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Proud sponsor of the Yarra Valley Bonsai Society

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The YVBS meets on the **second Tuesday** of each month now at 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 May & June 2016

The May meeting featured Victor B speaking and demonstrating on Literati or Bunjin style of bonsai. This is an artistic style, a fusion of elegance and beauty. First developed by the Chinese cultural elite over 2000 years ago, their contemplative activities of thinking, poetry, artistry and writing was transferred into their bonsai trees. Their designs captured the elements of nature in a simplified and spiritual structure.



Above - Victor B speaks on Literati style at the May meeting.
Below - one of the teams in the June Team Challenge.

The basic literati form is three dimensional and asymmetrical, with lots of movement in the trunkline in

all planes. The trees are tall and elegant with an aged trunk and textured bark. The pot is simple and plain so as not to distract the eye from the tree, and of a size which reflects the foliage mass. It is not necessary to have a prominent nebari, but it may be so if it does not overpower the trunk.

The branch structure is high on the trunk, very simplified and few in number, usually short. Foliage is very sparse, just enough to support the health of the tree.

Suitable trees for literati style include pines, junipers, cedars, Chinese elm, zelkova, yew, chamaecyparis, casuarinas, and leptospermum laevigatum.

The June meeting was our annual Team Challenge, which involves teams of members being given a nursery-stock tree which they endeavour to transform into a bonsai within the time constraints of the night, usually about 90 minutes. Five teams comprising 3 to 5 members each worked on juniper stock provided by Tien of Bonsai Sensation, under the guidance of more experienced members



Victor B, Ron S, Davor T, Howard W, and Tien himself.

Calendar Dates:

- 12th July (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:30pm. UYCH.
- 23rd July & 24th July (Saturday & Sunday) BFA and Bendigo Bonsai Club. "Bonsai Lakeside 2016." Bendigo.
- 30th July (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 2:00pm. UYCH.
- 9th August (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:30pm. UYCH.
- 13th and 14th August (Saturday & Sunday) Waverley Bonsai Group Annual Show. 10:00am to 4:00pm. Mt Waverley Community Centre.
- 16th August (Tuesday) YVBS Intermediate Tutored Workshops commence. 7:00pm to 9:00pm. UYCH.
- 27th August (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 2:00pm. UYCH.
- 3rd September (Saturday) Satsuki Interest Group Meeting. 1:30 to 4:30pm. Bonsai Art Nursery, Heatherton.

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

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Highlights from May & June - Cont. From Page 1

All teams worked furiously to finish within the given time, with many hands on their tree at once in clipping, wiring and shaping.

At the end of the night, all members voted for the best tree, which gives those members bragging rights for the rest of the year. All teams produced exceptional creations, with all five trees being purchased by a team member and given a new home.



Above - All 5 teams hard at work at the June Team Challenge.

Remaining photos - the five finished trees at the end of the night.



Bonsai Training

The Novice Training Course with Craig W for this year has just been successfully completed, and we are confident that the 6 attendees found it of great value and learned a lot. Most members of our club have completed the course in the past as one of the first stages on their Bonsai journey.

It is planned to again run this year the Intermediate Tutored Workshops with Craig, commencing Tuesday 16th August at UYCH and running for 5 consecutive weeks, skipping our normal meeting night in September. The cost is still \$100 in total for the 5 sessions.

Slots are still available - contact Marlene or Lindsay at info@yarravalleybonsai.org.au to book your place. Payment can be made on the first night or by EFT to the club account.



Above - Craig W assists Adam at last year's Tutored Workshops



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

Marian W was born in Melbourne while Howard W is a "10 pound pom" from the U.K. They have lived in all three east coast capitals and have recently settled in Warragul. They have two married sons and one new grandson, all living interstate, involving lots of travelling.

They have recently retired, prior to that Marian managed their Murray Grey Beef Cattle Stud in Drouin and Howard was a Management Consultant to pay for the cows.

After buying Marian a bonsai birthday present they got the bug in 1982 taking lessons with Lindsay Bebb in Brisbane, and joined the Bonsai Soc of Qld in 1982. Over the years they have taken classes and workshopped with Yuji Yoshimura, Peter Adams, Khan Komai, the Koreshoffs, David Rich and others.

Currently they are rebuilding their collection, so have only a handful of trees that are worth benching this year, while others hopefully will be ready in three to five years' time. Marian's favourites are figs and azaleas, Howard's are pines, maples and elms. Their aim is to develop a collection of around 30 quality trees.

Apart from Bonsai, Howard likes to wet a fishing line now and then, and Marian is a very keen reader.



Ask Mr. Miyagi.....



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

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 place into a shaded and wind protected area to recover for 3-4 weeks before slowly reintroducing it back to your garden.

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

End-Of-Month Saturday Workshop

The regular last Saturday of the month workshops are an informal workshop and social gathering where members and guests can work on their trees, seek advice and assistance if required, chat over a cup of coffee, or just watch and learn from other members. There is always something happening and some interesting trees brought in. Drop in and check it out or participate - 2:00 to 4:30 pm.

Right - Dean seeks expert advice on his pine tree at the May Saturday workshop.



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



Root Aphids

This article is summarized from a more complete article by Marcela Ferreira of the Vic. Native Bonsai Club, with permission.

Root aphids (Phylloxera) — aphids that stay at or above the soil line — are an escalating problem, especially among indoor growers, and spreading through parts of the country where they haven't been seen before. They're hard to spot and unlike small colonies of [green and other aphids](#) found on stems and leaves, root aphids are more likely to get out of control. They can multiply quickly, unseen, and sap enough vigour from your plants to kill them.

Because they're small — about the size of a mite — and often coloured to blend with roots and soil, Phylloxera is hard to spot. Often, growers will see the white, waxy material that the aphids secrete, a chalkier type of the honeydew secreted by other aphids. Their bodies are more pear-shaped than oval as are [mealybugs](#). They're about the same size or slightly smaller than stem-and-leaf aphids with shorter legs and antennae. They come in a variety of colours, including pink, but are mostly white and brown.

Because of their size and below-soil habitat they can go unnoticed, even through one or more grow cycles. Root aphid damage is often mistaken for other problems, especially nutrient deficiencies. In outdoor gardens, root aphids may be accompanied by ants. Once established in soil, root aphids are difficult to completely remove.

Damage from root aphids is usually visible in a lack of vigour from plants. Withered, curled, and yellow leaves, similar to signs of nutrient deficiencies, appear and plants fail to reach the size of uninfested plants. Fruits and blossoms on aphid infested plants will be small, stunted, and generally less desirable as nutrition is siphoned away from them.

The most important thing is to know your trees and picking up changes in the leaves which are the tell tale signs something is wrong. The most effective treatment I have found is to use Hortico Systemic Insect Killer Imidacloprid concentrate in a 'bath' solution and then re applied two weeks later, with a monthly follow up where possible. Confidor has the same active constituent but I have not had the same results when using Confidor. Other Imidacloprid-based products are also available and could be tried.

In summary, I have found these critters in mostly my Melaleuca's and Callistemon's, but have found it in my exotics as well. It has been present in Plums, Crab apple, Pyracantha's, Elms, Radiata Pine, Italian Alder, Maples, Figs.



Above - infested root ball. Below - clearly visible within the root ball.



Carving Workshop

Michael Simonetto is a valued member and contributor to our club, and has previously imparted his expertise on grafting and various other aspects of the bonsai art and techniques. In May, he conducted a workshop on carving and the use of deadwood in jins and shari. The workshop was limited to 8 participants to best utilise Michael's expertise, but other members gained knowledge through attending as observers.

Trees of all sizes were presented, and tools used ranged from hand tools through Dremels and heavy angle grinder attachments.

All members greatly benefited from Michael's expertise in design of deadwood features and learned various carving techniques.

*Right - Michael S gets serious with the heavy machinery on Julie's tree!
Howard in the background is much more delicate in carving his olive tree.*



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: *Cotoneaster*

General information: *Cotoneaster* is a genus of flowering plants in the Rosaceae family and depending on the definition, of up to 300 species. It's native to temperate Asia, Europe and North Africa, with a strong concentration of diversity in the genus in the mountains of southwestern China and the Himalayas. They are related to hawthorns (*Crataegus*), photinias (*Photinia*), rowans (*Sorbus*) and firethorns (*Pyracantha*) but without thorns.

There're many varieties, but the *Cotoneaster horizontalis* is the most popular species for bonsai. It's cultivated for its flat, symmetrical sprays of glossy green deciduous or semi deciduous leaves (depending on season and location) and masses of bright red berries from autumn through to winter. Its flowers appear in summer, and can range from pink to white.

Position: Full sun to partial shade in summer - airy for best growth, not to be exposed to temperatures below -5°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 - they don't like wet feed!



Feeding: Fertilize every two weeks with high nitrogen in spring, balanced feed in summer and low nitrogen in autumn. They don't respond too well to heavy fertilising!

Repotting: Annually in early spring in free draining mix. Up to one third of roots can be removed - do not bare-root!

Pruning: *Cotoneaster* responds well to heavy pruning and will bud back on old wood. It constantly generates suckers, which is o.k. if clump style is intended - otherwise remove promptly to get trunk development! For best result grow in the ground - very slow growing in pot. Cut new shoots to one or two leaves during growing season!

Wiring: Wire only when needed in late winter or early spring before bud breaking - it takes well to wiring, but watch the bark!

Propagation: From seed collected in autumn and sown in early spring, air layer in spring. Root and softwood cuttings in summer, but also from suckers by division.

Pests and diseases: Aphids, spider mites, lacebugs and scales. Leaf blight, crown-gall and fireblight.

Styles: Cascade, semi-cascade, slanting, clump, multi-trunked,

exposed root and root-over-rock. Perfect for Shohin and Mame!

Some species suitable for bonsai:

***Cotoneaster horizontalis* /Rockspray *Cotoneaster*,** spreading deciduous shrub with herringbone pattern branches. Rounded to elliptic, glossy dark green leaves turning red in autumn. Pink-tinged white flowers in late-spring in pairs.

***Cotoneaster microphylla* (*C. integrifolius*),** stiffly branched, compact evergreen shrub with ovate dark green leaves and solitary white flowers in summer followed by red/pink fruit.

***Cotoneaster congesta* (*congestus*),** Very small Pyrenees cotoneaster with dull bluish-green leaves- an evergreen shrub with white flowers and red fruit - very good for mame,



Photo courtesy of S & S Bonsai
www.bonsaitoolchest.com

Orient Bonsai Nursery



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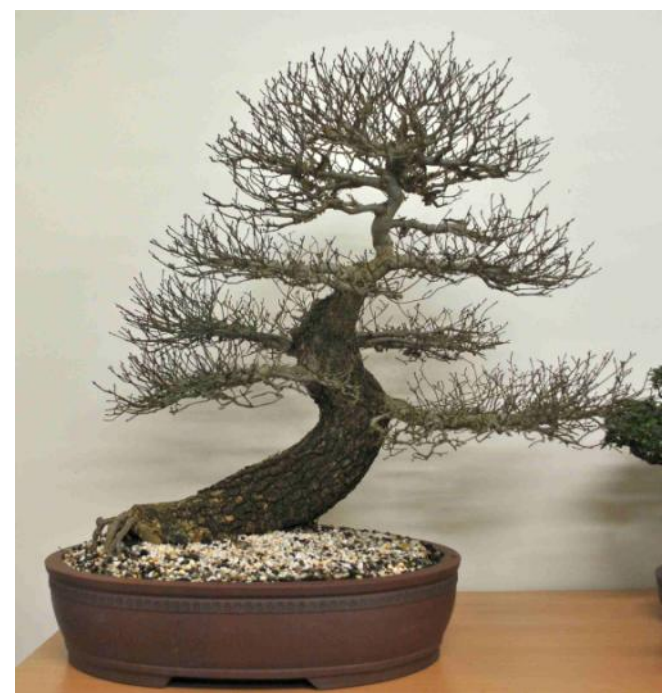
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On The Display Table



A selection of trees on the Display Table at the May and June meetings - including David's "Pop" Bonsai in the last picture.



BONSAI ART NURSERY

New Trading Hours

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

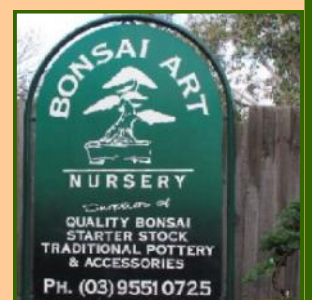
Sat, Sun - 10:00am to 4:00pm

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: July - August

Most species that are used for bonsai are hardy (able to withstand freezing) however, when grown in containers they do not have the ability to bury their roots deep into the ground, which insulates them from the cold. The Melbourne climate rarely reaches zero (freezing) or sub zero temperatures but protecting your trees from the winter elements may still be necessary. Be wary of extremely wet weather as having your trees saturated for extended amounts of time may lead to problems through rotting of the roots, which is invariably fatal!

Having the ability to inspect the detailed branch structure of your deciduous trees in winter provides an excellent opportunity to consider restyling your trees. Here are a few tips to get you through the winter.

- Monitor the weather and protect your bonsais from excess rain, wind and cold. Find the most protected area in your yard. Place them undercover if necessary.
- Keep your trees as well drained as possible. Place bricks or blocks of wood under your bonsais to ensure water is escaping the pot and air is circulating around and under your trees
- Carefully inspect each tree and make any changes that will improve your bonsai. Remember the busy potting season is not far away so having your wiring and pruning complete before this time will take the pressure off.
- Avoid the temptation to repot too early. Wait until the buds start to swell before attempting this procedure.
- Prepare your potting medium and place in a dry area. Organize any other items needed for potting (root picks, mesh, scoops etc.)
- Consider what pot you will use for each of your trees. Place them next to the bonsais that they will be paired with.

It is difficult to predict the changing of the seasons. Trying to schedule with the use of a calendar may lead to problems. Watch your trees carefully and let them guide you.

Kudos, Accolades and Thanks

- Marcela Ferreira and the Vic. Native Bonsai Club for permission to reproduce her article on root aphids.
- Michael Simonetto for conducting the Carving Workshop for club members.
- Tien of Bonsai Sensation for providing the Team Challenge trees, for delivering them to the meeting, and for participating in the Challenge as a team leader.

Orient Bonsai Nursery



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Please note that Orient Bonsai is currently undergoing redevelopment. It is suggested that patrons call the nursery before visiting.
Tel: 9469 5026



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
July & August 2016*



Our monthly meeting on 12th July will be a **Workshop Night & Swap and Sale** with "YVBS own Gurus"! Overview/Review Session on "**Pot Selection**" by Lindsay H. Display Table: "**Conifers Various Styles & Members Choice**".



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



Our monthly meeting on 9th August will be a Presentation/Demo on "**Scotts Pine**" by Michael Simonetto! **NOT TO BE MISSED!** Display Table: "**Nebari & Members Choice**". NO Overview/Review Session!



Our "**Tutorial Workshops**" with Craig Wilson will commence on Tuesday 16th August and will run for two hours per evening for five consecutive Tuesdays, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM at UYCH Mt Evelyn (hopping the September monthly meeting), finishing on 20th September. Registration with Marlene on mjerlitschka@iprimus.com.au or at meeting nights.



Saturday 27th August monthly Workshop, 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM at UYCH Mt Evelyn.



Other Events



Bonsai Federation of Australia Sth Inc. and Bendigo Bonsai Club Inc. holding a "**BONSAI LAKESIDE 2016**" weekend on Saturday July 23rd & Sunday 24th July 2016. At Bendigo Rowing Club Rooms, on Lake Weeroona, Weeroona Ave, Bendigo. A "**GALA FESTIVAL**" featuring **TONY BEBB, JOE MORGAN-PAYLER, STEVE JARROLD & DON DE LUCA**. Designed for a fun, informal and relaxing weekend of Bonsai activities to suit ALL enthusiasts at ALL levels, come and enjoy a combination of activities not seen before in Victoria. Novices to experienced people will all be catered for with the wonderful combination of tutors that have been made available! For more details regarding booking and full Program see: <http://www.bendigobonsaclub.org.au/event/bonsai-lakeside-2016/> !!!



The **Waverley Bonsai Group** is holding its **Annual Show 13th & 14th August** from 10:00AM - 4:00PM at the Mount Waverley Community Centre, Corner of Stephenson Rd & Miller Cres, Mt Waverley. Adults: \$5.00, Children under 16yrs free. Inquiries for more details 0431 773 446 or www.waverleybonsaigroup.org.



Satsuki Interest Group Meeting on Saturday 3rd September, 1:30PM - 4:30PM, at "Bonsai Art" Nursery, 236 Old Dan-denong Road, Heatherton.



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