



# SOGETSU IKEBANA BRISBANE INC.

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## JANUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

Editor Judith McCulloch

### MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy New Year to everyone.

I trust that you have all recovered from your Christmas and New Year celebrations and are looking forward to another year filled with good health and great ikebana.

There is a change in date and venue this year for our **Annual General Meeting**. Instead of the Seminar Room at GOMA, the meeting will be held at the **Brisbane Square Library, 266 George Street, Brisbane, on Wednesday, 23 March 2016**. The Brisbane Square has a number cafes where we can enjoy a lunch together after the meeting. Our Secretary, Sue Poole, will remind you closer to the time about these new arrangements.

As you know, at the beginning of each year, the Committee puts together a program setting out workshops and other planned events for the year to come. If any member has any suggestions or ideas for a social outing or an outside venue where a different kind of workshop could be held, please do not hesitate to contact one of the Committee who are only too willing to implement new ideas. For instance, there may be a possibility of running some demonstrations or workshops at the Queensland Art Gallery, which would be a fantastic opportunity to further expand our presence at the Gallery and to reach a wider audience. More on that later.

In March 2017, the Sogetsu School will celebrate its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As a consequence, two years of 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration festivities will commence in April 2016. As well as events organised by Headquarters there will also be numerous exhibitions and events organised by Branches, groups and individuals, outside of Japan.

As in previous years, our Branch, along with other Branches in Australia will participate in the celebrations. More information on this exciting happening will be advised in due course.

The Norman and Mary Sparnon Endowment Scholarship recipient, Emily Karanikolopoulos, will be holding workshops on 17 and 18 June (postponed from last year). I have no doubt that the workshops by Emily will be both different and challenging.

All the best for 2016, and keep enjoying your ikebana.

**Catherine Purdon**

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOU TO NOTE

**24 February—workshop**

**23 March—A.G.M. Please note the new venue!**

“Remembering the founding spirit of being “free” and “creative”, we will pursue brand-new ikebana creations suitable for modern times.”

(This is quoted from Iemoto Akane’s message on the Sogetsu Headquarters website. The following is quoted from Sō Newsletter No.235)

“The 90th anniversary will kick off soon. Under the slogan *The Flower Becomes Me*, let us move in unison, arm in arm, with a triumphant smile!”

## JAPAN MEMORIES

I went on the 16 day tour of Japan (organised by Sandy Marker from Sydney) from 26 October to 11 November 2015. This was my first trip to Japan. Sandy was our guide in Tokyo, and for the rest of the trip, Sandy and Miki (a Japanese tour guide) shared the duties.

One of the many highlights of Tokyo was visiting the Sogetsu Exhibition at Nihonbashi Takashimaya. It was wonderful seeing so many different and interesting arrangements, some big with heaps of material and others quite simple, like a piece of bark with a feather resting on it and another with just a yellow dahlia on the top of an ornate white container.



Catherine at Daikaku-ji

I and three others from the tour had booked an all-day class with Kawana Sensei. His classes are held above the Hanahan Flower Shop in Mita. During the course of the day there were 12 of us in the class. Some stayed all day like us while others just came for the afternoon.

A lady in her eighties came late in the day just to do one arrangement. She was one of Kawana Sensei's regular participants in his class.

The theme was to pick a bunch of branches and a bunch of flowers and what you chose was to last you the whole session. The challenge was to make this material last all day while making several different interesting arrangements. Kawana Sensei had to be happy with the arrangement you created before you took it apart and moved on to do another. A favourite saying of his was "imagination, not decoration". We also visited The New Otani Hotel where Kawana Sensei had installed a beautiful large arrangement in the front foyer.

On another day, in the afternoon, 10 of us had a private class at Sogetsu HQ. We had been asked beforehand what we would like the lesson to be on and the theme chosen was to show us some fixture techniques. I was surprised at how many different methods can be used to support branches and flowers in a container. While in Kyoto we visited The Saga Goryu School of Ikebana (it has a long historical tradition of more than 1,200 years). We enjoyed an hour long demonstration, featuring Sei-ka style (like Nageire) and Mori-bana (which was very large and incorporated small rocks). The School is in the Daikaku-ji Temple which is one of the oldest temples in Kyoto and, I think, the most beautiful out of the ones I saw. It was

lightly raining when we wandered around the Temple after the demonstration, which just seemed to add to the peaceful and beautiful autumn colours atmosphere.

On two occasions we stayed in traditional Japanese room accommodation (Ryokan), which, of course, had onsens. I had seen photos of such rooms but the one in Hanamizuki (where I believe Iemoto Akane has stayed) was particularly special, looking out at a beautiful Japanese garden. Of course, it was fun getting dressed up in a Yukata for dinner and breakfast .

I had a wonderful trip and made some new Ikebana friends from New South Wales.

Thank you Sandy.

**Catherine Purdon**



### PAT MACKIE'S STUDENTS

We had a very pleasant lunch at Fish Lane Bistro to celebrate another year of Ikebana.

I was very pleased to present Ingrid Kivikoski with the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> certificates. Eirys Jones received her 2<sup>nd</sup> certificate.

**Pat Mackie**



Eirys



Ingrid

## WORKSHOP

On 18<sup>th</sup> November a few ladies 'and gent' spent a most enjoyable day at a 'Christmas/New Year arrangement' workshop conducted by Chieko.

Chieko made a moribana arrangement using Jade and red Gerberas and then added gold mizuhiki (Japanese paper cord) which is frequently used to celebrate special occasions. Chieko also made a nageire arrangement using Peace Lilies and red Palm Berries and then added thin split bamboo, painted red, and placed it among the arrangement.

Those who attended then went about creating their own arrangements. As always, everyone's arrangement was different. Some of us used material from our own gardens, and/or borrowed from friends' gardens and some members created interesting Christmas themes. Everyone received helpful and constructive critique from Chieko. The whole room felt very Christmassy with all the red, white and green.

Thank you to Chieko for a wonderful workshop. A great time was had by all.



Chieko with her arrangements

### Ingrid Kivikoski



Judith



Catherine



Carolyn



Ingrid



Sue

## MEMBERS' END-OF-YEAR LUNCH

A pleasing number of members gathered at the lovely "Nantucket Kitchen" at Indooroopilly on the 2nd December for the Sogetsu Association Christmas luncheon. Our popular Patron John Massy with wife Karen were welcome guests. John's encouraging words always inspire us to aim higher in our enjoyment of Ikebana.



It was lovely to see Mary Jane Ramsden and members Nancy Farrell and Kaye

Pearson who had travelled long distances to attend.



A big "thank you" is due to Director Catherine and her committee who worked so hard to make the occasion such a success.

**Del Blackburn**