



# Bonsai Society of Sydney

## NEWSLETTER

Meetings are held on the 4th Saturday of each month February-November from 1pm at the Forest Community Arts Centre, No. 6 Darley Street, Forestville, NSW 2087 (subject to change).

[www.bonsaisocietysydney.org.au](http://www.bonsaisocietysydney.org.au)

**Next Meeting: February 22, 2025, 1.00-4.00 pm See you there.**

A Member of:

- The Bonsai Federation of Australia Inc.
- Association of Australian Bonsai Clubs Ltd.
- Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.
- Koryu Shoyo-Kai Group

No. 143

December 2024-January 2025



*The year is almost over!*  
*Merry Christmas to all!*



### President's Report

Well, the year is almost over and what a big year it has been!

We enjoyed having Andrew Edge and Evan Marsh as guest demonstrators showing us their skills to pass on to members as well as some very good demonstrations by Megumi and Alex.

The workshops we arranged involved varied topics, which also proved very popular.

Then there was our two exhibitions this year. The first, our Annual Exhibition at Forestville, next the successful show at The Garden Gallery in the Royal Botanic Gardens in September.

I can't thank everyone enough for all of the help we received from committee members and other members and all those involved with these shows. The BSS can be proud for the fantastic effort in putting together these exhibitions.

This year we welcomed quite a few new members to our club, an encouraging sign the club is doing well. I hope they can all be involved in the ongoing functions like attending meetings and in general helping out the duties of our club.

The Annual General Meeting was held on November 23rd, the same old committee will be back again next year with a new member, Rachel, welcome aboard and thanks for joining us. **(See report of AGM on page 2).**

Well, we are now into summer, the weather will only become hotter and even more changeable. Don't forget to keep the water up to your bonsai trees during this hot season, this may mean watering twice or more a day, especially if your trees are exposed to the very hot midday sun. **(See Alex's Seasonal Notes for December-January).**

The committee will meet again in January to work out the programs for the meetings this year. We have yet to decide on guest demonstrators.

If you have any ideas about what you would like to see at our meetings please let me know. This may be about wiring, grafting, styling a bonsai, propagation, pest control, or any other topic you would like to see discussed.

That's all for this year, I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and come back next year to our meetings.

– Cheers, Galen.



*There were quite a few imaginative creations from members who turned their bonsai into Christmas trees.*



## BSS AGM 2024 and Christmas party

The BSS 2024 Annual General Meeting was held on November 23 at Forestville.

Proceedings finally got under way at 1 pm with Galen opening the meeting and giving his President's report for the year, explaining how the events of the year unfolded with the major functions were the very successful exhibitions.

The Treasurer Richard followed with his financial reports and explained the club was in very good shape even after the expenses of having two demonstrators and the major expense for the two presentations, one in August and the other in September.

Evelyne officiated with the most outstanding display in her usual job as Master of Ceremonies.

Megumi as Honorary Patron of the club gave a speech thanking all of the members who helped throughout the year and especially those who helped with the massive task of the exhibitions.

Under the rules of our constitution all committee members stood down from their present positions and then the meeting was opened up to invite any willing members to fill these positions.

There were no volunteers who came forward so the present committee was then re-elected unopposed. One of our newest members, Rachel, volunteered to become a committee member, thereby filling up the last position for the committee bringing up the numbers to ten.

After all matters were resolved including general business the meeting was then closed.

The Christmas party was then underway with a vast

array of food and desserts offered up by the members who each brought along their own delicacies to be shared with the members.

After everyone had their Christmas feast the judging of the best tree decorated as a Christmas tree then proceeded.

Glenda's tree was found to have been voted the most popular on the day. There was some very imaginative ideas to decorate the trees this year.



*New committee member Rachel.*



*Galen addressing the meeting giving his President's report to the members.*



*Richard presenting his financial report for 2024 to the members.*



*The BSS committee for 2025 with Honorary Patron Megumi, Chris and Rachel at rear.*



*Members and committee members who attended the 2024 AGM and Christmas party.*





*Members and guests enjoying a quiet talk towards the end of the Christmas party.*



*Imaginations went wild with some of the Christmas trees decorated this year.*



*Megumi presenting Glenda's winning bonsai tree all decorated as a Christmas tree.*



*Let there be light! Plenty of lights adorned these creations this year.*



## The ideal Christmas present

Megumi's fig book titled "My Journey with Australian Native Fig Trees" is published and is available for sale. It contains information on how to grow native figs, from the formation of the seed through to useful tips on how to grow bonsai as figs. This book is ideal as a Christmas present.

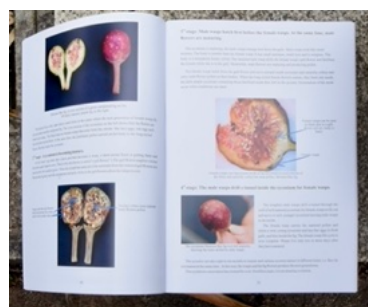
This is the story of Megumi's journey travelling around the country and finding out about Australian Native Fig trees.

There are 33 detailed water colour illustrations of Botanical Art to help the reader identify the many species of figs.

There is a brief outline describing the different bonsai techniques.

This book introduces many suitable native fig trees growing as bonsai, based on the author's experience over 20 years.

**Please contact Megumi Bennett at Bonsai Art Nursery P/L, 206-208 Forest Way, Belrose, NSW or website: [www.megumibennettbonsai.com](http://www.megumibennettbonsai.com) or [www.bonsaisydney.com.au](http://www.bonsaisydney.com.au) for more details.**





## October meeting – General Workshop

For our October meeting a general workshop was held at Forestville with most members invited to bring along any variety of bonsai tree.



*Megumi talking to Diana about what care is needed for her bonsai.*



*Part of the audience who came along to our general workshop on the day.*

Quite a few new members joined us on the day along with the regular attendees.

Megumi, as well as other members, helped the audience with their bonsai, explaining what maintenance and care is needed to improve or correct the shape and to prune them.

Di and Galen also talked about their trees to the audience showing what to do with their bonsai.



*Margaret, Megumi, Chris and new member Emil gather around to discuss Margaret's tree.*

### Membership fees for 2025 now due

Fees for membership are due by January 1, 2025. please complete an application form with your contact details and payment and return it to the Treasurer.

It is important we receive your application form and your payment to make sure your contact details are correct at time of payment.

Please photograph or scan the completed application form and send it to the Treasurer by email. Payment can be made by direct debit to our bank account or by cheque or cash at Bonsai Art Pty. Ltd. (all details on application form). Please include a reference, e.g. name, so we know who the payment is from.



### A message from Megumi

The year 2025 is the Year of the Snake in the Chinese lunar calendar.

It is said that the year of the snake is symbolised wisdom, introspection, strategic planning and personal growth.

I hope you have a healthy and happy and strong growth of your bonsai in 2025.

– Megumi.





# Seasonal Notes December-January 2024-2025

**by Alex Bennett – Summer care**

So here in Sydney, the we have had a lot of weather variation.

The combination of hot weather and rain may cause a lot of confusion about whether your tree needs water or not. Please ensure you do not relax your guard with your tree drying out. You also need to make sure when you go away on holiday, to make sure the people looking after your bonsai will do so too.

Sometimes a storm may pass but only wet the surface area of your tree. Do not make the mistake that the rain has fully saturated your bonsai. I have repotted trees after a storm and am continually surprised how the middle of the roots are bone dry. Quite a remarkable thing to see.

## Watering

This is perhaps the most important aspect of our summer work, if we neglect to water our trees the results could be fatal. Also remember my saying "if the tree is dry water it; if you're not sure water it anyway."

On very hot days, particularly when it goes higher than 28°C, it may be necessary to water both in the morning and in the evening. It is a good idea to move cool climate deciduous trees such as Maples and other sensitive deciduous and flowering trees out of the full sun and into semi-shaded area, filtered or dappled light.

I recommend watering the foliage as well as root soil area. Foliage watering reduces the dust that could accumulate on the leaves. I don't think it matters what time of day, when you water to be honest.

If you have a lot of small trees, you could place these trees into a large tray filled with sand, so the bonsai is surrounded by the sand. The sand can act as a water absorber and protect from any accelerated drying out. You can also put them on the ground, as there is less air movement hence they won't dry out as fast.

Remember, it is impossible to overwater your trees in summer. Any signs of wilting or death; usually is related to drying out or insect damage. If the tips of your bonsai is brown or black. IT MEANS YOUR TREE HAD DRIED OUT.

In summer it is one or the other. Ensure the watering is completely saturating your tree until water has come out of the holes at the bottom of the pot. Misting only the foliage with a sprayer is totally inadequate.

If you're going on holidays, it is an idea to show the person who is looking after your trees how much water to give and how you would like to do the watering. Also show them how to tell when it is enough. Most people are unaware of how much water a bonsai needs.

Also ensure:

Another option if you have a collection to think seriously about installing an irrigation system. It comes as drippers or sprayers. Also remember that automated and timer systems can fail so it is important to test your system before you leave. Best practice would be to do a run check occasionally.

I highly recommend this option for peace of mind. But I would recommend following up with watering as the drippers only water one section so don't be afraid to move the sprinkler head around every week or two.

## Wilting

If a plant wilts, soak it in a bucket or tub with the water level over the soil level for a least 20 minutes up to six hours, sometimes overnight or until the bubbles have stopped rising. Leave in a semi-shaded area on the ground, not on a high bench or work area, to allow it time to recover. You can apply Seasol® or its seaweed equivalent, fortnightly for about a month, if the tree has shown signs of recovery.

In a case, where you have followed your normal watering schedule, the wilting probably means that the plants had dried out because it is root bound and the water could not get through. If this is the case, put a rock under the pot and make it slope to one side. This will assist with the drainage.

## Fertilising

Maintain fertilising until mid-January and then halt until mid- February as the hot weather will have forced the plants to reduce their growth rate. Continue to use your soil conditioners such as Seasol®.

Water all your trees well before fertilising, to protect the delicate feeding roots from fertiliser burn. Never fertilise a dry plant and avoid

fertilising on very hot day. Personally, I avoid feeding fertiliser when the temperature goes past 28°C. Always read the back of the label before using.

## Wire

Remove all your wire in December to give the plants a rest. Start to re-wire again at the beginning of March when the weather cools and the plants are still very flexible. Do not let the wire cut into the bark. Avoid heavy bending. The branches are full of water and bending will cause branches to snap like celery or crack at the ends of the branch.

## Pruning

If your trees have received good watering and you have a consistent fertilising regime. You may need to continue to prune the trees during the summer.

The idea is to trim any leaves that have overextended the outline of the tree. If you're not sure count the internodes on the branch. If it has more than five or six, it is too long. Cut back to the second internode. If still uncertain or you lack the confidence yet. Just cut any too longer a branch in half to keep it to the outline. Leave longer the weaker branches.

If you are working on a conifer, pluck about the top one third of the foliage mass. Envisage the shape of a fan. Then pluck the foliage into a fan shape. Avoid trimming the tips of the conifer foliage with scissors.

## Red and black pine

At the beginning of December, examine the tree for new buds that have grown as a result of breaking the candles in Spring. Don't touch any new buds that have developed down the branches of the tree; leave these until next year. Examine any new buds that have developed around the broken candles. Select the medium and weak buds and using scissors cut to 3-5 mm in length. Wait ten days then cut the stronger buds in the same way.

## Pests and disease

Some problems to watch for over the summer months.

- A. Ants. These insects are a result of living in soil conditions where no water reaches their uninvited nest. If you are able to find a way to collapse those tunnels, you destroy the nest. Removal of the old soil is one way and replacing it with fresh soil is what to do. New soil is more water permeable, it will flood any remaining tunnels.
- B. Azalea lace bugs – these bugs are fast breeding which show typical signs of black and silvery markings particularly under the leaves. Spray with an Imacloporid based insecticide i.e. Contendor®, Richgro Bug killa®
- C. Powdery mildew – use eco- fungus® (formally known as eco rose). However, you will need to spray twice. Once then ten days later. Mancozeb® is another product that works well too.
- D. Aphids – small, with a large abdomen insect that breed in colonies, produces honey substance that causes leaves to go black. Pyrethrum®, Eco oil®, Pest oil®, Sharpshooter®.
- E. Scale – extremely damaging in numbers. Tiny flat limpets that are white and can cause discolouration, the signs of damage can be accelerated if the tree is in a deteriorated state, i.e. needs repotting or watered infrequently. Be careful not to spray on hot days. Pest oil or eco oil. Neem oil for Conifers.
- F. Mites – usually affects Junipers and Black pine. Leaves become pale green, yellowish for no reason. Not brown. That indicates drying out.
- G. Can spread over and affect the entire tree's foliage within weeks. Use eco neem oil or Yates® Nature's way miticide, or Mancozeb®
- H. Black sooty mould or fungus - indicative of scale or mealy bug – Pest oil® or Eco oil®.
- I. Mealy bug – 1. (on the foliage) white fluffy similar in size to scale often confused as scale most noticeable on black pines. Eco neem is ideal but will require two or three follow up sprays every 10 days. Contendor® is another recommended product that works well too.
- J. 2. (Sometimes found in the roots). I have found washing out with water on a jet spray. Change the soil and if required add Richgro Bug killa® any soluble powder that melts into the soil and stays active within the soil for two months.





## KORYU SHOYO-KAI Group Ikebana News

### IKEBANA CLASSES

Enjoy the art of  
Japanese flower arrangement with  
Megumi Bennett, Principal.  
Classes are held on the fourth Sunday  
of each month beginning in February  
until November.

### Last lesson and AGM for 2024

We had the last ikebana lesson and AGM in November. I am pleased to say every student has improved their ikebana this year.

The photo below shows members of Koryu Shoyo-Kai school. Theme of the lesson was summer arrangement, "Coolness" and most students chose white colour vases and moribana style.

I wish you and your family have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

– Megumi,  
Head of Koryu Shoyo-Kai School.



*Megumi demonstrated this moribana style, Iris stems with seed pods after flowering, Calla lily and leaf with Hydrangea.*



*Moribana style by Tanya, Alstroemeria, roses and Geraldton wax, white circle contemporary vase.*



*Moribana style by Kumiko, Hydrangea stems, Freesia and Cockscomb, black rectangular vase.*



*Danuta's Moribana style, cream orchids and flax in a hand-made vase by the designer.*





*Stephanie's Moribana style using Strelitzia, Sacred Bamboo and Monstera leaf.*



*Jo's Moribana style, Kangaroo paw, Leucadendron on a large circle white vase.*



*Lynda's Moribana, Hydrangea one species arrangement in long white container.*



*Moribana style by Suzi, Buddleja, Marginpar (red berry) in white contemporary vase.*



*Seika, classic style by Kerry using Gladiola in a one species arrangement.*

**Bonsai Society of Sydney – 2025 Club Calendar – Subject to change**

2024	Workshop/Topic	Details
February 22, 2025	First meeting of 2025	Topic to be decided.
March 22, 2025	BSS Meeting at Forestville	Topic to be decided.
April 26, 2025	BSS Meeting at Forestville	Topic to be decided.

**Important Dates – 2025, Calendar of Events – Subject to change**

2024	Event/Exhibition	Details
March 22-23, 2025	Central Coast Bonsai Club	Central Coast Annual Show and The Bonsai Open.
May 16-19, 2025	AABC National Bonsai Convention	Hosted by the Canberra Bonsai Society, Rex Hotel, Canberra.
June 14-15, 2025	Bonsai By The Harbour	Wharf Road, Gladesville, 9 am-5 pm.

**MEGUMI'S BONSAI CLASSES 2025***Megumi teaches intermediate and advanced students.***Schedule of classes:****1st Saturday:** 9 am-11 am (2H) OR 11.30 am (2.5H).**2nd Saturday:** 9 am-11 am (2H) OR 11.30 am (2.5H) and 1 pm-3 pm (2H) OR 3.30 pm.**3rd Sunday of the month AM Class:** 9 am-11 am OR 11.30 am. **PM Class:** 1 pm-3 pm OR 3.30 pm.**Every Monday (except 5th):** 9 am-11 am OR 11.30 am and 1 pm-3 pm.**3rd Wednesday:** 9 am-11 am OR 11.30 am.**BEGINNERS BONSAI WORKSHOP HELD****EVERY MONTH: ONE OFF LESSON.****IKEBANA CLASSES HELD EVERY 4TH****SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.***Beginners start at 1 pm.***Further information please contact****Megumi 0432 680 331 or**Email: [bennettmegumi@gmail.com](mailto:bennettmegumi@gmail.com)Web: [www.bonsaisydney.com.au](http://www.bonsaisydney.com.au)**BONSAI BEGINNERS COURSE 2025 WITH ALEX***The learning Basics are very important to understanding about bonsai.***The classes consist of 10 lessons in which 4 bonsai are created.****Starts from February to November.****Time:** 2 hours duration.**Tuition:** \$310 including GST and bonsai notes. Closing date is 1st Feb., 2023.*Tuition fee is non-refundable after the commencement of classes.***Class A:** 4th Saturday of the month, 9 am-11 am.**Class B:** 2nd Sunday of the month, 11.30 am-1.30 pm.*If you are interested, please contact us or go to our Website for more information.*Email: [alexbe.415@gmail.com](mailto:alexbe.415@gmail.com)Web: [www.bonsaisydney.com.au](http://www.bonsaisydney.com.au)

Mobile: 0423 763 506





A Member of:

- ❖ The Bonsai Federation of Australia Inc.
- ❖ Association of Australian Bonsai Clubs Ltd.
- ❖ Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.

Club meetings are held on the fourth Saturday of each month from February to November from 1 pm at the **Forest Community Arts Centre, No. 6 Darley Street, Forestville, NSW 2087** (subject to change).

**Web:** [www.bonsaisocietysydney.org.au](http://www.bonsaisocietysydney.org.au)

**Mail:** Bonsai Society of Sydney Inc., P.O. Box 186, Terrey Hills, NSW 2084.

<b>Bonsai Society of Sydney Committee 2025</b>		
<b>Honorary Patron</b>	Megumi Bennett	<a href="mailto:bennettmegumi@gmail.com">bennettmegumi@gmail.com</a>
<b>President</b>	Galen Gannon	<a href="mailto:gig45@bigpond.com">gig45@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Diane C.	
<b>Secretary</b>	Alex Bennett	<a href="mailto:alexbe.415@gmail.com">alexbe.415@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Richard Chaplin	<a href="mailto:rac@kintford.com.au">rac@kintford.com.au</a>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Keith Gallie	<a href="mailto:keithgallie@bigpond.com">keithgallie@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Committee Member</b>	Jocelyn M.	
<b>Committee Member</b>	Christophe C.	
<b>Committee Member</b>	Michael S.	
<b>Committee Member</b>	Rachel W.	

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# BONSAI SOCIETY OF SYDNEY INC.

## Membership Application Form 2025

Full Name: .....

Residential Address: .....

..... Postcode: .....

Telephone: Home: .....

Mobile: .....

E-mail: ..... @ .....

### Annual Membership fee:

Newsletter via Email: Single Member \$35 ☐ Family Member \$40 ☐

Newsletter via Post: Add \$20 for postage ☐ Members joining after 1st July \$17.50 ☐

Total amount payable \$.....

As a Member of the Bonsai Society of Sydney Inc., I/we agree to abide by the constitution of the Society.

Signed: ..... Date: ..... / ..... / .....

### Payment options: Cash (enclose securely with form)

Direct Debit: BSB 012-298 Account No: 499616428

Cheques payable to: "Bonsai Society of Sydney"

**For Direct Debit record your Name in the Description/Reference field.**

**Payment Method:** Direct Debit ☐ Reference/Name .....

Cash (with form) ☐ Cheque (with form) ☐

### Please post Application Form to:

The Treasurer  
Bonsai Society of Sydney Inc.  
PO Box 186, Terrey Hills 2084

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*Treasurer's use only*

Receipt No:..... Initials: .....

☐ Treasurer ☐ Membership/Newsletter