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Proud sponsor of the Yarra Valley Bonsai Society

www.bonsaisensation.com.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 March & April 2016

The March club meeting featured member Mark Ludlow from the Master's Apprentice Bonsai School and Nursery, talking about and demonstrating on cascade styles.

Mark explained that cascade style occurs in nature in trees growing on a mountainside above the snow line - the weight of snow during the winter forces the tree down and produces the drooping cascade shape. Most trees are suitable for training in cascade style, except for strong vertical-oriented trees, e.g. swamp cypress.

There are many cascade sub-styles, including: Gaitoo - upright with one cascade branch not extending below pot level; Classic Cascade - tip of cascade finishes below pot in line with apex, may include small top (or not); Dai - vertical drop of cascade; Bunjin (literati); Naka - trunk comes down below pot and then turns sharply upward again, foliage on upward end only; Takan - twin trunk cascade; Han - semi-cascade, not extending below pot level; Taki - waterfall style, with many branches cascading down.

Mark said that juniper cascades, although often seen, are not the best species to be used as it is very hard to keep the tail end branches healthy. Better species for cascades are cotoneasters and pyracanthas - even cedars are preferred.

Mark demonstrated pruning techniques for cascades on a prunus (plum).



Continued Page 2

Above - Mark explaining cascade sub-styles with sketched examples on the board

Left - the demo prunus tree



Calendar Dates:

- 1st May (Sunday) Australian Plant Sale. 10am to 3pm. Eltham.
- 10th May (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:30pm. UYCH.
- 14th May (Saturday) YVBS Special Carving Workshop. 10am to 1pm. UYCH.
- 17th May (Tuesday) YVBS Novice Course commences. 7pm to 9pm. UYCH
- 20th to 23rd May (Friday to Monday) AABC National Convention. Hobart, Tas.
- 28th May (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 2pm. UYCH.
- 28th May (Saturday) BSV Sale Day. 9:30am to 11:30am. East Kew.
- 4th June (Saturday) Satsuki Interest Group Meeting. 1:30pm. Bonsai Art, Heatherton.
- 14th June (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:30pm. UYCH.
- 25th June (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 2pm. UYCH.

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

Highlights from March & April - Cont. From Page 1

The April club meeting featured special guest presenter Tom Cockram, who travelled all the way from Castlemaine to share his wisdom with us. Tom's topic was Miniature Bonsai and Accent Plants, and he brought along a large selection of both for illustration as well as some for sale.

Tom explained that serissa, box (English, Dutch, Japanese, Korean, and of course Kingsville), Euonymous, small leaved azaleas (Sao To Me, Wild Thyme), cotoneaster, lonicera are all good species for miniature shohin or mame bonsai, although many other species can also be used. Small bonsai are developed in their small size through restricting root growth in small pots, together with lots of feeding and lots of pruning. Tom reminded us that the smaller the pot used, the finer the soil should be.



Accent plants are grown for interesting foliage or flowers or colour. Tom mentioned a wider variety of species, many of which could be considered weeds when growing where we don't want them! Allocasia elephant plant, sundew insect catchers, micro-mondo grass, various bulbs including litoria, iron cross, ligularia and oxalis, and the smaller ferns and cacti are all potential accent

Above - Tom's passion for small bonsai and accent plants is readily evident when considering his collection

Left - Some of the sale stock (later snapped up!)



Nursery Crawl

Around a dozen members attended the second Nursery Crawl of the year, visiting Plantmark Wholesale Nursery in Thomastown, club sponsor Orient Bonsai Nursery, and club member Mark L's Master's Apprentice Bonsai School and Nursery.

Some trees were bought for the garden and some for bonsai development, some pots were bought, some socializing occurred, and the threatening weather held off. All in all, a good time was had by all!

The final nursery trip - South Eastern Exposure - will be held in September. More details closer to the date.

Right - Some of the group and their purchases!



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.



Member Profile

Leanne S lives in Croydon and works as a disability support worker for Wesley Mission. She is also an accomplished potter and makes and sells bonsai pots as a sideline - so if anybody is searching for that special bonsai pot, go and talk to Leanne and maybe she will make it for you!

She became interested in bonsai a few years back and has had some instruction from Jeff at Chojo Feature Trees, but has joined our club to expand her knowledge.

She has a particular liking for oaks, maples and forest settings, and has a long term aim to develop her collection of trees and also further develop her bonsai pot production.

Leanne's other interests include ballroom dancing and running her Etsy store - Bonsai and Bits.



Canberra Special Event

The National Bonsai and Penjing Collection Australia secured funding this year to bring out international bonsai master Pavel Slovak from the Czech Republic for a series of events held in Canberra in February/March. The events included a series of invitation-only workshops for Club artists, collection donor artists, and for collection volunteers. YVBS nominated President Rudi J to represent us, and club member Val G was also present as a nomination of Northern Bonsai club.

Rudi took along a selection of trees, but after consultation with Pavel elected to work on a metrosideros New Zealand Christmas Tree as his main tree. Rudi has had the tree for a while but has been unsure how to style it, and so sought Pavel's guidance. Pavel loved the tree and did not make any major styling changes, just suggested thinning out the foliage and pruning some of the excess twiggy structure.

The overall event was considered a major success with the bonsai community from all over Australia attending, and it is hoped that this will become an annual event. Congratulations to Leigh Taaffe and the NBPCA staff and volunteers for their excellent work in organizing this event.



Top Right - Pavel Slovak working at the evening demonstration, attended by over 100 people

Below Left - Pavel working with Rudi on his tree. Below Right - the NBPCA display area at night



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



2016 YVBS Sale Day

The YVBS Sale Day continues to grow in size, strength and popularity. Despite a last-minute cancellation from one of our featured sellers for family reasons, the vacant tables were snapped up by the other sellers and stock expanded to suit the space.

All sellers were happy with the sales made, and all buyers seemed to walk out with their arms full and smiles on their faces! At the end of the day, most of the sellers pre-booked their tables for the next Sale Day.

A small display of bonsai associated with the Sale Day provided some inspiration for all attendees.

Right - four different potters, all with different styles of hand-made pots, had something to appeal to all tastes.



Kudos, Accolades and Thanks

- To all sellers and buyers at the March Sale Day, for making this event another major success.
- To April guest presenter Tom Cockram, who travelled all the way from Castlemaine along with a van full of demo, display and sale trees, to give us a very enlightening presentation.
- To Mark Ludlow, who also travelled a considerable distance to present to us at the March meeting.

Upcoming Workshops

We have a Special Workshop on Bonsai Carving Techniques coming up on Saturday 14th May from 10:00am to 1:00pm at UYCH with Michael Simonetto (right). At the moment, the workshop is fully booked, however if any members have a strong interest they should register with a committee member in case there is any last minute cancellation. Observers are welcome to come along - as we all know, Michael is a fount of knowledge on all things bonsai, and this promises to be an event not to be missed.



Remember too our regular Last Saturday of the Month Workshop which provides a relaxed atmosphere, but with plenty of advice and assistance available if required. 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.



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: *Olea* - Olive

General information: *Olea* is a genus of about 40 species and native to warm, temperate and tropical regions of southern Europe, Africa, southern Asia and Australasia. It is a tree with strong symbolic importance in Mediterranean countries of abundance and glory, but also of peace. They are evergreen trees and shrubs growing to 10 meters tall, with small opposite narrow dark-green leaves. The bark is light-grey and becomes very gnarled with age. The fruit develops from small white summer flowers to a green changing to black stone fruit.

The most common varieties used for bonsai are *Olea europaea* and the wild growing *Olea europaea oleaster*, as well as the wild *Olea paniculata* which is wide spread throughout Australia growing up to 30 meters tall. Olives can make fantastic bonsai and are one of the favorite and convenient 'yamadori' targets. They survive quite well being dug from the ground or just simply cut off at ground level. New roots shoot quite easily even from a flat surface

Position: Full sun or partial shade in summer - airy for best growth, not be exposed to temperatures below 7°C - protect from frost!

Watering: Moderate, they are more heat and drought tolerant relative to other species. Don't let them dry out, but don't over water either!

Feeding: Fortnightly from spring to autumn, do not feed during the winter. Dynamic lifter and blood & bone can be used and a bit of dolomite lime is great for jumpstarting growth.

Repotting: Every 2-3 years in early spring in free draining slightly alkaline mix for younger trees, older trees only every four to five years. Do not fertilize for three months after repotting!

Pruning: Best time for minor pruning is early spring, pinching back new growth regularly. Major pruning is done in late autumn or winter and the tree will respond with the vigorous growth the following spring. For maintenance pruning cut back to 2 - 3 pair of leaves. Defoliation should be done only if the tree grows vigorous and healthy

Wiring: Olives are very brittle! Wire only when needed in late autumn or winter. Young branches with care and on larger or older branches use raffia!

Propagation: From seed at 13° - 15°C in early spring - soak in hot water or an alkaline solution for 24 hours. Semi-ripe cuttings in summer, leave 2 - 4 sets of leaves on the top and use rooting powder for better results. Also from suckers by division.

Pests and diseases: Aphids, spider mites and especially scale.

Styles: Suitable for all styles and sizes. Olives are prized for the beauty of the aged wood and lends itself well to areas of deadwood as often seen in nature. The wood of the olive rots easily and if there is deadwood on a collected specimen, be sure to treat it with lime sulphur and possibly with additional wood hardener/preserver.

Carving, Jin and Shari: Care **MUST** be taken when carving olive wood with a grinder or Dremel tool as the sawdust can be toxic - treat it like you would when cutting treated pine!



Orient Bonsai Nursery



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Reservoir VIC 3073
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Email: orient_bonsai@hotmail.com

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On The Display Table



A selection of trees on the Display Table at the March and April meetings.



Below - shohin size bonsai photographically enlarged.



BONSAI ART NURSERY

New Trading Hours

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

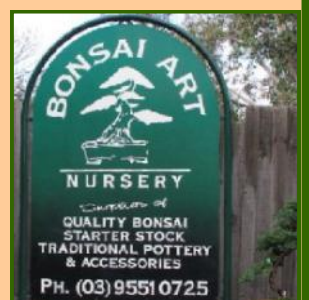
Sat, Sun - 10:00am to 4:00pm

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: 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 and so reduce cracking or breaking.
- Fertilizing isn't required for any dormant trees, but evergreens can still benefit from a light feeding.



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ヤラ谷間盆栽会

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www.yarrawalleybonsai.org.au

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



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

*Looking Ahead to
May & June 2016*



Our monthly meeting on 10th May will be a Presentation/ Demonstration on "**Literati**" by Victor Byrde. NO Overview/Review Session! Display Table: "**Autumn Colors & Members Choice**".



"**Special Workshop - Carving**" with Michael Simonetto on Saturday 14th May 10:00AM - 1:00PM at UYCH Mt Evelyn. Participants - FULL, Observers FREE!



Our "**Novice Course**" with Craig Wilson will commence on Tuesday 17th May and will run for two hours per evening for five consecutive Tuesdays, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM at UYCH Mt Evelyn (hopping the June monthly meeting), finishing on 21st June. Registration with Marlene on mjerlitschka@iprimus.com.au



Saturday 28th May monthly Workshop, 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM at UYCH Mt Evelyn.



Our monthly meeting on 14th June will be our highly regarded "**Team Challenge Cup**"! A night of fun and great learning - **NOT TO BE MISSED!** Display Table: "**Informal Upright & Members Choice**". NO Overview/Review Session!



Saturday 25th June monthly Workshop, 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM at UYCH Mt Evelyn.



Other Events



The **Australian Plants Society Yarra Yarra** is holding a huge "**Autumn Plant Sale**" again at Cnr Brougham & Main Rd, Eltham, on Sunday 1st May from 10:00AM - 3:00PM. Entry is **FREE!** Check out their website www.apsyarrayarra.org.au



AABC 29th Australian National Bonsai Convention, Friday 20th - Monday 23rd May 2016, at the Wrest Point Convention Centre, Hobart, Tasmania. Check out the website <http://www.bonsai-southern-tasmania.org.au/convention.php>



Bonsai Society Victoria is holding its **Annual Sale Day** on **Saturday 28th May**, 9:30AM - 11:30AM at the East Kew Uniting Church Hall, 142 Normanby Rd. Entry \$2.00



Satsuki Interest Group Meeting on Saturday 4th June, 1:30PM - 4:30PM, at "Bonsai Art" Nursery, 236 Old Dandenong Road, Heatherton.



Taiga Urushibata, renowned International Bonsai Artist and Demonstrator from Japan will be the guest of the Bonsai Society of Victoria from Saturday 25th June until Thursday 30th June. He will be presenting a series of workshops/demonstrations. Further information and session times can be obtained from the website www.bonsaisocietyvictoria.com or from Quentin Valentine on 0411 137 613



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