

Proudly sponsoring the Yarra Valley Bonsai Society

www.orientbonsai.com.au

Sponsorship Opportunity Available

Contact President Rudi



Proud sponsor of the Yarra Valley Bonsai Society

www.bonsaisensation.com.au



PO Box 345 Mount Evelyn, VIC 3796 Australia

www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au

info@yarravalleybonsai.org.au

Reg. Assoc A0052264P

Pres: Rudi J 0418 369 852

Sec: Lindsay H 0403 800 671

Treas: Julie H 0419 870 240

Marktg: Marlene J 0418 369 852

The YVBS meets on the **second Tuesday** of each month now at Upper Yarra Community House (Formerly Morrison House)

Old Hereford Road, Mount Evelyn

Meetings begin at 7:30pm.



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

Inside this issue:

Training Courses	2
Trade & Lib Update	2
Rock-making Workshop	3
Member Profile	4
Kudos, Accolades, Thanks	4
Mr Miyagi	4
Tree Profile - Forsythia	5
On The Display Table	6
Saturday Workshops	6
Notes on Pines	6
Bonsai Calendar	7
Looking Ahead	8
Other Events	8
YVBS Forum	8

The Yarra Valley Bonsai Society Newsletter

Highlights from July & August 2015

July meeting saw one of our major sponsors Tien from Bonsai Sensation talk to us and demonstrate the art of root pruning.

Like creating a beautiful tree the roots of that tree are just as important if not crucial to the development of the overall project.

According to Tien every good bonsai has good roots and good nebari. There are five features of all specimens, roots, nebari, trunk, branching and foliage. Nebari is the transition between roots and trunk, so it is vital that close attention is given to the development of a strong root base to achieve the rest.

Tien gave some general tips on pruning of roots - cut downward growing, crossing roots and circular forming roots off. Cut roots from under the trunk. Shorten long roots and try to keep roots spread evenly around the trunk in the same level.

Taper needs to be developed in roots also, new roots will grow from where they are cut. For perfect roots you need to understand what roots are doing and when they do it. For deciduous training stock root prune every year till you are satisfied with the size of the nebari and tree. For junipers every two years.

The presentation was very informative and well received by those in attendance.

Cont. Page 2



Above - Tien describes root pruning techniques at the July meeting.

Below Left - Trimming the roots of a small pine.



Calendar Dates:

- 7 September (Monday) Free Bjorn Bjorholm demonstration at Bonsai Northwest. 7:30pm Essendon.
- 8 September (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting and AGM. 7:30pm. UYCH.
- 12 September (Saturday) YVBS "Southeastern Exposure" Nursery Crawl.
- 20 September (Sunday) Satsuki Interest Group meeting. 1:30 to 4:00pm, Bonsai Art Nursery, Heatherton.
- 26 September (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop + Kid's Workshop. 2:00pm. UYCH.
- 10 and 11 October (Saturday & Sunday) BSV Exhibition. 9:00am to 4:00pm. Box Hill town Hall.
- 13 October (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:30pm. UYCH.
- 31 October (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 2:00pm UYCH.
- 31 October & 1 November (Saturday & Sunday) Ballarat Bonsai Exhibition. 10:00am to 4:00pm. Ballarat.

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

Highlights from July & August - Cont. From Page 1

The August meeting featured a demonstration on Pines by Steve Jarrold. Steve brought along the pine that he worked on at last year's demo, illustrating that it had shooted well but had not yet grown enough to continue work on it now - he intends letting it grow freely this spring.

Steve worked on another pine which was around 40 years old, from which he had removed the top back in 2011. It had a good base, good bark, and was healthy - a prime candidate for a demonstration tree! After removing old needles and unnecessary branches and shoots, Steve wired everything and styled the tree. Interestingly,

Steve used copper wire on the tree, stating that he prefers it for wiring pines as it is easier to set all branches in the required position than with aluminium wire. The downside is that copper wire work-hardens, and therefore it is difficult to remove it from the tree in one piece - it will generally need to be cut from the tree. It also cannot be re-used without heat treatment.



Above - Steve Jarrold demonstrating at the August meeting.

Left - The tree following styling. Steve is still deciding what to do with the remaining main trunk section.



Bonsai Training Courses

Following the completion of the Novice Training Course, Craig W has moved on to the Intermediate Tutored workshops with a small but enthusiastic group of members. Attendees bring along their own trees for advice and assistance on any or all elements of bonsai design and development from Craig. This year, repotting seems to be a popular theme, and much sweeping has to be done at the end of the evening session!



Left - Val G's task for the Workshop Course is the creation of a spruce forest on a slab.



Right - Adam M prefers to concentrate on styling and repotting some of his more advanced trees.



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.



Mark Ludlow Workshop - Hebel Rock Carving Report by Madalyn P

Hebel Powerblocks are available from Bunnings in various sizes with prices ranging from \$5.50 to \$15.00. Because of their soft nature they can be drilled, cut (using a garden pruning saw), chiselled, and shaped using a variety of craft tools. The blocks can be glued together to make larger shapes once you are more adventurous or repaired with PVA glue or No More Nails. They can be painted with acrylic artist's paint (from any craft store or cheap \$2 shop). Allow 12 hours + to make a large installation or around 3 hours for a small one (25mmx10mmx10mm).

Before you begin consider the shapes of a natural rock outcrop and it's texture. The workshop created a shape similar to a three-D "P" – a narrow base with wider top – representing a rocky outcrop with the planting area over the upright base section. Visualise the weathering, erosion patterns and striations in natural rocky outcrops.

REQUIRMENTS to make the rock: A solid wooden board to work on, a Hebel block, cutting and carving tools such as a saw and chisel, a power drill with a 10mm drill bit for the drainage hole, protective gear such as gloves. Be prepared for a lot of mess from carving the rock so work in area you can clean up.

1. Create the initial shape by sawing out a section 1/3 along the length and 1/3 across the width of the block. The blue line represents the base of the finished planter.

2. Turn the block over, then lightly chip away the edges from the solid section and gauge/chisel indents/texture into the sides all around - keeping the base smooth – be very careful not to break the 'overhang' section off – rotate the block on the wooden board so that the overhang section is supported at all times.

3. Carve off the corners, make the base narrower than the top and cut into the base making a "V" on each side *not* opposite each other. Remember to keep the base flat to maintain stability (regardless of what my drawing looks like).

4. Chip away at the top section above the base to create the scooped out planting area. Then drill a drainage hole all the way from the top to the bottom.

5. Narrow and refine the shape of the protruding shelf. Continue to add texture to the surface of the rock to resemble a section of rocky outcrop. Saw marks can represent horizontal weathering. Recall the images you had originally of how rock weathers.

6. Gently scrub the surface with a wire brush both to soften any tool edges and remove the dust. Always rotate the sculpture on the wooden board so that the 'outcrop' section is supported. If you did break off the overhang, it can be glued back and only interrupts your work until the glue dries.

7. At this point any accidental holes can be repaired by gluing small bits of rock into the damaged areas using PVC glue. Painting will cover the inserted bits.

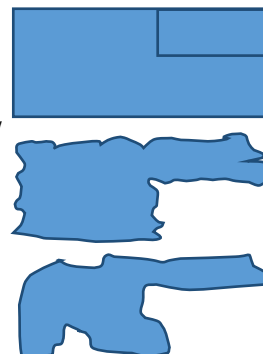
8. Seal the whole rock with a mixture of water and paint into which you've added PVC glue. The ratio isn't too important; roughly ½ cup water with a good squirt of glue and sufficient paint to make the colour you want. Choose the base colour (usually black or brown/orange) depending on what type of 'outcrop' you are imagining (and what you intend to plant). The paint dries quickly.

9. Second coat of paint might include some specific dry brushing to add depth to the surface; light and dark to mimic natural weathering. Gloss can be used to indicate moisture seepage. Continue to layer colours until you are satisfied that the rock looks natural.

10. Cut a small piece of mesh to cover the drainage hole. This can be held in place using a self-tapping metal screw inserted directly through the mesh into the rock. Use a short piece of wire wrapped once around the screw as a brace above the mesh (so just under the screw head wrap wire in one twist then insert the screw through the mesh and screw into the rock). Be sure to select a spot where the rock is thick enough to support the screw.

11. Plant a small tree/plant and cover with moss for effect. Spray with water to settle both into the rock.

12. Accept the admiration and envy of all who see your special creation.



Member Profile

Richard H lives in Monbulk with his wife and 7 children ranging in age from 6 to 26 years.

He has been interested in bonsai for quite some time but became more serious over the last few years, culminating in joining our club in 2014. His collection numbers around 15-20 trees at the moment, in a combination of bonsai pots and growing pots. His favourite trees are pines, but his collection includes a range of different species.

Richard is currently enjoying developing his trees, and hopes to increase his knowledge of bonsai culture in the future through participating in club training courses and in other club activities.

His other interests include playing competition tennis, and of course his family activities keep him well-occupied.

Richard is an account manager with a mechanical services company.



Kudos, Accolades and Thanks

- To Tien Hsu Liao from Bonsai Sensation for his valuable presentation and demonstration on root pruning techniques at the July meeting.
- To Steve Jarrold for his entertaining demonstration on pines at the August meeting, and for the additional information he imparted during the demonstration on pine culture and general bonsai techniques.
- To Mark Ludlow for conducting the special workshop on artificial rock creation, including supplying the necessary Hebel material and trees.

Ask Mr. Miyagi.....



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

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 in late spring.

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 early summer, just as the buds have swelled and just before they open.

Figs can be potted early summer, just as the buds have swelled and just before they open.

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 semi-shaded and wind protected area to recover for 3-4 weeks before slowly reintroducing them back to your garden.



 **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: *Forsythia*

General information: Forsythia is a genus of flowering deciduous plants in the family Oleaceae (olive family). There are about 11 species, mostly native to eastern Asia, but one native to southeastern Europe. The common name is also forsythia; the genus is named after William Forsyth. A highly underrated but very suitable plant for bonsai, all species are suitable. The attractions are the clusters of yellow buttercup flowers in spring before the leaves arrive.

Position: Full sun for good flush of flowers, tolerating partial shade, protect from hot northerly winds and strong frost.

Watering: Forsythias like water, especially in summer! Keep moist all the time.

Feeding: Twice a month during the growing season. Every two months if using a slow release organic fertiliser.

Repotting: Jung plants every year, older ones every second or third year in spring after flowering. Use standard free draining bonsai mix!

Pruning & Wiring: Prune back branches hard after flowering and continue to prune using clip and grow method until mid summer when the following spring's flower buds will be produced. Keep pinching new shoots back to two leaves which will help with the ramification! Heavy structural pruning best done in late autumn and wiring in winter!

Styles: Informal Upright, Slanting, Cascade, Semi-cascade, Root-over-rock and Clump. Any size!

Propagation: Softwood cuttings in late spring or early summer, air-layering in spring or summer.

Pests and diseases: Aphids, caterpillars and Forsythia gall.

Rare species for Bonsai:

- The Weeping Forsythia.
- Arnold Forsythia Dwarf - for dense foliage
- The very rare pink Forsythia.

CAUTION!!!

This plant is considered poisonous!



Orient Bonsai Nursery



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

Products

Bonsai starters
Mature bonsai
Pots
Figurines
Tools

Services

Bonsai classes
Repotting and trimming
Wedding gifts

www.orientbonsai.com.au



On The Display Table



Very few photos this issue as the photographer was away!. Members are encouraged to bring in their trees for display, either in the style scheduled in the syllabus or Member's Choice. Remember that we are not looking for perfection on the Display Bench, just trees of interest or development progress to date.



End-Of-Month Saturday Workshop



Left - Certain activities at the workshop are better done outside!

Right - Plenty of discussion and advice on the trees at the workshop,



Notes on Pines from Steve Jarrold's Demo

June/July - remove old needles and unwanted shoots, which makes it easier to wire and lets the light in. Wire and position branches and shoots. When wiring shoots, pull them together at the base and then fan them out towards the ends.

August - best time to repot pines. Can be repotted in autumn, but in our climate can probably be repotted at any time with care.

Soil mix - Steve uses 50% diatomite and 50% good quality potting mix, currently Debco Terracotta Tub Mix which he does not sift first. This mix is used for everything - but a bit less diatomite for deciduous trees. If the mix drains well, it is good!

Differentiate between the development stage and the maintenance stage for pines. There is a balancing act between letting the tree grow to thicken the trunk, and cutting back to keep the inner growth. There is less need to remove needles when in the development stage.

Don't style and repot older pines in the same year as it causes too much stress on the tree. With younger pines it doesn't matter so much.

Only repot pines when the tree needs it - i.e. when the water stops draining through the mix or the tree starts to lift out of the pot.

Scots Pines (*Pinus sylvestre*) have naturally short needles but are a single flush only per growing season. They bud back readily. Snap the ends of the developing candles, before the needles come out in spring. In autumn, cut the new growth back to a few sets of new needles.

BONSAI ART NURSERY

New Trading Hours

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

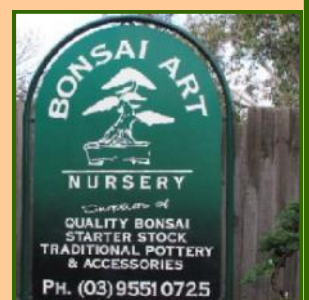
Sat, Sun - 10:00am to 4:00pm

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: September - October

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.

Orient Bonsai Nursery



盆栽專門店

[Home](#)[About Us](#)[Products](#)[Courses](#)[Demonstration](#)[Gallery](#)[Contact Us](#)[Bonsai Hire](#)

**Container-load of new
pots have arrived!**



ヤラ谷間盆栽会

Volume 5 No 25
July & August
2015

Page 8

www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au

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



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

*Looking Ahead to
September & October 2015*



The monthly meeting on Tuesday 8th September is the Annual General Meeting, and will also feature a Review/Overview session on 'Fertilizing' and a review of the free trees given out at last year's AGM - bring them in if they are still alive! Also, all attending members will receive a free ficus tree to take home this year. Display Table: Japanese Maples, Members Choice, and Crape Myrtle free trees from 2014 AGM.



Nursery Trip "SOUTHEASTERN EXPOSURE" on Saturday 12th 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!



Our monthly workshop will be on Saturday 26th September, 2:00 to 4:30pm at UYCH. It is also planned to hold a "Kids Workshop" on the same day - subject to interest!



Our monthly meeting on 13th October will be a workshop night, with plenty of advice and assistance available from YCBS's own 'gurus'. No Overview/Review session. Display table: Accent Plants and Members Choice.



Our monthly workshop will be on Saturday 31st October, 2:00 to 4:30pm at UYCH.



Other Events



Bonsai Northwest will be bringing Bjorn Bjorholm out from Japan over from 3rd to 8th September 2015. They will be running workshops and having a FREE Demonstration on Monday 7th September - visitors are welcome. Further details are available via their website www.bonsainorthwest.com.au. Location is Clifton Parking Bowling Club, Batman St Essendon. Starting 7.30pm.



Bjorn Bjorholm workshops are being held from Thursday 3rd September through Tuesday 8th September, also at Clifton Park Bowling Club, morning and afternoon sessions. Observers \$10.



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



Bonsai Society of Victoria Exhibition, Saturday 10th October 9:00AM - 5:00PM and Sunday 11th October 9:00AM - 4:00PM, at Box Hill Town Hall, Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill. Entry \$5.00.

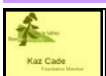


Ballarat Bonsai Exhibition on Saturday, 31st October 10:00AM - 5:00PM and Sunday 1st November 10:00AM - 4:00PM, at the Robert Clark Centre in the Botanical Gardens at Lake Wendouree in Gillies Street North, opposite the Glass House. Entry \$ 4.00, Kids free



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.yarravalleybonsai.org.au> and follow the FORUM link on the left to the forum.



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

ADVERTISERS & SPONSORS:

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

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