



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

Next Meeting: April 27, 2024, 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

Autumn is here! Cooler weather, time to be busy for autumn work!

President's Report

Hello BSS Members,

Welcome to your April-May newsletter. I hope you had your share of chocolates at Easter.

Now we are into autumn, the weather has turned cooler and less humid, time for bonsai enthusiasts to get busy.

We now have had two meetings so far this year, both very well attended, it is very encouraging to see the older and newer members attend, I hope this continues.

Our first meeting for the year at Forestville saw a good roll up of members who brought along their figs for a Show and Tell, while Michael entertained us with a video of his bonsai.

With the March meeting Simon gave us a great talk on Azaleas as bonsai, including pest control, soil mixes, varieties to use and overall care of them. He obviously enjoys Azaleas as bonsai. Thanks Simon.

For our next meeting on April 27th we are pleased to welcome Andrew Edge from the Central Coast Bonsai Club as our guest demonstrator, where he will give a talk on Australian natives as bonsai, so don't miss this next meeting and the chance to see and talk to one of our best demonstrators.

The committee visited the Royal Botanic Gardens in March to talk to staff and view the new exhibition space they have invited us to do a Bonsai display on September 13th-15th (**more details on page 3**). More on that as progress develops. I have been told this will be a double celebration, Megumi's fiftieth year in Australia and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Bonsai Society of Sydney.

With the onset of Autumn after the recent heavy rains all our fertilisers will have leached out and will need to be replenished to prepare the plants for the dormant, colder and less sunny days.

Also now is the time to repot certain conifers, like junipers, pruning and wiring can also be done now. **(See Alex's Seasonal Notes later in this newsletter).**

If there is any bonsai topics you would like to see (e.g. aerial layering, forest settings), talk to a committee member and we shall try to organise it.

That's all for now. Happy bonsaiing.

- Cheers, Galen.



BSS, Ikebana committees and RBG staff meeting recently at the Garden Gallery to discuss the Exhibition in September.

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NEXT MEETING: April 27 at 1 pm: Demonstration and talk by Andrew Edge. Bring along a native bonsai to work on, there will not be a workshop with Andrew.

Our first bonsai meeting of 2024

Our first bonsai meeting of 2024 was a Show and Tell, workshop and a video screening involving figs. We had a larger than usual roll up of members, especially quite a few new members and returning members turn up for the day.

Michael entertained everyone with a video of his bonsai at his house, his large collection includes some very nice trees, including different varieties of figs amongst others, which he must spend a lot of time cultivating and maintaining them.

A Show and Tell was next, with the more experienced members showing and talking about their fig bonsai.



Michael showing his bonsai collection.

With a large number of members coming along we also had a workshop, with the more experienced members advising and explaining to the less knowledgeable members how to care and maintain their figs. Showing these members how to wire properly and to prune and nip back new growth impressed them greatly. Also giving them instruction about the general care and how to maintain was popular with them.

– Keith Gallie.



Greg receiving advice from Michael.



Di advising Jeff with his fig tree.



Kerry G with fig forest talking with Kerry D.



A Note from Frank Kelly, Secretary AABC

Dear Club Secretary,

As you are no doubt aware accommodation in Brisbane over the weekend of our AABC 36th National Bonsai Convention is scarce due to the NRL conducting its rugby league football combined round at the same time. If you were planning on attending the AABC Convention in May but have been put off by the high hotel prices in Brisbane that weekend, we hear you!

In response, the Brisbane bonsai community has rallied and can now offer billeting options for our visiting delegates. Below are the options;

1. 2 bed villa (suitable for 2 couples) - Brighton area (best if you have a vehicle)
2. Queen bed/shared bathroom - Camp Hill area
3. Double bed/shared bathroom - Bracken Ridge area (could transport 1 person to convention)
4. Double bed/shared bathroom - Manly West area (couple or single)
5. King bed with own bathroom - Balmoral area (on ground floor)
6. Self contained boatshed loft (very basic) - Albion/Breakfast creek area
7. Deck bush glamping experience or campervan space (BYO campervan) - Carindale area (bus service close by)
8. Transport option only from a hotel further out going to the city/convention venue

If you are interested in any of the above options, please email mail@bonsaisocietyqld.asn.au advising the option number and we will connect you with the owner to negotiate arrangements.

It is suggested that a rate of \$100 per night be appropriate to pay for billeting options.

Could you let your club members know that there are some practical options for those still searching for accommodation.

Regards

Frank Kelly, Secretary AABC

Ficus microcarpa wiring and styling



After defoliation.

After defoliation I wired most of the branches to shape the tree. I wired along the branches, not the trunk, to make them horizontal to the trunk. I will leave the wire on until winter then remove them.

I made the branches appear like an outstretched arm with the smaller branches forking out like a hand with open fingers, a pad or cloud effect.

With wiring finished I studied the tree and started to shape the tree by pruning the tips to form into a triangular shape. I cut back any up pointing and downward pointing branches and removed most of the smaller branches close to the central trunk so the tree was more open in the centre and able to receive more light, now you can see all the branches.

The tree can be now kept into this desired shape by doing regular maintenance pruning, removing larger leaves and shortening out growing branches, starting in spring and continuing into the autumn months.



Pruned into a neat triangle shape.

Centre now open giving a see through effect.

Pruning the tips of the branches and keeping the centre open producing a see through effect.



All finished, now giving the tree a much neater appearance so now I can keep it in this shape.

Meeting with the RBG for our Exhibition

The BSS, Ikebana committee and volunteers visited the Garden Gallery at the Royal Botanic Garden on March 12.

We met Holly McDougall, Acting Venues Manager and Jarryd Kelly, Curator Manager, to discuss our Bonsai and Ikebana Exhibition to be held on September 13th-15th this year.

We are honoured to be approved to exhibit our trees and Ikebana displays in the new Exhibition rooms.

Committee member Michael, a professional architect, has made a draft plan of the rooms.

More discussions will be held to sort out the details. We will let everyone know more as we progress.

Also the first Exhibition at the Robert Brown building, now called The Garden Gallery, is the beautiful botanical art by Florilegium, Rainforest Trees in Danger, to be held from April 6th-May 5th, well worth seeing.



Azalea show and talk with Simon

For our second meeting of the year at Forestville, which was well attended, saw club member Simon bring along a small part of his beautiful azalea bonsai collection to show and talk about.

Then when he completed his talk he helped the members who brought their own azaleas along to work on.

Simon's collection consisted of full size flowering azaleas to miniature flowering called satsuki and non-flowering Satome types.

He mentioned azalea species are one of his favourite trees to work with and he spends a lot of time on them.

He spoke about the correct procedure of maintaining them, the correct soil type, they like an acidic mix, feeding them the correct fertiliser and when to repot and prune them into shape. Also pest control was discussed as well.

He said azaleas like a shaded or semi-shaded spot to grow with morning sun, not to over water them, just a light spray to keep them moist and heavier spray in hot weather.

Thanks Simon, very enjoyable and informative talk.

– Keith Gallie.



Some of the smaller varieties of Simon's azaleas.



Michael receiving advice from Simon.



President Galen introducing Simon and some of his fine collection of azaleas.



Simon advising Jeff on his azalea tree, with interested spectators.



BONSAI EXHIBITION

Presented by
ILLAWARRA BONSAI SOCIETY INC.

Display – A magnificent display of exotic and Australian Native trees. A **themed display** of trees in Group Display, Forests, Landscapes and Individual trees.

Sales – Bonsai tree stock, pots and accessories will be on sale, handmade pots by Janet Selby and Helen Montfort.

Raffles – multiple choice raffles with great prizes to be won.

Clinic – bring along your bonsai and our expert tutors will be pleased to help you with any problems.

Repotting and styling service for your trees starting at \$10.00

Member sales table with all bonsai related items at very reasonable prices.

Mother's Day – For \$10 children can make their own bonsai for their mothers with everything supplied.

SATURDAY 4th May and SUNDAY 5th May 2024
10 am – 4.00pm

SUTHERLAND DISTRICT TRADE UNION CLUB
Cnr Kingsway and Manchester Road, Gympie

ADMISSION- Adults \$5.00 (children under 12 free)



Seasonal Notes April-May 2024 **by Alex Bennett – Early Autumn care**

During the months of April and May. The weather is getting cooler and the days are noticeably shorter. With still warm nights and cooler nights, it causes trees to slow down their growth but the plants are still active. You will need to adjust your watering and pruning techniques and approach accordingly.

No doubt you are all pondering this as you look at your bonsai and say what should I do next.

Repotting

I would advise that if you haven't repotted your figs and natives you should be doing them now or wait till August. Pines, in particular, White pines, Spruces, deciduous trees and other non-native as well as more root sensitive trees in relation to Sydney heat are fine to repot from now.

Deciduous/flowering trees are able to be repotted. In essence, if it is a northern hemisphere tree now is the time to repot your tree.

Autumn is my favourite time to repot. The reason is the length of time the season offers. Warmish weather and cooler nights whilst the soil is still warm keeps the roots stimulated.

As opposed to Spring where from November it can be too hot for some trees. It is quite short a time in Sydney and where certain root sensitive trees go into shock too easily, in particular, trees that have already bloomed from repotting.

Your tree needs repotting if it shows these signs:

Soil has blackened.

Soil smells like its rotting.

The tree has become loose maybe attacked by curl grub.

Dries out too quickly and starts to wilt;

Drains slowly and stays wet for a long period of time;

Isn't responding to any fertilisers you give;

Has suffered some water related stress in particular during summer; premature shedding of foliage or unexplained yellowing of foliage.

And the more unusual; the tree did not like to pot.

These signs are related to the fact that the soil has been exhausted or the tree is root bound or has poor root growth.

Trees that go longer than 18 months to two years without repotting will show one or all these signs.

Also during this time of the year when repotting you should check the state of the roots and soil condition. Is there root rot? Are the roots black or a strong healthy white. Is the soil black? Feel like mud? Smell dank?

If the answer is yes, you may blast out the soil with a jet spray setting on your hose to blast out the black rotting soil by getting rid of the black soil you are introducing fresh air to the roots when you repot it. Keep washing out black soil until removed completely.

Watering

Watering is without doubt a complex issue with so many variables. First and foremost use your common sense. The more cool weather does mean it requires less

frequent watering however the quality of watering should never waver. That means you should still water the tree until water drips from the bottom of the pot. Try to not let the tree dry out but do not let the tree dry out completely.

I may recommend watering the tree every two to three days depending on the relative toughness of the tree. Do not let the tree go an entire week without water. That is unless the weather has turned exceptionally cold.

If you do find that you are uncertain, water the tree anyway. Keep in mind while root rot is always a possible risk and the signs are similar to dry out when viewing the foliage. It is not something that happens frequently. Simply put the factors that would keep the tree's soil constantly wet would have to include.

1. Very little sunlight to no direct sun. Including under cover and window positions.

2. A position that is poorly ventilated.

It is very important to reduce watering as the weather cools. If the soil is kept too wet the root rot can start very quickly, but will not be noticed until next spring.

Don't forget your trees if you encounter a hot day and/or high winds. This can dry out your trees very quickly so by all means give your trees a good soak.

In some cases on warm days the topsoil may be wet but may be drying underneath in the roots. There are a few ways to tell. One way is to lift up the tree and feel the weight of the tree. If it feels light then it is probably drying.

Wiring

For those who are interested in wiring now is the best time of year to be wiring. I would advise against any real heavy bending. This technique is more for mid-winter. It would be ideal to remove any wire on your trees that was attached last year.

Try to cut the coils as opposed to unwiring by hand. As it may break branches unnecessarily or bump off very important buds.

Fertiliser

At this of year use a mixture of seaweed extract such Seasol® or its equivalent and a high potassium fertiliser such as Manutec® Bloom Booster or Thrive for flowering plants.

I also found if your tree is lagging in health Nitrosol®, Amino gro®, fish emulsion and other nitrogen balanced fertilisers are great to bring growth too.

My advice is use discretion depending on your overall trees need. I would recommend fertilising at half strength every 2 to 3 weeks or once a month at full strength until the leaves drop off your maple trees. (That is usually my sign to stop fertilising)

Your ratio should be at half strength and that is regardless of the size of your watering can.

We use this type of fertiliser because it will stimulate them after the long summer; causes a thickening of the trunk and stores food for the tree come spring.



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.

History of Ikebana – part 2

The Birth of Ikebana

After the Lotus arrangement style, the ancient people practised with many different plants to arrange and established “TATEBANA” style in 10th to 12th century.

TATEBANA means upright flowers. The arrangement is very simple and expresses beautiful lines in a container. (Refer to photo).

In the right hand picture we can see Camellia flowers and branches.

These arrangements are recognised as THE BIRTH OF IKEBANA. We love the simplicity of the arrangement and we still arrange flowers like this today.

– Megumi,
Head of Koryu Shoyo-Kai School.



A moribana arrangement by Jo-Anna using Blue Ginger in a two container design.



Nageire arrangement by Megumi using Fishbone Fern and Carnations.



Water Lily, Moribana arrangement by Megumi, using a Suiban expressed as a pond.



Moribana arrangement by Suzi. She used Dahlias, carnations, euphorbia snow on the mountains.



Nageire arrangement, Alstroemeria and Canadian golden rod in a tall black container by Kumiko.



Moribana arrangement, a tall container by Tanya using Leucadendron carnations and salicin..

Jocelyn teaching bonsai at Narrabri

Late last year I was lucky enough to be invited by my daughter, Katherine, who is the Japanese teacher at Narrabri High School, to run a bonsai demonstration for her year nine and ten Japanese students.

Katherine supplied a Japanese inspired lunch for the girls, which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and this gave me a chance to get to know the girls a little bit.

Katherine and I both learnt bonsai from Megumi at Terrey Hills nursery many years ago.

I gave a short history of bonsai and talked about the different types of trees and styles that are used.

We also spoke about the care and maintenance of looking after bonsai.

As we had limited time I gave a simple demonstration, mostly concentrating on the potting of a tree.

The girls then chose a pot and a bonsai tree and after my demonstration and instruction they enthusiastically went about creating their very own bonsai trees.

During this time another staff member brought his old fig for me to have a look at and to give him some advice on how to look after it a little better. With a little pruning and some tips for the future the tree was looking much more like a bonsai.

I hope that this introduction to the art of bonsai will inspire some of the students to continue this interesting and creative hobby into the future.

-Jocelyn (Committee Member, BSS).

A very nice little story about introducing a new generation of students to the fine art of bonsai. Well done Jocelyn – Editor.



Jocelyn and bonsai (far right and daughter in red) with her class showing the results of the students' efforts with their first-ever bonsai.



Jocelyn showing her daughter's class at Narrabri the correct way on how to repot a bonsai, a nice introduction for them in this ancient art.

Bonsai and Ikebana Exhibition
At the Garden Gallery,
Royal Botanic Garden Sydney
Friday 13th-Sunday 15th September, 2024
10 am-4 pm

also
BSS Annual Exhibition
At Forest Community Arts Centre,
Forestville, 9 am-3.30 pm
Saturday 17th August, 2024

Proudly exhibited by the
Bonsai Society of Sydney and the
Ikebana Koryu Shoyo-Kai School.
For more information contact Megumi:
bennettmegumi@gmail.com



Membership fees are now overdue

Fees for membership were due by January 1, 2024. Please complete an application form with your contact details 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.

Please take a photograph of the 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. (details on application form). Please include a reference, e.g. name, so we know who the payment is from.

Please let us know . . .

. . . if any of your contact details have altered recently then please notify us.

We need to have this updated information to keep in contact to send out newsletters and notifications to our members.

Any changes please contact Richard Chaplin at rac@kintford.com.au, or Keith Gallie at keithgallie@bigpond.com, or Megumi Bennett at bennettmegumi@gmail.com.

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 reading!

Almost sold out! Only five club shirts remaining



There are only five polo club shirts left for sale, two large and three XL size available.

If we receive enough requests for more shirts we can order more.

Please contact Megumi for more information about these shirts.

Bonsai Federation of Australia Northern Inc

Invites you to a weekend of

BONSAI by the HARBOUR



A unique program will be presented with multiple demonstrations and workshops occurring throughout Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday will feature Marcela Ferreira (Victorian Native Bonsai Club), Grant Bowie (Canberra) doing interactive demonstrations and workshops. Alan Peck (Newcastle Bonsai Society) will be doing a demonstration. A group of 8 people will be discussing their bonsai trees.

Sunday will feature demonstrations and workshops with Marcela Ferreira and Hugh Grant (Tree Makers Bonsai Co) Megumi Bennett (Bonsai Art Nursery – Bonsai Society of Sydney) will be doing a demonstration.

A Silent Auction and Raffle will be held on Saturday and Sunday.

Sale Tables will feature handmade pots.

Saturday & Sunday 8th & 9th June 2024

Sydney Church of England Grammar School's Rowing Facility
86 Wharf Road, Gladesville NSW 2111

Enquiries: Garry 0425320394 (email gueberga@gmail.com)
Denise 02 94987355 (email denise_edgerton@hotmail.com)

Bonsai Society of Sydney – 2024 Club Calendar – Subject to change

2024	Workshop/Topic	Details
April 27th, 2024	Andrew Edge	Andrew Edge talk about Australian natives. Bring one tree to work on, there will not be a workshop with Andrew.
May 25, 2024	Japanese Black Pine	Alex will talk and do a demonstration on Japanese Black Pines.
June 22, 2024	Evan Marsh	Soe bonsai (accent plants) demonstration by Evan Marsh.
July 27, 2024	Preparing your tree for our Exhibition	Bring along your tree, display table and Soe to work on for the Exhibition in August.
August 17, 2024	BSS Annual Exhibition	Our one day Annual Exhibition, 9 am-3-30 pm at Forestville Community Arts Centre.

Important Dates – 2024, Calendar of Events – Subject to change

2024	Event/Exhibition	Details
April 19-21, 2024	Bonsai By The Beach	By the Wauchope Bonsai Club, featuring demonstrations by Marcella Ferreira and Sean and Michael Hood. More details on their website.
May 4-5, 2024	Illawarra Bonsai Society Annual Show	Saturday, May 4-Sunday, May 5, 2024, 10 am-4 pm. Sutherland District Trade Union Club, car. Kingsway and Manchester Road, Gymea.
May 17-20, 2024	AABC National Bonsai Convention	36th AABC National Bonsai Convention, Royal on the Park Hotel, Brisbane.
June 8-9, 2024	Bonsai By The Harbour	Sydney Church of England Grammar School's Rowing Facility, 86 Wharf Road, Gladesville. Demonstrations both days, workshops Sunday.

QUIET GARDEN

ABN 81005241844

GARDEN PRUNING AND STYLING SPECIALIST



- Specialised Pruning, Styling, Hedging such as Buxus sp., Maples, Japanese black pines, Azaleas and Murrayas.
- 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

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

Bonsai Society of Sydney Committee 2024		
Honorary Patron	Megumi Bennett	bennettmegumi@gmail.com
President	Galen Gannon	gig45@bigpond.com
Vice President	Diane C.	
Secretary	Alex Bennett	alexbe.415@gmail.com
Treasurer	Richard Chaplin	rac@kintford.com.au
Newsletter Editor	Keith Gallie	keithgallie@bigpond.com
Committee Member	Jocelyn M.	
Committee Member	Christophe C.	
Committee Member	Michael S.	
Committee Member		

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BONSAI SOCIETY OF SYDNEY INC.

Membership Application Form 2024

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

Treasurer's use only

Receipt No:..... Initials:

Treasurer Membership/Newsletter