



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: October 26, 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

## *The exhibitions were a great success!*

### President's Report

Hello BSS Members. Well, our two exhibitions at Forestville and the Royal Botanic Gardens are over, now we can get back to normal activities! It was an exhausting but exciting time for all.

Both shows were very successful, I want to thank all the visitors who came along and enjoyed viewing the excellent bonsai and Ikebana displays of our members.

We had demonstrations of bonsai and Ikebana at both venues, which proved very popular and whetted the visitors' appetites to learn more about both of these ancient arts.

My personal thanks goes out to all of the Committee and members and especially all the volunteers including Megumi's Ikebana school for their very big effort in helping to put these two shows together, everybody put in a lot of time and hard work to make these exhibitions go ahead, months of planning and preparations certainly paid off.

And a very big thanks to everyone at the Royal Botanic Gardens from the executive and all staff for allowing us to hold our exhibition at the Garden Gallery and for all their help in setting up the display rooms for our use.

Congratulations Megumi on a fine Exhibition.

I would like to thank to the Acting Consul-General of Japan, Mr Yuichiro Nishida for opening both events and official invited guests who came along to help with the opening ceremonies.

Back to bonsai business. Spring is certainly upon us with all the changeable weather, warm then cold, dry and then wet.

Now it is time to feed your bonsai, take off the old wire, you can repot some species now, don't forget to keep the water up to the plants, hotter weather means they dry out quickly. **(Refer Alex's Seasonal Notes on page 5).**

The next meeting is on October 26th, with a workshop with Australian natives. Then we have our final meeting in November, the AGM and Christmas party, don't forget to bring along a plate of food to share and as always decorate a bonsai tree for Christmas to show everyone.

That's all for now. See you at the next meeting.

*- Cheers, Galen.*



*Galen is busy watering all the plants twice a day at the Garden Gallery, with Megumi's 75-year-old Hinoki cypress bonsai.*

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**NEXT MEETING: October 26 at 1 pm: Australian natives workshop, bring your trees.**

## Forestville BSS Annual Bonsai Exhibition

Our one day Annual Exhibition held on August 17th was a great success, combined with Megumi's Ikebana school and our bonsai members who presented beautiful displays of their work. There were more first time exhibitors again this year, that is very encouraging. A bonsai demonstration with Galen on repotting proved very popular. The exhibition was officially opened by the Acting Consul-General of Japan in Sydney, Mr Yuichiro Nishida. We invited Mr Garry Uebergang, President of the BFA to be our guest judge, he selected a root over rock Willow Leaf fig as the most excellent.



*Vice president Di as MC with the guests ready to officially open the Annual Exhibition.*



*Megumi with Acting Consul-General of Japan in Sydney, Mr Yuichiro Nishida, with one of Alex's Japanese red pines displayed at the show.*



*Galen with his helper Chris for his demonstration.*



*A Loropetalum (Chinese fringe flower) in full blossom displayed by Di.*



*A tall Pyracantha crenulata (Nepal Firethorn) was beautifully displayed by Ann.*



*A 52-year-old Prunus serrulata 'Okame' (Japanese Flowering Cherry) displayed by Brian.*



*Val's Ulmus parvifolia (Chinese Elm) styled as a literati example of bonsai.*



*A Picea abies (Norway Spruce) grown by Jodie was judged as another excellent bonsai.*



*Jacki's Liquidambar styraciflua (Liquidambar) received an award for Excellent Bonsai.*



*The best bonsai in the show was a root over rock Willow Leaf fig tree by Galen.*

## A message from our patron, Megumi

The year 2024 has been a big year for the 25th birthday celebration of the Bonsai Society of Sydney. We wanted a 20th celebration 4 years ago but Covid prevented this.

I realised 2024 is my 50th wedding anniversary as well as bonsai and Ikebana life in Australia. I wanted to celebrate with my family, students and club members. I wanted to show my “thank you” to Australia.

Thus my dream and idea became bigger and I talked with my family, BSS committee and Ikebana students. My students and I formed 5 years ago the Ikebana Koryu Shoyo-Kai group.

An Exhibition would be the perfect project to celebrate.

I approached Mr John Siemon, Director of Horticulture at the RBG Sydney last year. We experienced a successful exhibition at the Calyx two years ago.

We could hold the exhibition on September 13th-15th 2024 at the new exhibition building, the Garden Gallery.

The title of the exhibition was:

“The Grand BONSAI and IKEBANA EXHIBITION”.

I wish to acknowledge all the following people and organisations. Without them, we could not hold such a successful exhibition.

1. The RBG Sydney, Chief Executive Officer, directors, Foundation and friends of Botanic Gardens, Calyx staff and very importantly the Garden Gallery Event team. We received great support towards our project,



*Dr Duffy, Megumi, Mr Nishida and Mr Ross.*

2. The BSS, the organising Committee and volunteers of Bonsai Society of Sydney and Ikebana Koryu Shoyo-Kai group. Family members, wives, husbands, father, sons, daughter, cousins and nieces, nephews and their friends. My niece and her husband came from Japan to help.

The Opening Ceremony was attended by Dr Simon Duffy, AM, CEO Royal Botanic Gardens, Mr Yuichiro Nishida, Acting Consul-General of Japan in Sydney, Graham Ross, AM, Chair Australian Garden Council. Peter Thomas, CEO Foundation and Friends, Garry Uebergang, president, Bonsai Federation of Australia and Mrs Patricia Walters, former President Ikebana International Sydney Chapter.

Thanks to Richard. He did important administration jobs from overseas and is continuously working now.

Margaret supported Richard as a follow up to Richard’s work in Sydney.

Michael’s floor plan was very useful. Alex and I designed where to position the bonsai.

Alex’s accuracy how to carry large bonsai to the RBG, he organised volunteers, vans and cars to help carry many bonsai. Chris assisted Alex greatly. We thank James, two Davids, Tony, Kevin and Mark for their help.

Di organised the Opening Ceremony and refreshments. Kumi assisted Di. Jocelyn and Glenda organised volunteers’ timetable and table cloths..



Galen and his team were responsible caring for the bonsai, watering during show time and preparation of demonstration room for demonstrators.

The front inquiry table was worked by members and volunteers. Keith printed flyers and bonsai name tags.

Jacki, Alison, Evelyne, Yukie, Mika, Noriko and Haruki and other volunteers talked to visitors at the front table.

Thanks to the Ikebana group for such beautiful Ikebana displays. Jo-Anna delivered flowers from the market and Ikebana containers and Kenzans to the loading dock.

Margaret, Rachel and Alison looked after the sales table.

Demonstrations: Friday. Ikebana: Megumi and Stephanie.

Bonsai: Galen and Di. Saturday. Ikebana: Kerry and Stephanie.

Bonsai: Alex and Galen. Sunday. Ikebana: Megumi and Kerry.

Bonsai: Megumi and Glenda.

3. We appreciated the editors of the following magazines to support the exhibition:

The Garden Clubs of Australia, Garden Clinic, ABC Gardening Australia magazine, GARDENS, Foundation and Friends of the Botanic Gardens, friends of local bonsai clubs in NSW.

Ikebana International Sydney Chapter.

Japan Club of Sydney, Jiji Press. Japanese paper Sydney office.

Mr Matthew Jansen, photographer, taking beautiful photos for the exhibition flyers and magazines.

### The conclusion:

This type of exhibition can be done only once. Visitors said that you can call this “SYDNEY KOKUFU EXHIBITION”. What honoured words I received.

We made over 1600 visitors happy by showing our hobby, Japanese green culture. Thank you everyone. We made it.

Many overseas visitors from America, Canada, New Zealand and Japan (Megumi’s friends) admired high quality Bonsai. We also met bonsai enthusiasts from all over NSW.

It added a nice atmosphere to display 10 pictures of Megumi’s botanical art on the walls.

Di, MC at the opening ceremony announced that we received the congratulations letters from Mr H. Shimomura, Chairman Nippon Bonsai Association and Mr S. Yamagami, former Japanese Ambassador to Australia. They wished the best for our Bonsai and Ikebana Exhibition.

About 55 bonsai was displayed, from mame bonsai display to many large bonsai. Bennett’s family 30 and members 25. We displayed them in the traditional Japanese manner.

**- Megumi Bennett**



*Great team of Bonsai and Ikebana members.*



## Seasonal Notes October-November 2024 by Alex Bennett – Spring care

Spring is a temperamental time of the year with hot sunny days followed cold, wet and windy periods. With these fluctuations, special care needs to be taken to protect any new growth from damage. Sometimes you could get heatwaves with short bursts of heated air. Adequate water must be provided to ensure that trees do not dry out.

New growth is developing fast and is very soft with little tolerance to water and heat stress. For the bonsai beginners, take note, this time of the year is the MOST dangerous time for you regarding watering.

In relation to the excess heat we have been receiving, some caution needs to be taken to ensure the tree is in fresh soil. So please complete all your repotting. Sometimes when a tree is root bound the roots can block the drainage holes, so the excess water can be blocked up.

Another thing to be aware of is the growth cycle. In early spring the foliage grows first; from mid to late spring the roots start growing. So it essential the repotting you have to do needs to be done now, particularly non-native Bonsai. So I would recommend a regular fertiliser regime to keep the trees' strength up prior to repotting and afterwards.

### **Repotting**

Most deciduous trees should now be repotted. The native trees including Banksias and Figs are commonly repotted now and into late spring.

Pines and conifers should be finished by this time of year. These trees can still be wired but I do not recommend heavy cutting followed up by wiring then a repot all at once. Avoid pruning the roots on pines if the candles are producing needles.

Evergreen flowering trees such as Azaleas and Gardenias are best repotted as soon as they have finished flowering. Remember to start your fertilising as soon as they have finished flowering.

Rotate your trees every couple of weeks, so all sides can get full exposure and even growth.

Cut back any long shoots thrown out by deciduous trees.

Check wiring to make sure that it is not cutting into the bark.

Your fertilising schedule should now be at its peak to support new spring growth. It is suggested that each fortnight you use a complete fertiliser at normal strength with an added boost of seaweed extract such as Seasol®. You can pour the fertiliser on the foliage and roots. Pay attention to any trees that were repotted last Autumn or in Winter as their needs will be greatest.

I use Charlie carp®, Aminogro®, Nitrosol®, Seasol's Powerfeed®, Fish emulsion brands, Vitarich®, Thrive®, Bio-guano®, these products I sell at my nursery. You can apply one of these fertilisers with Go Go juice, Seasol or other seaweed concentrates. This product is not a fertiliser. However you do not want to mix the fertilisers. A lot of fertilisers on the market don't show they are a two in one fertiliser. So please read the label both front and back to verify.

### **Pest and disease**

Remember pests and fungus can become very active this time of year. Ensure you look closely on your leaves both on top and underside. Unexplained yellowing, weak growth

and leaf drop is a sign you should have a closer look. Thankfully the pests that attack your trees are not rare or exotic so treating them is pretty straight forward.

Scale – Eco oil® is fine to use, Yates® Scale gun and also Eco Neem® oil. These will need to be diluted with water. Scale gun is already premixed. Pest oil and white oil can be premixed but may have unpredictable results with certain trees. You can test spray an area on the tree if unsure. Follow up spraying may be necessary. If unsure speak to a qualified Horticulturist.

**Aphids** - Contendor® insect spray and most other pesticides will be fine to use.

Look always at the underside of the leaves and at the tips. Look for tiny ugly brown and black bugs that distort and shrivel the new growth. Some trees may have webbing, these are spiders that are attracted to the aphids. But spiders are apex predators they are hunting bugs and are not trying to eat your tree.

**Caterpillars** - Pyrethrum and Conguard® insect spray may be fine to use though picking off the bugs may be all that is needed.

**Curly grub/Cut worm and Mealy bugs in the roots** - Only noticeable at time of repotting remember to remove them from soil site when observed. You may use Richgro® Bug Killa, Eco neem oil.

**Thrips** - Leaf curling may be the most noticeable on your figs. No need to spray. Pluck infected leaves with finger. I like to use a Confidor® tablet.

**Mites** - specific Miticides i.e Mancozeb® and Eco-Neem oil seem to work best. Though follow up sprays may be required. These are the most common pests that you will see.

**Black sooty mould** - usually an indicator of either scale or Aphids and poor location to sunlight. Powdery mildew usually affects colder climate evergreen and deciduous trees. Causation is related to poor watering and fertilising practice. These are the more common fungi.

I like to use Liquid copper or Eco fungicide mixed with Eco oil.

Root rot may also be common for trees' root systems usually caused by overzealous watering and not repotting in a timely matter. Usual signs are blackened soil; blackening of trunk and or branches and leaves wilting due to soil having no air to exchange with the leaves.

### **Pruning**

With the rapid spring growth, it is a good time to observe your trees, notice areas of strong growth and weak growth areas. These observations can be used to start correcting any errors in the structure of your trees or to suggest, some restyling.

Break the candles on your Red and Black pines with your fingers never use scissors. Needle pluck Pines to remove last year's needles, this will allow sun into the new growth. This will encourage new shoots.

Remove all spent flowers on Azaleas by carefully snipping the flower stalk. That will remove the developing seed capsule which will use a lot of energy and nutrients that the tree would otherwise use for new growth.



# 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.

## Ikebana displays at our August Annual Exhibition

Megumi's Koryu Shoyo-Kai Ikebana and school produced very beautiful displays for the Annual Exhibition at Forestville earlier this year. The next two pages show a variety of their styles and ingenuity of handiwork to make these beautiful arrangements available for this year's show.



*Acting Consul-General Yuichiro Nishida being shown the Ikebana school's handiwork by Megumi.*



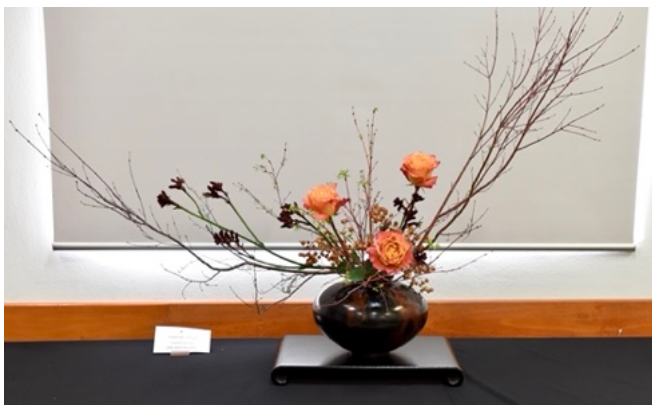
*A very beautiful moribana arrangement carefully assembled by Kerry.*



*A nageire style arrangement produced for the exhibition by Megumi.*



*A very beautiful nageire style arrangement made by Evelyne.*



*Another beautiful nageire style arrangement this time made by Stephanie.*



*Kerry produced this beautiful nageire style arrangement for our exhibition.*



*Nageire style by Stephanie using decayed bird's nest fern, white orchid and Hardenbergia branch.*



*A very beautiful moribana style arrangement this time by Lynda.*



*Seika style by Megumi, Arum lily and leaves, expresses simplicity of nature.*



*Seika style using Bird of paradise flowers expresses universe, tall flowers express heaven, lowest expresses earth, middle flowers express man.*



*Another moribana display by Tanya this time using daffodils.*



*Megumi with her finished work she produced as part of the Ikebana demonstration.*

## Ikebana at the Grand Exhibition at the RBG

The Koryu Shoyo-Kai exhibited wonderful and beautiful displays of Ikebana at our Grand Exhibition in September. These photos are the results of their efforts.



*These are completed Ikebana displays made by Megumi's school in their separate room.*



*A very beautiful Moribana style arrangement assembled by Lynda.*



*Moribana style using gum bark, King protea and native white flowers by Kerry.*



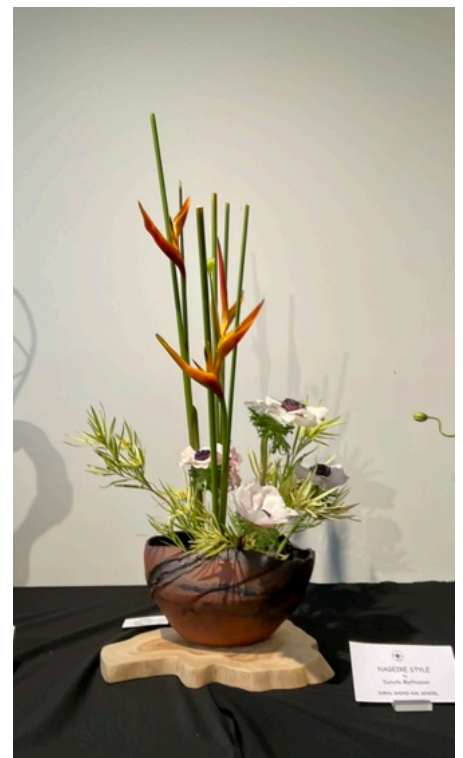
*Nageire style arrangement by Suzi.*



*Nageire style by Tanya.*



*Moribana style by Joanna.*



*Danuta's nageire using heliconia.*





*A nageire style beautifully designed and made by Stephanie.*



*Seika style arrangement by Megumi.*



*Stephanie (front) and Kerry (rear) both performed their demonstrations for the visitors.*



*Pink Chrysanthemums in nageire style created by Kerry.*



*This beautiful Nageire style arrangement was produced by Kumiko.*

## Visitors enjoyed our Garden Gallery Exhibition

Everyone enjoyed our very successful Grand Exhibition in September at the RBG. Many visitors came along to view the bonsai and Ikebana displays. Open for three days the audience were treated to the finest displays of bonsai from Megumi, Alex and members of the BSS.

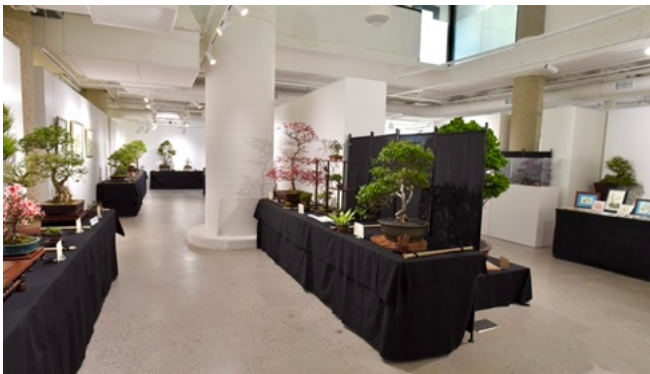
The newly opened Garden Gallery offered us spacious areas to display the bonsai, a room set aside for Ikebana and a demonstration room to show the different methods of both bonsai and Ikebana.



*Mr Duffy giving his speech at the Opening Ceremony on the Saturday.*



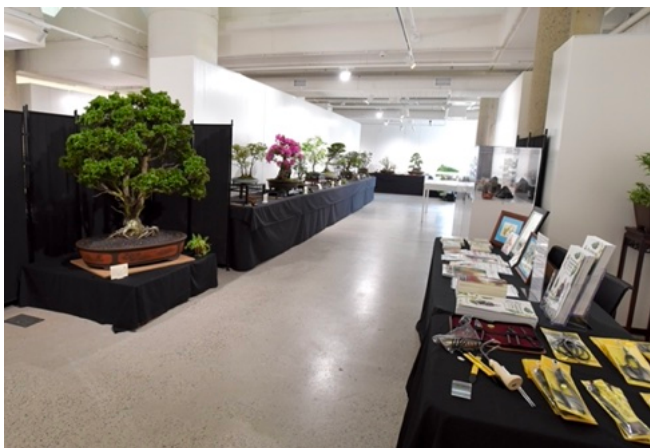
*Alex's Saw Banksia (*Banksia serrata*) welcomes people at the front entrance of our exhibition.*



*A view of the ample display area inside the Garden Gallery with the bonsai trees spaciouly set out.*



*A display of Mame bonsai (smaller than Shohin bonsai) surprises the visitors.*



*The view just inside the entrance with the sales table located on the right-hand side.*



*Megumi's collection of Suseki (viewing stones) from Japan admired by visitors.*



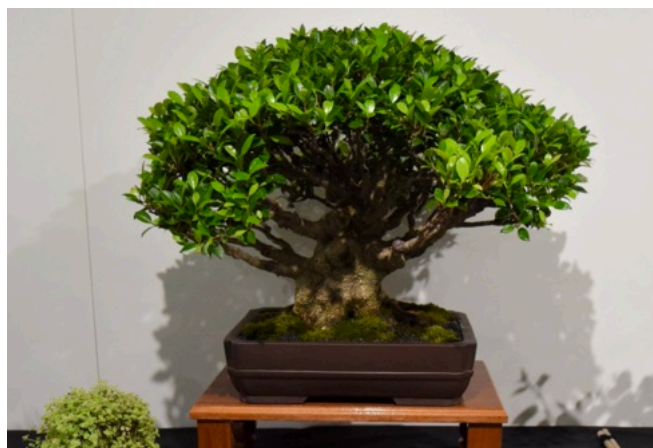
*A large Azalea (Rhododendron indica) in full bloom, 62 years old, displayed by Megumi and Brian.*



*A small Wollemi pine (Wollemia nobilis) grown for 20 years, cared for by Marion.*



*A selection of bonsai pots from Megumi's collection in their own display case.*



*A large Tiger Bark Fig (Ficus microcarpa) grown by Evelyne, estimated at 49 years old.*



*Chris's beautiful Chinese wisteria (Wisteria sinensis) welcomed people.*



*Di's Sticky Wattle (Acacia howittii) beautifully displayed.*



*A few of the bonsai displayed.*



*A few of Megumi's botanical art was displayed on the walls.*



*People viewing the bonsai collection.*



*Crabapple (*Malus floribunda*) 20 year old by Anne.*



*Alex's Japanese Red pine.*



*Jacki's *Ulmus parvifolia* (Chinese elm) 39 years old.*



*Alex's *Acer palmatum* 'Deshojo' (Japanese maple).*

## Alex's repotting demonstration at the Garden Gallery

Alex demonstrated how to repot a bonsai for the audience at the Garden Gallery.

He began by pruning and styling his tree first and then wired some of the branches. Next he removed the tree from the pot, then prepared the same pot ready for the tree to be replanted.

He fixed pieces of mesh over the drainage holes using a short piece of wire to hold the mesh in place and then used two pieces of 1.5 mm wire fitted through the drainage holes and extending past the rim of the pot so the tree can be secured to the pot. Alex removed the old soil from the tree and then held the plant upright so he could cut the excess growth of old roots, leaving just enough to promote new root growth.

With the help of Galen he then placed small pebbles over the drainage holes in the pot to prevent the bonsai soil mix from clogging the mesh holes.

He only placed enough soil in a neat mound to accommodate the bonsai and then determined the best position where the tree should sit in the pot.

Next he attached the two wires and tied them securely making sure the tree would not move. He then added more soil to the pot and he and Galen began to tamp down and press the new soil making sure there were no air pockets left in the soil.

After finishing pressing down the soil he then smoothed the soil out making it even and finishing just below the rim of the pot. Job done.



*Alex and Galen before commencing repotting of the bonsai tree.*



*Holding the plant up level and trimming the excess roots before repotting.*



*Preparing the pot with new wire and mesh and attaching the security wires.*



*Tamping down the new soil and levelling it out. Inset: The tree is now repotted while Alex checks to make sure everything is in the correct position.*

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

2024	Workshop/Topic	Details
October 26, 2024	Workshop using Australian native trees.	General workshop using Australian native trees. Bring along your natives, figs, eucalypts, banksias, etc. to work on.
November 23, 2024	AGM and Christmas Party	Annual General Meeting and Christmas Party. Bring along a plate of food to share and also decorate a Bonsai as a Christmas tree.
February 22, 2025	First meeting of 2025	Topic to be decided.

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

2024	Event/Exhibition	Details
October 26-27, 2024	Urimbirra Bonsai Society Annual Show	Laurel Room, Ribbonwood Centre, Dapto.
November 10-12 2024	Newcastle Bonsai Society Annual Show	Club Macquarie, Lake Argenton.
November 16, 2024	Christmas Sale Day	10 am to 12 pm, Don Moore Community Centre, North Rocks.



## Megumi's Fig Book available now

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

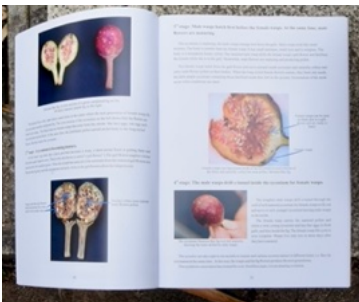
The story of Megumi's journey travelling around the country and discovering Australian Native Fig trees.

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.



# 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.

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<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>
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<b>Committee Member</b>	Jocelyn M.	
<b>Committee Member</b>	Christophe C.	
<b>Committee Member</b>	Michael S.	
<b>Committee Member</b>		

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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