

## *International Demonstrator at Bonsai Northwest*

Bonsai Northwest presents Bill Valavanis, the proprietor of the International Bonsai Arboretum in Rochester, New York - <http://www.internationalbonsai.com/> in a presentation on Monday 3rd October at 9:00pm and a workshop on Tuesday 4th October. He is a highly regarded International Demonstrator with 40 plus years of dedicated bonsai study (30 years with Japanese Masters).

Venue: Clifton Park Bowling Club, Batman St, Essendon. (Mel 28 B4)

Costs: Presentation = free admission, workshop participant \$50.00, observer = \$5.00 (BNW member), \$10.00 (BNW non-member).

## *YVBS Membership Renewals*

Membership renewals for the 2011/2012 year are now due, and may be paid by cash or cheque to Julie or by direct deposit to the YVBS bank account (Bendigo Bank, BSB 633-000, Account No. 134721257, Yarra Valley Bonsai Society). If paying by direct deposit, please include your name in the reference field.

As voted at the last Annual General Meeting, membership renewal fees are now \$30 for individuals and \$40 for families. Initial joining fee is an additional \$10 for new members signing on.



### **Library Check-out!**

YVBS has subscribed to the new bonsai magazine produced by the Association of Australian Bonsai Clubs. A copy of the first two issues is 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 to Bill at Morrisons during office hours 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. Don't forget the club's tool sharpening kit, available for use at meetings. Anything else you would like to see stocked? Eg special Japanese tools, branch-benders, etc. Just advise at the trade table or to any committee member.



### **The Bonsai School of Victoria**

Enroll now for our Novice and Intermediate Bonsai Course and learn from the best. Our teacher, Maurice, has been involved with Bonsai for over 25 years. Maurice has taught some of the finest bonsai exponents in Australia, including the now legendary, Quentin Valentine and Brian Sampson.

Maurice studied Bonsai at the Japanese school of Arts - Japan Seminar House (JSH), along with Paul Sweeney (who he also taught for a short while). At JSH, Maurice was taught by two of the best Bonsai teachers around – Max Leversha and Jeff Acland. When Max could no longer work due to vision impairment, Maurice was asked to take over Max's role and taught there for four years, from 1994 – 1998, alongside Jeff Acland.

Maurice explains, "I had the good fortune of being at the right place, at the right time – I was there for 10 years – six years as a student, and a further four years as a teacher. It was an incredible place and time. Jeff had a very close and personal relationship with the Korreshoff family, and was personally taught by Vita, so we had a strong bond and connection with them.

"Another close friend of Jeff and Max's was Joe Micaleff, from Canberra. He was an absolute genius – an inspiration to all who knew him and saw his work. Joe used to visit Jeff quite often, and would be a "guest" demonstrator at JSH, whenever he was in Melbourne, and from time to time we even travelled to Sydney and Canberra to stay with the Korreshoffs and the Micaleffs. Those were really amazing times, seeing private collections not many other people ever saw.

"So as you can see, we were really exposed to the very best there was around – a truly incredible platform to learn from, and consider myself to be very lucky.

"Jeff and Max were very generous of spirit, and I hold true to that legacy where nothing is held back in the pursuit of knowledge, artistic excellence and personal integrity."

JSH was the "premiere" school of Bonsai in Victoria – and WE, now offer THAT level of education here at Bonsai The Imagination Tree. No matter what level you're at, whether you're an absolute beginner, or well advanced, we offer YOU that level of commitment.

Our company is a non for profit organization that employs and helps a large percentage of physically or mentally handicapped people. By supporting us, you are also giving these needy people a chance we so often just take for granted, a chance to be able to jump out of bed in the morning and say, "life is beautiful". PLEASE HELP US HELP THEM... and put a smile on their faces...

Bonsai - The Imagination Tree, 136 York Road, Mt Evelyn, Victoria. [www.sashieda.com.au](http://www.sashieda.com.au)