



Proud to sponsor the Yarra
Valley Bonsai Society

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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 Cire Services
(Formerly Upper Yarra Com-
munity House or Morrison
House)**

**Old Hereford Road,
Mount Evelyn**

Meetings begin at 7:30pm.



118 B8

**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 2017

The May meeting started with a presentation from Victor B and Alan H (David R was a late withdrawal due to illness) on their recent trip to Japan. Victor presented a slideshow of the bonsai and garden highlights, while Alan displayed some of the treasures that he had picked up there. As they were unable to bring back any trees, they stocked up on pots and other items - excess weight then became a problem to be overcome!



Above - Team Alan hard at work at the Team Challenge

The presentations were followed by the annual Team Challenge styling contest. Four teams were formed under the leadership of Tien L, Alan H, Victor B, and Howard W, and each was given a juniper - the challenge was to find the tree within and develop it into the best bonsai that they could within the very tight time limit of around 75 minutes.

Much furious activity resulted - pruning, wiring, jinning with all



hands on the tree. Four different interpretations resulted and all were of a very high standard. Most of the trees were subsequently purchased by team members to take home and add to their personal collections.

The June meeting featured special guest presenter Scott Martin from Bonsai Matsu. Scott started by giving a very entertaining

Below left - The finished trees ready for members' voting.

Calendar Dates:

- 1st July (Saturday) BSV Sale Day. 9:30 - 11:30am. East Kew
- 11th July (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:30pm. Cire.
- 29th July (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 1:00pm. Cire.
- 8th August (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:30pm. Cire.
- 12th & 13th August (Saturday & Sunday) Waverley Bonsai Group Annual Show. 10am - 4pm. Mt Waverley.
- 19th August (Saturday) Vic Native Bonsai Club Sale Day. 9:30am - 12:00pm. Coburg.
- 22nd August (Tuesday) YVBS Tutored Workshops commence. 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Cire.
- 26th August (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 1:00pm. Cire.

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

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Highlights from May & June - Cont. From Page 1

talk with associated slideshow on what it is like to undergo apprentice-level bonsai training in Japan, which Scott has undertaken on a number of occasions spread over quite a few years, at various venues.

Scott says that Japan is one of his favourite places, despite the position of apprentice being the lowest of the low. He appreciates the meticulous level of detail that the Japanese apply to everything they do, and especially their bonsai. During his bonsai training he was given one task to learn at a time - only when satisfactory achievement was demonstrated could he move on to the next lesson.

Scott then moved on to share his thoughts on wiring techniques, which he believes are either good or bad, with nothing in between.

Copper wire is expensive and hard to get, but is much better at holding. It is also not re-usable, as the application of the wire to the tree neutralizes the softening effect of the initial annealing process, and the wire becomes too hard to re-apply. Copper wire is good for pines and other conifers. Aluminium wire is easier to apply, cheaper and can be reused.

Always wire from the bottom branches, working up to the top. This is because we are generally trying to lower branches, so lowering the upper branches first would interfere with working on the branches below them.

What thickness wire is need to hold a branch? A simple test involves pushing a length of around 10cm of wire against the branch to be bent at the position of the desired bend. If the branch moves, then the wire is of the correct size. If the wire bends instead, try a heavier wire.

45 degree wiring looks nice, but it is not always optimal. A longer pitch can be stronger and suits a wavy bend structure. Reduce the pitch if many sharper bends are required. Always ensure that wire is on the outside of the applied bend, which will tend to protect the branch from cracking.

Members greatly appreciated Scott's easy manner and clear explanations.



Above - Scott also spoke about his fertilizing regime, which concentrates on heavy feeding in spring and autumn.

Bonsai Training Courses

The bonsai Novice Course is currently underway, after suffering a temporary suspension as instructor Craig W returned to New Zealand for a family bereavement. The course comprises 5 two hour sessions run over 5 weeks, and is a combination of lecture and hands-on work. A comprehensive set of course notes provides an ongoing reference manual. Most members of the club have attended the course sometime over their bonsai journey.

The club also stages Intermediate Tutored Workshops, over 5 consecutive Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00pm, skipping only the scheduled club meeting night and again under the tutelage of Craig W. This year, the Tutored Workshops are slated to commence on Tuesday 22nd August, subject to minimum enrolment numbers. The workshops do not involve formal lectures, but provide an active learning environment as students listen to Craig provides guidance on each student's tree.

The Tutored Workshops are highly recommended, and many club members, even the more experienced ones, have attended on multiple occasions. To gain the most benefit, attendees should allocate at least two trees per session to work on.

The total cost is \$100, very reasonable on a per hour basis. Contact Marlene mjerlitschka@iprimus.com.au to book your place,



Above - the first night of the Novice Course



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

Jill S lives in Ringwood North and describes herself as an “empty nester” who is semi-retired.

Jill has no horticultural background beyond an enjoyment of backyard gardening, but her interest in bonsai was aroused when she was given a bonsai tree this year. She has joined our club to learn the necessary techniques to maintain the tree, and above all, to keep it alive! After being inspired by club meetings and workshops, she is keen to expand her collection and learn more about our art.

Looking to the future, she has no fixed goals for her bonsai future, but just hopes that she will still be able to enjoy the craft.

Jill's other interests include travel, the National Gallery of Victoria, and fishing. She is also a keen Rock & Roll and ballroom dancer.



Ask Mr. Miyagi.....



Q. Dear Mr. Miyagi: I think I get the basics for winter watering and feeding of non-natives in the winter here in this part of Victoria: keep the soil moist but not soaking and cease the usual feeding regimen for dormant deciduous trees. However, I feel like I'm cultivating a lot of lichens, moss, and weeds. Any tips?

A: I think you have the basics. As far as “secondary flora” in your pots, you need to distinguish between desirable and undesirable.

Certain mosses enhance the presentation and we want to foster this— winter is the best time for this and it certainly is easier than cutting/pasting moss from another source. However, even with the ‘good’ moss, care must be taken to not have such a thick carpet develop that water and food will insufficiently penetrate to the soil. Just like with your lawn, too much moss build up can be an indication that your soil is too compact; try to aerate it a bit with just a bit of wire or a nail. As far as lichens and weeds,

one tip is to either remove with tweezers (making sure you get all the tendrils of roots) or simply drip on a few drops of brown vinegar. This works especially well with liverwort and starweed. Do NOT even think of using a heavy weedicide such as ‘Roundup’ in your potted plants. You may need a couple of applications of the vinegar to rid the pot thoroughly. And also this process requires some direct sunlight to work properly. Drops of vinegar applied to a pot in full shade for the whole day will have only a minimal eradication effect.

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

Committee Nominations

The club's Annual General Meeting takes place in September each year, at which time a new Committee of Management is elected. The Committee is responsible for every part of running your club's activities, and to keep the club fresh, active and rejuvenated, new blood with their corresponding different perspective on everything is a key part of our ongoing success.

If you feel that you can contribute, please contact any Committee member and put yourself forward. The Committee generally meets around 4 times per year on a Saturday following the end-of-month workshops, and the work requirements outside of these meetings can be tailored to your available time and skills.

NOTE - it is NOT necessary for you to be a bonsai expert to join the Committee! In fact, we welcome the views of newcomers to the art as bringing a different perspective to our planning.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE ON 1ST July

\$30 for single, \$40 for families. Please pay at any club function, by cheque to PO Box 345, Mt Evelyn 3796, or by direct deposit BSB 633-000, Account No. 134721257 including your name in the reference field.



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



Carving Workshop

A special Carving Workshop was held on Saturday 13th May under the direction of Michael Simonetto, following the success and popularity of the similar workshop held last year.

Carving on the trunks and branches of our bonsai can be very effective in adding the look of age to a tree, or in turning a perceived defect into an attractive feature. The carving can be done using hand tools, light rotary tools like Dremels, or heavy duty die grinders for those extra tough jobs!

All methods were in use at the Workshop, and the sawdust was flying around the room!

Most participants and observers would surely agree that the results at the end of the day represented a marked improvement on the appearance of all trees.

Above - Val G wears personal protective equipment as she lets rip with the die grinder on her yamadori kunzea.

Below - a hive of activity as members worked on their carving, or just sought Michael's advice on future carving possibilities.



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. Note the new time of 1:00pm to 4:30pm, which has been introduced in response to member requests for extra time. Members are free to drop in for all of this time, or part of it depending on time commitments or the amount of work you would like to do.

As a new feature, we are also planning on introducing an optional Bonsai Basics tutorial at the start of each workshop, where an experienced member will provide instruction on one of the elements of our craft. The topic for the June Saturday Workshop will be "The 5 Basic Styles", with "Finding the Bonsai in the Tree" scheduled for the July workshop.

Many present club members were first introduced to the Club through dropping in to a Saturday Workshop, and we hope that this continues into the future.



Above - Members at work at the May Saturday Workshop



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: *Maidenhair Tree - Ginkgo biloba*

General: According to *Wikipedia* the *Ginkgo biloba* is native to China and the only living species in the division Ginkgophyta, all others being extinct. It is found in fossils dating back 270 million years. The *Ginkgo biloba* has been widely cultivated all over the globe and is a deciduous ornamental tree. It was thought to be a conifer, but is now classed by itself. The green fan shaped summer leaves turn to a lovely yellow in autumn.

The tree grows 25 - 35 meters tall, but in China some have grown over 50 meters. They're often used as avenue trees, which are very imposing during summer with their green leaves and in autumn with their golden yellow leaves.

Ginkgos as bonsai are sadly highly underrated and not too common! It is actually a very hardy and quite fascinating tree and should be in more bonsai collections. We enjoy three different varieties in our collection.

Lighting & Temperature: Place in full sun to part shade, but just morning sun is o.k. too - protect from frost while young!

Watering: Daily if in full sun, but less in winter - they don't like having their roots wet for too long and prefer a well-draining soil.

Feeding: Once every two weeks through spring and autumn! Best to use a slow or controlled release type fertilizer like Osmocote at the drip line. You can use liquid fertilizer like Charlie Carp throughout the seasons.

Repotting: Early spring before bud break! Should be done annually for young trees, trees over ten years every 2 - 5 years in free draining mix. Only root prune lightly - they don't like heavy root reduction!

Propagation: Semi-ripe cuttings in summer, hardwood cuttings in autumn or winter, taken from the current year's growth. Air-layering in spring after the first flush of growth has hardened off.

Pruning: New shoots should be pruned back to 2-3 buds while young in the growing season. Scars will not heal easily, avoid large cuts! Shoots grow in clusters of leaves (see picture) - reduce the cluster to 2-3 leaves with the topmost leaf on the outside. Another good time to prune is autumn and early winter - it's easier to improve the shape. Leave short stubs and trim them off after they dried out!

Wiring: On young branches only lightly in spring and autumn - protect the delicate bark!

Pests and diseases: The *Ginkgo* is virtually pest-free and tolerates pollution well.

Styles: Informal upright, single or multiple trunks, windswept and group plantings.

Some species variations suitable for bonsai:

Ginkgo biloba 'Aurea' - yellow leaves.

Ginkgo biloba 'Chichi Icho' - a very desirable cultivar, has smaller leaves and a textured trunk. Some grow very slowly (up to 50 - 100 years) aerial roots looking like breasts.

Ginkgo biloba 'Fastigiata' - forms a very narrow pyramid.

Ginkgo biloba 'Laciniata' - deeply divided leaves.

Ginkgo biloba 'Pendula' - rounded, "weeping" habit.

Ginkgo biloba 'Horizontalis' - branches grow in 'horizontal' direction. Not very common!

Ginkgo biloba 'Variegata' - yellow and green variegated leaves.

Ginkgo biloba 'Mariken' - very dense with ruffled leaves.

Ginkgo biloba 'Tremonia' - small upright growing tree with a very attractive silhouette.



30th AABC National Convention - Brisbane

The Bonsai Society of Qld Inc. put on a great event which was educational and also fun in a great location opposite the City Botanic Gardens!

The International headliner was Belgium born Marc Noelanders who is one of the leading non-Japanese bonsai artists in the world today. In the 1980's, Marc studied in Japan under Master Kimura, and was mentored by other Japanese masters including John Naka and Saburo Kato.

He's the founder of the "Noelanders Trophy", the premier bonsai exhibition in Europe which is now in its 17th year attracting top quality bonsai from around the world. Marc teaches the art of bonsai throughout Europe, Russia, India, Canada, and the USA. As a teacher and demonstrator he has a very informative style of presentation while applying high quality technical and artistic solutions incorporating drawings, to raw bonsai material within the short time frame of a demo. It was a privilege to watch him work - learning and being entertained at the same time.

There were other great local demonstrators there - including the "Bebbs", Lindsay, Glenis and Tony which did a "Family Demonstration" creating a stunning Group planting.

Of great interest and fun was the "Pottery Demo" by Steve Cullum, also called the "Happy Potter" who started pottery in 2010 following the Japanese spirit of authenticity and craftsmanship.

Needless to say that the Exhibition showcased a selection of outstanding trees in all shapes/styles and sizes. A well thought through partner program rounded it all up nicely.



Left - Marc Noelanders starting one of his demonstrations....and the finished product, a unique weeping style tree.



Left - Steve Cullum, the "Happy Potter", with his unique demonstration of making a pot - on stage!



Left - Lindsay and Tony Bebb with their stunning slab forest planting demonstration - ending with a 4-man lift bonsai.

Below - a selection of trees from the exhibition area.



On The Display Table



A selection of trees on the Display Table at the May and June meetings.

BONSAI ART NURSERY

New Trading Hours

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

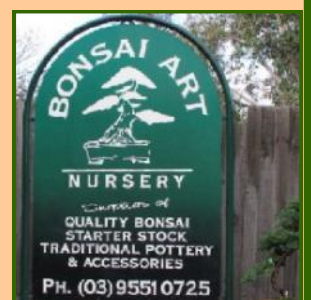
Sat, Sun - 10:00am to 4:00pm

Closed Wednesday

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

www.bonsaiart.com.au

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

- Tien L from Bonsai Sensation for supplying the high-quality trees for the Team Challenge, and for leading one of the groups.
- Michael S for running the popular Carving Workshop in May
- Scott Martin from Bonsai Matsu for his entertaining presentation at the June meeting.
- Club member Tracey F from Murrumbung Pottery for providing a pot for YVBS to donate to the AABC Convention raffle.



BONSAI SENSATION NURSERY

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Landline: (03) 8794 9668

Email: bonsaisensation@hotmail.com

SPECIAL WINTER SALE! - Only to Club Members

10% off all bonsai, trees, pots and tools - just show YVBS membership card
Sale ends 31st July 2017



ヤラ谷間盆栽会

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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
July & August 2017*



Our monthly meeting on 11th July will start with a **Bonsai Basics Review** on "How to select nursery stock for future Bonsai" by our Howard W. Followed by a "Workshop & Swap and Sale Night" with our own Gurus! Display Table: "Conifers various styles & Members Choice".



Our "Novice Course" with Craig Wilson will be finishing on 18th July. See Marlene re individual sessions on 4th & 18th July at \$20.00 each 2 hour session or contact her on mjerlitschka@iprimus.com.au



Our monthly workshop will be on Saturday 29th July, 1:00PM - 4:30PM at Cire Services - former UYCH.



Our monthly meeting on 8th August will be a **Presentation/Demo incl. "Progress on last year's Deciduous Trees"** by Tien Liao - not to be missed! There will be **NO Bonsai Basics Review!** Display Table: "Nebari & Members' Choice".



Our "Tutorial Workshops" with Craig Wilson will commence on Tuesday 22nd August and will run for two hours per evening for five consecutive Tuesdays, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM at Cire Services - former UYCH, Mt Evelyn (hopping the September monthly meeting), finishing on 26th September. Registration with Marlene on mjerlitschka@iprimus.com.au or at meeting nights. Costs: \$100.00 for five sessions - subject to number of participants!



Our monthly workshop will be on Saturday 26th August, 1:00PM - 4:30PM at Cire Services - former UYCH.



Other Events



BSV annual SALE DAY on Saturday 1st July 2017, 9:30 AM - 11:30AM at the East Kew Uniting Church Hall, 142 Normanby Rd., East Kew. Entry \$2.00



WBG annual Bonsai Show, Saturday 12th August 2017, 10:00AM - 4:40PM & Sunday 13th August 2017, 10:00AM - 4:00PM, at Mount Waverley Community Centre, Stephensons Road & Miller Crescent, Mount Waverley. Admission: Adults \$5, children under 16 free!



Victorian Native Bonsai Club Sale Day, Saturday 19th August 2017, 9:30AM - 12:00PM, \$2.00 entry. Venue: Harry Atkinson Centre, Lake Grove, Coburg Lake Reserve, Coburg.
www.vicnativebonsai.com.au



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