

A Member of:

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

# 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: Sept. 27, 2025, 12.30-4.00 pm See you there.**

Bonsai Society



of Sydney

No. 147

August-September 2025

*It's almost Exhibition time! I hope everyone is ready for the day.*

### President's Report

Hello BSS Members, Welcome to the August-September newsletter. I hope you have all kept dry and been able to stay warm, hasn't it been cold!

Well, it is almost time for our Annual Exhibition. I hope everyone who is involved has finished preparing their bonsais, Soes and tables for the event. And don't forget we still need members to volunteer to help on both Friday and Saturday to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Please bring all your items along on the Friday afternoon from 4 pm to 7pm (we cannot access the rooms before 4 pm), including all your sales items with your completed forms to give to Di. We will place all items in one room so Jacki and Glenda can have a free hand to set up the tables, screens and bamboo dividers in the display room and then move your bonsais in there when the setting up is done.

Don't forget to attach labels to all your items, it will save confusion when picking them up.

As before we will use four rooms at the Forestville complex, one for Ikebana, one for bonsai, a demonstration room and the sales room.

Our July meeting was a dry run for the Exhibition helping to show everyone the correct procedures involved in how to display your bonsai with Soe and tables the proper way.

With the show in August there will be no monthly meeting, the next scheduled meeting is on September 27th, we hope to have Evan Marsh as our guest for this one.

Winter is a good time to work on your junipers, pines and conifers, they can be repotted now before the weather changes and starts to warm up. It is also time to prune and wire some of these bonsais as well **(See Alex's Seasonal Notes for more winter care in this newsletter.)**

Tell your family, friends and everyone about our FREE Exhibition, spread the word about it, the more people we can attract to our display the better.

I am sure all members involved will help out and make our show a huge success. Enjoy the exhibition.

- Cheers, Galen.

## BONSAI and IKEBANA EXHIBITION



The Bonsai Society of Sydney is proud to present the

**2025 Annual Exhibition**

**Saturday, August 16,  
9 am-3.30 pm**

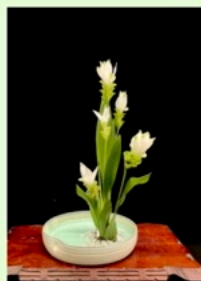
**Forest Community Arts Centre,  
6 Darley Street, Forestville, NSW 2087**

**FREE ADMISSION for everyone!**  
*A donation of a gold coin would be very welcome*



### Bonsai Society of Sydney 2025 Annual Bonsai Exhibition

*Our Exhibition will feature masterpieces of Japanese traditional Bonsai, Suiseki and colourful Ikebana displays from the Koryu Shoyo-kai Group.*



#### Demonstrations:

**Ikebana** 12.00 pm-12.40 pm.

**Bonsai** 1.00-2.00 pm.

#### Sales table:

Bonsai Art Pty. Ltd. will be selling a wide range of bonsai plants, starter plants, beautiful pots, tools, accessories and other items will be available.

**Denise Allen**, well known potter and ceramic artist, will have many of her beautiful pots for sale.

#### Raffles:

Excellent prizes to be won including bonsai trees, tools, bottles of wine and more.

*To be drawn on Saturday between 3.00 pm and 3.30 pm.*

**TRANSPORT:** Public buses from Chatswood Interchange, get off Starkey Street at Forestville.

**Please contact: Galen 0434 681 542  
or Alex 0401 275 313 for further  
information**

Bonsai Society



of Sydney

## How to display bonsai, Soe and display tables

For our monthly meeting in July we asked members to bring along their bonsai, Soe and display tables they intended to show at the Annual Exhibition.

The meeting started with a Show and Tell with members Dave and Gareth showing and explaining about their trees to everyone.

For the main topic to be discussed at the meeting there was plenty of advisors including Megumi, Alex, Glenda, Galen and the more experienced members to help show the newer members which is the correct way to display their bonsai at an exhibition.

All who brought along all their display items were asked to come to the front of the room and show the audience their bonsai, Soe and table and how they wanted them to be shown, then Alex, Glenda, Megumi and others explained in detail which is the proper way needed to display their items for an exhibition.

Megumi, Alex and Glenda also described about the placement of the Soe in relation to the main bonsai, which side is better, left or right, which way the bonsai is leaning and placement of the companion plant and the size of the Soe in relation to the bonsai, not too large, not too small.

Also explained was what Soe plant goes with the bonsai, flowering bonsai with non-flowering Soe

and vice versa. What plants can be used as Soe such as grasses, ferns, succulents, mosses in pots, small flowering shrubs, orchids, small Kokedamas or even Suiseki are suitable.

The colour of the Soe pot and the size were also discussed, never chose bright colours for the pot or the plant, the actual Soe, Suiseki and tables are there to enhance the overall display.

What display table was also discussed. Which colour, what size, what height, what shape, all of these factors that make your display perfect.



*New member Gareth with his trees for the Show and Tell segment.*



*A large numbers of members who attended the July meeting on How to display bonsai.*



*Also new member David with his tree as part of the Show and Tell.*



*Glenda explaining to members the correct procedure to display bonsai.*



*Christophe, Glenda, Alex and Galen taking questions from the members.*





*Margaret left with Glenda using different bonsais, Soe and tables to show the best display.*



*Alex, Margaret, Glenda and Galen answering questions about display procedures from members.*

## More tips to help display bonsai

- You can leave wire on the branches only, NOT the trunk, these must be removed and no wires or guy wires showing from branch to branch or branch to container to support the positioning of branches.
- If the bonsai pot is unglazed then for the Soe you can use a glazed container and vice versa.
- The shape of the main bonsai pot is important as well. If using a round or oval shape then use a different shape for the Soe, for example, round bonsai pot, square or rectangular for the Soe. They should complement each other, not oppose.
- Colours are very important as well, never have bright colours for the main bonsai or for the Soe, bright colours override and oppose the function of the display.
- The size of the Soe pot should not be large in comparison to the main bonsai as well, the smaller a pot is the better.
- If using bonsai that is in flower the Soe should be non-flowering and vice versa.
- To hold the moss in place in a bonsai pot use a piece of 1mm wire about 3-5 cm long bent into a "U shape" and push it through the moss into the bonsai soil.

## Display rules for bonsai trees and Soe

### Main tree and Soe.

Soe can be translated as an "Accent Plant" or "Companion Plant" in bonsai.

Soe is also called Kusamono, which are arrangements of grasses and/or flowers in pots suggesting a season or particular place.

This name is comprised of two Japanese characters: "grasses" and "thing." This name originally referred to the small, potted grasses or flowers displayed next to bonsai as accent plants.

The addition of Soe or Kusamono plants alongside the main display of bonsai is to complement, not compete, with the main item being displayed.

Soe in Japanese means attached to the main object(s) or to put aside next to the main object(s).

### Important Role of Soe

- Enhance the main tree: 10 to 15% of the volume of the main tree.
- Express the total beauty of the display.
- The main tree and soe show balance and harmony with each other.
- Display bonsai to show current seasonal atmosphere.

### General Display Manners

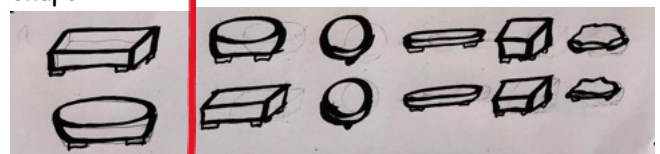
Main tree	Soe	
Conifers	Deciduous, Flowering, Fruiting	Grasses, Ferns
Deciduous	Conifer, Flowering, Fruiting	Grasses, Ferns
Flowering, Fruiting	Conifer, Deciduous	Grasses, Ferns
Broad-leaf Trees	Deciduous, Flowering, Fruiting	Grasses, Ferns

### Pot selection for Soe pot

Main tree	Soe
Conifer (usually unglazed pot)	Chose a glazed pot.
Deciduous (usually glazed pot):	Choose an unglazed pot or a different colour and shaped pot from the main tree.

Rock planting: Do not choose a rock planting.

### Bonsai main pot. Shape



# Megumi's Japan Bonsai Tour, February 2-15, 2026

For further information contact:

Megumi [bennettmegumi@gmail.com](mailto:bennettmegumi@gmail.com) or Opulent Journeys [opulentjourneys.com.au](http://opulentjourneys.com.au)



## OVERVIEW

Explore Japan's horticultural heritage with visits to the 100<sup>th</sup> Kokufu Bonsai Exhibition, Omiya Bonsai Village, and Ga Sho-En Bonsai Nursery. Discover Suizenji Garden, Arita's porcelain town, and indigo dyeing in Yame. On Yakushima Island, marvel at ancient cedar forests. A unique journey through bonsai, botany, and cultural landscapes.

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover Japan's rich horticultural traditions across **Kyushu** and **Tokyo**
- Visit historic gardens and sacred trees, including the impressive **Kumamoto Castle** and scenic **Suizenji Garden**
- Explore traditional porcelain town like **Arita**, known for ceramics and pottery used in garden design
- Tour **Ga Sho-En Bonsai Nursery**, renowned for beautifully cultivated small bonsai
- Enjoy a day in the natural beauty of **Mount Aso** and relax in charming **Kurokawa Onsen**
- Visit **Yakushima Island**, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and walk among its ancient cedar forests (Yakusugi)
- Attend the prestigious **100<sup>th</sup> Kokufu Bonsai Exhibition** in Tokyo (Parts 1 & 2)
- Discover the living culture of bonsai at **Omiya Bonsai Village and Museum**

## TOUR DATES

2 – 15 February 2026

**TOUR PRICE** (land tour):  
\$8,830 per person, twin share  
\$1,450 single supplement

## TOUR DEPOSIT

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required per person to confirm your booking on tour.

## GROUP SIZE

Maximum number of 16 in this group

## ITINERARY

Fukuoka (1 night), Kumamoto (4 nights), Kagoshima (1 night), Yakushima (2 nights), Tokyo (5 nights)

## INCLUSIONS

13 nights' accommodation on a twin-share basis | Daily breakfast and 7 dinners | Coach transfers between cities and for scheduled tours (excl. Tokyo) | Local transportation in Tokyo for Bonsai Exhibition | Domestic flights Kagoshima/Yakushima/Tokyo | Entrance fees to all scheduled workshops and attractions (excl. 100<sup>th</sup> Kokufu Bonsai Exhibition) | Services of experienced local guide | Luggage transfer from Kagoshima to Tokyo (one piece per person)



## TOUR LEADER

**Megumi Bennett** is a leading figure in the Australian bonsai scene, with decades of

experience in bonsai and ikebana. Originally from Tokyo, she moved to Australia in 1974 and continued to refine her horticultural skills, graduating from the Ryde School of Horticulture where she also taught bonsai. In 1999, she founded the Bonsai Society of Sydney Inc. and remains an active member of both the Nippon Bonsai Association and Ikebana International.

Megumi has presented numerous demonstrations, exhibitions, and workshops across Australia and internationally. Her work has been featured in media and published in bonsai journals worldwide. Notable exhibitions include her solo show at the Japan Foundation Sydney in 1997, and "Australian Native Figs" held with her son Alex in 2018.

In 2008, she became the first non-Japanese recipient of the bonsai instructor's qualification from the Nippon Bonsai Association. In 2024, Megumi published her first book "My Journey with Australian Native Fig Book- Bonsai and Botanical Art".

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Start & Finish

The tour starts at 6:00pm on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, at JAL City Fukuoka Tenjin. The tour ends after breakfast on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February, at Shiba Park Hotel in Tokyo.

Included meals are indicated with B, L, D.

### Day 1: Mon 2 February | Arrive in Fukuoka (D)

Welcome to Japan! Check in to your central hotel and settle in. Enjoy a relaxing evening with a welcome dinner at the hotel.  
- Overnight in Fukuoka.

### Day 2: Tue 3 February | Fukuoka to Kumamoto, via Arita (B, D)

Travel by coach from Fukuoka to Arita for a guided tour exploring Japan's historic porcelain town. Stroll through the charming **Uchiyama District** and **Tonbai Wall Alleys**, and visit the **Arita Ceramic Museum**. In the afternoon, continue to Kumamoto, check in to your hotel, and enjoy dinner at the hotel.  
- Overnight in Kumamoto.

### Day 3: Wed 4 February | Kumamoto (B)

Today begins with a visit to **Ga Sho-En Bonsai Nursery** in Kamimashiki, known for its exquisite bonsai collection and expert cultivation techniques. Continue to explore the impressive **Kumamoto Castle**, one of Japan's most iconic historic castles. In the afternoon, visit the beautifully landscaped **Suizenji Garden**, a classic stroll garden representing the Tōkaidō route.  
- Overnight in Kumamoto.

### Day 4: Thu 5 February | Excursion to Mt. Aso & Kurokawa Onsen (B)

Enjoy a day excursion to the scenic Mt. Aso and the charming hot spring town of Kurokawa Onsen. Visit the **Aso Volcano Museum** to learn about the region's unique geology and active volcanic landscape. In the afternoon, stroll through the atmospheric streets of **Kurokawa Onsen**, where you can relax and, if you wish, experience a traditional Japanese hot spring bath. After a day of natural beauty and relaxation, return to in Kumamoto for the evening.  
- Overnight in Kumamoto.

### Day 5: Fri 6 February | Excursion to Kurume (B)

Enjoy a day excursion to Kurume, beginning with a visit to **Ikedo Studio** to observe traditional dyeing and weaving techniques. Continue to the **Tomihisa Orimono** for a hands-on weaving experience and time for shopping. After exploring Kurume's rich textile heritage, return to your hotel in the late afternoon.  
- Overnight in Kumamoto.



### Day 6: Sat 7 February | Kumamoto to Kagoshima (B, D)

Farewell Kumamoto as we travel by coach to Kagoshima. Upon arrival, start our tour with a visit to the **Kirishima Onsen Market**, then explore the tranquil **Kirishima Jingu Shrine** nestled in the mountains. Continue to the historic **Senganen Garden**, with views of Sakurajima volcano. In the evening, enjoy a relaxing group dinner.  
- Overnight in Kagoshima.

### Day 7: Sun 8 February | Kagoshima to Yakushima (B, D)

Pack an overnight bag for our next 2-night stay on Yakushima Island. This morning, transfer by coach to Kagoshima Airport for your flight to Yakushima Airport. Upon arrival, take a coach transfer to your hotel and check in. Enjoy a relaxing dinner at the hotel and unwind after your travel day.  
- Overnight in Yakushima.

### Day 8: Mon 9 February | Yakushima (B, D)

Enjoy a full-day tour on **Yakushima Island**, explore the island's rich history and natural beauty. Visit several majestic **Yakusugi**, ancient cedar trees that have stood for thousands of years. Return to your hotel in the late afternoon to relax.  
- Overnight in Yakushima.

### Day 9: Tue 10 February | Yakushima to Tokyo (B, D)

This morning, transfer by coach to Yakushima Airport for your flight to Tokyo (Haneda Airport). Upon arrival, coach transfer to your hotel and check in. In the evening, enjoy a **casual dinner** at a local izakaya, experiencing traditional Japanese food and hospitality in a relaxed setting.  
- Overnight in Tokyo.

### Day 10: Wed 11 February | Tokyo (B)

Travel with your tour leader to Ueno Park for a visit to the prestigious **100<sup>th</sup> Kokufu Bonsai Exhibition (Part 1)** at the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum. Explore exquisite bonsai displays by Japan's top artists. Afterwards, visit the nearby **Green Club**, a bonsai market where enthusiasts and professionals gather.  
- Overnight in Tokyo.

### Day 11: Thu 12 February | Tokyo (B)

Enjoy a leisure day in Tokyo to explore at your own pace.  
- Overnight in Tokyo.

### Day 12: Fri 13 February | Omiya Bonsai Village (B)

Today, travel by coach to **Omiya Bonsai Village**, a renowned hub for bonsai culture and craftsmanship. Visit the **Omiya Bonsai Art Museum**, featuring beautifully curated displays and insights into the history and aesthetics of bonsai. Enjoy time to explore the surrounding bonsai nurseries and gardens before returning to Tokyo.  
- Overnight in Tokyo.



## TOUR HOTELS

Fukuoka – JAL City Fukuoka Tenjin  
Kumamoto – ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Kumamoto New Sky  
Kagoshima – Sheraton Kagoshima  
Yakushima Island – The Hotel Yakushima Ocean & Forest  
Tokyo – Shiba Park Hotel

## WEATHER

February in Japan brings cool to mild winter weather. Expect crisp, mostly dry days in Kyushu and Tokyo, with temperatures ranging from 3–12°C. Mountain areas like Mount Aso can be colder, while Yakushima Island is milder but often rainy. Warm layers and a waterproof jacket are recommended for comfort during outdoor visits and forest walks.

## FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

This tour involves moderate physical activity, including walking on uneven terrain, garden and forest trails, and some stairs at historic sites. Participants should be comfortable walking for up to 2 hours at a time and able to manage light luggage. A reasonable level of fitness is recommended to fully enjoy the horticultural and cultural experiences throughout the trip.



### Day 13: Sat 14 February | Tokyo (B, D)

Travel with your tour leader to Ueno Park for **Part 2 of the 100<sup>th</sup> Kokufu Bonsai Exhibition**. Enjoy a final visit to the **Green Club**, where bonsai and related items are on display and for sale. In the evening, gather with the group for a **farewell dinner** at the hotel to celebrate the journey.  
- Overnight in Tokyo.

### Day 14: Sun 15 February | Depart Tokyo (B)

- Our tour concludes after breakfast.

## ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS

For further information or to secure a place, please contact  
**Opulent Journeys**

Phone: 03 8638 0256

[enquiries@opulentjourneys.com.au](mailto:enquiries@opulentjourneys.com.au)  
[opulentjourneys.com.au](http://opulentjourneys.com.au)







## **Seasonal Notes August-September – 2025**

### **by Alex Bennett – Winter care**

It has been a pretty cold winter this year.

#### **Position**

While having your bonsai in a sunny position is ideal for good growth foliage and roots for your bonsai. Please ensure the growth is even by rotating your bonsai every 2 to 3 weeks. Particularly if your bonsai is on a shelf / against a wall your bonsai.

#### **Repotting**

Late winter and early spring is the best time to repot. However, due to the warmer days, this year it may cause the buds on your deciduous and flowering plants to start moving and start shooting. If so, I would highly recommend trying to get your repotting done as soon as possible. Figs should be ok to start repotting. As well as any of your plants that hasn't been repotted in the past year or two years. If the soil has blackened there may be some onset of possible root rot. You may need to wash the soil off the root system with a hose on jet. If you are unsure, you don't need to wash all the soil from the roots.

Also keep an eye on the after care. Ensure that watering is followed up and not allow complete drying out.

#### **Wiring**

Wiring of your bonsai is still possible for pine and conifers. While your deciduous trees is still flexible however by middle of spring you will need to keep an eye on the branches just in case it starts to cut into the branches pay close attention to the trunk too.

#### **Watering**

I call this the bonsai killing season. I get a lot of trees coming into my nursery water damaged. From either too much water but also lack of water, as people haven't adjusted to watering their trees more frequently, as we are still in winter mode when it comes to watering. Please check your trees everyday for any changes of the soil condition. Though, I have to admit this year with the cold comes the dry low humidity. Which dries out the trees. I have to also admit, in Sydney this has been more windy than I am used too. Thus the more frequent drying out.

When watering keep in mind the variation in weather. You will have windy days and cool nights still. Sometimes you can have over 30 degree temperatures with hot winds for days on end. It is a dangerous time and the trees want to grow at the same time. Keep up with the daily monitoring both day and night for soil dryness as some trees will dry out faster than others.

If you have just re-potted your trees, keep it in a cool position for a two week period and then you can put it into a sunnier position.

If you are not sure, water the tree as it could be possible that the tree's roots are drying out underneath. Sometimes the foliage can dry out faster than the roots can absorb water.

Be mindful when you go away from this time through to summer who you have looking after your trees. I also recommend if you have a collection of bonsai to think about setting up an irrigation system.

If you are planning to set up your watering system to check your batteries the timer and to consider extending the water run time to allow for the really hot days where one cycle may not be enough.

#### **Pruning**

##### **Pines**

The candles should be emerging and while it still should be still ok to repot however, if the candles are elongating it may be too late. The removal of old needles can still be done if you have missed the opportunity but be aware of any new buds coming behind the new shoots at the end. And try not remove these buds as they could be important.

#### **Flowering trees**

Wait until flowering has just finished then identify the new buds which are swelling. That will be the new growth. Prune back

longer, thicker branches to one of the new buds to maintain the overall shape of your tree. Sometimes it does involve cutting back hard to one or two buds at the base side of the branch.

Wiring can be done as the branches are softer however when the tree fully awakens up the wire could cut in the branches very quickly. So watch the tree very closely.

Be careful; do not cut back hard on the branches that are weak and thin. Let them grow until they have thickened and their size is in balance with the main trunk and first branch.

#### **Conifers**

At this time of the year keep your conifers in shape by pinching out the tips of their branches as this will slow down their elongation. Prune back or remove new shoots that are growing out of proportion to the rest of the tree. When doing this always keep in mind of the outline of the tree.

If unsure ask your teacher how to pinch back.

#### **Deciduous trees.**

The growth of the tree is still dormant at this time of the year. Cut back long and thicker branches which are out of proportion to bonsai shape. The most vigorous growth comes quickly in September or earlier, so need to keep an eye on them.

Remember 60 per cent of the growth is in the first 3 weeks.

To keep the new growth compact and full; pinch out or cut back any new growth when it has three or more new leaves, to leave just one pair of new buds at the base of each branch.

As the growth of these trees is quite robust at this time of year. It is also a good opportunity to balance the growth of their branches. Do this by leaving the weaker branches alone to catch up and by pinching or cutting back the stronger branches.

#### **Azaleas and Wisterias**

Remove any spent flowers and start fertilising the tree. The warmer weather and fertiliser will stimulate the sap to flow through its branches. A week or so later, start pruning and wiring as the branches will be flexible enough to bend.

You can still repot in August and September quite safely.

As we know one of the major problems in working with these is the ease with which their branches will crack and break. So another way at this time of year to increase the branches flexibility is to allow the tree to dry out slightly. Water makes the plant cells turgid and crisp but it can make the branches stiff and rigid and therefore difficult to bend.

Keep any new wire on until early to mid-summer. However, check occasionally to make sure the wire hasn't cut into the bark, if it has remove immediately. This is pertinent to younger trees.

#### **Australian Natives**

The weather will have warmed up enough by September to safely start working on and repotting your figs and other natives such as Callistemons, Banksias.

#### **Fertilising**

With fertiliser, at the beginning of spring I wait until the deciduous trees have started to send out new shoots before I begin. I also avoid fertilising any flowering tree until it has finished flowering as way too much fertiliser too early will cause the flowers to drop prematurely.

It is also helpful to put some slow release fertiliser into the soil. I recommend Osmocote® as a good product. This product can last up to six months.

I use a combination of seaweed concentrate and nitrogen high fertiliser. I use Amino-gro®, Thrive®, Nitrosol®, Charlie carp®, Harvest®, Powerfeed®. I also recommend using Seamungus®, Seasol®, Gogo juice® and Bushtucker® for natives ie. Figs.

I either dilute these with water and give to my trees every two to three weeks I also recommend when using this product as per the instructions on the back of the label.



# 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.

## Using leaves for June Ikebana class

The theme of Ikebana in June was “ How to arrange Ikebana using LEAVES”

Students experienced and found the interesting structure and very different forms in this lesson, which is Ikebana can be arranged with just leaves and bark, without Flowers.

Everybody at the beginning was confused how to arrange Ikebana using only leaves!

Towards the end everybody enjoyed this Ikebana form. It opened our eyes wide, Ikebana material is found everywhere.

– Megumi Bennett

Head of Ikebana Koryu Shoyo-kai School



*A few of the June Ikebana class very busy with their creations.*



*Moribana style by Suzi, Bird of Paradise leaves, Clivia and long narrow leaves.*



*Moribana style by Tanya, Monstera leaves and Dollar gum leaves.*



*Moribana style by Danuta, Kunzea branches and eucalypt leaves.*





*A Moribana style arrangement by Lynda, variegated Fig leaves and Dollar gum leaves.*



*Nageire style by Megumi using tree bark as a container, narrow Fishbone Fern and dead twigs.*



*Nagiire style by Rose, Fishbone Fern and Rubber plant leaves.*



*Nageire style by Megumi using tree bark as a container, Bird's Nest Fern with dried fern.*



## Bonsai by the Harbour in June 2025

The 2025 Bonsai by the Harbour held over two days in early June proved to be a very successful and entertaining show this year.

The lineup of demonstrators and presenters was excellent to see and not to be missed.

Tony Bebb appeared first on Saturday morning along with Grant Bowie and Neil Padbury in the afternoon doing interactive demonstrations and workshops.

Tony on Saturday used for his first demonstration an Australian native tree as his example creating a beautiful tree for the audience.

Brenda Parker came along on Saturday afternoon and brought an array of her collection of tray landscapes to explain how to grow and maintain these beautiful scenic ornamental displays.

Grant Bowie displayed his knowledge in bending the branches of his pine to the exact shape he required. This is the first time I have seen some of these techniques in how to bend branches to shape.

On Sunday Tony Bebb continued with his workshop. In the morning Ray and Clinton Nesci showed a small selection of their work of very beautiful bonsai trees and Ray showed some of his collection of miniature bonsai trees.

On Sunday morning and afternoon Sean Hood held his demonstration carving an olive tree continuing until late in the afternoon while Neil Padbury had a demonstration with field grown stock.

I attended both days at BBTH and I like everyone else was entertained greatly. Events like this one held by the Bonsai Federation of Australia are great value for money, morning and afternoon tea plus lunch was all provided.



*Grant Bowie working on his pine bending branches on Saturday morning demonstration.*



*Tony Bebb working on his demonstration tree on Saturday.*



*Brenda Parker displaying and discussing her collection of tray landscapes.*



*The completed bonsai of Tony Bebb when he finished his demonstration.*



*A display of Brenda Parker's tray landscapes shown on Saturday.*





*Ray and Clinton Nesci with some of Ray's bonsai.*



*Another example of beautiful bonsai by Ray.*



*Ray showing his miniature bonsai.*



*Neil Padbury showing some of his root over rock Shibui style on Saturday.*



*Neil on Sunday featuring some of his field grown stock in his demonstration.*



*Sean Hood on Sunday carving his olive tree which he had been working on all day.*

## **BONSAI** **EXHIBITION**

*Presented by the*  
**Bonsai Study Group Inc.**

**WHEN:** Saturday 6th September, 2025  
10.00 am to 4.00 pm

**WHERE:** West Pymble Community Hall  
Lofberg Rd, West Pymble  
Off street parking and secure children's playground

**DISPLAYS!**  
Themed displays of miniature, large & small Bonsai,  
Saieki & Suiseiki

**DEMONSTRATIONS!**  
Demonstrations of bonsai styling & techniques  
Commencing at; 11.00am and 1.30pm

**SALES!**  
Bonsai plants, advanced nursery stock, and starter trees,  
Tools, potting mix and accessories  
Local and imported bonsai pots

**RAFFLES and LUCKY DOOR PRIZE**

**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS**

**Admission:** Adults \$5.00 (includes ticket in lucky door prize)  
Children free



## Alex's presentation on soil, pests and diseases

For our June meeting at Forestville Alex held a very successful PowerPoint presentation showing to the members his research and learning about soil, water and air disorders which can affect bonsai trees.

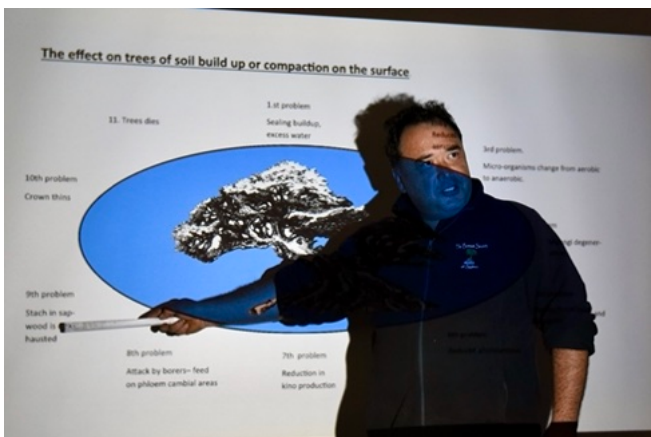
After the slide show presentation he spoke in detail about the various pests which can invade and affect the growth of trees. He brought along a range of bonsais to explain what pests and diseases can damage these trees and what remedies are needed to eliminate these problems.

With his PowerPoint demonstration Alex described in detail many of the symptoms which can result in poor growth or even the death of trees.

He talked of poor soil aeration, water deficit disorders, nutrient deficiencies and the lack of key minerals such as phosphorus, potassium, magnesium and iron that all result in changes to the way bonsai trees grow and what treatments are needed to correct these problems. **(See Alex's story in the last edition of this newsletter.)**



*Alex with his PowerPoint presentation talking about the effects soil, pests and diseases can have on the growth of bonsai trees.*



*Alex explaining to the audience the problems which can arise in growing bonsai.*

The trees brought along by Alex shown to the members had insect and diseases so as everyone can identify these problems in relation to their own trees.

The meeting was started with a Show and Tell first with Jocelyn talking about her junipers and new member Rachel showing her trees to the audience.



*Alex showing the members his trees that have pest infestations and diseases.*



*For Show and Tell Jocelyn explained to members about her juniper bonsai trees.*



*New member Rachel brought along her bonsais as part of Show and Tell.*





## My journey with fig trees

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.

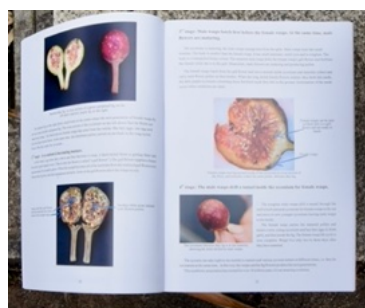
This is the story of Megumi's journey travelling around the country and finding out about Australian Native Fig trees.

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.**



## A NOTE ON OUR BONSAI LIBRARY

- Only 2 items per person, per month.
  - Please ensure library items are returned the following month.
  - If you would like to borrow something for longer, please indicate on the library card when borrowing.
  - Please ensure the library items are returned correctly either to our Librarian or a Committee Member. Please don't just leave them in the cupboard or on tables.
  - Please do not borrow items if you are unable to return them after more than 2 months.

Please talk with our committee if you have any questions or if you would like to see what we have on offer in our library.

*Thank you for your co-operation and happy*

9am to 4pm  
Saturday & Sunday  
18th & 19th Oct 2025

## 41st Annual Bonsai Exhibition



**Display of Bonsai and Suiseki created by students of the School of Bonsai and Suiseki Australia**

- Magnificent exhibition of Bonsai and Suiseki viewing stones from all levels of students
- Free demonstrations with guest presenters on Saturday and Sunday.
- Free Bonsai Clinic all weekend providing advice and styling by the School's teachers and experienced members so bring your trees along
- Reasonably priced raffles with great prizes.
- Sausage sizzle with all proceeds to Westmead Children's Hospital
- Free admission and parking at the nursery
- Great range of bonsai stock available for purchase from Ray Nesci Nursery



**THE SCHOOL OF BONSAI**

**Ray Nesci Nursery and Exhibition Centre**  
26 Sagars Road, Dural

Web: [schoolofbonsai.com.au](http://schoolofbonsai.com.au) - Email: [secretary@schoolofbonsai.com.au](mailto:secretary@schoolofbonsai.com.au)

**Bonsai Society of Sydney – 2025-2026 Club Calendar – Subject to change**

2025	Workshop/Topic	Details
<i>August 16, 2025</i>	BSS Annual Exhibition	Our Annual Exhibition, 9 am-3.30 pm, Forest Community Arts Centre, 6 Darley St, Forestville.
<i>September 27, 2025</i>	Evan Marsh	Subject yet to be decided.
<i>October 25, 2025</i>	How to create a Raft Style	Megumi will demonstrate an interesting Raft style using Himalayan juniper.
<i>November 22, 2025</i>	AGM and Christmas Party	BSS Annual General Meeting and Christmas Party. Bring along a plate of food to share at the party.
<i>February 28, 2026</i>	Figs	Demonstration of Air Layering followed by member's Fig workshop.

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

2025	Event/Exhibition	Details
<i>September 5-7, 2025</i>	Bonsai Society of Australia Annual Show	Harvey Lowe Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground, Castle Hill.
<i>September 6, 2025</i>	Bonsai Study Group Annual Show	10 am- 4 pm, West Pymble Community Hall, Lofberg Road, West Pymble.
<i>October 11-12, 2025</i>	Canberra Bonsai Society Annual Show	Canberra High School, Bindubi Street, Macquarie, ACT.
<i>October 18-19, 2025</i>	School of Bonsai 41st Annual Exhibition	9 am-4 pm, Sat. and Sun. At Ray Nesci Nursery, Sagars Road Dural.
<i>November 7-9, 2025</i>	Bonsai Reshaped	National Arboretum, Forest Drive, Molonglo Valley, ACT.

# QUIET GARDEN

ABN 81005241844

## GARDEN PRUNING AND STYLING SPECIALIST



- Specialised Pruning, Styling, Hedging such as Buxus sp., Maples, Japanese black pines, Azaleas and Murrays.
- Pest identification and plant management.
- Garden maintenance, garden consultation, weeding, mulching.
- A special pick up/delivery for overgrown plants and bonsai.
- Tree services including removal, thinning and deadwooding.

*Alex is insured and operates throughout the Sydney metro area.***206-208 FOREST WAY, BELROSE 2085****Mobile: 0401275313.****Email: alexbe.415@gmail.com**



# Bonsai Society



## of Sydney

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