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Proud sponsor of the Yarra Valley Bonsai Society

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PO Box 345 Mount Evelyn, VIC 3796 Australia

[www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au](http://www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au)

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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!

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# The Yarra Valley Bonsai Society Newsletter

## Highlights from July & August 2016

The July meeting was a workshop night where members brought trees to work on and guidance could be sought from experienced members where required. Members also had the opportunity of offering products or trees for sale or exchange, and few took advantage of the opportunity.

In parallel with this activity, Lindsay H presented a Review/Overview session on Pot Selection aimed at novice members, but which was well attended by even the more experienced attendees!

Lindsay explained that as with much of bonsai art, there are some rules associated with bonsai pots. However, they should be treated as guidelines only, subject to other considerations (see below) and also to personal preference – it is your



tree! In general, the pot should complement the tree, and never overpower it or distract from the tree as the main attraction.

A Review/Overview information sheet on pot selection was handed out on the night, and is available on request from other members who may not have been able to attend - see Lindsay.

The August meeting featured a presentation and demonstration by Michael Simonetto on Cedars. Michael put forward the viewpoint that cedars are styled differently to pines or other conifers in that mature specimens generally have a flat top rather than rounded, and that jins are not natural - flush pruning wounds heal over readily and quickly.

*Continued Page 2*



Above - Special presenter Michael Simonetto at the August meeting.

Above - Geoff P very capably conducted the July meeting in the absence of President Rudi on holidays.

## Calendar Dates:

- 3rd September (Saturday) Satsuki Inter-est Group Meeting. 1:30 - 4:00pm. Bonsai Art, Heatherton.
- 10th September (Saturday) Nursery Trip "Southeastern Exposure".
- 13th September (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:30pm. UYCH.
- 24th September (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 2:00pm. UYCH.
- 8th and 9th October (Saturday & Sunday) (BSV Exhibition. 9:00 to 5:00 Sat, 9:00 to 4:00 Sun. Box Hill Town Hall.
- 11th October (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:30pm. UYCH.
- 29th and 30th October (Saturday & Sunday) Ballarat Bonsai Exhibition. 10:00 to 5:00 Sat, 10:00 to 4:00 Sun. Ballarat.

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

## Highlights from September & October - Cont. From Page 1

Cedars should be styled with the branches angled downwards from the trunk and be straight until the tip which should be turned up slightly. Foliage should be in flat planes on the branches, and not domed like pines.

Cedars generally dislike repotting and often react by dropping needles. Michael recommends 3-4 years between repots, especially for mature specimens, and don't remove too many roots. Michael says that cedars can be repotted at any time of the year, but feels that early spring is best. (Editor's note - Craig W advocates repotting in mid-summer, and I personally have had zero problems in repotting cedars at this time.)

Old cedars need minimal maintenance, but young trees need consistent wiring to set branches in position as they have a tendency to spring back when released. Back-budding is practically non-existent, so protect the inner growth on branches!



Right - Michael Simonetto hard at work on the demonstration cedar. Left - Michael advocates producing a sketch of the intended design before starting work.



## Intermediate Tutored Workshops

The Intermediate Tutored workshops with Craig W will be delayed by two weeks due to Craig's unavoidable personal business commitment and will now run from 30th August until 4th October. There are still a couple of vacancies left, and we will also accept individual session bookings for those members who feel that they may not have enough trees to attend all 5 nights. Cost is \$100 for the full course, or \$25 per night, and prior bookings are essential. Contact Marlene or [info@yarravalleybonsai.org.au](mailto:info@yarravalleybonsai.org.au) for bookings.

## End-Of-Month Saturday Workshop

The regular Last Saturday of the Month Workshop provides a relaxed atmosphere, but with plenty of advice and assistance available if required. It is great to see a variety of trees being worked on, we can all learn from each other and appreciate the trees in their various stages of development. Activities can vary from starter stock development, styling, trimming, wiring, defoliating, carving, to repotting.

All members and guests are encouraged to drop in with or without a tree, or for a coffee and chat - 2:00 to 4:30 pm.

Many present club members were first introduced to the Club through dropping in to a Saturday Workshop.

*Right - Visitors dropped into the July Saturday workshop with some nice inherited bonsai trees, looking for advice and assistance, Prospective future members?*



### 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.

#### WANTED!

**Somebody to run the Trade Table at Club meetings. Volunteers please contact a Committee member**



## Member Profile

Tracey F lives in Mount Evelyn with partner, Garry, and dog Scout.

She works in the Factory Outlet Shop of Walker Ceramics part time; and runs a micro business - Murrumbung Studio Ceramics making Bonsai pots, Ikebana ware, Home wares and art ceramics. Tracey has no horticultural background apart from having the odd vegie patch now and then. She was introduced to Bonsai by a chance meeting with a member of the Waverley Bonsai club whilst having a ceramic homewares stall at a market, who commented on her pots and mentioned some of the glazes would suit bonsai pots. It was the first time she had seen somebody study a pot (on their hands and knees) for 15 minutes!



Tracey admits to being a complete bonsai novice – she purchased her very first tree at the Waverley Bonsai Show in August - and is still learning the nuances of the bonsai pots and their requirements.

She makes all sorts of bonsai pots from mame through to larger pots, ovals, round, rectangular, freeform, cascade and crescent.



## Ask Mr. Miyagi.....



**Q.** Hello Mr Miyagi, What type of fertilizer should I use on my trees?

**A.** Pay close attention to your fertilizers if you want good bonsai and regular strong growth. There are 3 main ingredients you want to see in your fertilizers and these are represented on the packet of all organic fertilizers. Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K). These can be found represented by the code NPK and is commonly written as a 3 digit hyphenated number such as 5-3-1. This 3 digit grouping shows the percentage of each component in each fertilizer type. As an example, Blood and Bone has a NPK of 8-5-1. 8% Nitrogen, 5% Phosphorus and 1% Potassium. Each element has an effect on a tree and can help with the trees growth and development.

**Nitrogen** – Has similar elements to Chlorophyll which greens the leaves and stimulates photosynthesis, promotes leaf growth and speed of growth.

**Phosphorus** – Stimulates and generates sugars and starches in the tree and helps with bud and flower development and high volume blooming. It also stimulates good root growth.

**Potassium** – Helps with overall tree health and function by aiding photosynthesis and helping to resist diseases that can harm the tree.

Blood and bone – 8-5-1 High in nitrogen and phosphorus

Dynamic lifter – 4-2-2 High in nitrogen

Native food – 6-1-2 High in nitrogen and low in Phosphorus

A warning to you that if you put on any high phosphorus fertilizer on banksia, rhododendrons, camellias and azaleas you will probably kill your tree. Replace your fertilizer every 4 weeks and foliage feed twice a month with a liquid fertiliser or seaweed tonic.

*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)*

## Annual General Meeting

The YVBS Annual General Meeting will be held at the September meeting, and all members are urged to attend this important annual event. Free trees available for all attending members! Bring along the freebies from previous AGM's to show their progression. Many previous committee members will be standing for re-election, but we will be voting on a new President as Rudi will be standing down after 5 years in the role. Any members who feel that they can commit to offering a few hours a month in helping to run the club are urged to contact a committee member - we still have vacancies for General Members on the committee!



**NEW PRODUCT LINE**....for those starting out or with a handful of bonsai, I have introduced a **50/50** mix of **ORCHIATA PINE BARK** and **DIATOMITE 2-7mm** in a **20L bucket @ \$25.00**. Also available are **DIATOMITE 35L bags @ \$25.00** and **ORCHIATA PINE BARK 40L bags (3-6 or 6-9mm) @ \$30.00**. **ORCHID POTS** are available in a range of sizes. To order call Julie **0419 870 240** or email [julie@bonsairoots.com.au](mailto:julie@bonsairoots.com.au)



## ***Bonsai Lakeside 2016***

The Bonsai Federation of Australia Southern in association with the Bendigo Bonsai Club ran a special festival, Bonsai Lakeside 2016, on Saturday 23rd July and Sunday 24th July, comprising workshops, demonstrations and sales areas. It is hoped that this will become an annual event under BFA sponsorship and rotating around the various bonsai clubs.

Morning and afternoon workshops ran on both days at the Bendigo Rowing Club Rooms under the experienced tutelage of four well-known bonsai artists - Tony Bebb from Brisbane, Don DeLuca from NWS, and Joe Morgan-Payler and Steve Jarrold from Melbourne, operating in pairs. Each workshop was limited to 8 participants, so each received plenty of individual attention.

In parallel on the Saturday morning was a car boot sales area held in the carpark of the Rowing Club. Many sellers took advantage of the opportunity to offer a range of trees and pots for sale, and although it was very cold in the carpark, many sales were made. There was also a small number of stalls for trees, tools and supplies inside the club rooms - where it was a great deal warmer!

The main event was a demonstration/styling competition between two pairs of the featured artists, held in the Conference room at the Lakeview Motor Inn on Saturday evening. Visitors were kept well-fed by the motel kitchen staff and the bar dispensed drinks of choice during the demonstration, ensuring that everybody was well-entertained (and distracted while the artists were busy with wiring their trees!) Congratulations must go to the Motel kitchens for both the quality and quantity of the food dispensed throughout the night,

The artists produced two junipers at the end of the evening with markedly different styles, but equally attractive appearances. They were auctioned to the group at the end of the night and drew many bids and flattering final prices. Other items including pots and a stand were also auctioned throughout the night, under the capable and entertaining direction of Master of Ceremonies Andrew Ward.

Based on the number of attendees and their general enthusiasm, it is likely that the BFA will declare the event a success and endeavour to convert it into an annual event. Bring on Bonsai 2017 wherever it may be held around Melbourne or the southern region!



*Clockwise from top - Plenty of goodies at the car boot sale; Val G getting workshop advice from Don DeLuca; the evening social and demonstration; Joe Morgan-Paylor and Steve Jarrold at work in the demo; their opponents Tony Bebb and Don DeLuca.*



**Bonsai Sensation Nursery**



**Trading hours: Monday to Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm**

**Weekends 10:00am – 4:00pm**

Visit our website [www.bonsaisensation.com.au](http://www.bonsaisensation.com.au) for more information



## Tree Profile: Boxwood *Harlandii* - Chinese *buxus*

**General Information:** Buxus is a family of about 70 different species and is very popular for bonsai due to its tiny leaves and flowers. It is very tolerant for extensive pruning and shaping. **One note of caution: Box leaves are poisonous!**

The Harland Box - a native of Southern China and Taiwan can grow up to 10m. Its leaves are thinner than other box species and in early spring it produces fragrant yellow/greenish flowers. One main reason to be a favorite is the impressive deep crevices in the bark, which add to its appearance of age.

**Lighting:** Full sun or shade work well for Buxus harlandii.

**Temperature:** This box doesn't like cold and should not be exposed to temperatures below -3° C. It has been grown successfully as an indoor plant too. If the temperature goes above 20°C, it enjoys a daily misting. In the summer month it appreciates a fresh but not too hot air circulation.

**Watering:** Keep the soil moist, doesn't like wet soil. Allow the box to dry somewhat between watering.

**Feeding:** About every 30 days - use a liquid fertilizer with one application of pulverized organic fertilizer added during active growth. Fertilize with general purpose fertilizer at other times.

**Repotting:** Suggested every one to two years in well drained soil. Spring is the best time, but can be repotted in summer and autumn if need be, avoid repotting during very hot weather or during a growth spurt. Box dislikes acid soil, adding an occasional dose of lime is recommended.

**Propagation:** Easy from semi ripe cuttings in summer, Air-layering is also a preferred option.

**Pruning and wiring:** Buxus are vigorous trees and will put on plenty of fresh leafy growth during the growing season. Let growth extend to about 6 leaves before cutting back to two or three leaves, maintain shape by thinning and pinching of new growth.

Box can be wired at any time, best in summer. Be careful with the delicate bark!

**Pests and diseases:** Scale insects, mites and leaf miners. Although box is very disease resistant, some of the interior foliage can turn yellow as the tree will shed old leaves periodically.

**Styles:** Any style except Cascade, but including Root over Rock. Great specimen for Shohin!

The two top pictures are courtesy of Pavel Slovak and his friend Mirek Škrabal! The tree is about 40 to 50 years old, 70cm tall and has been reworked over the last 9 years!

### Other species suitable for Bonsai:

- **Buxus microphylla:** Japanese box - Grows to 5 feet, and has evergreen leaves under 2.5cm long. It tolerates both sun and shade. All B. microphylla varieties are scentless.
- **Buxus microphylla 'Compacta':** dwarf boxwood, 'Kingsville' box. Quarterly spray with Black Leaf 40 or similar mixed with soap.
- **Buxus microphylla 'Koreana':** Korean boxwood - the most hardy box, but expect the foliage to brown in the winter. It is a low, spreading variety, growing to only 1.5m.
- **Buxus sempervirens:** common box, English box - this box appears as both hedges and small trees. Its evergreen leaves grow to 3.5 cm. This box is very hardy with some winter protection.



## Orient Bonsai Nursery



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

### Products

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## *On The Display Table*



*A selection of trees on the Display Table at the July and August meetings.*



## *BONSAI ART NURSERY*

**New Trading Hours**

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

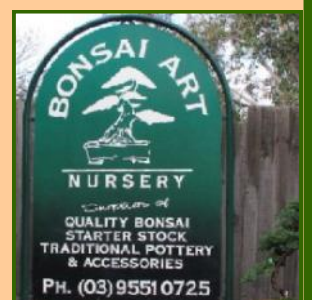
**Sat, Sun - 10:00am to 4:00pm**

**Closed Wednesday**

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

**[www.bonsaiart.com.au](http://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.



Julie 0419 870 240 or

[julie@bonsairoots.com.au](mailto:julie@bonsairoots.com.au)

Pickup from YVBS/BSV/VNBC meetings, or as otherwise arranged. Also available at the YVBS Sale Day.

*Bonsairoots diatomite* is a SOIL CONDITIONER, it Should be used to improve the porosity and drainage of soil. Can retain 100% of its own weight in water, because of its ability to hold water, *Bonsairoots diatomite* creates aeration, provides plant available silica, has a high surface area in minute pore spaces into which liquids can be absorbed. Available in 35L bags and 20L buckets: size 2-7mm.

*Bonsairoots orchata pine bark* is a standalone growing substrate that can be used directly from the bag without sieving. Produced from 100% pure New Zealand pinus radiata bark, it is a unique, stable substrate for potting and re potting bonsai. Available in 40L bags and 20L buckets: sizes 3-6mm and 6-9mm.

*Bonsairoots premium 50/50 mix* consists on 50% *Bonsairoots diatomite* and 50% *Bonsairoots orchata pine bark*. This mix is extremely successful in the development of masses of fine roots on bonsai plants. It is very open and water drains quickly, helping to avoid root rot. Your bonsai in pots and growing pots will love it! Suitable for all plant varieties so no need for different mixes.



Squat orchid pots are ideal for growing-on trees, promoting radial root growth and a flat root structure. High quality UV-resistant plastic, re-usable, will last for years.





# ヤラ谷間盆栽会

Volume 5 No 31  
July & August  
2016

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[www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au](http://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 2016*



Nursery Trip "SOUTHEASTERN EXPOSURE" on 10<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!



Our monthly meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> September will be YVBS - AGM. Members turning up on the night are encouraged to bring along the Fig Tree which they received last year to show its development. **A NIGHT NOT TO BE MISSED!** Overview/Review Session on "Tools - which One & Care" by Rudi J! Display Table: "Japanese Maples & Members Choice".



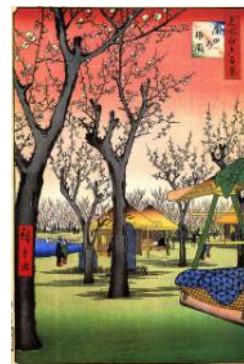
Our monthly workshop will be on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM at UYCH.



Our monthly meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> October will be a Presentation/Demo on "Deciduous Trees" by Tien Liao from Bonsai Sensation! NO Overview/Review Session! Display Table: "Accent Plants & Members Choice".



Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October monthly Workshop, 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM at UYCH.



## *Other Events*



**Satsuki Interest Group Meeting** on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 1:30PM - 4:00PM, at "Bonsai Art" Nursery, 236 Old Dandenong Road, Heatherton.



**Bonsai Society of Victoria Exhibition**, Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October 9:00AM - 5:00PM and Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October 9:00AM - 4:00PM, at Box Hill Town Hall, Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill. Entry \$5.00.



**Ballarat Bonsai Exhibition** on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> October 10:00AM - 5:00PM and Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> 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!



## *Kudos, Accolades and Thanks*

- To Rudi J, who is standing down from President at this AGM, for his invaluable contribution to the club, and thank you for continuing to serve on the committee in another role.
- To Michael Simonetto for his special presentation at the August meeting.

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](mailto:info@yarravalleybonsai.org.au)