

APRIL 2016 NEWSLETTER

Editor Judith McCulloch

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

We have had a busy start to the ikebana year with an "in-house" workshop as well as being involved in the Japanese Festival at Roma Street Parkland. Our Annual General Meeting was held at a different venue this year, Brisbane Square Library, which proved to be a good choice and it was pleasing to see so many members stay and enjoy lunch in a Café nearby.



Lunch at the café

Welcome to Karen Green, new member to the Committee for 2016 - 2017 and farewell to both Judith McCulloch (Committee member since 2000, occupying both the Director and Secretary positions), and Robyn Cuming. Robyn has agreed to continue as Gallery Coordinator - thank you Robyn. Mention must be made to those non-members of the Committee who also play a very active role in ensuring that all the other tasks that need to be done run smoothly.

Thank you to Judith, who has agreed to be our Newsletter Editor this year replacing Carolyn Sandercoe who is having a well-earned rest. Thank you Carolyn for the time and effort you have put into the Newsletter making it such an informative and enjoyable read. Special thanks also to Rosalie Turk who has been our Website Editor since 2012. Rosalie, your dedication and hard work over the years has been invaluable. I'd also like to welcome Jan Killoran (new Website Editor) and Phoebe Sit (new Historian) to these roles.

Keep enjoying your ikebana.

Catherine Purdon

**PLEASE NOTE
THESE IMPORTANT
DATES****17, 18 June:****Workshops****20 July:****General Meeting****20,21 August:****Annual Exhibition**

IKEBANA WORKSHOP HELD ON 24 FEBRUARY

THEME: An arrangement in a moribana container to sit on a table and so be viewed from above. It was to be a composition of straight lines.

What a fabulous workshop we had, with each participant bringing very different material. Vernisher Wooh began by reminding the group of the factors that influence the making of an arrangement. Some of them are:

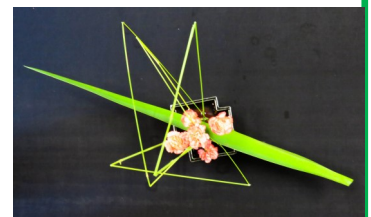
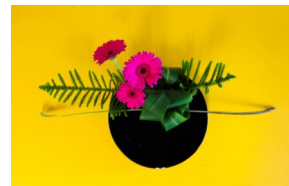
- The material that you have
- The position in which you wish to display the arrangement
- The colour of the room, floor, nearby furniture and the container
- Whether the arrangement will sit beside a wall or in the middle of the room
- Where the lights are placed to highlight the shadows



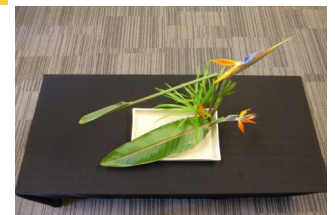
From top:
Sandra,
Ingrid,
Chieko,
Sue,
Catherine

At this point we all set about making our arrangements. Vernisher made an arrangement which had *Aspidistra* leaves and Peach branches in two coloured half circle containers. You could certainly see the lines clearly.

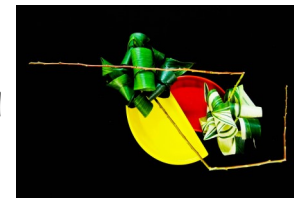
Most of the learning occurred when we then looked at each arrangement in turn. It is amazing, when you have many people looking at arrangements, what different ideas are brought forward to improve the work.



We placed each work on a coffee table in the centre of the room. Photographs gave us more information about the lines displayed in each. Vernisher asked us about our arrangements and made suggestions for improvement.



I would encourage many more people to attend our workshops. All members who attended this workshop were able to articulate what they had learnt from this exercise. We have more workshops planned for later in the year.



Our next workshops will be held on 17 and 18 June.

Sue Poole

Vernisher's ikebana

I am pleased to pass on news of Elizabeth Angell, who is Director of the Victoria Branch of Sogetsu Ikebana. After spending some time in hospital she was able to return home in the middle of March and is looking forward to participating in ikebana activities as soon as possible. She is very appreciative of all the cards, letters and messages she has received from well-wishers.

JAPANESE FESTIVAL—KISARAGI-SAI

Sunday, 28 February 2016



Ikebana by Vernisher

Helen Johns from Brisbane Metropolitan Bands, who was running the Japanese Festival at Roma Street Parkland, invited Sogetsu Ikebana to participate in this event. The aim of the festival is to promote

awareness of Japanese culture in Brisbane, and the festival forms part of the Brisbane City Council's program of BrisAsia events which run throughout the month of February.



Chieko with her Ikebana

Vernisher Wooh and Chieko Klerkx both kindly volunteered to do an ikebana arrangement and to provide information and advice to the public about Sogetsu Ikebana. Stalls selling Japanese craft and food were erected on the Celebration Lawn under tent covers. Our stall was set up alongside these and there was a deal of interest shown, especially in the first few hours. Sogetsu leaflets and information about our Teachers, and our forthcoming annual exhibition at Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens, were handed out to the general public as they stopped to view the displays.

Origami workshops, and bonsai and Japanese martial arts demonstrations were also held during the afternoon as well as music and Japanese dancing in the Amphitheatre.

A big Thank You to Vernisher and Chieko for giving of their time, and for their beautiful arrangements, and thanks also to Mok Fong (Vernisher's husband), John Baxter, Kimio Takahashi and Sue Poole for their valuable support on the day.

Overall the day was successful and we'll certainly consider being back next year to take the opportunity to further spread the word about Sogetsu Ikebana.

Catherine Purdon



Members who assisted on the day

WEBSITE PHOTO REQUIREMENTS

Our ikebana website

www.ikebanabrisbane.org.au

has particular requirements for the sizes of photos.

The photos must be a png, jpg or jpeg and less than 250mb.

The minimum size is 640 pixel width x 480 pixel height.

The categories for photos on the website are:

Qld. Art Gallery

Annual Exhibition

Workshops

Other

Suitable photos for the website can be emailed to Jan Killoran at:

gregjank@bigpond.net.au

Jan Killoran

NOTES FROM THE TALK BY THE GUEST SPEAKER BEFORE OUR AGM

In his talk to Sogetsu Ikebana members before the AGM, Dale Arvidsson showed how enthusiastic he is about his new job as Curator of the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, both City and Mt. Coot-tha, as well as the Sherwood Arboretum. He came to this position after managing the Mackay Botanic Gardens. These three gardens are at significant milestones - last year the City Gardens was 160 years old, this year Mt. Coot-tha will be 40 years and last year Sherwood Arboretum was 60 years.



Mr Dale Arvidsson
(photo from website)

He pointed out that Botanic Gardens are not just parks. They should be compared with libraries, museums or art galleries. The plants they hold are valuable and it is important they be conserved. There are 170 Botanic Gardens in Australia and 25 in Queensland. New ones are being built. It is also important that people of all ages should be able to interact with the plants in the gardens. Excellent signage is one way of helping this to occur.

On-going work includes replacement of trees that have been lost and renovations of buildings included in the gardens. There are plans for a Visitor Centre, which will provide a new entry point to the Mt. Coot-tha Gardens. This is an area where ikebana by our members could be displayed.

In 2020, there will be a celebration of 250 years since Sir Joseph Banks discovered the Australian east coast flora. There are 135 of the original specimens collected in the Herbarium in Brisbane.

Members were left with the feeling that our Brisbane Botanic Gardens are in very good hands. Dale's original enthusiasm for plants and gardens came from his grandmother. Maybe we also will be able to influence the younger generations with our enthusiasm for plants!

Judith McCulloch

GROUP FACEBOOK PAGE

<https://www.facebook.com/ikebanabrisbane>

This does not have the particular requirements for photos that the website has.

If you would like a photo of your ikebana arrangement placed on the facebook page, please email me the photo, including as much of the following information as you can:

For a class ikebana photo, state what the class topic was (e.g. Book 1/8 basic slanting style moribana).

If it is not a class photo, state what the theme was.

For any photos, name the materials used if you know them (common name is fine) and anything else that would be of interest (eg history of the container).

These details help as the facebook page is more interactive than the website.

My email is:

inkyngrid.k@gmail.com

Thanking you
Ingrid Kivikoski