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PO Box 345 Mount Evelyn, VIC  
3796 Australia  
[www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au](http://www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au)  
[info@yarravalleybonsai.org.au](mailto: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: Wendy S 0409 357 550  
Marktg: David R 0402 032 001  
Members: Marlene 0418 147 871

**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**



1-4:00pm on the **Last Satur-  
day of the month, at the same  
venue as monthlies!**

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# The Yarra Valley Bonsai Society Newsletter

## Highlights from September & October 2024

The September Club meeting was the Annual General Meeting, followed by a general workshop.

The AGM saw the election of a new committee for the 2024/25 year, comprising a mix of old and new faces. Great to see some new members stepping forward to serve on the Committee! The office bearers and Committee members are:

President—Patrick I  
Vice President—Steve M  
Secretary—Lindsay H  
Treasurer—Wendy S  
Membership—Marlene J  
Marketing—David R

General Members—Nick R, Stefan D, Alan H, Ken G, Grant L

The October meeting featured special guest presenter and AABC visiting tutor Tony Bebb from Brisbane, who demonstrated correct wiring techniques and then facilitated a workshop where members could practice their wiring skills on their own trees, or on club-supplied trees.

Tony emphasized that the anchor for applied wire is most important, and can either be in to the soil or around the trunk, applying two coils on the trunk for maximum stability. Wiring angle should be around 45 degrees on brittle stock, but closer to 60 degrees for everything else. Use two hands when wiring—one to brace and guide, moving up with the applied coils, and one to apply the wire. When bending, use two hands close together.

When wiring branches, try to wire 2 branches with the one piece of wire. The best way to wire is in the armpit, i.e. under the branch, and then over the shoulder. i.e. top of the branch in a tight initial coil. For a required up or down branch movement, the direction of the wire, i.e. clockwise or anticlockwise, doesn't matter, but for a required sideways move, apply wire in the direction of the movement, i.e. so the wire will tighten when the branch is moved rather than loosen. Or in other words, to bring the branch towards me, wire towards me, and conversely, to move the branch away from me, wire away from me.

When applying thinner wire out to the end of the branch after thicker wire on the inner part of the branch, cross over the end of the thicker wire to provide a better anchor when moving the



*Above - Workshop following the September AGM*

## Calendar Dates:

- 2nd Nov & 3rd Nov (Saturday & Sunday) Ballarat Bonsai Exhibition. Ballarat.
- 9th Nov & 10th Nov (Saturday & Sunday) Geelong Bonsai Show. Geelong.
- 12th November (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:30pm. Chirnside Hub.
- 23rd November & 24th November (Saturday & Sunday) YVBS Bonsai Show. Chirnside Hub.
- 30th November (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 1:00pm. Chirnside Hub.
- 7th December (Saturday) Satsuki Azalea Interest Group Meeting. 1:30pm. Bonsai Art, Heatherton.
- 10th December (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:30pm. Chirnside Hub.

*Continued Page 2*

See also the Events Calendar on our website: [www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au](http://www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au)

## Highlights from September & October - Cont. From Page 1

branch. For fine tip wire, hook up under the tip of the branch and then bend the tip up. If applying 2 wires to the same branch, ideally the two wires should touch.

Tony said that aluminium wire is cheap and easy to apply, but requires a size around half of the branch diameter. Copper wire is more expensive but hold far better than aluminium with a smaller diameter—only a quarter to one third of the branch diameter. Copper wire also requires annealing before old wire can be reused. This can be done in a potters kiln or over a fire until green tinges to the flame appears, followed by immediate quenching in water.

Another useful tip from Tony was to withdraw wire from the centre of the aluminium wire coils, and to store the wire coil in a suitable size pot. This keeps the wire tidy and ensures that the end is always easy to find.

Tony says to keep the wire on the tree as long as possible. Only cut it off when it bites in to the branch, which is when you can be confident the branch is set in its position. Any scarring on a rough bark tree doesn't matter, as the bark will eventually cover any wiring marks. For smooth bark trees, notice that the base of the branch gets thicker before the tips—so just cut the coil at the base when and where it starts to bite in. The only time that anchoring is required is when the branch is first bent.

The club thanks Tony Bebb for his very informative and easy to understand guide to correct wiring techniques. Even the more experienced members learned something, and everybody left with the clear message that the secret to good wiring is practice, practice, practice!



Above - Tony Bebb demonstrates wiring techniques at the October meeting.

## Bunnings Display

The Club was invited by Bunnings Lilydale store to participate in their Spring Launch on one Saturday in October from 10am to 2pm.

A small display of trees was set up across two tables outside the nursery area at the store, and featured a range of deciduous, flowering and native trees in various sizes and styles to showcase the art of bonsai.

A small stream of visitors passed the display, and we were fortunate that the weather was cool, but dry and sunny.

Bunnings staff kept us supplied with biscuit and samples from their barbecue, and also kindly reward our attendance with a Bunnings gift voucher which we will use for raffle prizes later in the year.



Above - The Club display at Bunnings Lilydale.

## 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. See our Librarian Ken G to borrow.



## 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? Just advise at the trade table or to any committee member.





## Tony Bebb Tutored Workshops

While we had Tony Bebb down from Brisbane, the Club also organized Tutored Workshops on the Sunday prior to our October meeting, and private one-on-one sessions at various member's homes on the Monday and Tuesday. Sixteen members participated in the workshops, and four members in the private sessions. The workshops were held at Japara House in Kilsyth, due to the unavailability of our normal Chirnside Park venue on this day. The room at Japara House was spacious and well-lighted, although the carpeted floor was not ideal!

A range of trees was brought along for Tony's attention ranging from small to enormous! His advice and assistance was always respectful and expert based in his many years of experience. All members went away with better trees, and with an increased understanding of the methodology of approaching a tree's initial styling and then refinement.

Tony was accompanied by his wife Keiko for the visit, and they came down a couple of days early to take in and appreciate some of the sights of Melbourne. They also managed to fit in a visit to the annual Bonsai Exhibition of one of the other Melbourne Clubs, the Bonsai Society of Victoria, at Box Hill Town Hall.

Many thanks to Tony for his time and efforts, and also to Keiko for her cheerful assistance especially with cleaning up after the workshops.

Involved members also hosted Tony and Keiko at a dinner at the local Okami Japanese Restaurant on the Sunday evening, which was enjoyed by all.



## Yamadori Dig

Yamadori is the Japanese term for collecting trees from the wild to use as bonsai stock.

Our Committee members along with the Committee from the Victorian Native Bonsai Club were invited to a member's property to dig native kunzea. Four of our Committee members took advantage of the offer and took a number of trees home.

We hope to extend similar invitations to other club members in the future, however if any member has access to a property with suitable trees for yamadori, please contact the Committee, as we are always in the lookout for suitable opportunities.



Above - Nick R and Steve M with some of the collected trees.



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## 2024 YVBS Bonsai Show

The Show is coming up fast, will be held on Saturday 23rd November and Sunday 24th November at the Chirnside Park Community Hub.

Members should have already received Tree Submission Forms however these will be sent again at the start of November. The completed forms should be returned as soon as possible.

Remember the following guidelines for tree preparation:

- Foliage should be neatly trimmed, free of pests, and with all dead or discoloured leaves/needles removed.
- Soil surface should be neat and weed-free. Top dressing or moss should be applied if preferred.
- Pots should be thoroughly cleaned and the bottoms should be free of dirt and debris.
- Wire on the tree is permissible if required, but should be minimal and neat if present.
- Trees should be watered the day before delivery to the Show, but should not be dropping when delivered.
- Pots and stands should be labelled with the owner's name on the underneath surface. Pen on masking tape is a good means of labelling.

Forms for the Sales Area at the Show will also be sent out shortly, for any members who wish to put trees, pots or other materials into the Sales Area. As will be noted on the form, strict labelling requirements will be enforced.

All members should promote the Show to all friends, relatives and acquaintances to help ensure a good attendance.



## Kudos, Accolades and Thanks

- To Tracey F of Murrumbung Studio Ceramics for donating a number of her hand-made pots for our raffles.
- To Bunnings Lilydale for their invitation to participate in their Spring Fair, and for their kind donation of a voucher.
- To Grant L for his kind invitation for some members to participate in yamadori dig at this property.

## End-Of-Month Saturday Workshop

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. There is usually something interesting going on, and plenty of trees to look at, in various stages of development.

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 - Some of the work sent outside at the September workshop!*



## BONSAI SENSATION NURSERY

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## Plant Nomenclature (Plant Names)

Article contributed by Andrew S.

Plants are identified using botanical names and common names.

Most botanical names are derived from Latin or Greek words. They look scary to the untrained, however when you consider there are some 391000 plants on earth and all of them have their own individual name, you can see why there is a need for some ordered system. No matter what country you are in the names stay the same.

The system used now was established in 1753 by a Swedish naturalist Carolus Linnaeus. He recognized that the most distinctive part of the plant was the flower or seed for those that do not flower like pine trees. Flowers are more accurate as depending on where a plant is found the leaf size, plant shape and size may vary dramatically, making it hard to identify. Names are usually chosen to represent a characteristic of the plant, for example Eucalyptus is from the Greek Eu meaning good, well, true, beautiful and kalypto meaning to cover or conceal. Conceal relates to the characteristic of a eucalyptus's flower capsule which has a cover on it. Each eucalypt has a distinctive cap with no two species being the same. Sometimes people's names are adopted into the species in recognition of their research or discovery in relation to the plant. An example of this is the famous Baron von Mueller, who played a big part in the design of the Melbourne botanic gardens, and has plants named after him like Eucalyptus muelleriana.

Plants are in groups divided into algae, moss, monocots, dicots, conifers and ferns. These groups are further divided into families, then genus and finally species. To confuse us further there are cultivars which are names given to a selection of a species that has a special characteristic for instance dwarfing, which is desirable for us in bonsai, or flower color, think azaleas.

These botanical names have an order that they are written, and capitals must be used in the correct location. Eg. Pinus thunbergii Yatsubusa.

Genus—Pinus - capital letters, origin pinax, board or plank (Greek)

Species—thunbergii - lower case letters, origin named after botanist Thunberg

Cultivar—Yatsubusa - capital letters, origin from the Japanese word for dwarf

Common name -Yatsubusa Japanese black pine capital letter

This cultivar is selected for its dwarf habit compared to the taller black pine.

So why not common names? Common names are confusing when selecting plants from a nursery. If you were to ask me for a wax flower for instance, I would be thinking do you want a Hoya, Philotheca, chamelaucium, or stephanotis. It is like the common name daisy. Daisies are a collection of flowers all from the family asteracea making them all look similar but there are hundreds of them. An example in bonsai would be Pine tree and there are 126 species of pine, and this does not take into consideration cultivars.

So, my advice is to try to use your botanic names more and they will soon become second nature. When selecting plants to purchase do some research and know the genus, species and cultivar of what you are looking for and you may experience less heartbreak when you receive your plant. The plant name often indicates a special quality of the plant or its origin which aids us in understanding the cultural requirements of our plant. An example of this is plants with the species orientalis originate from the eastern side of China and occidentalis which is the western side of China. The conditions are desert on one side and more rain forest on the other, which gives us insight into their needs.

I hope this makes plant names less confusing or scary and encourages you to research some of them to find out more about your plants and how to cultivate them.

## AABC Convention 2025

The 2025 National Convention will be held in Canberra from 16th to 19th May 2025, hosted by the Canberra Bonsai Society. Featured international artists will be from USA - Jennifer Price from Chicago and Michael Hagedorn from Portland. In addition, three Australian artists will be on the program as demonstrators—Jarryd Bailey from Tasmania, Sam Thompson from the NBPCA in Canberra, and Marcela Ferreira from Melbourne. The venue will be the Canberra Rex Hotel and the National Arboretum.



Members are encouraged to consider attending the Convention to improve their bonsai knowledge, and as a side benefit to view the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection at the Arboretum.

Note that the Early Bird discount of \$50 saving on registration fees expires on 31st October!

Further information is available at [https://www.canberrabonsai.club/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=139:2025-aabc-bonsai-convention-3&catid=85&Itemid=2374](https://www.canberrabonsai.club/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=139:2025-aabc-bonsai-convention-3&catid=85&Itemid=2374)

## Backyard Bonsai Blokes Podcast

Launching on 1st November 2024 will be the Backyard Bonsai Blokes podcast, organized by our own Grant L and featuring Steve M amongst others. Accessible on Spotify and Podbean. A couple of Aussie blokes talking bonsai fundamentals and how they apply to the everyday suburban backyard bonsai enthusiast.

Unwrap the challenges, limitations, opportunities and reward of juggling full time work, relationships, family and many other life expectations all while turning our yards into small scale nurseries fueled by our passion for bonsai. Shining light on the opportunities available to us all through bonsai clubs, bonsai nurseries, local potters and bonsai professionals in Melbourne Victoria and the wider bonsai community within Australia.

## *On The Display Table*

*A selection of trees on the Display Table at the September and October meetings.*





## *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 make for unpredictable growing conditions. Pay extra attention to the bonsai 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 the new 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 bonsai 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.

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

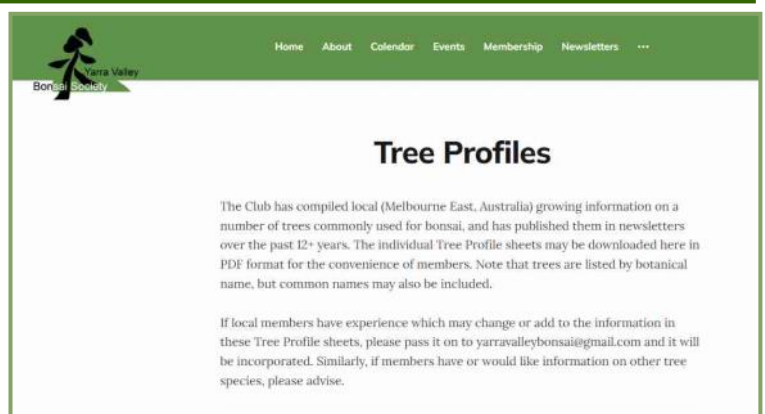
Most repotting should be complete. Varieties such as Chinese Elms, Azaleas, and Junipers can still be re-potted with care. Varieties such as Figs, Pomegranates, Pyracanthas and Natives can be re-potted even later. Pines should not be re-potted after spring finishes.

## *Tree Profiles*

Regular readers may note that a Tree Profile page has not been included in this newsletter. For some years now, we have been repeating some of the older tree profiles, mixed with some new ones—there are only so many species that we grow as bonsai and for which we have local experience!

Rather than continuing with repeats, all previous Tree Profile sheets have been loaded to our website ([www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au](http://www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au)) for convenient download by members and others. Go to our website, click on the "..." button, and then on "Tree Profiles" on the drop-down list. The pictured screen will appear, and scrolling down will display the Tree Profiles available for download as PDF files.

We will continue to generate new profiles as the opportunity arises. If any members wish to contribute information on new species, this will be very welcome!





 **Dean Shaw (Deano)**

 [deano@bonsairoots.com.au](mailto:deano@bonsairoots.com.au)

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# ヤラ谷間盆栽会

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September &  
October 2024

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[www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au](http://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 November & December 2024*



The monthly meeting on Tuesday 12th November at 7:30pm will feature a presentation by our own Patrick I and Nick R on "Tree Species for Bonsai", "Propagation", and "Nutrition". Should be an interesting session which could generate a lot of discussion. Display table theme—"Azaleas – any Style", and Member's Choice.



The YVBS Bonsai Show 2024 is on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th November from 10am to 4pm. Set up and tree drop-off on Friday 22nd November from 3:00pm to 7:00pm, also Saturday morning at 9am. Chirnside Park Community Hub.



The Last Saturday of the Month Workshops is on Saturday 30th November from 1:00pm to 4:00pm.



The monthly meeting on Tuesday 10th December at 7:30pm will be our Christmas Breakup and will include an informal discussion on certain member's trees. Bring in one of your trees that has an interesting story! Refreshments will be available, BYO drinks. Display table theme—"On or In the Rocks or Driftwood", and Member's Choice.



NOTE—there is no Last Saturday of the Month Workshop in December due to the holiday period.



## *Other Events*



The Ballarat Bonsai Society will stage their 2024 Bonsai Exhibition on Saturday 2nd November 10am to 5pm and Sunday 3rd November 10am to 4pm. Robert Clark Horticultural Centre within the Ballarat Botanical Gardens. \$5 entry.



The Geelong Bonsai Club will stage their Bonsai Show on Saturday 9th November and Sunday 10th November from 9am to 5pm. Geelong Masonic Centre, 27 Regent Stret, Belmont. \$5 adult \$3 concession.



The Satsuki Azalea Interest Group will hold a meeting on Saturday 7th December at 1:30pm. Bonsai Art Nursery, Heatherton.



### **YVBS ONLINE:**

Our Website can be found at [www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au](http://www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au)—check it out for the latest information on Club activities. Also note that the website now contains the **Tree Profiles** from all newsletters, containing a wealth of species information for easy download.

Also, the Club is on Facebook and Instagram, and all members are invited to join up and participate in the information exchange.



**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 us via the society's external email: [info@yarravalleybonsai.org.au](mailto:info@yarravalleybonsai.org.au)