




BONSAI MATSUI
bonsaimatsui.com

Proud supporter of the Yarra Valley Bonsai Society



For your soil and pot supplies.

Loyal sponsor of the Yarra Valley Bonsai Society



Proud sponsor of the Yarra Valley Bonsai Society

www.bonsaisensation.com.au



PO Box 345 Mount Evelyn, VIC 3796 Australia
www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au
info@yarravalleybonsai.org.au
 Reg. Assoc A0052264P
 Pres: Patrick I 0488 645 119
 Vice-Pres: Steve M 0402 004 012
 Sec: Lindsay H 0403 800 671
 Treas: Richard J 0410 512 969
 Marktg: David R 0402 032 001
 Members: Marlene 0418 147 871

The Yarra Valley Bonsai Society Newsletter

Highlights from May & June 2023

The YVBS meets on the **second Tuesday of each month** at Chirnside Park Community Hub
 33 Kimberley Drive Chirnside Park
 Meetings begin at 7:30pm .
Saturday Workshops are  **37 F3**
 1-4:00pm on the **Last Saturday** of the month, at the same venue as monthlies!

Inside this issue:

Trade & Lib Update	2
Bonsai at Work	2
New Club Website	2
Show Review	3
Membership Renewals	4
Elections and AGM	4
Kudos, Accolades, Thanks	4
Saturday Workshops	4
Tree Profile - Metrosideros	5
On The Display Table	6
Bonsai Calendar	7
Looking Ahead	8
Other Events	8
YVBS Forum	8

The May meeting featured the ever-popular Team Challenge. Attending members formed into teams and were presented with a raw stock tree—this year Atlas cedars. The Challenge—produce the best bonsai that they could within the very tight time frame available.



Under the guidance of appointed team leaders the teams cut, trimmed and wired the tree into their own mutually agreed vision. The results were impressive!

Team members had the option of buying their creation at the end of the night, and all trees were



Above - Teams frantically styling their trees to beat the time clock!

Left - The finished trees—everybody had a different design interpretation.

Bottom—the Tree Laboratory at the June meeting.

snapped up by members.

A good time was had by all, and many valuable lessons learned and experience gained by newer members!

The June meeting was something a little different—a Tree Laboratory. Certain members brought in their problem trees—ones that they did not have a very clear vision of their future direction. The assembled panel of “Experts” (Steve M, Lindsay M, and Lindsay H) then gave their individual considered opinions on each tree. Many differing viewpoints were put forward!



Calendar Dates:

- 12th July (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:30pm. Chirnside Hub.
- 29th July (Saturday) “Last Saturday of the Month” Workshop. 1:00pm. Chirnside Hub.
- 8th August (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:30pm. Chirnside Hub.
- 12th August & 13th August (Saturday & Sunday) Waverley Bonsai Group Show. Mt Waverley.
- 26th August (Saturday) “Last Saturday of the Month” Workshop. 1:00pm. Chirnside Hub.

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

Highlights from May & June - Cont. From Page 1

It is uncertain whether the tree owners left with a clear idea of where to go, but they certainly were presented with plenty to think about!

As a learning exercise, it was valuable to hear the differing approaches offered and the reasoning behind each. Members learned that there is no necessarily right approach to each situation, and the owners have to make their own individual design decisions.

Bonsai At Work—By Stefan D

Several of my colleagues at a local engineering company recently showed interest in bonsai.

With protective gloves, gardening tools and an open mind, they each adopted a Juniper bonsai starter from the YVBS Bonsai Show 2023.

Over two lunch-time sessions, they cleaned out weak and dead branches to reveal the tree structure then selected a front based on the nebari, the trunk movement and the lower branches. They learned how to wire the trunk and branches and how to turn unwanted branches into deadwood.

The participants found it difficult to “see the bonsai within” but once they started trimming and bending, the bonsai slowly revealed itself.

While hesitant to start, they grew confident quickly – maybe too confident, one even used wire cutters to trim branches!

All are keen for the next session when repotting season arrives and their new trees migrate into a bonsai pot.

I have already had interest from other colleagues so this may become a regular thing!



Thanks Stefan—great work, and hopefully we will see a few new members in the future!

Articles from members are always welcome—send to Lindsay H at yarravalleybonsai@gmail.com.

New Club Website

Due to circumstances outside our control—our previous website host closed down their business unexpectedly—our website which had been in existence since the Club’s founding in 2008 suddenly disappeared. We have subsequently taken the opportunity of modernizing our site design and structure, and have now gone online using a different web hosting service. The web address is the same—www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au. The new site retains essentially the same functionality as before, except for the Forum. Further content and enhancements will continue to be added in the future. The new site is better optimized to suit all user devices from mobile phones to desktop computers.



Members should note that our previous generic email address of info@yarravalleybonsai.org.au is no longer in existence. Going forward, we will use yarravalleybonsai@gmail.com as our generic email address.

Library Check-out!

YVBS has a comprehensive range of bonsai books and magazines in our library, all of which are available for borrowing without charge. 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. Now under the management of new Librarian Fiona M!



Trade Table Cheque-out!

The trade table has been restocked with new tools, wire and other accessories. A selection of pots are 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.



2023 Show Review

Our 2023 Bonsai Show held on the weekend of 20th and 21st May was a huge success, and keeps on getting better each year as our trees develop and age. Many thanks to all of the members who contributed display trees and/or their time to set up, man the Show, and take down again. It was a real team effort, however special commendation must go to Steve M for designing the display area and arranging the trees throughout the display area.

Many members of the general public visited the Show and complimentary remarks were often heard. New Club members have already signed up based on the inspiration gained from viewing the display.

The Sales area was well-stocked and popular, with sales turnover being twice the volume from last year's Show.

With public donations, raffle profits, and sales commissions, the Club has made a modest but significant profit which go towards benefits to all Club members.



- Training Courses - Beginner to Advanced
- Styling & Shaping
- Tree Minding
- Online Shop for Tools, Wire and Bonsai Accessories



Call Scott today on 0417 520 383
Based in Glen Waverley

BONSAI MATSU



bonsaimatsu.com

scott@bonsaimatsu.com



[/bonsaimatsu](https://facebook.com/bonsaimatsu)

Club Membership Renewals

Members are reminded that membership renewal fees are due on the first of July for the new club year, running from July 2023 through to June 2024. Individual notices will be emailed to all relevant members within the next week. Fees are unchanged again this year—\$30 for individual membership and \$40 for family membership. Payment may be made at any meeting, by posting to our PO Box 345, Mt Evelyn, 3796, or by direct deposit to the Club bank account Bendigo Bank, BSB 633-108, Account No. 1347 21257, noting surname in the reference field.

New members please note that anybody who has joined since May of 2023 has their membership covered until 30th June 2024.

Committee Elections and 2023 AGM

An early reminder that the Club Annual General Meeting will be held in September, at which time elections for the Committee of Management will be held. We encourage members to get involved with the running of the Club, as new ideas are essential to keep the Club innovative and vibrant. Note that bonsai skills and experience are welcome but not essential to Committee positions.

We especially need people with skills in online media, website management, and communications.

The Committee meets roughly 4 times per year, and communicates extensively at other times through email and WhatsApp. All we need from Committee members is a little investment in time and lots of enthusiasm.

Committee Nomination Forms will be available at Club meetings, or interest may be registered by contacting Club President Patrick 0488 645 119 or through the Club email address yarravalleybonsai@gmail.com.

Kudos, Accolades and Thanks

- To all members who contributed to the success of our 2023 Show by contributing trees, sales stock or time, or by simply attending.
- To Tracey F of Murrumbung Studio Ceramics for donation of a pot for the Show raffle, and for her ongoing support of the Club.
- To Val G for donation of a pot for the Show raffle.
- To Seacol International for donation of a product hamper for the Show raffle.

End-Of-Month Saturday Workshops

The regular Last Saturday of the Month workshops are a relaxed place to work on our trees, discuss our bonsai activities with like-minded people, or seek advice or assistance with our trees.

They also often provide a first point of contact for interested parties who are considering learning more about bonsai or joining the club.

Visitors are always welcome! Bring along any trees that you may have for advice if needed, or just come along for an introduction to the art of bonsai. There is no obligation or cost.

Open from 1:00pm to 4:00pm on the last Saturday of each month except December, at the Chirnside Park Community Hub.

Right - Both the May and June Saturday Workshops were well-attended.



Handcrafted Bonsai Ceramics created in Victoria from Australian high fired stoneware clays.

Murrumbung Studio Ceramics 0459 555 346
<https://www.murrumbungstudioceramics.com.au/>
<https://www.facebook.com/murrumbungstudio>
 Instagram: @murrumbungstudioceramics



Tree Profile: NZ Christmas Tree - *Metrosideros excelsa*

General: According to *Wikipedia* the *Metrosideros excelsa* is a coastal evergreen tree in the myrtle family, Myrtaceae, that produces a brilliant display of red (or occasionally orange, yellow or white) flowers made up of a mass of stamens. Pōhutukawa is one of twelve species endemic to New Zealand. Renowned for its vibrant colour and its ability to survive even perched on rocky, precarious cliffs, it has found an important place in New Zealand's culture for its strength and beauty and is regarded as a chiefly tree (rākau rangatira) by Māori. It provides a blaze of colour over Christmas.



The tree will grow to 25m in height with a spreading dome-like form. Their trunks and branches are sometimes festooned with matted fibrous aerial roots.

Metrosideros kermadecensis is endemic to the volcanic Kermadec Islands about 900 km north-east of New Zealand. It is very similar to, and often confused with, the pōhutukawa of the mainland, differing mainly by having smaller, more oval leaves, and by flowering throughout the year.

Metrosideros collina is a small compact rounded shrub growing to 1.5m tall, with clusters of orange/red flowers appearing sporadically throughout the year. Very similar in appearance to pōhutukawa. The 'Tahiti' cultivar is often seen in local nurseries.

Metrosideros is a common Bonsai in New Zealand with a very attractive bark and aerial roots, but tend to be hard to get to flower as bonsai!

Lighting & Temperature: Place in full sun to promote flowering, but just morning sun is o.k. too - protect from frost while young! New shoots in early spring on even older trees will easily frost burn and die, but this will not generally affect the overall health of the plant.

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

Feeding: They need heavy feeding through spring and autumn! Best to use a slow or controlled release type fertilizer like Native Osmocote at the drip line. You can use liquid fertilizer like Charlie Carp throughout the seasons. Don't use fertilizers with high phosphate!

Repotting: Should be done after flowering at the warmest time of the year, using a well drained soil. Older trees every two to four years, some growers repot every year regardless of age.

Propagation: Easy from seeds in spring, semi ripe cuttings in autumn.

Pruning: Best time is after flowering, leave 4 leaves with buds in the axis when you prune - don't prune or pinch again until next year if you want flowers! You'll sacrifice the flowers if you like to shape - that's what I've done.

Lee Wilson is pruning his back quite hard in August and will get lots of new shoots which he lets grow, because they are the ones to get flowers on them and feeding heavily in that time!

They will bud from old wood, so a nice shape can usually be regained!

Wiring: On young branches only, the older wood on Pōhutukawa becomes very hard and difficult to shape with wire.

Pests and diseases: Scales and caterpillars - use a systemic insecticide sprayed regularly through summer.

Styles: Informal upright, single or multiple trunks, semi cascades, windswept and root over rock. Aerial roots may spontaneously appear from the trunk and/or lower branches, and may be encouraged by increasing humidity and perhaps shading the lower parts of the tree.



Now managed by Bonsai Deano!
Contact Deano via Bonsai Roots on Facebook for all your bonsai soil needs or see him at any meeting.



On The Display Table

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



Bonsai Calendar: July - August

Most species that are used for bonsai are hardy (able to withstand freezing) however, when grown in containers they do not have the ability to bury their roots deep into the ground, which insulates them from the cold. The Melbourne climate rarely reaches zero (freezing) or sub zero temperatures but protecting your trees from the winter elements may still be necessary. Be wary of extremely wet weather as having your trees saturated for extended amounts of time may lead to problems through rotting of the roots, which is invariably fatal!

Having the ability to inspect the detailed branch structure of your deciduous trees in winter provides an excellent opportunity to consider restyling your trees. Here are a few tips to get you through the winter.

- Monitor the weather and protect your bonsais from excess rain, wind and cold. Find the most protected area in your yard. Place them undercover if necessary.
- Remove any dead leaves from around your trees and display benches, as these can become a breeding ground for insect pests.
- Prune and thin out your conifers where necessary to set up their growth for the coming growing season.
- Keep your trees as well drained as possible. Place bricks or blocks of wood under your bonsais to ensure water is escaping the pot and air is circulating around and under your trees.
- Carefully inspect each tree and make any changes that will improve your bonsai. Remember the busy potting season is not far away so having your wiring and pruning complete before this time will take the pressure off.
- Avoid the temptation to repot too early. Wait until the buds start to swell before attempting this procedure.
- Prepare your potting medium and place in a dry area. Organize any other items needed for potting (root picks, mesh, scoops etc.)
- Consider what pot you will use for each of your trees. Place them next to the bonsais that they will be paired with.
- It is not necessary to fertilise your trees when they are in dormancy, however evergreens are still growing slowly and natives may not even slow down too much, depending on species and weather conditions. An occasion application of liquid fertilizer can benefit these trees.

It is difficult to predict the changing of the seasons. Trying to schedule with the use of a calendar may lead to problems. Watch your trees carefully and let them guide you.



Bonsai Sensation Nursery



www.bonsaisensation.com.au

253 Centre Road
Narre Warren South
VIC 3805

Contact us on:

Mobile: 0425 722 827

Landline: (03) 8794 9668

Email: bonsaisensation@hotmail.com



A group for all lovers of bonsai in the "far east" of Melbourne

Yarra Valley Bonsai Society
PO Box 345
Mount Evelyn, Victoria 3796
Australia

Looking Ahead to July & August 2023

The monthly meeting on Tuesday 11th July at 7:30pm will feature a demonstration by special guest and Club Sponsor Tien from Bonsai Sensation Nursery on "Working on Root Balls". Tien is an experience Bonsai professional and always delivers useful information, so this is a session not to be missed! Display Table—"Deadwood and Shari", or Member's Choice.



The Last Saturday of the Month Workshop will be on Saturday 29th July from 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

The monthly meeting on Tuesday 8th August at 7:30pm will be a demonstration by our long-time associate Craig Wilson of Gentiana Nursery on "Maple Group Planting". Craig taught many of our older members the basics of their bonsai skills and his inout and advice is always valuable. Should be a great night! Display Table—"Maples", or Member's Choice.



The Last Saturday of the Month Workshop will be on Saturday 26th August from 1:00pm to 4:00pm.



Other Events



Waverley Bonsai Group will hold their Annual Show on Saturday 12th August and Sunday 13th August at the Waverley Community Centre in Mt Waverley. Further details are not yet available, but checkout their website <https://waverleybonsaigroup.org/>.

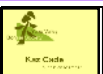


Introduction to Bonsai Training Course

The next YVBS course is scheduled for March and April 2024, however if there is sufficient demand we may run another course later in 2023. Register your interest by entering your name on the sheet at any meeting, or by contacting yarravalleybonsai@gmail.com.

YVBS FORUM:

Our apologies that our Forum disappeared with the rest of our old website! Our new website does not yet have an equivalent function available, but we hope to extend in the future to incorporate something similar. Stay tuned!



Member Benefits Refer to the website (Note—still to be added!) 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 us via the society's external email: info@yarravalleybonsai.org.au