



SOGETSU IKEBANA ASSOCIATION
BRISBANE/GOLD COAST INC.
A.B.N. 95 331 865 481
<http://www.ikebanabrisbane.org.au>

NEWSLETTER April 2013

Editor Carolyn Sandercoe

☺ DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

This is the first newsletter for this year, so I welcome all members to the new ikebana year, with a special welcome to all our new members.

Since our last newsletter we have unfortunately received news of the deaths of two of our most senior and valued members – Marj Taylor and Nora Dyer. They will be missed.

I hope you are all looking forward to celebrating this year, fifty years since Sogetsu Ikebana came to Brisbane. I know that some of you were able to join in watching the special demonstration by Seiseki Umemura in the Lecture Theatre of the Queensland Art Gallery and having lunch afterwards with him at the GoMA Restaurant. His demonstration set the stage for the rest of our celebration year.

The committee and other enthusiastic members have been working and planning for that one week in July-August when we will welcome not only Master Instructor Tetsunori Kawana, but also many visitors from interstate and overseas. On occasions like this, the “friendship through flowers” in Sogetsu Ikebana becomes apparent. Before this week there will be a workshop and other opportunities for members to meet. I hope to see you there.
Judith McCulloch

☺ 13th MARCH WORKSHOP TCMP Josling, St, Toowong.

Our 50th year's activities commenced with a workshop conducted by Chieko Klerkx with the topic of 'one kind of branch'. About 10 students attended. This exercise was both challenging and rewarding, especially as it will be in the programme of Kawana Sensei's workshops in July. It was the first time we have used this venue since it was totally refurbished after the 2011 floods. We found it very satisfactory and it is quite central for students living either north or south of the river. The Management Committee would love to see more students availing themselves of these Branch workshops. [Thank you, Chieko for your leadership.-Ed.]

☺ AGM 22nd March 2013

This special AGM included a detailed report on the year's activities by our Director Judith McCulloch, along with appreciation for all the members including the Management Committee during the year.-[Thank you, Judith.-Ed.] Then Del Blackburn kindly took the chair for the election of Office Bearers. This year's Executive is the same as last year's. Members can refer to all the Committee Members names and positions in the 2013 Membership list. The Committee and extra sub-committees have already been hard at work organizing the special activities of this our 50th year.



Del Blackburn taking the chair with Catherine (Sec.), Judith (Dir.) and Sue (Treas.) seated after re-election.

Following the formal meeting we adjourned to the QAG Lecture Theatre where Seiseki Umemura had been preparing for a celebratory demonstration of five arrangements as our guest speaker/demonstrator. His delightful demonstration with informal accompanying explanations and advice struck just the right tone for our 50th Celebration. The help of Pat and Catherine was also appreciated. The photos of the arrangements speak for themselves.



Second arrangement with silver and gold beginnings of basketry and featuring dark blue Agapanthus and large yellow Chrysanthemums.



With assistance from Pat, the third arrangement featured 2 red Heliconia flowers, a black painted dead palm flower head and many red and white tied pieces of crepe paper. With a stunning black and red vase the arrangement was very smart and celebratory.



First arrangement with bright colours and many large glued paddle pop sticks in the shape of an L – symbolizing 50 in Roman numerals.



A simple but very effective fourth arrangement, with one parrot's beak Heliconia and two Jatropha leaves in an elegant yellow and black vase highlighting the yellow in the flower.



The last arrangement was created in memory of Nora Dyer. By using long leafless Strelitzia leaves to frame the design of cow's udders, Paphiopedalum orchid and Ligularia leaf, it was a smart and fitting tribute to Nora with some of her favourite colours.

After the demonstration we retired to the GoMA restaurant for a delicious lunch. It was lovely to have both Seiseki Umemura and Barry de Crummere join us. As Barry does so much behind the scenes to help Yosh, it was a fitting occasion to acknowledge his contribution.



GoMA lunch #1



GoMA lunch #2

☺ NEXT WORKSHOP

Wednesday 8th May

TCMP Josling St, Toowong.

Judith and Pat will be conducting a workshop to demonstrate how to assist in a demonstration and how to create an arrangement from behind. These skills will be essential in assisting Kawana Sensei in a few months.

All who are attending please bring a vase, kenzan if necessary, and materials to create a freestyle arrangement. If any queries, please contact Judith or Pat.

☺ MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Some of Pat's students commenced the Ikebana year in February with a most enjoyable visit to Margaret Price at Mudgeeraba, where we sampled a wide range of Japanese teas. The Tea Ceremony was explained and Margaret invited us to arrange Chabana (tea flowers) in her lovely containers.



L-R Pat Mackie, Ingrid Kivikoski, Margaret Price, Margaret Lee, Michele Sutherland, Vernisher Wooh with Janet Killoran behind the camera.

☺ ITEMS OF INTEREST

Norman and Mary Sparnon Scholarship to Japan.

Applications for this Scholarship will close shortly on 8th May for 2014. The scholarship provides for 3 months of lessons at Tokyo Headquarters and some other expenses. All applicants must intend to teach Sogetsu on return to Australia. For more information, please contact Judith as soon as possible (38707339).

QAG Asian Art Section

Members will be pleased to hear that the gallery is now displaying our Founder Sofu Teshigahara's large shim-ware sculpture "Eternity" (1967) near members' weekly Sogetsu arrangements. It is good to have such a close physical connection with our contemporary arrangements, so many years after he created the sculpture.

© PLANNING FOR JULY-AUG WORKSHOPS AND EXHIBITION WITH KAWANA SENSEI

Applications for the workshops have now closed due to a good early response. Any further applications will be placed on a stand-by list. Apart from members, we will be hosting several visitors from interstate and overseas. It will be a wonderful time to meet new ikebanists. For any one who has missed out but would like to attend, there are limited spaces for observers as indicated in the application. Please contact our Secretary Catherine, and send in the appropriate payment. At present there are 43 ikebanists who have indicated they would like to be a part of the exhibition weekend. If anyone is not attending the workshops and would like to exhibit, please contact Pat as soon as possible.

Call out to members.

Any member who has any spare basic Nageire vases (approx. 8cm diameter by 20-30cm height) and would be prepared to lend them for the first workshop, please contact Catherine with details. Ensure they have your name on the bottom. We will also be calling on members to lend vases to visitors for other workshops and the exhibition. Where appropriate, kenzans will also be required.

Exhibition Topic – "Celebration" Sat 3rd and Sun 4th August

Flyers are almost ready for us to start advertising the public events. Set-up is on Friday as usual and plinths can be brought early on Thursday if

desired. If repainting plinths the colour to use is 'sienna frost'.

Kitchen. Margaret Kortbaek who is in charge of the kitchen has asked for volunteers to give her a call. She is making up a roster of 1 or 2 hours duration and will require 3 people on each roster throughout the weekend. Homemade cakes and slices will also be required, so all cooks put the details in your diary.

Trade-Table. Peggy Perkins is in charge and is requesting members to supply good quality materials associated with ikebana only. It may include potted plants and cuttings but no bric-a-brac this year please. So if you need a good excuse to clean out your ikebana cupboards this is your big opportunity. If you wish to sell containers on commission, please organize this with Peggy.

Our next newsletter will have further information about our celebration week with Mr Kawana. Please read his profile at the end of this newsletter.

VALE

In the last few months we have lost two of our longest standing members who will both be greatly missed. Both made a huge contribution and we are blessed by their selfless contribution to mentoring younger members.

MARJORIE TAYLOR 1918 – 2012

Born on a cattle property out in country Queensland, Marj always maintained her grace, enthusiasm for the land and country hospitality ways.

She and her husband Don owned a large cattle property west of Bundaberg until just a few years ago, and although Don has long since passed away, Marj always loved to drive up there in her huge Land Cruiser 4 WD, even in her eighties!

Marj first came to ikebana in 1967 when she visited a one-man Sogetsu exhibition by founder Sofu Teshigahara at Lennon's Hotel, Brisbane. Inspired by his work, she began classes with Norman Sparnon and

studied both Ikenobo and Sogetsu schools, but found that Sogetsu was the “way” for her.

Don had been a Japanese prisoner during World War II and suffered greatly during that time. Notwithstanding that experience, Marj and Don overcame any reservations that they might have been expected to have, and welcomed Japanese teachers and their entourages to their extensive property at Kenmore, one of those being Sofu’s daughter Kasumi in 1974.

Marj became the first Director of our Brisbane – Gold Coast organisation from 1979 to 1981, and in 1989, she was awarded the highest Sogetsu grade certificate of “Riji” by Hiroshi Teshigahara. Then in 1997, she was presented with a “Shojo” certificate on behalf of Sogetsu Headquarters on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Sogetsu School in Japan.

Marj’s property in Central Qld was a wonderful resource centre for her to create her own style of installations – tree stumps, roots, bark, rusty objects, barbed wire and the like which, with a touch of welding, became sculptures, new containers and all sorts of striking arrangements. Marj did a lot of work with another of our well known teachers, Mary Jane Ramsden and loved to tell stories of their exploits in the bush:- Mary Jane on top of huge heaps of fallen trees, Marj wielding a chainsaw, together carving out a new art work for an exhibition. Mary Jane was an expert in wiring, and Marj managed the proceedings, ensuring the arrangement was “balanced”. Balance was one of Marj’s obsessions.

Marj always welcomed guests to her home in Kenmore, and many of us will have fond memories of chats over a cuppa, and ikebana activity heaven in her large garden surrounding the house. There were Camellias for the Camellia Show at Mt Coot-tha and bamboo cut from her garden used far and wide in arrangements and installations. Her shed held lots of treasures. She was a generous giver.

We are all privileged to have shared ikebana and friendship with this special lady – Vale Marj.
Pat Mackie



Having fun with Philodendron leaves during a workshop at Marj’s beautiful garden.



Marj’s weathered wood from her cattle property.

NORA DYER
1927 –12th MARCH 2013

My memories of Nora Dyer are really very recent in my ikebana life. Until the last couple of years we met fairly often at her favourite coffee shop where we chatted. There was always something more I could learn about ikebana and its philosophy and the running of the Branch activities. In addition there were many other topics we covered. Ikebana was only one of Nora’s great interests, although it is obvious it was very important to her. The highest point of

her ikebana career was her participation in the “Garden and Greenery Expo” in Osaka, Japan in June 1990. She was requested by the Queensland Government to provide ikebana displays there, symbolising the birth of the Australian continent.

Nora’s Sogetsu Ikebana career began in 1963 when she was among Norman Sparnon’s first students when he began teaching in Brisbane. She was Director of the Brisbane/Gold Coast Branch from 1986 to 1992. The Branch was set up at a meeting in 1979 and Nora Dyer became Secretary/Treasurer then and remained on the committee until recently. In 1976 she commenced teaching. At one stage she taught at several venues in Brisbane, including the South Brisbane T.A.F.E. College. In 1993 she was instrumental in negotiating an agreement to have Sogetsu Ikebana displayed on a weekly basis in the Queensland Art Gallery. She received the Riji level certificate at a ceremony at Sogetsu Headquarters in 1989. She retired from active teaching 2003.

Former Iemoto Hiroshi Teshigahara, appointed Nora to the position of “advisor” to our Branch and her advice over all the years has been very welcome. Her influence on Sogetsu here was great. One of the more important things she did was to encourage Mary Jane Ramsden to begin teaching, thereby extending the reach of Sogetsu much further in the Brisbane area. Her home in Chapel Hill was used frequently as a venue for ikebana events, including hosting visiting Masters from Japan. Her daughter Leona now lives there, but has happily had ikebana events there at the request of her mother.

Just over ten years ago Nora told those of us on the committee that it would soon be forty years since Norman Sparnon began Sogetsu Ikebana classes in Brisbane and it would be wonderful to produce a book to mark the event. This is how Nora, Pat Mackie, Marie Kinne, Carolyn Sandercoe and I came to put together the book “Under the Grass Moon”. It was such a good idea to gather the thoughts of the members and former members from those forty years!

As I said, ikebana was only one of Nora’s great interests. She was passionate about her family and church, the family company where she worked for many years. She appreciated art and enjoyed visiting the theatre – up to recent times she had tickets for all the shows. I know she enjoyed participating in the musical shows that the members put on at Christmas in former years.

There are so many other important aspects to Nora’s ikebana life and there is much more that could be said about her other interests – we would need several episodes in the newsletter! Please take the time to read her memories in “Under the Grass Moon”. With her passing on 12 March 2013, our Branch in general and individual members, who had the good fortune to know Nora, will miss her energy, charm and wisdom. Farewell Nora. Judith McCulloch with thanks to my consultants Mary Jane Ramsden and Marie Kinne.



Nora celebrating her 80th birthday a few years ago.

On Thursday 14th March, on behalf of the Sogetsu School of Ikebana Victorian Branch, their Director, Elizabeth Angell sent their deepest sympathy to our Branch, Nora’s friends and her family. She said “Nora is remembered by many members here in Melbourne for her very modern approach to her ikebana and her dedication to Sogetsu over the years, she will be sadly missed by you all.”

R.I.P. DOREEN SINCLAIRE

Some of our more senior members who also belonged to Ikebana International would be sad to learn of Doreen's passing in January 2013. She was a staunch member of II Sydney Chapter for many years. All who knew her admired her enthusiasm and creativity in Ikebana and

her other interests. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Faye Brock, Sydney Chapter of II.

☺ NEXT NEWSLETTER

Deadline for the next newsletter is 14th June. I would like to thank all those who assisted with information, photos and articles for this newsletter. – Ed.

'Always I am listening to the heart-beat of the Earth and my creations echo this pulse of Nature'.

PROFILE

Tetsunori Kawana, Master Instructor, Sogetsu School, Tokyo.

For 20 years, Tetsunori Kawana studied with and assisted the renowned artist, film director and headmaster of the Sogetsu School of Ikebana, Hiroshi Teshigahara. Mr Kawana considers him his greatest inspiration.

"He changed my life", Mr.Kawana says. "His artistic spirit and vision continue to be powerful influences on my thinking and my work."

Now for the past ten years, he has studied under Akane Teshigahara, the fourth headmaster.

As a Headquarters teacher of the Sogetsu School, Mr. Kawana has taught Ikebana at seminars, demonstrations, and major conventions throughout the world for more than thirty years. He conducts classes at the Headquarters of the Sogetsu School in Tokyo and he is a sought-after instructor who has taught in the United States, Canada, England, Ireland, France, Holland, Switzerland, Portugal, Russia, Australia, Chile, Brazil, New Zealand, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Myanmar, Malaysia and Singapore.

He has received numerous awards from Sogetsu Headquarters for his Ikebana artistry, including the Newcomer's Award, the Encouragement Award, and the prestigious Sogetsu Award.

- **2003.** Featured teacher and demonstrator for the Australian and New Zealand convention of Ikebana International.
- **2005 .**Demonstrations and workshops for Sogetsu students at the Landscape Architecture Institute at the Moscow Academy of Architecture.
- Began teaching Ikebana at the New York Botanical Garden.
- **2006.** Awarded a gold medal at the New England Spring Flower Show, Boston, for a giant Ikebana display.
- Exhibition design with the New York Sogetsu Chapter, Greater New York Orchid Society Annual Show, Rockefeller Center, New York.
- Keynote demonstration at the World Flower Convention, Guangzhou, China.
- Demonstration and workshops in Sao Paulo and Brasilia.

- **2007.** Installation and exhibition design for the 80th anniversary of the Sogetsu School of Ikebana, Shinjuku Takashimaya Department Store, Tokyo.
- **2008.** Demonstration of bamboo technique and creation of a bamboo Installation at the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts.
- **2009.** Demonstration of Sogetsu ikebana in the Polovisev Palace in St. Petersburg, Russia for an audience of 200.
- Bamboo installation commissioned by Japan society, New York, as the signature work for the Society's 'New Bamboo' exhibition.
- Bamboo installation 'Five Elements – Water' at the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia.
- **2010.** Bamboo installation 'Passage: Waterway' at the Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte, NC.
- Installation 'Regeneration' at the New York Botanical Garden for the 'Fall Flowers of Japan' Exhibition.
- **2011.** Bamboo installations for the Denver Botanic Gardens (CO).
- September, Keynote Demonstration for the China-Japan Floral Culture Exchange Exhibition and Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Normalization of China-Japan Diplomatic Relations, Guangzhou, China.

For further information on Kawana Sensei's activities, please refer to his new website www.kawanapassage.com.



Kawana Sensei at the 2009 Brisbane Workshop.