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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 Saturday of the month, at the same venue as monthlies!

The Yarra Valley Bonsai Society Newsletter



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



Highlights from November & December 2025

The November Club meeting featured an informal discussion on pot selection, led by Steve M with valuable contributions from Elaine B and various attending members.

Various guidelines were presented and discussed as things to aim for, but the final selection is in the hands of the owner and designer, as it should be.

The December Club meeting was our Christmas breakup, and sandwiches and sushi were provided by the Club and supplemented by sweet plates from some members.

Before enjoying the refreshments, members engaged in an informal discussion about the trees they had brought along. Expert advice was provided by Steve, Grant, and Deano upon request.

Elaine, Nick, Bill, Anthony, Thomas, Lindsay, Robbie, and Trevor showcased trees in various stages of development and refinement. The draw from Display Table tree cards gathered from all meetings throughout the year was made, and congratulations go to the lucky winner Grant L who was presented with a \$50 Bun-nings voucher. Note for 2026—you've got to be in it to win it, so bring along your trees for the Display Table!



Above - Informal discussion on pot selection at the November meeting.

Below left - "Show and Tell" from various members at the December meeting.

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Calendar Dates:

- 13th January (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:30pm. Chirnside Hub.
- 31st January (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 1:00pm. Chirnside Hub.
- 10th February (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:30pm. Chirnside Hub.
- 28th February (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 1:00pm. Chirnside Hub.

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

Bonsai Exhibition 2025

Our annual exhibition has been and gone. It was a huge success and to quote numerous visitors, "Was our best yet and the best exhibition they've attended this year."

Thanks go to all those involved in making this happen. It was a huge effort and takes a cohesive team to get it done and done well. The caliber of trees submitted, along with the new backdrops really helped the room.

Noted local bonsai artist Quentin Valentine took his time to come and judge our exhibition, selecting awards for the top tree in the following divisions, best large, best medium and best small. Plus a merit award within each of those categories.

Congratulations to John G - best large tree with his Arakawa Maple

Marlene J - best medium tree with her Apricot

Grant L - best small tree with his Chinese Elm.

Quentin was very impressed with the overall presentation and said we had numerous really good quality trees on display.

A total of around 300 visitors came over the weekend. Total sales was around \$11,000, with net profit to the club of around \$1,300.

We have currently gained seven new members as a result of the Exhibition, and hope for more in the new year.



Right - YVBS members appreciating the display and chatting to the public.

Left—The public vote of Best Tree, agreeing with Quentin. Congratulations John G!



2026 Wall Calendars

The YVBS 2026 wall calendar is now available, featuring photos of selected trees from our Exhibition. Despite escalating costs, we have kept the price at \$10 again this year.

Some calendars have been delivered to those who ordered and requested pre-Christmas delivery. Remaining calendars will be available for pickup or purchase at our January meeting and workshop.

Orders can also be placed by contacting Lindsay H (linhad14@gmail.com, 0403 800 671).

Payment may be made by cash, card at meetings, or direct transfer to the club bank account (BSB 633-000, account no. 134 721 257).



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.



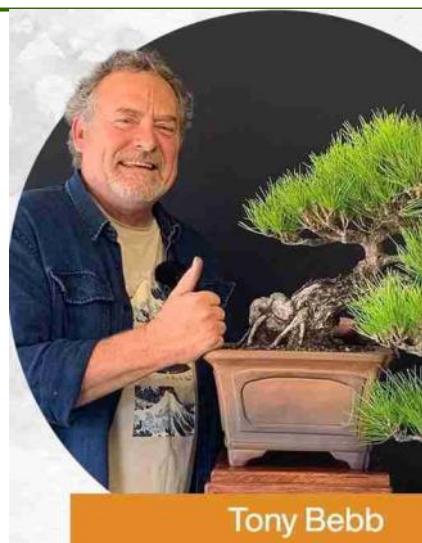
Tony Bebb Demo and Workshops

We are fortunate to once again secure a visit from noted Australian Bonsai professional and AABC Visiting Tutor Tony Bebb from Brisbane, who will be demonstrating at our March club meeting. He will also be featured in a series of tutored workshops and private home visits.

The tutored workshops will be held on Tuesday 10th March during the morning and/or afternoon, and possibly Wednesday 11th March subject to demand. Places in the workshops are limited to 8 participants to get optimum attention from Tony. Sign-up sheets for the workshops will be available at the January and February meetings and workshops, or contact Lindsay H (linhad14@gmail.com, 0403 800 671) to register your interest. Cost is \$50 per person per workshop.

The private home workshops are currently fully booked, however if you have any interest contact Lindsay to be added to the waiting list in case of cancellations or additional sessions to be added. Cost is \$300 for a half day session at your premises.

Tony is a great communicator and teacher, and a popular visitor to our club. This will be his third visit here. Don't miss his demonstration and presentation at the March club meeting!



Tony Bebb

Advance Notice—Hirotoshi Saitoh Special Event

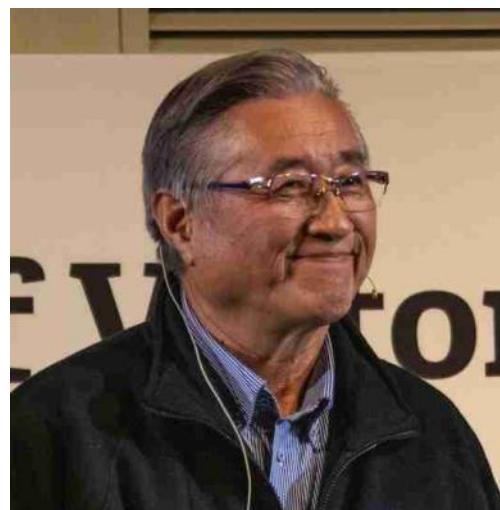
Noted Japanese Bonsai Master Hirotoshi Saitoh will be visiting Australia in July 2026 under the sponsorship of the Bonsai Society of Victoria. BSV has kindly offered his services to our club for one day in July, on Saturday 18th.

We are currently planning to hold tutored workshops during the day in two sessions, morning and afternoon, followed by a public demonstration in the evening.



Confirmation of the visit with further details will be available closer to the date. Costs have not yet been finalised, but are likely to be higher than for Tony Bebb due to Hiro's international status.

Left - Hiro provides each workshop participant with a sketch of the future appearance of the tree on which he works with you. This is the sketch he did of Lindsay's tree during his previous visit to Australia in 2024. (The tree doesn't look like this yet, but it is on its way!)



Dean Shaw (Deano)
✉ deano@bonsairoots.com.au
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Introduction to Bonsai Training Course

The next "Introduction to Bonsai" Training Course is scheduled to be held on Saturday 2nd May and Saturday 23rd May, from 9am to 1pm both days. All participants will receive a tree to work on and a comprehensive training booklet comprising all course notes. Course fee is \$100.

This course will cover all of the basic bonsai knowledge required to confidently start your bonsai journey, and the notes provide a ready reference to consult as you move forward.

Most current members have participated in the course at some time during their time with the club.

Contact Lindsay H (linhad14@gmail.com, 0403 800 671) to book your place, or put your name down on the registration form at any Club meeting or workshop. Note—minimum numbers will apply, and payment must be made at least two weeks prior to commencement.



Kudos, Accolades and Thanks

- Thanks to Seasol Australia for the donation of a product hamper for a raffle prize at our Bonsai Exhibition.
- Thanks to Deano at Bonsai Roots for the donation of bonsai soil bags for a raffle prize at our Exhibition.
- Thanks to Elaine at Bonsai Island for the donation of trees as raffle prizes at our Exhibition.
- Thanks to Bunnings Lilydale through Thomas H for the last minute loan of tables for our Bonsai Exhibition.

End-Of-Month Saturday Workshop

The regular Last Saturday of the Month workshops are a relaxed and friendly 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.

The November workshop, the week immediately following our Exhibition, saw a number of new faces checking us out, with many then joining up as new members.

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

Members are encouraged to make any visitors feel welcome.



Above - A busy time at the November Saturday Workshop

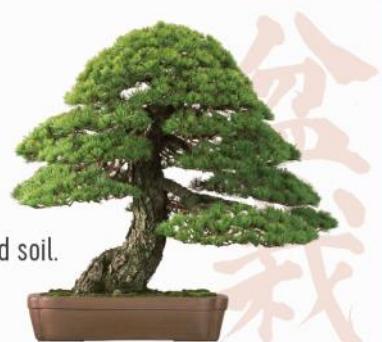
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Possible Vic Quarantine Restrictions

Thanks to Clare S for discovering this information.

Tomato potato psyllid (*Bactericera cockerelli*, Figure 1) has been detected in Victoria since November 2024. TPP attacks host plants such as tomato, potato, chilli and capsicum. Hosts include plants and plant products from the Solanaceae and Convolvulaceae families. This includes fresh fruit and vegetables such as tomatoes, potatoes and capsicum, as well as ornamental plants, such as petunias and ornamental chilli.

TPP can also be transported on other species of plants even though it does not feed on them. These 'carrier' plants are also regulated when moving interstate, with the specific definition of 'carrier' varying between jurisdictions. "Carrier" plants include the category of "Nursery Stock".

Current quarantine requirements appear to be directed to commercial enterprises only, however this may be subject to change in the future. Anybody who is contemplating carrying bonsai trees interstate from Victoria should check with the government website for updates, <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/pest-insects-and-mites/priority-pest-insects-and-mites/tomato-potato-psyllid>.

Hot Weather Tree Care Hints

Thanks to David R for providing this information.

Weather Snapshot

Hot days, humid nights, afternoon storms, gusty winds. Expect sudden downpours → fast saturation, then rapid dry outs in wind and sun.

Daily & Heat Protocol

- **Morning deep water** (soak until water runs clear). Re-check late afternoon on 35°C+ days or windy spells.
- **Heatwave move** by shifting to 30–50% shade cloth from ~11 am; avoid reflective walls.
- **Humidity trays** (pebbles + water) under tropical plants, keep pots above water line.
- **Airflow**: space trees; avoid crowding to reduce fungal pressure.
- **Soil must drain fast** (oxygen access prevents rot). Choose mixes with stable mineral and correct particle size; avoid fines that clog and create a perched water layer.

Storm & Wind Readiness

- **Tie-downs**: wire through bench grids or add pot anchor lines.
- **Lower centre of gravity**: move top-heavy trees to ground before storm cells.
- **After a storm**: tip off saucers, **tilt pots briefly** to shed excess water, flush with a light re-water to move stale water out, then return to level.
- **Inspect**: fix lifted roots/soil heave; clip torn shoots clean; apply protective fungicide if cuts are many.

Watering Detail

- **Water by substrate & pot**: small/shallow pots may dry quickly so check mid-pm; deep pots hold more perched water, also be cautious after deluges.
- **Don't let mixes cake with fines**; keep drainage holes clear; top-sieve algae/moss mats if water sheets off.



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On The Display Table



A selection of trees on the Display Table at the November and December meetings.



Bonsai Calendar: January—February

Watering and Position should be the main focus during the summer months. It's a good time of year to be on the safe side when it comes to caring for your trees.

Watering

- Water evenly and thoroughly. This will encourage roots to grow at the bottom of the pot improving the health of the tree.
- Water in the mornings. If this is not possible, water in the evenings but avoid wetting the foliage on species that are susceptible to mildew (Maples, Oaks, Crepe Myrtles). Note that on exceptionally hot days, some of your trees may need watering twice or even three times, to maintain optimum health.
- Bonsai that will require more water: Maples, Camellias, Azaleas, Liquidambars, Elms, Wisterias, Alders, Taxodiums, Beeches, Hornbeams, Pyracanthas, Banksias, Melaleucas, other natives
- Bonsai that will require less water: Pines, Cedars, Corokias,
- It can be a good idea to separate your trees into categories based on their watering needs.

Position

- Morning sun is best. Avoid the afternoon sun in summer. If you have to make a choice and put some trees in the afternoon sun, then most conifers and natives can handle these conditions the best.
- Consider the species and pot size when arranging your display. Take extra care when using small or shallow pots as they will dry out quickly.
- Species such as Beech, Hornbeam, Maples, Spruce will scorch if not protected from both the sun and the wind.
- When looking for shade, avoid placing bonsai directly under garden trees. Pests and diseases can be passed to your bonsai.

Summer is a great time to work on your benches, watering systems, shade cloth and weed around your display. If you are going away for the holidays, put some serious thought into how your trees will be looked after. Many bonsai are lost over this time of year.



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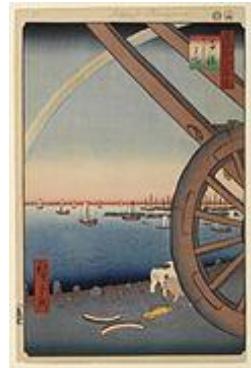
A group for all lovers of bonsai in the “far east” of Melbourne



Yarra Valley Bonsai Society
PO Box 345
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Australia

Looking Ahead to January & February 2026

-  The monthly meeting on Tuesday 13th January at 7:30pm will be a workshop night. Bring along your trees to work on, advice and assistance will be available from senior members if required. Display table theme—"Australian Natives", and Member's Choice.
-  The Last Saturday of the Month Workshops is on Saturday 31st January from 1:00pm to 4:00pm.
-  The monthly meeting on Tuesday 10th February at 7:30pm will be a "Team Challenge". Form into teams and create the best bonsai possible within the time limit, from a Club-supplied tree. Display table theme—"Literati Style", and Member's Choice.
-  The Last Saturday of the Month Workshops is on Saturday 28th February from 1:00pm to 4:00pm.



Other Events

-  No other events at this time.



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