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Proud sponsor of the Yarra Valley Bonsai Society

www.bonsaisensation.com.au



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Treas: Julie H 0419 870 240
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The YVBS meets on the second Tuesday of each month at Cire Services (Formerly Upper Yarra Community House or 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 2016

The September meeting was the Annual General Meeting where the previous Committee of Management reported on the proceedings of the previous year, and then stepped down, followed by the election of the new Committee. Details of the new Committee are contained later in this newsletter.

The meeting also included a Review/Overview session on Bonsai tools, presented by Rudi J, which was so informative that even experienced members gained some new snippets of knowledge. The meeting was rounded out by the members' swap and sale area, and by the distribution of free trees - this year, featuring Allocasuarina littoralis native tubestock, which is the ideal stage to impart twists and turns to the lower trunk. Progress will be interesting to observe over the next few years.

The free trees were sourced from the volunteer Candlebark Nursery in Mooroolbark, which germinates seed from trees native to the local Yarra Ranges area, thereby ensuring compatibility with our local climatic conditions. See <http://www.candlebark.org.au/> for more detail on the plants that they stock.

The October meeting featured special guest presenter Tien Hsu Liao from Bonsai Sensation who spoke and demonstrated on Deciduous Trees, focusing on Japanese and Trident maples although he stressed that the principles discussed were common to pretty well all deciduous trees.

Tien discussed that all good deciduous bonsai have many of the following positive characteristics: nebari, taper, ramification, branch structure, good health, leaf colour, bark, and structural delicacy. These characteristics provide guidelines when working on trees.

To get good taper and keep a tree small requires a lot of work, and invariably includes trunk chops,



Above - Tien explains his thinking on the demonstration maple.

which is better to be done earlier rather than later before the trunk and the resultant scar gets too large. If possible, it is best to do an angled chop between two shoots, where the upper one will become the new leader and

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Calendar Dates:

- 5th & 6th November (Saturday & Sunday) Satsuki Society Bonsai Exhibition. Bonsai Art, Heatherton.
- 5th & 6th November (Saturday & Sunday) Bonsai Northwest Exhibition. Footscray
- 8th November (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:30pm. Cire.
- 13th November (Sunday) Japanese Cultural Festival, YVBS Display. 1:00pm to 4:30pm. Glen Eira Town Hall, Caulfield.
- 19th & 20th November (Saturday & Sunday). Lilydale Show including bonsai exhibits. Lilydale Showgrounds, Lilydale.
- 26th November (Saturday) YVBS Sale Day. Japara House, Durham Rd Kilsyth.
- 26th November (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 2:30pm. AT JAPARA HOUSE.
- 3rd December (Saturday) Satsuki Special Interest Group meeting. 1:30pm. Bonsai Art Nursery, Heatherton.
- 6th December (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:30pm. Cire.

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

Highlights from September & October - Cont. From Page 1

the lower one the first branch. Tien mentioned that Japanese bonsai artisans rarely do large trunk chops, preferring a series of smaller ones.

Branches on maples differ from pines in that they start growing upwards from the trunk, then flatten out and then start to bend downwards. Try to arrange your bonsai branches in the same way.

On Japanese maples, keep internode distances small by pinching out the centre growth between leaf pairs when small. Buds tend to alternate between horizontal pairs and vertical pairs, so try to prune back to horizontally-placed buds where you can. When starting development of a new branch, start by pinching new growth back to develop a series of short internodes, after which the branch can be left to extend to increase thickness. Prune back later after desired thickness is achieved, to one of the shorter internode lengths. It is important to realize that shoots will never grow on the internode area - only at the nodes.

Defoliation of trident maples may be done perhaps three times a year on vigorous trees, but Japanese maples perhaps once - partial defoliation is more commonly used.

Being apically dominant, growth will be strongest at the top, leading to the situation that the top will need to be continually replaced over the years as the twigs thicken too much in proportion to the rest of the tree.

Design and prune the branches to emulate the trunk, in primary, secondary and tertiary layers, in more of a diamond shape than a fan. Pick the apex of the branch and the branch line prior to pruning - this eases the realization of what needs to be removed.

To improve or develop good nebari, it is necessary to maximize the number of roots emanating from the trunk at the same level. Bury the roots in the soil, keep cutting off roots emanating from the bottom, and keep cutting thick roots back to the trunk, leaving only thin roots. With this methodology religiously applied, Tien develops excellent nebari in about 4 years.

New Committee Following AGM

The new Committee of Management elected unopposed at the September AGM comprises:

President - Geoff P.

Vice President - Rudi J.

Secretary - Lindsay H.

Treasurer - Julie H.

Membership/Marketing - Marlene J.

General Members - Davor T., Madalyn P., Marian W., Howard W.

In the short term, Rudi and Howard will also look after the Trade Table, and Marian and Madalyn the library, but volunteers are always welcome to assist in this area.

Special Bonsai Creation

Many members will remember seeing the unique "Pop" bonsai of David R. before, but the bonsai art was taken to a new level at the September meeting with the group composition displayed by George M. - the fire-blackened forest seen in the picture at right, complete with still "glowing" embers!

Great creative thinking for what to do with dead trees, and no watering required.

Brilliant! Well done George!



NOTE - MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS WERE DUE ON 1 JULY 2016.

For those members who have not yet renewed, please pay Julie or any committee member as soon as possible. Any members not renewing prior to 31 December will be removed from the membership list, and will be subject to a new joining fee if rejoining after this date.



Library Check-out!

YVBS has subscribed to the local bonsai magazines produced by the AABC and Ian Glew. Copies of all issues are in the library for perusal or borrowing. Remember, the checkout period for books and other library material is one month. If you check out a book and are not able to make the next meeting, you can return the book at a workshop or even post it to the club PO Box.

Trade Table Cheque-out!

The trade table has been restocked with new tools, wire and other accessories. Lorraine Simpson and other pots also in stock. Don't forget the club's tool sharpening kit, available for use at meetings. Anything else you would like to see stocked? Just advise at the trade table or to any committee member.

WANTED!

Somebody to run the Trade Table at Club meetings. Volunteers please contact a Committee member

Member Profile

John G lives in North Croydon, is married to Diane, and has three grownup daughters.

After initially discovering bonsai as a 14 year old, he then became distracted by fairer things, and got back into it again at the age of 30 years through taking lessons with Paul Sweeney (founder of Imagination Tree).

John likes making landscape bonsai in the Penjing style. He hopes to have far fewer, but much better bonsai, in the future.

John has operated a lawn mowing business for the past 39 years, but after an accident last year laid him up for three months, he had to sell off a lot of his customer list. Now recovered, he is trying to rebuild his business. (Contact John on Johngill787@hotmail.com if you could use his services).

His other interests include gold detecting, since he has had more time on his hands since his accident. Not much success, but he enjoys getting out into the bush.



Ask Mr. Miyagi.....



Q. Mr Miyagi, I've been told my tree is too tall for the thickness of the trunk, should I shorten it and if so by how much?

A. The amount it needs to be shortened will be based on the type of tree and its style. The proportions on a bonsai need to be balanced. All of the elements of the tree need to be in scale to each other. Doing this makes the tree appear logical to the viewer. The proportions must reflect what you would expect to see in nature. We expect to see large diameter branches lower on the tree and thinner up at the top. We also expect them to be in scale with the size or diameter of the trunk. The rule of thirds shall apply when designing and styling a tree.

- The lower third of the tree should be devoted to surface roots and to a proportionately tapered trunk.

- The middle third of the tree emphasizes the branching.

- The top third consists of finer branches and the apex.

- The trunk v height ratio should be 1:8 or 1:10 - this is a general ideal.

Example: A tree with a base diameter of 5 cm should ideally be between 40-50cm tall. This is purely for aesthetics and when developing trees as shohin, the rule of proportion still applies.

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

YVBS at Japanese Cultural Festival

Our Club has been invited to participate in a Japanese Cultural Festival to be held at the Glen Eira Town Hall, Corner Hawthorn and Glen Eira Roads, Caulfield, on Sunday 13th November from 1pm to 4:30pm. We will be staging a small display of bonsai in the main hall.

The festival will also include demonstrations of Japanese ink brush painting, choir, folk dancing, martial arts, drums, tea ceremony, flower arrangement, origami, and kimono demonstrations, so there should be a lot to see and do. The concert begins at 2:00pm. Entry is \$5 per person or \$12 per family, students gold coin donation. We hope that YVBS members will come along to enjoy the festival, experience some aspects of Japanese culture, and also support the club.

The Festival is conducted by Glen Eira Rotary in association with the City of Glen Eira.



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



Upcoming 2016 YVBS Sale Day

The next YVBS public Sale Day is coming up on Saturday 26th November, so mark it in your diaries, promote it to all of your friends and acquaintances, and come along to support your Club and maybe pick up a little treasure or two for yourself as well.

There is a great list of sellers who have booked a table/s, so there will be plenty of quality bonsai trees, starter plants, locally-made pots, stands, and bonsai soil mixes available for sale. Based on past experience, prices will be very attractive!

In addition to the sales area, there will also be a small bonsai tree display area which will be provided by the sellers as well as Club members. This has proven very popular in the past, as even though it is small in number, the trees displayed are always interesting and of good quality.



As the Sale Day this year is on the Saturday which is also our scheduled workshop day, we will be moving our normal workshop to Japara House for this day only and inviting Sale visitors to also attend after the conclusion of the Sale. Sale Day 10:30am to 2:00pm, Workshop 2:30pm to 4:30pm, Japara House, 54-58 Durham Road, Kilsyth.

Lilydale Show

We have been specifically invited by the organizers of the horticultural section of the Lilydale Show to submit entry/s to this year's bonsai competition/display. They had no entries last year and many Show patrons noticed and queried the lack of a display. Club members have submitted entries in previous years and quite a number of winners have been recorded. To encourage our members this year, the first tree entered will be free to YVBS members, with any subsequent trees entered attracting the normal entry fee of \$1.50. Entry forms must be submitted by 15th November, trees to be dropped off on Friday evening 18th November after 6:00pm, and picked up again after 4:30pm on Sunday 19th November.

We encourage members to enter the competition, as it provides a good opportunity to encourage an interest in the art of bonsai in the greater local community, and hopefully increase our membership. Entry forms may be downloaded from the Show website <http://www.lilydaleshow.org.au/schedule>, or contact Lindsay at linhad14@gmail.com or 0403 800 671 with any queries.

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 - 2:00 to 4:30 pm.

Many present club members were first introduced to the Club through dropping in to a 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: Hackberry - *Celtis*

General: *Celtis*, commonly known as **hackberries** or **nettle trees**, is a genus of about 60 - 70 species of deciduous trees widespread in warm temperate regions. It is bearing shiny oval leaves, small green flowers in spring followed by small, sweet, edible bright orange fruits. Hackberry has a very fine twig structure similar to *Zelkova serrata*.

Lighting: Place in full sun, but protect from hot drying winds.

Temperature: It's very hardy, frost protection below -5°C.

Watering: Keep the soil moist, doesn't like wet soil.

Feeding: Feed weekly for a month after buds open and then every two or three weeks for the balance of spring/summer.

Repotting: Suggested every one to two years in well drained soil. Late winter to early spring is the best time.

Propagation: Easy from semi ripe cuttings in summer, seed or air-layering is another option.

Pruning and wiring: *Celtis* will grow a very fine ramification when regularly pruned. Trim back shoots to two or three leaves, responds well to repeated pruning and defoliation. Hard pruning and thinning out in late winter or early spring. Wiring from late spring to early autumn after leaves are full size but the branches still flexible!

Pests and diseases: Not especially susceptible to pests, though its leaves are less hardy than the Chinese Elm, making it a bit more inviting for leaf munchers.

Styles: Informal and formal upright, cascade and great for broom style. Suitable for single or multiple trunks in all sizes as well.

Some species suitable for Bonsai:

- ***Celtis australis* - European Hackberry:** A tall tree, native to southern Europe, North Africa and Asia Minor. The fruit is a small, dark purple, berry-like and sweet.
- ***Celtis sinensis* - Chinese Hackberry:** Similar to the *Zelkova serrata*, found across Japan, Korea, and northern China. It has orange fruit.
- ***Celtis africana* - White Stinkwood:** A tall tree in forests, a medium-sized tree in open country, and a shrub on rocky soil. The fruit is yellow or brown.
- ***Celtis occidentalis* - American Hackberry:** A large tree native to North America, it has large black or purple fruit.
- ***Celtis paniculata* - Native Hackberry:** A very tall coastal rainforest tree in Australia. The fruit is a round shaped stone fruit 8 to 10 mm long.

The pictures are courtesy of Walter Pall!

His European Hackberry, *Celtis australis*, collected in Italy in 1995.



Orient Bonsai Nursery



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

Products

Bonsai starters
Mature bonsai
Pots
Figurines
Tools

Services

Bonsai classes
Repotting and trimming
Wedding gifts

www.orientbonsai.com.au



On The Display Table



A selection of trees on the Display Table at the September and October meetings. (Shohin and Mame at right)



BONSAI ART NURSERY

New Trading Hours

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

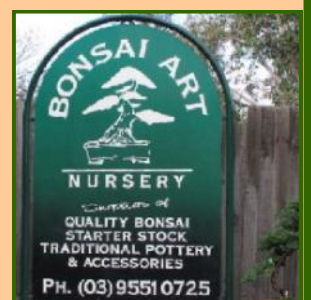
Sat, Sun - 10:00am to 4:00pm

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), as the leaves will easily scorch if the tree is 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. Potting mix should not be left to completely dry out.

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

Confers 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, Pyracanthas and Natives can be potted even later. Pines should not be re-potted after spring finishes.

Orient Bonsai Update

Our long term sponsor Orient Bonsai is currently undergoing major renovation and expansion work at their site in Thomastown, and the nursery is severely reduced in size and scope until the work is complete.

Simon is still running the business while work is underway, but predominantly through telephone and internet sales although the on-site shop is still open.

Orient Bonsai have suspended their sponsorship of our club for the time being, but we hope that they will return when the new business facilities are opened. It is likely that our normal "Go West" Nursery Crawl in 2017 will also be cancelled.

When re-opened, the new facilities with expanded land area should be spectacular with more space for the nursery including a new display area, water features, and an integrated café on the premises.



Above - Simon shows Rudi around the Orient Bonsai construction zone.

Kudos, Accolades and Thanks

- To Scott M at Dynamite Printing for doing a great job on our marketing material - Sale Day flyers, club introduction and business cards, and membership forms.
- To Tien of Bonsai Sensation for delivering a very informative and enlightening presentation and demonstration at the October Club meeting.

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
November & December 2016*



Our monthly meeting on 8th November will be a Presentation on "Figs" by Craig Wilson.
No Overview/Review Session! Display Table: "Azalea any Style & Members Choice".



Our Club will have a promotional table of Bonsai at the Japan - Australia Cultural Afternoon on Sunday 13th November, 1.00PM - 4.30PM at the Glen Eira Town Hall, corner Glen Eira & Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield. Entry: Single \$5.00, Family \$12.00, Students gold coin donation.



YVBS Sale Day & Bonsai Display, Saturday 26th November, 10:30AM - 2:00PM, at Japara Learning Centre, 54 - 58 Durham Road Kilsyth. (Melway 51/J5). Carpark entry via Tamworth Road & Tower Street!



Followed by our monthly workshop at the same venue, 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM. Buyers are invited to participate for FREE!



On Tuesday 8th December, YVBS will hold its annual Christmas Break-up and "Informal Discussion" about ANYONE of your Tree(s)! Display Table: "On or in the Rocks and Driftwood & Members Choice".



No end-of-month Saturday Workshop in December!!!



Other Events



Satsuki Interest Group "Annual Azalea Bonsai Exhibition" on Saturday 5th November & Sunday 6th November, 10:00AM to 4:00PM, at "Bonsai Art" Nursery, 236 Old Dandenong Road, Heatherton. FREE ENTRY!



Bonsai North West Bonsai Exhibition & Sale, Saturday 5th November, 10:00AM - 4:00PM and Sunday 6th November, 10:00AM - 4:00PM, at Footscray Community Arts Centre, 45 Moreland St, Footscray. Entry - Adults \$5.00, Children under 15 free with adult!



Geelong Bonsai Club Annual Show Saturday 12th November, 9:00AM - 6:00PM & Sunday 13th November, 9:00AM to 4:00PM, at Masonic Hall, Regent Street, Belmont. Admission Adults - \$5.00, Pensioners & Students \$3.00, Children accompanied by adults under 12 - FREE!



Lilydale Show - Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th November. Lilydale Show Grounds, Main Street Lilydale. For more Details please check out <http://www.lilydaleshow.org.au/tickets>



Satsuki Interest Group Meeting on Saturday 3rd 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.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