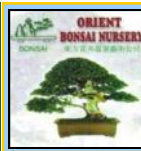




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CHOJO FEATURE TREES

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Reg. Assoc A0052264P
Pres: Rudi J 0418 369 852
Sec: Lindsay H 0403 800 671
Treas: Julie H 0419 870 240
Marktg: Marlene J 0418 369 852

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

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



118 B8

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

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The Yarra Valley Bonsai Society Newsletter

Highlights from March & April 2013

The March club meeting featured the always popular "Team Challenge" event, where members form into teams of four and compete against each other to create the best bonsai from a selection of nursery trees. This year, President Rudi had sourced a fine selection of pines, junipers and cypresses that provided ideal material to get the creative juices flowing.

At the end of the night, all bonsai were displayed out front and the winner on the night was declared following a vote amongst all members present. Many fine trees were produced, proven by the fact that all offerings were purchased by either their creators or by other members impressed by the quality of the styling efforts.

This event is not only a lot of fun for all, but also a good training exercise without the fear or caution that often results from working on our own trees. If we "stuff it up" when working on club trees, we don't have to take the tree home!



Top - the initial starter stock for the March Team Challenge.



Left - teams hard at work on their selected trees.



Bottom - the artist explains the design intentions and shows the finished result.

Cont. Page 2

Calendar Dates:

- 4 May (Saturday) YVBS-sponsored Nursery Crawl #1—South Eastern Expo.
 - 7 May (Tuesday) Novice Course commences. 7:00pm Morrions.
 - 9 May (Thursday) Northern Suburbs Bonsai Club Show. 7:30pm Lalor Library
 - 11 May (Saturday) Satsuki Interest Group meeting. 1:30pm Bonsai Art.
 - 14 May (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:00pm Morrions.
 - 17 to 20 May (Friday to Monday) AABC Convention, Canberra.
 - 25 May (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 2:00pm Morrions.
 - 2 June (Sunday) BSV Sale Day. 10:00am to 12:00 noon. Kew Masonic Centre.
 - 11 June (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:00pm Morrions.
 - 23 & 24 June (Sunday and Monday) BSV hosts Mauro Steinberger workshops. Kew Masonic Centre.
 - 29 June (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 2:00pm Morrions.
- See also the Events Calendar on our website: www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au

Highlights from March and April - Cont. from Page 1



The April club meeting started with a Review/Overview presentation on pot selection by Steve M, who described the traditional guidelines associated with matching a pot to a particular tree. Steve is a talented pot maker, and used some of his own hand-made pots to illustrate his points.

The main event of the night was a presentation and demonstration by Trevor Wicks on (mainly) Chinese elms. Trevor has presented at our club



before, but it is always a delight to hear his views on growing and styling deciduous trees. He brought along a number of examples from his collection, and proved to us all that big is not always best and that a finely-crafted smaller bonsai can look just as old and as attractive as the larger variety - as well as being a lot easier to handle!

Trevor also demonstrated the techniques involved in pruning elm stock under development

Top - Steve M discusses pot selection guidelines at the April meeting.

Middle - Trevor illustrates his presentation by example from his own extensive collection.

Bottom left - One of Trevor's fine broom-style elms.

Bottom Right - the aftermath of one of Trevor's pruning demonstrations.



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.



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 Profile

Cindy G has been a YVBS member for 16 months, after moving to Melbourne from Sydney via Albury. She is a Registered Nurse in the Operating Room. She first became interested in bonsai at 5 years old when her mother tried her hand at the art, and pursued it more seriously as a young adult, learning initial techniques at Bonsai Art in Terry Hills, NSW. She describes her personal bonsai collection as "all starter stock", but we have seen a number of more advanced specimens in advanced training at various workshops. Her 10 year aim is to have a collection of mixed varieties no larger than 20 trees - good luck with that Cindy!

She is also heavily involved with cat breeding, showing and judging, and has other interests in cooking, sailing, and sports.



Upcoming YVBS Special Workshops

We are fortunate to be able to run two special workshops this year featuring two of the very best bonsai artists in Australia.

The first is on Sunday 18th August in two sessions, morning and afternoon featuring Don DeLuca, an AABC registered Visiting Tutor. Don is an experienced and knowledgeable bonsai expert, and a very entertaining speaker who is well-known throughout the Australian and international bonsai community. Costs for each workshop will be \$40 per half-day session. Observers may attend on the day at a cost of \$5 per session.

The second is on Sunday 14th September, one session only in the afternoon from 1:30 to 4:30 featuring Quentin Valentine. Quentin is a member of our club as well as a number of others in Victoria, and is a very well-regarded demonstrator and teacher of bonsai who is well-known to all YVBS members through his previous demonstrations and workshops. Costs for the workshop will be \$20. Observers may attend on the day without cost.

All members who are interested in participating in either or both of these workshops should register with Marlene as soon as possible, by email at mjerlitschka@iprimus.com.au or in person at club events. Attendance is limited to 8 per session so as to maximize individual attention to each participant. Any vacancies which may be available as we get closer to each event will be offered to other local clubs, so make sure you don't miss out!



Left - Don DeLuca at the workshop he ran at the last AABC Convention in Melbourne.

Right - Quentin Valentine at a recent club night working on a collected olive.



Photo Shoots for 2014 Calendar

With the production of the 2014 calendar in mind, members took advantage of the photography studio set up at the April Saturday end of month workshop to capture some shots of the brilliant autumn colour on their deciduous trees.

The studio will be at the June and August Saturday workshops (note - *not* at the July workshop) for members wishing to have their trees photographed. Remember that, apart from Autumn colour, deciduous trees are often seen to their best effect with bare branches.

Left - Japanese maple and Right - Liquidamber, captured in full autumn colour.



Craig's Corner

The regular column by Craig Wilson of Gentiana Nursery.

CEDARS

For those who want to grow coniferous bonsai the cedars represent a very good option. There are 3 main species grown in Australia.

- Cedrus Deodara common name is Himalayan cedar
- Cedrus Libani common name Cedar of Lebanon
- Cedrus atlantica common name Atlas Cedar

For the purposes of cultivation Lebanese and Atlas cedars have the same requirements.

Cedrus Deodara is now the most commonly found cedar in the nursery industry this is because of the ease with which it is seed raised and the speed of its growth, from the point of view of a bonsai grower it is inferior to the other 2 species due to the unruly way it carries its needles. It is possible to make good bonsai with deodara however it requires a great deal of pinching to create dense foliage pads whereas the other 2 species develop these with very little encouragement.

For those who want to grow low maintenance bonsai (if there is such a thing) cedars are not an option, they are high maintenance trees mainly due to their very slow growth and springy branches. Cedars require wire from their inception right through to old age, it takes a couple of lifetimes for the branches to set properly and the tips? well I am not sure yet.

There is a tendency for growers to wire the branches of cedar flat but they are much better wired well below the horizontal and the sub branches arranged into a series of steps which is the classic growth pattern for this species, the Atlas and Lebanese cedars are particularly beautiful treated in this way. In order to highlight those steps it is important to clean out the needles hanging under the branches.

Cedar have a reputation for being touchy with regards to root pruning but I think this is the result of people potting them at the wrong time of the year. They must never be potted with new buds swelling or when covered in soft new growth. For me the best time to pot cedars is during the warm weather so January, February or March. They require really good drainage so a coarse diatomite based mix is ideal, and remember to give them plenty of shade when recovering from root pruning.

Feeding should commence with the swelling of the buds in spring and continue throughout the growing season. It won't surprise those who know me when I tell you to feed them heavily and regularly in combination with tip pruning.

There was a time when lovely old cedars were freely available in the throw out section of most nurseries. I remember going to Dinsan in the early 80s and there was row after row of old blue atlas cedars in 10-inch pots. Unfortunately these days if it doesn't sell after 2 months its gets binned so the days of old nursery stock have gone and the options for obtaining good material limited. If you can get access to seed from Atlas cedar the green forms are very vigorous trees and make great bonsai. There is a tendency for young growers to get these trees into a bonsai pot way too young. They develop extremely slowly in a bonsai pot and are much better grown strongly in a large grow pot or in the ground for many years before being committed to a bonsai pot. The bark on all cedar species takes 2 lifetimes to crack properly; they are a tree for the patient grower.

Orient Bonsai Nursery

www.orientbonsai.com.au



Annual Special: 20% to 50% Sale in June on Pots and special discount for club members on selected items!
New arrivals of Tools and Wire!

[Home](#) [About Us](#) [Products](#) [Classes](#) [Demonstration](#) [Gallery](#) [Contact Us](#) [Extra large pots sales](#)

BUY DIRECT FROM THE MANUFACTURER
Manufacture from China(wholesales available)

New arrive

Delieve from Factory, Huge stock

(Dragon pot & table,

large Glaze &unglaze pot)



Tree Profile: *Chaenomeles* - Flowering Quince

General Information: *Chaenomeles* is a genus of three species - *C. cathayensis*, *C. japonica* and *C. speciosa* of deciduous spiny shrubs, usually 1-3 m tall, in the Rosaceae family. They are native to eastern Asia in Japan, China and Korea and are much loved for bonsai because of their tiny, lovely flowers - in spite of their prickly thorns. The leaves are alternately arranged and have a serrated margin. The flowers are usually bright orange-red, but can be white or pink; flowering is in late winter or early spring. Styles can be single/multi trunks, cascade, semi-cascade, clumps and raft styles.

Lighting & Temperature: Full sun for full bloom and for the fruit to set, although partial shade in midsummer is desirable in very hot areas. Protect from severe cold and frost.

Watering: Likes moist but well drained soil. Daily throughout the growing season, and mist spray foliage except when the plant is in flower or carrying fruit. Water sparingly in winter but do not allow the soil to dry out. This is a drought tolerant shrub!

Feeding: Once every two weeks from early spring to flowering then every 30 days until autumn. Some varieties have spot blooms throughout the season. Use liquid bonsai fertilizer or half-strength plant food. Proper feeding is essential for good flowering. Calcium in the soil helps to form fruit and flowers.

Pruning and wiring: Fruiting and flowering can sap the plant's energy dramatically, so it is wise to limit the amount by picking off developing fruit and flower buds, especially in young bonsai. Flowering quince likes to sucker from the roots. Suckers should be removed if a single trunk is desired; however, thick trunks can be difficult to achieve, especially in some popular *C. japonica* cultivars such as 'Chojubai.' These plants are most often grown in clump style. Some species may need to be cut back hard to encourage branch formation. For flowers allow new growth to extend unpruned through the growing season! During autumn, new shoots should be cut back to 1-2 leaves after 5-7 leaves have formed, which may be as often as every two weeks in a vigorous plant. *Chaenomeles* can be wired from spring through the end of summer, leaving the wire on for up to four months, and can be repeated yearly.

Propagation: From seeds, which need to be cold-treated before sowing in spring, but will germinate rapidly. Softwood cuttings may be taken in summer, or hardwood cuttings in winter, but cuttings will root slowly. Clumps may be propagated through division. Named hybrids are often propagated through grafting.

Repotting: *Chaenomeles* is one of the few species which prefers to be repotted in autumn, but can also be transplanted in early spring, or even summer if the top is properly cut back. The books recommend repotting every 2-4 years, but they may need yearly repotting pending on demographic location and or variety. Roots can be cut back by about half if necessary.



Ask Mr. Miyagi.....



Q. Mr Miyagi, can I do major pruning on roots and branches at the same time?

A. No, it is too much stress to the tree - branches feed roots; roots feed branches. Balance is important, but don't balance by removing all energy sources. Living bonsai are best - therefore, don't do major pruning on both roots and branches at the same time! If you need to do major pruning to roots to fit the tree in the selected pot, then also trim the overall branching without cutting a major branch! The important part is that major pruning is not to be mistaken with light trimming or foliage reduction! In the next season if you need to remove a major branch or second trunk, then do minor root pruning as well to encourage new root growth, which will help the tree to recover quicker. It will also get new branches

growing. You need to alternate major pruning!"

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

Kudos, Accolades and Thanks

- To Trevor Wicks for his presentation and demonstration on Chinese Elms.
- To Chojo Feature Trees for supplying some of the trees for the Team Challenge event.

On The Display Table



The tree at top left was the only display table entry at the March meeting - all other trees were being actively worked on by members at the workshop night! The remaining pictures are from the April display table.



BONSAI ART NURSERY

New Trading Hours

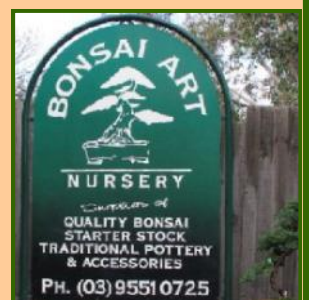
Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri - 9:00am to 5:00pm

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

Closed Wednesday

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

236 Old Dandenong Road, Heatherton



Bonsai Calendar: May - June

As Autumn draws to a close, your deciduous trees have completed their growth cycle and are in preparation for dormancy. Evergreen varieties may not stop growing completely but their growth rate will slow down dramatically. Among many other tasks, winter is a great time to contemplate styling and restyling your bonsai (especially deciduous trees). Having the ability to see the skeleton of your trees will assist you in improving the basic branch structure and ramification of your bonsai.

Here are a few things to consider over the winter months.

- Remove all fruit and seeds from your trees as it can promote die back and disease.
- Once all the green leaves have changed or fallen you can begin cutting back on deciduous trees to shape with out fear of the tree bleeding.
- After all leaves have fallen, clean up all debris around your bonsai area (including the tops of the pots), to reduce potential homes and hiding places for pests.
- Any trees that have been protected from the summer sun can be pushed back into the open. The winter sun will promote bud development and tighten spring growth.
- Adjust your watering routine as your trees will be using less water. Rain may be more common. Avoid over watering at this time of year as trees are extremely susceptible to root rot. Keep deciduous trees on the dry side to promote autumn colour.
- If possible, make a habit of watering at the warmest part of the day. This will give the excess water a chance to drain before the cold nights.
- Keep an eye on pots that get completely covered with moss. This may interrupt the water intake and increase the chance of root rot.
- May and June are the best times to do heavy pruning and shaping to most conifers.
- Wire and bend branches while trees are on the dry side of the watering cycle. This will improve the flexibility of the branches.
- Fertilizing isn't required for any dormant trees, but evergreens can still benefit from a light feeding.

Remember that your trees are maturing as the years go by. This change may inspire variations to your original design.

End-Of-Month Saturday Workshop

The regular Saturday end-of-month workshops see a lot of work done on many trees, with specimens ranging from trees in development in plastic pots of various sizes, to more advanced trees in bonsai pots.

Experienced members, novices and newcomers mix together in a social environment, and advice and assistance is always available and freely dispensed when requested.

The workshops are a valuable introduction and training ground for newer practitioners of the art - and many a current member of our club had their first introduction to the YVBS at a Saturday workshop.

Members are also taking advantage of the photo studio set up at the workshops to record their bonsai progress, and to submit photos for consideration of inclusion in the 2014 club calendar.

Below left—Marlene dispenses advice at the March end of month workshop.

Below right - Rudi gets "hands-on" at the April workshop.



ヤラ谷間盆栽会

Volume 5 No 11
March & April
2013

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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
May & June 2013*



Our first two Saturday Nursery Crawls for 2013 will take place on 4th May and 8th June. These trips are a great way to get to know other members and to learn about how to shop for stock - conducive to bonsai crafting. Bring your partner and or friends along for "Plants for the Garden".



On Tuesday 7th May, our **Novice Course** with Craig Wilson will commence. The course will run for two hours per evening for five consecutive Tuesdays, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM at Morrisons (hopping the May and June monthly meetings). All dates for the course are listed in the calendar section on our website.



On Saturday 11th May the "Satsuki Interest Group" will be meeting at "Bonsai Art" Nursery, 236 Old Dandenong Road, Heatherton, at 1:30PM. Don't forget to bring along a Satsuki or other Azalea for discussion or display and a gold coin donation.



Our monthly meeting on 14th May will be a "Workshop Night"! There will be a Review/Overview Session on "Tools Basics" - selection, care etc by Rudi J. Display Table: "Informal Upright & Members' Choice".



Our end of month workshop in May will be on Saturday 25th, 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM at Morrisons.



The monthly meeting on 11th June will start with a Review/Overview Session on "Tips & Hints for Winter Care" by Jeff Barry. Followed by a Presentation from John Mackie on "Pines". Display Table: "Shohin various styles & Members Choice".



Our end of month workshop in June will be on Saturday 29th, 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM at Morrisons.

Events from Other Clubs



Better Homes and Garden Show (Club Discounted Entry Fees), Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th May at Melbourne Show Grounds. <http://www.bhglive.com.au/melbourne/clubs/>



The Northern Suburbs Bonsai Club is holding a Bonsai Show on Thursday 9th May, at 7:30PM - 9:30PM, at Lalor Library, 2A May Rd, Lalor. Entry by gold coin donation.



From Friday 17th May to Monday 20th May The Canberra Bonsai Society is hosting in Canberra the **25th NATIONAL BONSAI CONVENTION "The Australian Journey"**. For more details go to their website www.cbs.org.au/2013AABC



Sunday 19th May Japan Festival, 10:00AM - 5:00PM, at Box Hill Town Hall & Box Hill TAFE 1000-1022 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill, Costs: General Public: \$5.00, Free Entry : Children up to Grade 6; Disabled persons (+ 1 attendant) & Seniors Card Holders. Check out their website: <http://www.jcv-au.org/japanfestival/>



Bonsai Society Victoria is holding its annual Sale Day on Sunday 2nd June, 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon at the Kew Masonic Centre, 31 Strathalbyn St, Kew. Costs: Tables \$35.00, Entry \$2.00 for Buyers.



Bonsai Society Victoria is holding workshops with International Demonstrator Mauro Stemberger, on Sunday 23rd June, 9:00AM - 12:00Noon and 1:00PM - 4:00PM, as well as on Monday 24th June, 1:00PM - 4:00PM, at the Kew Masonic Centre, 31 Strathalbyn St, Kew. Costs: Participants \$45.00 per session, Observers \$10.00 per session. For enquiries contact Gerard Schoofs on 0438 141 601 or email: eventsbonsaivic@gmail.com.



A Critique Session with Mauro Stemberger on Monday 24th June, at 8:00PM at East Kew Uniting Church, 142 Normanby Road, East Kew. Costs: Members free, non members \$5.00 payable on the night.



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