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The YVBS meets on the
**second Tuesday of each
month at Chirside Park
Community Hub
33 Kimberley Drive
Chirside 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 July & August 2025

The July Club meeting featured a presentation by our own Jason B on "Root Work", and specifically, growing bonsai material in colanders. Jason started by explaining that his early bonsai knowledge was heavily influenced by UK/USA bonsai artist Peter Adams, who proposed the concept that bonsai should be developed in 3 stages:

Development of Mass – heavy application of water and fertilizer to develop trunk, grown in ground or in large containers.

Structure and Form – development of primary and secondary branching in large containers.

Refinement of Image – development of tertiary twigs and fine ramification, in a bonsai pot.

The use of colanders instead of pots are advantageous to build compact, healthy and highly efficient root system that can drive rapid growth and at the same time prepare the root ball for future life in a bonsai pot. Trees in colanders are virtually impossible to overwater or over-fertilise and have less root fungal issues. They work well with both organic and inorganic potting mixes.

The disadvantages of colanders - Wind - Trees in colanders are more susceptible to falling over in Autumn, because the rootball is lighter. They also dry out faster.

After a trunk chop, allow new trunks to thicken a bit longer so that it is more like 2/3 - 3/4 rather than 50% of the thickness, so that the transition is smoother. Then if you need size, you could take them up to a larger colander. Smoothness of transition first, then overall size.

Repot every year if possible - or size them up as needed.

Mulching is really important - sphagnum or sugar cane mulch work well with colanders. This leads to a lot of surface roots which allows a lot of water and very high levels of fertiliser to be used. The colanders will go like a Ferrari if you put your foot down, but can be slowed down if you need because of their porosity - just back off the water and fertiliser.

Using colanders prevents the need to use a root barrier like a tile to flare roots. Using colanders is compact, because you achieve more with a smaller root ball. Colanders simplify watering and prevent over watering issues. Using colanders with Cedars, Pines, Elms and Zelkovas in particular reduces the coarseness of the roots that can normally get quite thick and unsightly.

The August club meeting featured a brief presentation by Steve M and Grant L on preparing trees for the Show, followed by a general workshop.



Above - Jason B at the July Meeting.

Calendar Dates:

- 9th September (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting & AGM. 7:30pm. Chirside Hub.
- 20th September (Saturday) Bunnings Lilydale Spring Fair. 10am to 2pm.
- 20th Sep & 21st Sep (Saturday & Sunday) Northern Suburbs Bonsai Show. Greensborough.
- 27th September (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 1:00pm. Chirside Hub.
- 12th October & 13th October (Saturday & Sunday) BSV Bonsai Exhibition. Box Hill.
- 14th October (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:30pm. Chirside Hub.
- 25th October (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 1:00pm. Chirside Hub.

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

YVBS 2025 Bonsai Exhibition

A reminder that our 2025 Bonsai Exhibition is coming up on 22nd and 23rd November. All members are encouraged to submit at least one tree for display, so make a selection and start preparations. Speak with Steve M for any advice needed on preparing your tree/s.

In addition to the Best Tree chosen by public voting, this year we intend to trial an award system as well. An independent judge will choose the best tree in large, medium and small sizes, and this will be displayed next to the tree at the Exhibition. There will also be a Certificate of Merit awarded, which will be for that tree chosen in each of the size categories as having the most potential.

As usual, volunteers will be needed for the show setup, during the Exhibition hours, and for take-down at the end. Roster sheets will be circulated closer to the dates.



Above - A display section from the 2024 Show

2025 Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will take place at the September meeting. All positions on the Committee will be declared vacant, and an election held for the new Committee if necessary. Several existing members will not be re-standing for the Committee, so replacements will be required. We encourage any member who is interested and can spare a few hours to help run our club to nominate – see Lindsay H for nomination forms. Interest and enthusiasm is all that is required, bonsai expertise is not a pre-requisite! You will find serving the Club a very rewarding experience.

Book Auction

The September meeting will also include a workshop and a special auction of books which have been donated to the Club from a deceased estate. All books are as-new and high quality, and include some quite rare issues. We have allocated a few to go into our library, but there will be around 50 books to be auctioned. Reserve prices will be set, but you will find them quite reasonable.

AABC 2026 National Bonsai Convention

The 2026 National Convention will be hosted by the Bonsai Society of Southern Tasmania at the Wrest Point Convention Centre in Hobart from 1st May to 4th May 2026. Headline guest artist will be Matt Reel from the Pacific Northwest of the USA, supported by local artists Jarryd Bailey, Hugh Grant and Sean Hartley who has just returned to Australia following 6 years studying in Japan. A highly recommended event for all members, especially those who have not attended a Convention previously. Put a reminder in your calendar!



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.



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.



Bunnings Display and Demo

We have again been invited to display bonsai and demonstrate techniques at Bunnings Lilydale Spring Launch on Saturday 20th September from 10am to 2pm.

Steve M, Marlene J, and Lindsay H will show some of their trees, and Steve will also do a demonstration.

Drop in to support us if you are in the area!

Right - The team at the 2024 Spring Launch



Community Presentations

Our club is occasionally requested to present a talk and demonstration on bonsai at local garden clubs and community groups, and we try to accommodate these requests when possible.

In August, Patrick I and Lindsay H presented at the Wandin Garden Club to around 35 enthusiastic members. A talk on the basics of bonsai was followed by a demonstration on trunk chopping and root pruning/repotting.

We hope that the presentation sufficiently inspired some of their members to give bonsai a try, and that we will see them at one of our future workshops or meetings.



End-of-Month 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. 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.



Kudos, Accolades and Thanks

- Thanks to the estate of Richard Judson for the donation of around 50 quality books on bonsai.



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On The Display Table



A selection of trees on the Display Table at the July and August meetings.



Accent items from the August meeting,



Bonsai Calendar: September - October

Following are the main tasks to focus on during this time of year.

Repotting/Root pruning

When repotting, look for ways to improve the overall appearance of your bonsai. For example, changing the position of the tree by turning, lifting or leaning the tree. Also consider alternative pot choices.

Watch for the buds to swell on deciduous trees. Repot before buds break into leaf.

Begin your repotting with deciduous varieties such as, maples, oaks, elms (September) and then continue with varieties such as, cryptomerias, azaleas, pyracanthas and pines (October).

After repotting, keep your trees in a protected area away from extreme weather (hot or cold)

Wiring

Wire all trees before repotting, rather than after repotting. This will minimize any movement to the tree after being repotted.

Deciduous trees should be wired before breaking into leaf. Be careful not to damage the delicate buds while wiring branches.

Watch carefully for wire damage at this time of year as most trees are growing at a rapid rate.

Pinching/Pruning

Begin to pinch back new shoots as soon as they appear.

Frequent pruning/pinching will improve ramification and help reduce leaf size throughout the growing season.

Remove dying flowers from the tree as it weakens the plant and encourages pests.

Fertilizing/Watering

With new growth, the need of water and fertilizer increases. Try to observe your trees individually to establish the amount and frequency of watering necessary.

Avoid overwatering. Remember it is a process of wetting and drying.

Use a slow release fertilizer (Osmocote/Dynamic Lifter) in combination with a liquid fertilizer (Powerfeed, Charlie Carp).

It is better to fertilize regularly and frequently in small weak doses than give a strong dose now and then.

With flowering species, fertilizing should commence after flowering.

Water your trees (with plain water) before using liquid fertilizer.



Dean Shaw (Deano)



deano@bonsairoots.com.au



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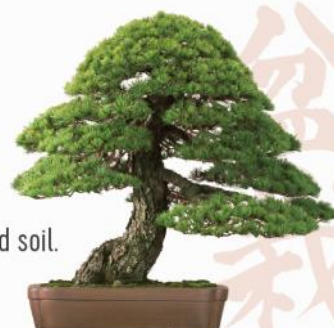
MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9:00am – 5:00pm / **WEEKENDS** 10:00am – 3:00pm

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ヤラ谷間盆栽会

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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
September & October 2025*



The September monthly meeting will be on Tuesday 9th September at 7:30pm, and will feature our Annual General Meeting followed by an auction of donated bonsai books and a general workshop. Bring along your trees and tools, assistance is available from experienced members if required. The Display Table theme is "Root Over Rock", or Member's Choice.



The Club will have a display table at Bunnings Lilydale as part of their Spring Launch event on Saturday 20th September between 10am and 2pm. Come along and check it out!



The Last Saturday of the Month Workshop will be on Saturday 27th September from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at the Chirnside Park Hub.



The October monthly meeting will be on Tuesday 14th October at 7:30pm, and will feature a demonstration on "Air Layering" by our own Steve M. Come along and learn about this basic propagation skill which can give you free trees!. Display Table theme is "Shohin and Mame Size Bonsai", or Member's Choice.



The Last Saturday of the Month workshop will be held on Saturday 25th October from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at the Chirnside Park Hub.



Other Events



The Northern Suburbs Bonsai Club 2024 Annual Bonsai Show will be held on Saturday 20th September from 10am to 4pm and Sunday 21st September from 10am to 2pm at Greensborough Masonic Hall, 23 Ester St, Greensborough. Entry \$5.



The Bonsai Society of Victoria will hold their annual Bonsai Exhibition on Saturday 11th October and Sunday 12th October from 9am to 4pm. Box Hill Town Hall.



YVBS ONLINE:

Our Website can be found at www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au—check it out for the latest information on Club activities. Also, the Club is on Facebook and Instagram, and all members are invited to join up and participate in the information exchange. Note that all Tree Profiles included in previous newsletters are now located on the club website for perusal and downloading.



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