*

*Near Right - The finished pine from Steve's demonstration*

*Far right - the happily-growing olive from Steve's 2013 demonstration*



### 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

New member Colin M is originally from Gloucestershire in England but now calls Australia home and lives in Chirnside Park. He is married and works part time in an engineering field.

Colin has no formal horticultural background, but first became interested in bonsai several years ago. He stopped after killing most of his plants! His interest in the art of bonsai was reignited earlier this year.

He has no developed bonsai at this stage, but is attending the Craig Wilson tutored workshops to increase his skills and hopes to develop a worthwhile collection over the next few years.

Colin's other interests outside bonsai include woodwork, wood turning, and "making things"



## Tutorial Workshops

This year, the Novice Training Course was cancelled due to lack of enrollment numbers, and instead was combined with the Intermediate Tutored Workshops, which have been titled as "Tutorial Workshops", as usual under the guidance of Craig Wilson. Craig is quite happy with this approach, as he feels that the combination of individual novice level workshop tuition coupled with observing intermediate members working on their trees, makes optimal use of the available learning time.

The workshops have commenced on 19th August and will run through on a weekly basis until 23 September, broken only by the September club meeting.

The sessions so far have included much hands-on work and instruction on styling, pruning, wiring and repotting.



Craig offers insight and advice to new member Madalyn P.

## Ask Mr. Miyagi.....



**Q.** Hi Mr Miyagi, when wiring branches to get ready for bending, does it matter how I start my wire, I mean does it matter if I initially start my wire over the top of the branch, or should I come up from under it?

**A.** Yes there is a difference how you start the wire. A lot of people will tell you that it's always better to start from underneath the branch so it makes the wiring more aesthetic, but the way the wire should be applied will depend on what you want to do with the branch you are wiring. Depending on how you start the wire on the branch, you will either stretch and tighten it across the branch or compress the wire on itself and loosen it once the branch has been moved.

The quick reference is if you intend to bend the branch downwards, apply the wire by coming in over the top of the branch or if you want to move the branch upwards, apply the wire by coming up from underneath the branch. This will maintain the support the wire gives to the branch while it is setting into its new position, too loose and the branch is easily damaged.

Thought and care should be given to the tightness of your wire when it is applied. The goal is to apply the wraps without applying pressure to the bark. Of course there will be points on the branch where the wire will be in contact, however a good rule of thumb is to allow enough space that you could get a slip of paper into. This offers us some space to move the branch where we need it to be and still provides the branch some room to grow before the wire will cut into it.

*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)*

## Report on AABC/BCI Convention

The Association of Australian Bonsai Clubs, in conjunction with Bonsai Clubs International, conducted the National and International Bonsai Convention on the gold Coast from 21st to 24th August this year. Rudi and Marlene attended the Convention and acted as YVBS delegates to the annual general meeting of the AABC.

A range of international bonsai artists conducted demonstrations and workshops during the Convention, the standout being the Japanese master Shinichi Nakajima, ably assisted by his very competent translator. The Australian team of bonsai experts, comprising Tony Bebb, Chris Di Nola, and Joe Morgan-Paylor, also performed well and lightened the afternoon sessions after a heavy lunch.

The venue for the Convention was the QT Gold Coast Hotel, which featured a light, bright and airy display area of ample size for the exhibition of bonsai trees and suiseki viewing stones. The exhibition was well-designed and provided a good and logical flow through the displays..

The National Convention is normally held in May, but was delayed to August this year to coincide with the BCI International Convention. Next year, the National Convention returns to May and will be held in Adelaide.

*Photos clockwise from top right: Main Exhibition Room; Suiseki display; Nakajima-san - almost finished; Chen Wenjuan with her completed rock planting.*



## Kudos, Accolades and Thanks

- To Michael and Allison Simonetto for their contribution to the July Club meeting.
- To Steve Jarrold for his entertaining and informative presentation at the August meeting.
- To Craig Wilson for again running the Tutorial Workshops.
- To our budding Spielberg Davor T, for producing such a professional video of the 2014 YVBS Show. Borrow it from the library, or search online for "YVBS Show Video" through Google or on UTube.



# Bonsai Matsu

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## *Tree Profile: Dwarf Pomegranate - Punica Granatum*

**General Information:** Originally cultivated since prehistoric times in the ancient Mediterranean and Asia, the 'Dwarf Pomegranate' is a popular choice for Bonsai. It has opposite leaves and grows oval shaped flowers, turning in to yellow/red fruits.

**Lighting & Temperature:** Full sun and good air circulation for best results. Protect from hard frost below -5°C.

**Watering:** Keep the tree damp, don't let it dry out and give plenty of water when fruiting. By keeping the pomegranate slightly dry in mid to late spring, the tree is encouraged to set flowering shoots.

**Feeding:** If you want the tree to grow healthy flowers and fruits, use a fertilizer with high phosphorous and high potassium from spring to late summer. Remove flowers if you opt for fast growth. Don't feed in winter!

**Pruning and wiring:** If you want the tree to flower wait with any pruning until after blooming, then prune back to one or two sets of leaves. Alternatively the plant could be pruned hard before any new shoots emerge in spring, to make way for the new growth. Flowering shoots are usually shorter than leaf shoots and are carried at the terminals.

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

**Propagation:** From seeds, sowing in spring or by using cuttings in summer. From root cuttings, many also sucker up from the roots; the suckers may be separated from the roots in autumn or in the following spring. 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:** Repot the tree every two years in spring when the buds are forming. Young trees are repotted every year. Never use shallow containers when re-potting because it flowers well when slightly root bound. It needs soil capacity and a reservoir effect to support it in this condition.

Pots in blues, yellows, unglazed browns and grays are very suitable.

**Pests and Diseases:** Usually they're trouble free, but can sometimes be affected by aphids. Treat with pyrethrum or a similar insecticide.

**Styles:** Informal upright, forest, cascade, literati, in/on the rock, root over rock, twin trunk, windswept, group and twisting trunk style, also suitable for deadwood features.





## On The Display Table



A selection of trees from the July and August Display Tables. (Centre Tree is a sub-miniature 30mm tall, enlarged photo to show detail)



## BONSAI ART NURSERY

New Trading Hours

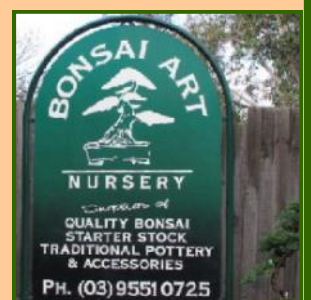
Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri - 9:00am to 5:00pm

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

Closed Wednesday

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

236 Old Dandenong Road, Heatherton



## *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/Root pruning

- 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 (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 Workshop*

The workshops are a social gathering which provide an opportunity to get to know your fellow members, work on your trees, and of course, receive advice from more experienced members if required.

Nice to see some prospective members drop in for advice, and members of other clubs joining us for the day.

*Right—An excellent turn-up at the August Saturday workshop - helped by the beautiful end-of-winter weather.*





# ヤラ谷間盆栽会

Volume 5 No 19  
July & August  
2014

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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  
September & October 2014*



Nursery Trip "**SOUTHEASTERN EXPOSURE**" on 6<sup>th</sup> September, covering the **Din San Wholesale Nursery, Bonsai Art Nursery** and the **Collectors Corner** and maybe the **Gardeners Gate Nursery** as well - depending on time. Meet at 10:30 am at Din San, 370 Old Dandenong Rd, Dingley.



Our monthly meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> September will start with a extended Review/Overview Session on "**User-friendly annual Task Schedule**" by Bill McKernan. Followed by our **AGM and Election of COM**.  
Display Table: "Japanese Maples & Members' Choice".



Our monthly workshop will be on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM at Upper Yarra Community House (UYCH, formerly Morrisons).



The monthly meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October will be a **Workshop Night!** Bring along your trees to work on, and to receive advice if required from our more experienced members.  
Display Table: "Accent Plants & Members Choice".  
There will be no Review/Overview Session!



Our last Nursery Trip for the year "**GO WEST**" on 18<sup>th</sup> October, will include the following places: - **PLANTMARK** (Wholesale) Nursery, the **Orient Bonsai Nursery** - one of our major sponsors, and Mark Ludlow's '**The Masters Apprentice Bonsai School & Nursery**'. Mark is one of our members, and this will be our inaugural visit to his premises. More details closer to the date!



Our monthly workshop will be on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM at UYCH (formerly Morrisons).

## Other Events



**Australian Plant Expo - Eltham**, on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September & Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 10:00AM - 4:00PM, at 801 Main Rd, Eltham. For more details contact "Australian Plant Society - Yarra Yarra", [apsyarrayarra@gmail.com](mailto:apsyarrayarra@gmail.com) or phone 9438 7228.



**Satsuki Interest Group Meeting** on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 1:30PM - 4:00PM, at "Bonsai Art" Nursery, 236 Old Dandenong Road, Heatherton.



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

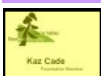


**Northern Suburbs Bonsai Club Bonsai Show**, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October, 9:00AM - 4:00PM, at French Street Hall, 47A French St, Lalor. Admission - adults \$5, children under 16 free!



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