



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



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



Highlights from November & December 2017

The November meeting featured special guest presenter Steve Jarrold from BSV who spoke and demonstrated on Olives. His demonstration centred on an olive that he had dug in South Australia a few years back, and presented a real challenge as a styling exercise!

Steve started by saying that olives are really easy to collect from the wild. Simply cut off all the foliage and roots, without worrying about retaining any soil. Take it home, and then run a chain saw or other saw through the lignotuber at the desired planting angle, and put it into a pot. Treat it as a very large cutting!

Olives can be dug from the wild almost any time of the year, although they are a bit more temperamental when in pot culture - repot in August, September and maybe October.

When styling the tree, cut back well above the required leader, as the trunk or branch will dry out and die back. When bending branches, keep in mind that olives do not fracture - they just break! They will back bud on old wood, but of course not entirely where you want them to! Also, branches are prone to separating at the junction when bent, so protect against this by providing wiring support at the junction.

Olives are routinely defoliated in Europe, however Steve believes that this is probably not optimum treatment in Australia, as we do not have Europe's colder climate.

Steve performed an interesting styling on his tree, and certainly improved its appearance by the end of the night. We look forward to seeing its progress in a year or two.

The December meeting was the Christmas breakup, and the plates of food and drink brought by members were suitably enjoyed on a very pleasant night.



Above - Steve Jarrold explains his styling choices on his demonstration olive..

Calendar Dates:

- 9th January (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:30pm. Cire.
- 27th January (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 1:00pm. Cire.
- 3rd February (Saturday) YVBS Nursery Crawl "Deep South". Meet 10am at Bonsai Sensation.
- 13th February (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:30pm. Cire.
- 17th February (Saturday) Satsuki Bonsai Interest Group meeting. 1:30pm Bonsai Art Nursery, Heatherton.
- 24th February (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 1:00pm. Cire.

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

Highlights from November & December - Cont. From Page 1

The meeting also featured a "Show and Tell" session, where members brought along trees and gave a brief address on the history of the tree and where they intend taking it into the future. Eight members in total presented their trees:

Mark L displayed his maple forest / penjing landscape, and explained that he regularly cuts it back three times per season.

Lindsay showed his trident maple forest, which was a result of having an excess of trident seedlings a few years back, and a desire to experiment with a group planting.

Howard spoke on his quite large Seiju chinese elm, and indicated that he had only worked on it for 6 months - quite remarkable considering its development.

Howard also showed a pine in literati style and asked the members' opinion - a unanimous decision was to cut off the first branch!

Alan showed his Seiju elm, which he had cut back to branch stumps and then re-grew all of the branches.

Amanda displayed her bougainvillea, which she grew from a cutting and is flowering this year for the first time. She wants to keep it small, and the meeting suggested growing it as a broom style.

Marc showed his juniper in a combined pot and stand, which were greatly admired by our pot aficionados!

Nick R displayed his cotoneaster integerrimus, which was 5 years old and two years in training.



Above - "Show and Tell" at the December meeting.

Workshops at Craig's Place

The scheduled Intermediate Tutored Workshop course was cancelled this year due to insufficient enrollments, so instead a single workshop was arranged at Craig's nursery for a few interested participants.

These workshops are always great value and a great experience, with small numbers of participants and almost individual attention from Craig, one of Australia's premier bonsai artisans. A good opportunity to get some focused work done on your trees, with expert advice and assistance to boot!

We can organize these special workshops on request - contact Marlene if you are interested in participating in such a session at any time during 2018.

Right - David R working on his juniper at Craig's.



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

Nick R is single, living in Monbulk and working as a nursery hand at a Monbulk nursery. He has a Diploma in Conservation and Land Management and 6 years nursery experience.

He first became interested in bonsai around 13 years ago while studying Japanese at high school. He is largely self-taught through books and YouTube videos to this stage.

Nick currently has 30+ trees and his favourite species is Japanese maple. He considers that his best tree is an Atlas Cedar *cedrus atlantica*.

He hopes to continue his enjoyment of making and developing his bonsai trees into the future.

His other interests outside of bonsai includes basketball.



Ask Mr. Miyagi.....



Q. Mr Miyagi, I've been asked if I would like an old azalea from the house next door, would it be ok to work into a bonsai?

A. The short answer is yes; you can dig it up and use it to create a bonsai.

Many trees that have been in gardens make good bonsai material, some species are impossible to find in regular nurseries, and the ones that are, often are grafted or lack quality and character.

However if you make the decision to dig it up there are things you must consider like:
a) if the move will kill the tree, or if you have enough knowledge to keep the tree alive after its been transplanted.

b) Is it the right time of the year to remove it from the ground

c) The type and age of the tree – have you done your research (do they like to be moved?)

d) Based on the type of tree, how much of the existing root ball needs to remain to sustain its life.

e) Your preparation of the tree before the move.

These are just some of the items you must consider before undertaking the task. If you understand the species of tree and know what their tolerance levels are your transplant from garden to training pot will be successful. Once the tree is happy you must also ensure that the tree is left for a minimum of 12-24 months to recover from the move before work starts on training.

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

Proposed YVBS Show in 2018

The Committee is proposing to stage a Yarra Valley Bonsai Society Show in 2018, provided that certain conditions can be satisfied including obtaining a suitable venue at the right price, and if sufficient interest is indicated by club members in participating. Alan H has kindly volunteered to head up the organizing effort, in conjunction with the Committee and we hope with the support of all members as we move forward.

The Show is tentatively scheduled for sometime in June, making it a winter show which is somewhat unique in Australia and should lead to local interest and avoid clashes with activities at other clubs.

Trees at all levels of development by all members, from novice to expert, are welcome at the Show which should aim to display to the local public the types of activity and the resulting trees which our club members can produce. The minimum requirement for inclusion in the Show is that the tree is clean and well-presented.

A special workshop night is currently scheduled for our June meeting which will focus on preparing our trees for the Show, which will help all members but particularly those who are newer to the Club and have not participated in a Show before.

Our last Show was in 2014, so we are overdue for another! We encourage all members to get behind Alan and the committee and actively participate in what promises to be an exciting event in our 2018 calendar.



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



Satsuki Interest Group Show

The Satsuki Interest Group held what is fast-becoming an annual Satsuki Azalea Show on the weekend of 18th and 19th November at Bonsai Art Nursery in Heatherton. There was a stunning display of azaleas on show, as well as Satsuki styling demonstrations by Arthur Robinson, Chairman of the Satsuki Society of Australasia from Perth, an acknowledged expert on the species.

A number of YVBS members exhibited their Satsuki at the show, which was also well-supported by members from other clubs and the general public.

The best tree in show as judged by Arthur and associate Susie Nolan was won by Michael of Bonsai Art, and the most popular tree as voted by the public was won by our own member Margaret S.

Right - Margaret and David S proudly showing their award, with Arthur Robinson looking on.



Pests in our Plants

Steve Jarrold made a brief comment in passing during his November presentation about trouble with root aphids in some of his trees. This is a timely reminder about this problem, which seems to be more prevalent following our unusual weather conditions this year. Watch out for a loss in vigour in your trees, and particularly browning off of the foliage on some or even all branches - this could be a sign that you have unwanted pests attacking your trees. Spraying with a systemic pesticide such as Confidor is indicated, but if this doesn't fix the problem then dipping the tree in an Imidachlopid bath (Hortico Systemic Insect Killer) has been proven to be most effective, or alternatively sprinkle Imidachlopid granules (RichGro Bug Killa, available at Bunnings) on the soil surface and water in well. Repeat as necessary after 4-6 weeks if improvement is not apparent.

Kudos, Accolades and Thanks

- Thanks to Steve Jarrold for his informative presentation and demonstration on olives at the November meeting.
- Kudos to all members who brought a tree along to the December meeting for our group discussion - you made it a very memorable and popular night!

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.

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 November Saturday Workshop



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: *Satsuki Azalea - Rhododendron Indicum*

General Information: The azalea is a member of the genus *Rhododendron* and belongs to a huge and diverse family of shrubs that grow all over the world from Europe, North America and even Australia. It consists of over 1000 species, with the varieties Satsuki and Kurume commonly used for Bonsai, but also the garden varieties of *Indica* find their place on shelves.

Back to the Satsuki Azalea which is originated in Japan and is more dwarf than other hybrid groups. The name Satsuki (sats-key) in Japanese means "5th-month" in the old-time lunar calendar when the Satsuki flower, which is from late spring through to early summer. Satsuki have been bred since the 1600's and there are believed to be over 3000 varieties.

The most interesting feature of the Satsuki azalea is that it can produce flowers in multiple colors on the same plant. It carries unstable color genes, as a Satsuki ages the variation can increase and it's not uncommon to have white, red and pink at the same time. Different flower shapes can also be found on the same plant. In Japan, unexpected flower colors are prized as reminders of nature's unpredictability.

Lighting & Temperature: Place the Azalea at a bright spot, not in full afternoon sun and protect from hot winds. During wintertime, protect the tree from freezing temperatures, but do not bring indoors.

Watering: Water is the most important "fertilizer"! Use the general watering practice of giving it a good soak when the surface is dry. The roots can dry out easily, which is fatal to the tree. Note: The Azalea dislikes hard-water, use rain water if possible.

Feeding: Once every two or three weeks during its growth season using fertilizer for flowering plants or azalea specific fertilizer. If the tree flowers, stop feeding altogether. If the tree is repotted in spring, do not feed until autumn. Don't feed during the hottest month of the summer.

Pruning and wiring: The Azalea is one of the very few tree-species that are basally-dominant. Therefore, prune its base harder than the top to distribute growth evenly. Prune branches and new shoots in late summer, using a sealing compound to seal wounds. New flower buds will develop generally in February. Satsuki have a great ability to bud almost anywhere on old wood and can be cut back very hard. They also have two main flushes of growth, the first is before and the second is after flowering. Shoots should be reduced to two and the remaining shoots shortened to two sets of leaves.

Remove spent flowers as soon as they wilted, otherwise they will go into seed production! Great if that's what you're after. You need to reduce the number to the minimum you like to have and remove ALL the remaining flowers including the stalk, pistil and shell to reduce the stress on your tree! This allows for new growth to shoot!

Wiring may be done from spring through to autumn. Use special care when bending branches, as older branches are brittle. If in doubt use guide wire instead! Skipping watering the day before wiring will make the branches more flexible.

Propagation: Usually by cuttings to maintain hybrid characteristics. Take 5 to 10 cm cuttings after spring growth has hardened or use winter cuttings, which are stronger - but need special protection from frost.

Repotting: After flowering, every year for young trees, every 2-3 years for older trees. Azaleas like well drained soils with a pH of 4.5 to 6. Experienced growers recommend using a soil mix that contains no small particles at all, because of the dense growth of azalea roots. Different growers use different mixes, in Japan only Kanuma is used. A very small amount of charcoal is beneficial. Air is essential in the root ball or rot will set in. I guarantee it!

Cut a cone shape into the root ball, right up to the bottom of the trunk. The roots are thickest here and must be removed to prevent rot. Cut out pie-shaped wedges around the outside of the root ball so that the roots can grow into the gaps.

Pests and Diseases: Aphids, lacebugs, white fly, leaf miners, spider mites, scale, stem borers. Diseases include petal blight, leaf gall and root rot.

Styles: Upright and slanting styles, windswept, cascade, semi-cascade, literati, multi-trunk styles, group planting in medium to large sizes, on the rocks and in the rocks.

Pots: Usually deeper than most - deep pots drain better, glazed or unglazed, all shapes and sizes are acceptable with the exception for literati - it should be small and round.



On The Display Table



A selection of trees on the Display Table at the November and December meetings.

Note: the 5 trees immediately above are shohin/mame size trees! These trees are shown grouped in the top left picture.



BONSAI ART NURSERY

New Trading Hours

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

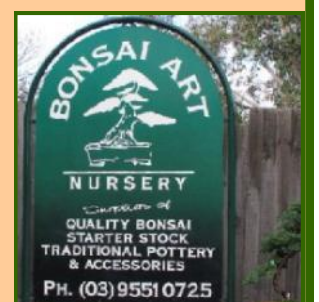
Sat, Sun - 10:00am to 4:00pm

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: January - February

Watering and Position should be the main focus during the summer months. It's a good time of year to be on the safe side when it comes to caring for your trees.

Watering

- Water evenly and thoroughly. This will encourage roots to grow at the bottom of the pot improving the health of the tree
- Water in the mornings. If this is not possible, water in the evenings but avoid wetting the foliage on species that are susceptible to mildew (Maples, Oaks, Crepe Myrtles). Note that on exceptionally hot days, some of your trees may need watering twice or even three times, to maintain optimum health.
- Bonsais that will require more water: Maples, Camellias, Azaleas, Liquidambers, Elms, Wisterias, Alders, Taxodiums, Beech, Hornbeams, Pyracanthas, Banksias, Melaleucas, other natives
- Bonsais that will require less water: Pines, Cedars, Corokias,
- It can be a good idea to separate your trees into categories based on their watering needs.

Position

- Morning sun is best. Avoid the afternoon sun in the summer. If you have to make a choice and put some trees in the afternoon sun, then most conifers and natives can handle these conditions the best.
- Consider the species and pot size when arranging your display. Take extra care when using small or shallow pots as they will dry out quickly.
- Species such as Beech, Hornbeam, Maples, Spruce will scorch if not protected by both the sun and the wind
- When looking for shade, avoid placing bonsais directly under garden trees. Pest and diseases can be passed to your bonsais.

Summer is a great time to work on your benches, watering systems, shade cloth and weed around your display. If you are going away for the holidays, put some serious thought into how your trees will be looked after. Many bonsai are lost over this time of year.



BONSAI SENSATION NURSERY

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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
January & February 2018*



Our monthly meeting on 9th January will start with a **Bonsai Basics Review** on **Pruning, Trimming & Pinching** with our Lindsay H followed by a **Workshop Night & Swap and Sale!** Display Table: **Figs any style & Members' Choice.**



Our monthly workshop will be on Saturday 27th January, 1:00PM - 4:30PM at Cire Services - former UYCH.



Our first Nursery Trip for the year "**DEEP SOUTH**" will take place on Saturday 3rd February. Bring Friends and Family along as well! We'll meet between 10:00AM and 10:30AM in the car park at: **Bonsai Sensation Nursery** (YVBS major sponsor, with 10% min discount), 253 Centre Rd, Narre Warren South - **Melway 110/E11**; Then we'll have a lunch break, which is BYO - with options in Pearcedale for Takeaway/Eat-in. We'll continue at approximately 1:00PM at **Pearcedale Garden Centre** (low prices + 10% discount), corner Middle Rd & Baxter - Tooradin Rd, Pearcedale - **Melway 140/F6**; finishing with **Plantmark Wholesale Nursery** - 1075A Western Port Hwy, Langwarrin - **Melway 132/G10**; You can join at any part of the trip!



Our monthly meeting on 13th February will be a **Workshop Night** on - not only - **Natives** with Craig Wilson & **Swap and Sale!** There will be **NO Bonsai Basics Review!** Display Table: **Natives any style & Members' Choice.**



Our monthly workshop will be on Saturday 24th February, 1:00PM - 4:30PM at Cire Services - former UYCH.



Other Events



Satsuki Interest Group Meeting on 17th February, 1:30PM - 4:30PM, at Bonsai Art Nursery, 236 Old Dandenong Road, Heatherton.



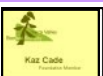
Advance notice of the AABC National Convention, "Bonsai Exposed", to be held in Melbourne this year from 20th to 23rd July at Mantra Bell City in Preston. Featured international artist is Born Bjorholm from USA, in conjunction with local artists Joe Morgan-Paylor, Hanh Tran, and our own Michael Simonetto. The National Conventions are great learning experiences, so members are encouraged to consider attending this one while it is Melbourne's turn - no travel and accommodation costs! Early Bird registrations of \$250 close on 1st January 2018, after which full fee registration is \$280. See a Committee member for further information, or visit www.bonsainorthwest.com.au.



There's no other information available at this point in time!

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