

The Location



The Bonsai Federation of Australia Inc was established in 1980 as a representative body for bonsai clubs throughout Australia. The objectives of the Federation include promoting the art of bonsai in the general community and providing educational opportunities, such as overseas guest speakers for demonstrations and workshops, for its member clubs. The Federation facilitates close interaction between clubs and provides assistance to both city and country clubs.

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 occurring throughout the day – a friendly, informal gathering of bonsai friends in a stunning harbourside setting. You will be free to move between the various demonstrations or participate in a selection of workshops. A silent auction will be held over the two days.

Saturday & Sunday 8 & 9 June 2013

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

Enquiries: Ric 02.9953.1931 (email bonsairic@bigpond.com)
Jan 02.6585.3995 (email jan.briggs2@bigpond.com)

Closing date for registration is 24 May 2013

Saturday 8 June 2013

8.00am	Registration	
9.00am-4.00pm	"The Boys", Sean & Michael Hood work on big collected material – all day and into tomorrow	
9.00-10.30am	Grant Bowie – Simplicity, Complexity & Serendipity – a talk/demo using 3 English hawthorn which were dug in August 2009 in the Goulburn region and are ready for work. Grant will explore the notions of simplicity, complexity and serendipity when designing bonsai.	
10.30-11.00am	Morning tea	
11.00-12.00	Penny Davis, well-known Newcastle based artist & potter talks to Lee Wright about her unique & original pots. She will be showing a range of her work as well as demonstrating her art.	Well known bonsai identity, Tina Valsamis, speaks about her life-long fascination with bonsai and tells some of her experiences assisted by her good friend, Deirdre Grusovin. Tina will bring along some of her lovely bonsai.
12.00-1.00pm	Lunch	1.00pm Conclusion of Silent Auction
1.00-2.30pm	Clinton Nesci – mystery demonstration	
2.30-3.00pm	Afternoon tea	
3.00-4.00pm	Linh Khanh demonstrates his art of bringing small landscapes into full 3D with an Australian flavour	
4.00-4.30pm	"The Boys", Sean & Michael, give a progress update on their work so far	
5.00pm	Close and Barbecue at the Boathouse for those who wish to stay on and enjoy a barbecue, followed by an instructive critique by Lee Wright on trees selected from those exhibited.	

Sunday 9 June 2013

8.00am	Registration	
9.00am-4.00pm	Brenda Parker, renowned authority on azaleas, works on a large collected specimen she has been waiting to attack for ages. She has interesting stories and good azalea info.	
9.00-10.30am	Chris Allnutt creating a different mini using Shimpaku juniper and advanced techniques	Bonsai enthusiast, Ken Poole, works with a collection of pyracanthas with a range of interesting possibilities.
10.30-11.00am	Morning tea	
11.00-12.00	Megumi Bennett demonstrates new Japanese method of seasonal work on black pines	
12.00-1.00pm	Lunch	1.00pm Conclusion of Silent Auction
1.00-4.00pm	Workshop with Grant Bowie - strictly limited to 8 participants, but all attendees are welcome to drift in and out. Normal observer rules apply (low noise & no coaching the participants.)	
1.00-2.30pm	Chris di Nola – the TALL and short ways to go with two junipers	
2.30-3.00pm	John Cowgill demonstrates how to make an easy landscape tray using material from the builders hardware shop	
3.00-3.30pm	Afternoon tea	

3.30-4.00pm	Brenda sums up her marathon demonstration
4.00pm	Conclusion of silent auction and raffle draw

Demonstrators (continued)

Ken Poole, like many people, gained an interest in bonsai while quite young. Ken grew an English oak tree on his balcony for about 15 years, and was convinced to join the School of Bonsai by a friend so as to "do something constructive with that tree"! Ken has been an active member of Online forums since 2005, and has been instrumental in creating the AusBonsai Wiki pages. http://www.ausbonsai.com.au/wiki/index.php?title=Main_Page Documenting and helping others online is a passion of Ken's, as it can bring quality bonsai information and education, to people in remote locations who otherwise might be starved of the bonsai community interaction. For the last 2 years, Ken has had the privilege to be a demonstrator at The School of Bonsai annual show. Passing on the skills he has learnt as a long term member of The School is to Ken what it is all about, while developing his own trees.

Megumi Bennett gained her BA in English Literature in Tokyo Japan. On arriving in Australia in 1974 she continued to develop her bonsai and ikebana skills she had learnt in Japan. Megumi is a graduate of the Ryde School of Horticulture, where she also taught bonsai. For many years she has given demonstrations, exhibitions and workshops throughout Australia. Megumi conducts classes and workshops from beginners to advanced and her favourite subjects are Japanese black pines, Japanese maples and Australian native figs. Megumi is a foundation and patron of Bonsai Society of Sydney Inc and a recipient of the Japanese Foreign Minister's Award from the Japanese Government in February 2007. Megumi has received the bonsai instructor's qualification from Nippon Bonsai Association in Japan and is also a bonsai instructor for the Association of Australian Bonsai Clubs.

Chris Di Nola was first introduced to bonsai in 1999. Since then he has won numerous prizes at the Royal Easter Show, including Grand Champion in 2005. He is a registered demonstrator with the AABC and teaches on a regular basis. Chris has studied with Kimura, Kevin Willson and Craig Coussins, and enjoys carving, working with collected material and junipers. He has a very laid-back attitude to bonsai and often states that "if a meathead like me can do it, anyone can".

John Cowgill became interested in bonsai after attending a bonsai show in 2002. Work and other commitments prevented him attending any regular classes although he did attend some workshops with his wife who studied bonsai. It was at one of those workshops that he saw a Suiseki presentation and became fascinated with the stones and equally with the hand crafted timber daizas. After a time he was able to join the Bonsai Study Group and attend on a more regular basis, becoming involved with bonsai and their display tables. Although having no formal woodworking training, he is a keen amateur and has recycled old furniture and other oddments of timber into some interesting bonsai tables. More recently, he is experimenting with recycled and inexpensive materials to produce suibans, trays and slabs for bonsai and suiseki display.

Notes:

Silent Auction – attendees are invited to bring items for sale at the silent auction. Those wishing to bid on an item write their bid on the slip provided and the last highest bid at the conclusion of the day is the winner. A 10% commission is payable to the BFA by the original owner.

Sales Tables – sales tables will feature hand made bonsai pots by Penny Davis (Mudlark Pottery) and Lynette Smith. Jan will also be having a down-sizing sale of bonsai related items such as books, unfinished timber slabs ideal for stands, slate, rocks and a collection of club aprons.

Critiques – Attendees are invited to bring trees for discussion and critique for the after dinner critique with Lee Wright.

Workshop with Grant Bowie – please bring material to work on that is worthy of the tutor's time and effort, as well as all your own tools and supplies

The Venue

The unique venue for this weekend seminar is the Sydney Church of England Grammar School's rowing facility, situated on Looking Glass Bay. It has picture book views of our beautiful harbour and is just across the bay from "Rockend" cottage, the childhood home of Banjo Patterson. The large room (used during the rowing season to accommodate the rowing crews) overlooks this beautiful vista, and will be the perfect space for the variety of bonsai attractions we will be presenting to inform, interest, inspire, explain – and not the least, to entertain – not just the "experts", but anyone who loves and aspires to the bonsai idea. There is a large balcony where the major works of carving, potting and other interesting techniques can be demonstrated. There is some on-site parking available as well as on-street parking in the area. This venue has been arranged with the assistance of Mr Garry Uebergang and Dr Timothy Wright, the Headmaster of Shore.

The Demonstrators

Sean & Michael Hood – Their bonsai journey began in 1995 driving past Alan Weedon's bonsai nursery on their way to school. Their regular visits there soon turned into part time work at the nursery, where bonsai became a great interest, whilst also teaching us patience and a respect for nature. Although ten years had lapsed before they began bonsai again, the bonsai bug had bitten twice as hard. A passion for beautiful trees, collecting material, the people you meet and the laughs along the way' have now cemented bonsai as a major part of their lives.

Grant Bowie started bonsai as a 13 year old, and is now in his 43rd year as a bonsai artist, demonstrator and workshop tutor. Grant is the immediate past Curator of the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia (NBPCA) and as such got to work on a variety of advanced bonsai that have been loaned or donated to the collection. His favourite species are pines and banksia; along with most other types of trees.

Penny Davis is a Ceramic Artist and she likes to make pottery that people enjoy using. The bulk of her work is the production of functional domestic ware including a range of garden pottery. She also makes 'one-off' vases, platters, and sculptures. Penny's interest in, and knowledge of, a wide variety of crafts over the years has given her countless ideas and have been invaluable aids in producing her current work. Penny started making bonsai pots when she couldn't find anything suitable for her own trees. The stylized, formal pots just didn't match the natives in particular, and most of the freeform ones looked like frilly bowls with shiny cream or tan or blue glazes. Penny wanted something more in keeping with our unique Australian landscape – earthy, rough and rugged. That is how Penny's "Cracked Earth" pots developed. Penny also enjoys experimenting with shapes and colours and enjoy the freedom of not having to make fifty or one hundred exactly the same. Penny especially enjoys working in collaboration with clients to make a special pot for a special tree.

Lee Wright first did bonsai in 1968-1970, learning from Len Webber and Vita Koreschhoff. It wasn't until 2000 she returned to the hobby with an absolute passion, winning "The World's Ugliest Olive Starter" in a \$1 raffle at her first club meeting. Its subsequent styling and alteration from "Bastard to Bonsai" made her an olive addict. She has a penchant for odd trees, natives and of course, olives. Her interest in bonsai has spread to pots and most especially handmade pots. Lee will be introducing Penny Davis' talk by showing some bonsai planted in Mudlark pots and explaining why Penny's handmade pots suit so many of our species so well before turning the talk over to Penny.

Tina Valsamis was in awe when her eyes fell upon her first bonsai. She was six years old. From there began her beautiful journey into the world of bonsai. That first bonsai belonged to the Chinese neighbour in Surry Hills. She initially learnt the art of bonsai from Vita and Dorothy Koreschhoff. Tina gained qualification from the Nippon School of Bonsai. Years later Tina's daughter Paula began selling bonsai at Paddington markets. Through this, Eastern Suburbs Bonsai club evolved. Out of the thirty years as a member Tina was President for ten years, of this small dynamic group. Other markets followed and Tina became quite a well known public figure as the public embraced this oriental art. Both daughters, Isabella and Paula followed and in 1996 they established Bonsai and Beyond in Waverley and then Balmain. Tina began her school of bonsai: "The Hands On Bonsai Workshops". These work shops are still conducted today and Tina has a huge following of people who are passionate or just dabble in bonsai. Bonsai is an interest that Tina has held in her heart for over sixty years.

Clinton Nesci has worked full time in his family's bonsai nursery since 1989. He holds a Nursery Trade Certificate from the Ryde School of Horticulture, studying bonsai and later becoming a teacher at The School of Bonsai, of which he is the current President. Clinton has demonstrated at many Sydney and country clubs and conducted workshops in Hamilton, New Zealand. Working at the nursery for such a long time has exposed Clinton to many different varieties of plants suitable for bonsai, which has enabled him to expand his knowledge on the growth and possible development of a wide range of plant material. His favourite material is species of the juniperus kind. He enjoys the flexibility in styling options this plant material presents and its hardiness in our sometimes harsh Sydney climate. You will find Clinton open to your ideas for your plant material – he always endeavours that final styling decisions not only suit the plant, but the owner as well.

Khanh Linh was born in Vietnam and at a very young age he helped his grandfather make bonsai. At 20 he began researching Asian cultures, painting style view, art gardens and writing articles about art culture. He has learnt a high level of landscaping views and has exhibited at art galleries throughout Sydney, has appeared on Burkes Backyard and in a couple of the Sydney Morning Herald articles.

Brenda Parker has been practising bonsai for over 30 years, originally studying with Elaine Chee, and has since developed an obsession for bonsai. Brenda is President of Illawarra Bonsai Society and Suiseki Australia, Treasurer of the Bonsai Federation of Australia Northern, and is an AABC registered demonstrator. In addition, Brenda teaches Illawarra's beginners classes and she has given many demonstrations and workshops for bonsai clubs, not only on bonsai but the display of bonsai as well as her other passion, collecting and the display and presentation of suiseki. Her favourite trees in her collection are azaleas, figs privets and any flowering and fruiting trees. Brenda is a registered AABC demonstrator and a committee member of the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia.

Chris Allnutt has a broad background as both a student of bonsai and teaching students of both Imperial Gardens Bonsai and the School of Bonsai. He holds a Certificate in Horticulture – Nursery Studies from Ryde School of Horticulture, passing out with an Award of Excellence for Best Achievement in Practical Studies. Chris has attended two world bonsai conferences and travelled China, Korea and thrice to Japan on bonsai tours. These days he prefers to work with minis, as they are more challenging than larger trees.

Registration

(Includes seminar registration, morning/afternoon tea, and lunch.
Does not include Saturday evening Barbecue at the Boathouse)

Note: Registrations received after 24 May 2013 will cost \$80 for full registration and \$50 for day registration due to catering requirements

<input type="checkbox"/> Full registration \$70 (Saturday & Sunday) (late registration \$80) (does not include barbecue)	\$.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday registration \$40 (late registration \$50)	\$.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday registration \$40 ((late registration \$50)	\$.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop participant with Grant Bowie (Sunday) \$40	\$.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday evening Barbecue at the Boathouse \$25 (not included in registration fee) for those who wish to stay on, followed by an instructive critique by Lee Wright (please indicate number of people (No.))	\$.....
 TOTAL	 \$_____

Name:

Phone No:

Address:

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Club Affiliation:

Please return this form together with cheque/money order to:
The Secretary, Bonsai Federation of Australia Inc, 17 Riverbreeze Drive, Crosslands. 2446.

Closing date for registration is 24 May 2013 (registrations received after 24 May will be at additional cost, as stated above).