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Proud sponsor of the Yarra Valley Bonsai Society

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Sec: Lindsay H 0403 800 671

Treas: Julie H 0419 870 240

Marktg: Marlene J 0418 369 852

The YVBS meets on the **second Tuesday** of each month now at **Cire Services** (Formerly Upper Yarra Community House or Morrison House)

Old Hereford Road,
Mount Evelyn



Meetings begin at 7:30pm.

Saturday Workshops are 1-4:30pm 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 2018

The November meeting featured a Show-and-Tell session on Azaleas, capably led by Rudi J. Members brought in their azalea trees and talked about their development and progress, seeking comments from Rudi and the general membership on future directions.

Lindsay H talked about developing azalea trees from whips to first get the desired height, and then develop the branching - required because azaleas are basally rather than apically dominant like most trees.

Dean S showed the results on his well-developed Osakazuki azalea after recovering from a lace bug infestation - plenty of Confidor used!

Sue P showed her Kurume azalea with spent flower stalks still attached. Rudi advised her to remove all flowers, trim back, and then repot. Repotting following flowering is generally recommended, however they can be repotted at almost any time with appropriate aftercare.

Rudi showed an example of leaf gall, where an individual leaf both swells and curls up, caused by a fungal infection. Any infestations spotted should be immediately removed, discarded in the bin, and tools sterilized to prevent spreading.

Many other members also showed their trees, many of which were in flower making for a spectacular display.



Above - Rudi advising on Dean's tree at the November Meeting.

Below - The December meeting.



Calendar Dates:

- 8th January (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:30pm. Cire.
- 26th January (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 1:00pm. Cire.
- 2nd February (Saturday) Nursery Crawl - "Deep South". Starting 10am at Bonsai Sensation.
- 12th February (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:30pm. Cire.
- 16th February (Saturday) Satsuki Interest Group Meeting. 1:30pm at Bonsai Art Nursery.
- 23th 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 Nov & Dec - Cont. From Page 1

The December meeting featured another Show-and-Tell session on general tree species, combined with the festivities of our end-of-year Christmas breakup. It was great to see so many members in attendance, and so many members who brought in trees to discuss and proudly talk about their development progress and future plans. There was so much to see and so much discussion generated that we were a little late in starting our Christmas celebrations!

Rudi again capably led the session, but most of the comments came from the floor

The Club Committee wishes all members a happy and safe Christmas and New Year period, and look forward to seeing everybody back in 2019 for a big year of bonsai.

Clockwise from above left: Marian W with her redesigned zelkova, Jim R showing his shohin trees sourced from collected material, Patrick I discussing his ash, and Cameron S showing his windswept juniper.



Bonsai Training Courses

All members are reminded that the Club is planning to run our 5 week novice course again in 2019, subject to sufficient registrations to justify the associated expenses. The course is run at our normal venue from 7:00pm to 9:00pm for 5 consecutive Tuesday nights, breaking only for our scheduled meeting night, and will start around April 2019. The cost is expected to be around \$100 for the 5 nights in total, which includes a 34 page course manual. Very good value for this course, which will again be taught by Craig Wilson.

It should be noted that practically all senior members of the club have attended the novice course over the 10 years of the club's existence.

In addition, it is planned to run Intermediate Workshops under the tutelage of Craig, later in the year around August. These have no fixed syllabus, but are based on attendees working on their own trees under instruction or guidance from Craig. Nominally running for 5 weeks on a Tuesday night, members may elect to enroll for all or only selected sessions if they wish. Cost is expected to be around \$20 per session.

Marlene will be maintaining a register of interested members, so please contact her as soon as possible. Attendance will be on a first come, first served basis and places are limited to a maximum of 10 members because of space limitations and to ensure that all attendees receive individual attention from Craig.



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

Rob and Sue P live in Alexandra and have a fair drive to attend our meetings - which they do regularly. They are married with two daughters and 3 grandchildren - one of whom Charlie 11 years old is also an associate member of our club. Sue is still working as a veterinary nurse and Rob is semi-retired.

They first became interested in bonsai some 12 years ago, but made little progress until Sue found and joined the Warragul Bonsai Club in early 2017. At the YVBS Show this year, they both joined our club. They say that with very patient guides at both clubs, they are learning lots!

They admit to having too many tree species in their collection - azaleas, figs, natives, maples, oaks, and hawthorns, etc. Their current favourites are a 100 year old fig purchased from Ron S, and Spanish cork oaks grown from acorns. Their goal for the future is to have Rob's fig still growing well, their other trees to further develop, and to nurture Charlie's interest in bonsai so that eventually he can take over their collection!



Ask Mr. Miyagi.....



Q. I'm confused Mr Miyagi, Why do people pinch prune

A. When we prune the growth on a tree it is easy to damage the foliage using scissors, and damage can cause the foliage to turn brown and the branches to scar. With this in mind, branches require foliage to sustain life and over pinched or over pruned foliage can result in damage and dieback.

New growth can enlarge quickly so you must pinch the new growth out early to maintain your desired shape and compact pads. By pinching out the tips of the new growth, you push the energy back down into the branch and promote back budding and increases the "bushiness" of the pad rather than having the growth grow long and leggy. Do this by taking the new shoots between your thumb and forefinger and pulling off the new growth. Try not to twist the growth off.

The other advantage of pinching out the growth is to thin the foliage on the branch to allow light into the tree, promoting health and reducing the chance of dieback. If the branches become too heavy and full, the foliage that receives no light will die off and could cause health problems for your tree.

Remember: Don't do the whole tree at once, this could stress the tree. Be patient and slowly work over the tree giving the tree adequate time to rest between each prune.

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

2019 Program

The Committee has started filling in the program for 2019, with the items for some meetings already established. Some favourites will be back, with workshops, the Team Challenge, Bonsai Basic sessions, and member discussions and critiques. There are also scheduled events including a Satsuki azalea presentation, an air layering demonstration night, Show preparation night, and plans for other guest speakers.

However, this is YOUR club and the Committee wants to cater for YOUR interests. Please let us know of any items that you would like to see covered - it doesn't matter if they are very basic, quite advanced, or somewhere in between. If you have an interest, then it is very likely that other members would also be interested.

In addition, we are planning to have two Nursery crawls, a Bonsai Show, a Bonsai Sale Day, and both a Novice Training course and Intermediate Tutored Workshops.

Please pass along any requests or ideas to Rudi J, or any committee member.



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



2018 YVBS Sale Day

The Club Sale Day was held on Sunday 18th November at the Wandin North Public Hall for the first time, and was appreciated by all those that attended. There were bonsai trees at various stages of development, pots, tools, bonsai soil, orchid pots and accessories available for sale. Many took advantage of this excellent opportunity to pick up some great and rare bargains.

The Committee will give careful consideration to the location of the 2019 Sale Day, either at the Wandin North Hall again or back to Japara House in Kilsyth, and will make a decision closer to the date. If any members have feedback, please pass on to a member of the Committee.

Right - the tables filled the hall, with ample and varied offerings.



Yamadori Digs

Yamadori is the sourcing of bonsai material by digging up trees from the wild and transferring them to pots. An associated form is urban yamadori, which is the digging of trees from suburban gardens for the same purpose. The benefits of yamadori is that larger trunks can be sourced instantly, and some natural movement and weathering is also apparent in the material.

Digging trees from public and private land requires prior approval from the relevant authority or land holder, which can sometimes be difficult to obtain - in our litigious society, people worry about accidents and resulting legal actions.

However, many of our members are keen to source yamadori material. If any members know of anybody wanting to clear a suburban garden, or own a country property and would like some land cleared, please inform a committee member. Hopefully, if there are some reasonable trees available for digging, we can organize a club expedition so that all members can take advantage of sourcing new and quality material. Everybody please keep your eyes open for opportunities!

End-Of-Month Saturday Workshop

There is always something interesting to see and do at the regular Last Saturday of the Month Workshop. All members and guests are encouraged to drop in with or without their trees, to do some work on their "babies", to watch other members and learn from their activities, or just to have a chat.

Many current members had their first introduction to our club through dropping in at a Saturday workshop. Encourage your relatives, friends, colleagues or associates who have shown any interest in the art or in gardening activities in general to come along and check us out.

There is always plenty of helpful and practical advice on hand for those who need it.



Above - Members at work at the November Saturday Workshop - a bumper turnout!

BONSAI SENSATION NURSERY

MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9:00am – 5:00pm / WEEKENDS 10:00am – 3:00pm

PHONE 8794 9668 / MOBILE 0425 722 827

253 Centre Road, Narre Warren South, VIC 3805

We have more than 30,000 plants for sale, including an extensive range of pots, tools, wire, and soil. Lessons, plant boarding, and restyling are also available.

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Tree Profile: Port Jackson Fig - *Ficus rubiginosa*

General information: According to Wikipedia the Ficus is a genus of about 850 species of woody trees, shrubs and vines, collectively known as fig trees or figs and is one of the most loved bonsai for many reasons.

Ficus rubiginosa is just one of them. The oval leaves are glossy green and measure from 2 to 19.5cm long and 0.5 to 13.5cm wide. Mature trees have a yellow-brown buttressed trunk.

It is an excellent tree for beginners, as most species of Ficus are fast growers, tolerant of most any soil and light conditions. They make fine indoor bonsai, and perhaps most importantly, are remarkably forgiving of those just learning bonsai watering techniques. Most Ficus grow "banyan" roots (aerial roots) naturally; this feature is often showcased by styling Ficus in dramatic air-root and root-over-rock styles.

Lighting: Like most Ficus it will grow decently in low light, but thrive in high light conditions of about 7 hours - morning to early afternoon.

Temperature: An excellent choice for an indoor bonsai. Indoor Ficus appreciate being brought outdoors during summer. They don't like draughts, protect from frost.

Watering: This species enjoys ample water, 'immersion' watering in summer and decreasing in winter. Many Ficus are very tolerant of being over or under watered, which makes them ideal for beginners. Indoors Ficus like a daily misting to maintain humidity. Outdoors sitting them on a tray with water in summer with the increased humidity will encourage the growth of aerial roots!

Feeding: Every two weeks during growth period using a half-strength liquid fertilizer, none between April to August and every 4 - 6 weeks in winter. Larger leaves if over fertilized!

Pruning and wiring: Port Jackson fig can be styled to most bonsai styles and is very amenable to pruning, but are especially suitable for styles which make use of their property of extensive rooting, such as air-root and root-over-rock styles. Ficus can be used for all sizes of bonsai, although, obviously, the small-leaved species make the best miniature bonsai. Prune back to 2-4 leaves after 6-10 leaves have grown. Regular defoliation (up to 3 times) will improve ramification substantially. Any Ficus will bleed heavily a milky latex, which a drop of water will stop.

Ficus can be wired, but become quite stiff when lignified, and thus are best wired while the shoots are a bit green. Watch carefully to see that the wire doesn't bite in, as Ficus is a very fast grower.

Propagation: One of the easiest plant to root from cuttings; although the specifics for maximum success vary with species, it's always worth sticking them into soil for the heck of it!

Repotting: Every 2-3 years in a well draining and neutral to slightly acidic mix, although some will grow rapidly enough that yearly repotting may be necessary. Ficus is the single most forgiving bonsai in terms of repotting season. The best time is before a new growth spurt, especially in spring, but Ficus can literally be repotted any time of year if reasonable after-care is given. Roots can easily be pruned by half.



Pests and diseases: Scale, eelworm, black fly, thrips. Anthracnose fungus and various forms of rot. Some ficus will lose leaves if overwatered or given too little light.

Kudos, Accolades and Thanks

- To all sellers who took a table/s at our November Sale Day and helped to make the day a success.
- To Marg Fenn at Hachinoki Pottery for donating a pot to be used for the raffle at the Sale Day, and one for the raffle at our December breakup meeting.
- To Dynamite Printing for providing the Sale Day publicity flyers.
- To Tracey Francis at Murrumbung Studios for donating pots throughout the year as raffle prizes.

On The Display Table



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



BONSAI ART NURSERY

New Trading Hours

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

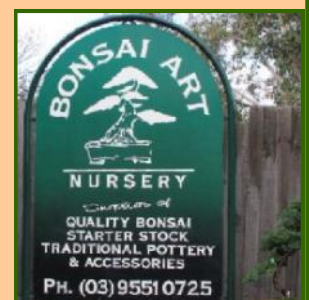
Sat, Sun - 10:00am to 4:00pm

Closed Wednesday

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

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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 from 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.



www.bonsaisensation.com.au

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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 2019*



Our monthly meeting on 8th January will start with a **Bonsai Basics Review** on **Bonsai Forms** with our Rudi J followed by a **Workshop Night & Swap and Sale!** Display Table: **Figs any style & Members' Choice.**



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



Our first Nursery Trip for the year "**DEEP SOUTH**" will take place on Saturday 2nd 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 12th 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 23rd February, 1:00PM - 4:30PM at Cire Services - former UYCH.



Other Events



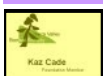
Satsuki Interest Group Meeting on 16th February, 1:30PM - 4:30PM, at **Bonsai Art Nursery**, 236 Old Dandenong Road, Heatherton.



**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