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Proud sponsor of the Yarra Valley Bonsai Society

www.bonsaisensation.com.au



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

**Old Hereford Road,
Mount Evelyn**

Meetings begin at 7:30pm .



Saturday Workshops are 2-
4:30pm on the **Last Saturday**
of the month, at the same
venue as monthlies!

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The Yarra Valley Bonsai Society Newsletter

Highlights from September & October 2014

The September meeting was the AGM, where club officers reported on the activities of the past twelve months and detailed the healthy state of the club's status and finances. Elections were held for the Committee of Management, and results are detailed later in the newsletter.

There was also time for a Review/Overview session, where Bill McK reported on a long-term project he has been working on to produce a bonsai record-keeping and activity calendar "app". Feedback from members was happily received by Bill, who will report again on progress at the December meeting.

The meeting finished with free trees available for all attendees as a bonus! Bare-rooted crape myrtles were donated to the club, and although not in great condition, we hope that some of them will recover from their winter hibernation. Let's see what can be made of them by next year's AGM! *Cont. Page 2*



Top - the AGM in September. Middle and bottom - the October workshop.

Calendar Dates:

- 1 and 2 November (Saturday and Sunday) Ballarat Bonsai Exhibition. 10:00am Ballarat.
- 1 and 2 November (Saturday and Sunday) Goldfields Bonsai Exhibition. 10:00am Castlemaine.
- 8 and 9 November (Saturday and Sunday) Geelong Bonsai Show. 9:00 am Geelong.
- 11 November (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:30pm UYCH.
- 29 November (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 2:00pm UYCH.
- 30 November (Sunday) YVBS Special Sale Day. 10:00am to 1:00pm UYCH
- 6 December (Saturday) Satsuki Interest Group meeting. 1:30pm Bonsai Art Nursery
- 9 December (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. Christmas breakup! 7:30pm UYCH.

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

Highlights from September & October - Cont. From Page 1

The October meeting was a workshop night, which provided an opportunity for those members who cannot make it to the end-of-month Saturday workshops to bring along their trees to work on, and to seek advice from the more experienced members of the club or just to canvass opinions from others on care or development issues. As usual, member turnout was good and the night was a hive of activity with trees of all sizes and at all stages of development filling the tables...which we will have to increase in number next time!

Rudi, Mark L, David W, Scott M, and new major sponsor Tien from Bonsai Sensation in particular tirelessly offered assistance, and plenty of discussion ensued between all members.

Another bonus on the night - more free trees! Margaret S had collected self-sewn seedlings of Alder and Silver Birch from her yard, put them into 'bonsai pots' (actually mainly the cut-off bottoms of milk cartons, and kindly brought them in for the benefit of members. Most interesting was the mini bonsai progression series she displayed, showing how fast the alder seedlings can be developed into very respectable bonsai.



One of the freebie Alder seedlings available at the October meeting - subsequently wired to add some curves in the trunk while it is still young.

September Nursery Crawl

Our last Club nursery crawl for the year, dubbed 'Southeastern Exposure', saw a good number of members turnout in September to visit Dinsan Wholesale Nursery, Bonsai Art, and Collectors Corner. The weather was perfect, and a good day was had by all - even those who turned up mainly to browse but ended up going home with more than they had intended!

The additional planned nursery crawl in October, 'Go West', was cancelled and will be rescheduled for January or February, to take coincide with a new shipment of pots at Orient Bonsai. More details soon.



Above - one of the loaded trolleys at Dinsan (there were others as well!)

Left - visiting Bonsai Art (purchases already packed away!)



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

Val G is a retired teacher from Preston. She first became interested in bonsai as a little girl after reading a Womens Weekly article on the subject. Despite following the instructions in the article to the letter, she killed her first attempt (an oak seedling) by some over enthusiastic root pruning. She persevered and kept alive a number of collected ash and elm seedlings, which she admits were hardly bonsai as she just kept them stunted by never repotting them, but took them with her when she left home. Some years later, she saw an ad for a BSV Bonsai Show, went along to the next club meeting and joined up on the spot. After collecting and working on a variety of trees, she eventually sold her original ash and elms at a club Sale Day.

Her bonsai knowledge has been gained through bonsai clubs, at first BSV and then also with Northern Suburbs Bonsai Club, Bonsai Northwest, Vic Natives Club, and just recently, YVBS. She has also attended Mark L's Master's Apprentice Bonsai School.

Val says that she has a number of bonsai which are okay to look at, but also has a vast number of trees in development. She has single tree bonsai, but really loves creating landscapes including making the mounting and backing scenery.

Pottery is the other love of her life, she has her own wheel and kiln, and is very flattered when people have bought some of the bonsai pots which she has created.

Her ambition for the future is to be more skilled in the art of bonsai, to improve her bonsai collection...and to have fewer trees!



New Committee

The new Committee was elected at the September Annual General Meeting. It comprises Rudi J as President, Steve M as Vice President, Lindsay H as Secretary, Julie H as Treasurer, and Marlene J as Membership & Marketing Director, along with Alan H, Davor T, Madalyn P, and Bill McK. A big welcome to Madalyn who is serving on the Committee for the first time, and a welcome back to Bill, who was the first President of our club.

A big thanks to Christiaan O'D, who did not stand for re-election this year for personal reasons, but has volunteered to assist the Committee by continuing his quest for possible yamadori opportunities.

Ask Mr. Miyagi.....



Q. Hi Mr Miyagi, Could I ask what is layering?

A. Layering is a method of propagation, used not only as a bonsai technique but in all manner of horticultural practices. It's the perfect way to create a bonsai displaying the same attributes of the parent tree. These might be the colour of a flower, the size of a leaf or it may just be as simple as you have a plant that has an interesting branch you think would make a nice trunk for a bonsai.

Layering is a practice of growing new roots on an existing branch or trunk, with the view of separating it from the original plant. We grow the new roots, while the branch or trunk is still connected to the host plant, this allows the layer to benefit from the host trees nutrients while it grows the new root system.

This is beneficial as different species of tree can take different time periods to strike roots, and while still being a part of the tree, we can let them take their time to grow a strong and healthy new root system before we cut off the layer ensuring that the layer is a success. Depending on the variety of tree, this can take as little time as a few weeks up to one or more growing seasons to produce the roots and this is also dependant of the variety of the tree and its health. There are many different ways to layer a branch some like to ringbark the tree while others use tourniquet made of wire to redirect the flow of the tree. This area is then wrapped with Sphagnum moss and kept damp until the new roots have developed. Once the rootball had developed, the layer can be severed from the host and should be potted and securely wired into a container and backfilled with a free draining mix. It may also be a good idea to reduce some of the foliage mass to assist the tree during this stressful time. Do not attempt to remove any of the entangled sphagnum moss as you may damage the new root system.

Keep the tree protected as you would any other freshly potted tree and once it has shown signs of movement, move it out with your other trees. Please don't work on the tree over the summer, just give it a season to establish itself in its new environment. Continue to liquid feed but hold off on the fertilisers until the layer shows good signs of vigour.

There are many good websites that cover this topic, please have a look and try different methods until you find one that is right for you and the variety of tree you are layering.

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

Spring Activities for Native Bonsai

Article courtesy of Victorian Native Bonsai Club

Spring is the most exciting time of the bonsai year. Trees come back to life with a burst of energy. Buds open, leaves and shoots emerge. This is the busiest time of the bonsai year and there is much to do.

Repotting: Australian Natives are usually safe to pot any time of year but for best results mid to late October is preferred. Once they have been in pot culture for some time they develop a very fibrous root mass so repotting is pretty stress free. Generally just removing one third of the root mass is the preferred method. Bare rooted trees have survived but this is not to be recommended.

Collecting: Some growers have found collecting native species has most success if carried out in May. However if the new growth has not yet started, or is not too soft, collecting may be attempted now. Try to retain as much soil as possible. Large specimens have a much greater death rate than small ones. Some species are very difficult to collect, even as small specimens. Consult with experienced growers to assess success possibilities.

Pruning: Trim trees in full leaf to maintain shape, reduce internode length and increase ramification. Finger-tip pruning/pinching is successful with many of the smaller leafed varieties. After a few years this method tends to create a dense mass of foliage at the exterior of the canopy which inhibits light reaching the internal twigs, thus many small branches can be lost. The solution is to cut back much more deeply and thin out the exterior twigs. Many natives will bud back on bare wood but if in doubt don't cut back beyond the last leaf otherwise whole branches may be lost.

Club Sale Day on 30th November

The next Club Sale Day will be held on Sunday 30th November from 10:00am to 1:00pm at Upper Yarra Community House (formerly Morrisons) in Mount Evelyn, our normal meeting place. There are many sellers who have already booked tables to display their wares, including Michael Simonetto, Mark Ludlow, Bruce Arguet, Tien from Bonsai Sensation, just to name a few, as well as some of our own members. This is an ideal opportunity to pick up quality trees at all stages of development from starters to advanced, along with stands, pots, tools, diatomite and potting mix. Come along to check out the offerings you might be tempted by a special bargain!

Right - the activity at a previous Sale Day and Below - Bruce's high-quality stands will be back.



Kudos, Accolades and Thanks

- To Margaret S for bringing along a collection of starter trees rescued from her garden, as 'freebies' for members at the September meeting.
- To retiring Committee member Christiaan O'D for his contribution to the Club over his 12 month term.
- To Carol P of Mt Evelyn Ray White for donating the Sale Day Community Board.



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: *Liquidambar* - Sweetgum

General information: Liquidambar is a genus of five species, styrachiflua also called 'Sweetgum' is most commonly used as bonsai. A deciduous tree whose leaves turn on at autumn spectacular colours in yellow, various shades of orange, purple and many different shades of red. A very attractive bonsai tree whether it has green leaves, colored leaves or no leaves!

However, it can have the tendency of branch weakening as well as die back.

Lighting and Temperature: Full sun or partial shade throughout the year but will need protection from hot as well as freezing winds. Frost protection required below -10°C.

Watering: Daily throughout the growing season, easing off in winter. Keep the soil moist but well drained.

Feeding: Recommended from spring to early autumn, every two weeks during the growing season, slowing down the feeding schedule in summer. Do not spray the leaves!

Pruning and wiring: Liquidambar do not react well to pruning during dormancy, it can cause dieback of branches and has a poor wound healing. Try to limit pruning to the growing season when the tree is active. Special attention to pruning back the apical or top growth to avoid the loss or weakening of the lower branches. The scars will heal quicker if it is pruned during the growing season.

Like with Trident Maples, it reacts well to leaf pruning - shorten new shoots on established branches in late spring to two sets of leaves. Remove large leaves throughout the growing season.

Wiring can be done any time during growth, but take care as old woody branches are brittle!

Propagation: From seed in autumn, softwood cuttings in summer, use heal cuttings for better results. Air layering may be done in late spring and early summer.

Repotting: In spring, before buds open. Roots grow very quickly, so annual repotting may be necessary for young trees; older trees tend to need repotting every 2-3 years. Position the roots during repotting!

Pests and diseases: Generally pest and disease free, but webworms, caterpillars, borers and scale may cause problems in some areas.

Styles: Formal and Informal Upright, Slanting, Twin Trunk, Broom and Clump.



Orient Bonsai Nursery



11 Mahoneys Road
Reservoir VIC 3073
Phone: 03 9460 3059
Email: orient_bonsai@hotmail.com

Products

Bonsai starters
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On The Display Table

A selection of trees on the Display Table at the September and October meetings. Note - the photo of multiple pots below is heavily enlarged - they are sub-miniature bonsai and accent plants.



BONSAI ART NURSERY

New Trading Hours

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

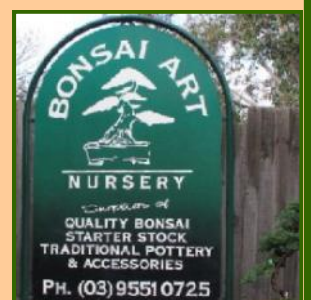
Sat, Sun - 10:00am to 4:00pm

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: November - December

This time of year is always an exciting time for any bonsai enthusiast. Small buds have turned to vigorous growth in just a few weeks. Vibrant greens and blues of fresh growth are spreading across most conifers. With this growth comes the need for increased water and food.

Always keep an eye on the weather this time of year. Winds, heavy rains and extended dry periods makes for unpredictable growing conditions. Pay extra attention to the bonsais that have just been repotted. If you are relying on an irrigation system, perform regular inspections to ensure all trees are being watered properly. Prune your trees in order to keep new the growth nice and compact.

Here are a few tips to get you through the season.

Position

The sun and wind are good for your trees, however some varieties will benefit from protection. (Beeches, Hornbeams, Maples, Azaleas), Potting mix should not be left to completely dry out as the leaves will easily scorch in the wrong position. When putting trees in strong sun, trees must have a consistent water cycle. Avoid using shade directly beneath overhanging trees as animal droppings and leaf debris can create problems.

Watering

Water thoroughly. Shallow watering encourages roots to grow at the surface of the potting mix (trees will dry out faster). If trees are root bound take extra care with saturating root ball. Organize bonsais in "like watering" sections to assist in your watering cycle.

Pinching and Pruning

Pinching and pruning should be attended to as soon as leaves develop and shoots elongate. Buds that develop where branches are not needed should be rubbed off immediately. If a branch is needed, allow bud to grow keeping the terminal bud to help increase the girth of the branch.

Conifers may require finger tip pruning- removing buds at the tip of the growth will push growth back onto the branch and create smaller foliage.

Potting

Most repotting should be complete. Varieties such as Chinese Elms, Azaleas, and Junipers can still be potted with care. Varieties such as Figs, Pomegranates, Pyracantha and Natives can be potted even later. Pines should not be re-potted after spring finishes.

End-Of-Month Saturday Workshop

The workshops are a social gathering which provide an opportunity to get to know your fellow members, work on your trees, and of course, receive advice from more experienced members if required.

Nice to see some prospective members drop in for advice, and then signing up on the day.

Great advice and assistance is provided by our more experienced members, but especially by President Rudi....who one day might find time to work on his own trees!

It is great to see the variety of trees brought along to the workshops, both in the different species and also the different stages of development. All trees (and their owners) are treated with equal respect, whether they are two years old or twenty. There is always something to learn in observing what other members are doing with their bonsai.



A big attendance at the October workshop - lots of Spring trimming to be done

ヤラ谷間盆栽会

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2014

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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
Nov & Dec 2014*



Our monthly meeting on 11th November will cover a demonstration/presentation on "**Azalea varieties - not only Satsuki**" with Margaret S and Rudi J. Now is the time to work on azaleas - come and learn how to do it! There will be no Review/Overview Session!
Display Table: "Azalea any style & Members' Choice".



Our monthly workshop will be on Saturday 29th November, 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM at Upper Yarra Community House (UYCH, formerly Morrisons).



Special event on **Sunday 30th November "YVBS SALE DAY"**, 10:00AM - 1:00PM at UYCH. Great list of sellers with trees from starters to advanced, plus anything bonsai-related including stands!



At the monthly meeting on Tuesday 9th December, YVBS will hold its annual **Christmas Break-up** and a follow-up on "**User-friendly annual Task Schedule**" by Bill McK followed by a "**Round Table Discussion/Critique**" on members' trees with Michael S - not to be missed!
Display Table: "On or in the Rocks and Driftwood & Members Choice".



No monthly Workshop in December!

Events from Other Clubs



Ballarat Bonsai Exhibition Saturday 1st November 10:00AM - 5:00PM, Sunday 2nd November 10:00AM - 4:00PM. Admission Adults \$4.00, Concession \$3.00 at the Robert Clark Centre in the Botanical Gardens at Lake Wendouree, Gillies Street North.



Goldfields Bonsai Society Bonsai Exhibition, Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd November, 10:00AM - 4:30PM, at Ray Bradfield Room, Castlemaine. Entry \$3.00.



Geelong Bonsai Club Annual Show Saturday 8th November, 9:00AM - 6:00PM & Sunday 9th November, 9:00AM to 4:00PM, at Masonic Hall, Regent Street, Belmont. Admission Adults - \$4.00 Pensioners & Students - \$3.00, Children accompanied by adults - FREE!

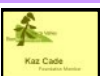


Satsuki Interest Group Meeting on 6th December, 1:30PM - 4:00PM, at "Bonsai Art" Nursery, 236 Old Dandenong Road, Heatherton.



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.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