

NEWSLETTER January 2014
Editor Carolyn Sandercoe

☺ MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

To all members of Sogetsu Brisbane/Gold Coast, welcome to the year of Sogetsu Ikebana in 2014. I hope you have returned refreshed and ready for anything that 2014 might bring you.

Last year was very busy for our Branch because we were visited by Mr. Tetsunori Kawana as part of the celebrations of fifty years of Sogetsu Ikebana in Brisbane. It is my hope that this year as many members as possible can be busy with ikebana and carry forward some of the enthusiasm gained during this visit.



Participants at Mr.Kawana's workshops in Brisbane.

For anyone who would like to participate in workshops with Mr. Kawana again this year, as well as watch his larger-scale demonstration, please register for events during his visit to Melbourne in May. Please note that the exhibition there is open only to members of the Victorian Branch.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In case you may have forgotten, our Annual General Meeting will be held in the **Seminar Room at QAGOMA on Wednesday 19th March at 10.30am**. All the members of the present committee would be very pleased if you could all come along.

As our Secretary Catherine will notify you, we will be taking a vote on the proposal to

change the name of our Association. At the General Meeting towards the end of 2013, a motion was agreed that the name should be changed and at the A.G.M. the actual name will be decided.

As a guest speaker at the A.G.M. Mr. Philipp Hartle will tell us all about the best way to use our re-modelled website which of course is

<http://www.ikebanabrisbane.org.au> .

Please have a look whenever you have a chance.

While I am on the topic of the A.G.M., I would like to remind all members to give serious thought to joining the management committee. This is **your** Association. Please feel free to question any committee members about the reason for anything the committee decides. There have been disappointingly low numbers present at recent General Meetings and this is where you can be involved in decisions affecting your Association, even when not on the committee.

Our Association is required to pass on to members the latest ideas from Sogetsu Headquarters in Japan and, apart from in the teachers' classrooms, this can be done at workshops conducted by various members who are practising teachers. There are several workshops planned for this year.

FIRST WORKSHOP

The first one will be conducted by Michael Ewens who has chosen the topic "Space and Balance in an Arrangement". I think this topic will inspire some creative ikebana and I look forward to seeing as many as possible there. It will be held at the **Toowong Community Meeting Place, Wednesday, 26 February from 9.30am**. We hope you can bring your own lunch to eat after the workshop with fellow members.



Members viewing ikebana arrangements after the General Meeting on 9th October 2013.

WORKSHOPS BY VISITING TEACHERS

Later in the year – 20 and 21 June and 17 and 18 October – members will have the chance to benefit from workshops conducted by visiting teachers.

Christopher James has agreed to come from Geelong in June and Seiseki Umemura will come in October from Sydney. Please mark the dates in your diary.



Some of the members who went to Mt. Tamborine on 27th September to see the Spring gardens.

SPECIAL TEA CEREMONY

Another date to mark in your diary is 7 May. Our Patron John Massy is arranging for all members to participate in and learn more about the Japanese “tea ceremony” in the Japanese Garden at Mt. Coot-tha. You will receive more information about this event when it is available. Workshops on the art of “chabana” – arranging flowers

for the tea room - will be conducted at the same time.

Once again, to returning and new members, welcome to Sogetsu Ikebana for 2014. I hope we can all enjoy this ikebana year!

Judith McCulloch

☺ KAWANA SENSEI VISIT – SO NEWSLETTER REPORT

In the Oct-Nov 2013 Vol. 222 edition on page 6, there is a report with photos of Mr Kawana’s Australian visit including our week of 50th Anniversary Celebration events. Unavoidably the published text was reduced from the original report. C’est la vie! If you are a Tokyo member please share your issue with other members who are not. Ed.

☺ IEMOTO AKANE’S SPECIAL FOCUS FOR THE NEXT YEAR

In the same issue as above, Iemoto Akane has begun a *Special Focus* on page 5 regarding “Studying “*The Fifty Principles of Sogetsu*” thoroughly.” These principles were written by her grandfather Sōfu Teshigahara, the founder of the Sogetsu School. The book is currently in print through Tokyo Headquarters. All principles are included at the end of Book 2 Page 127. In her first feature she used No.1, 2 & 3. As she writes “If you read them for the first time, please appreciate the essence. But if you know these principles well, please re-examine them. You will discover a new key for your creative powers that you can feel only after going through various experiences in your life.” I am aware some of our local practising teachers will be including some of the 50 principles in their classes this year. Some of you may have also received the latest issue of the So Newsletter (No.223) where she next focuses on No. 23, 31 & 48. Ed.

☺ MEMBERS' NEWS

☺ CHRISTMAS 2013 LUNCHEON

A very enjoyable lunch was had by all at "Room with Roses" inside The Brisbane Arcade in the city. The food was tasty and gave us one last opportunity to celebrate our 50th Anniversary. The city venue was excellent for members to take advantage of public transport. This is something for us to consider for future venues.



One Christmas 2013 table of happy members.



Second Christmas 2013 table of happy members.

☺ JAPANESE CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Apart from a big thank you to Mr John Massy, Our Patron (and his wife Karen) for his great support during this last *big* year, we really appreciate his offer to broaden our Japanese aesthetic experience by hosting a Japanese Tea Ceremony and chabana instruction. Thank you indeed, John. Ed.

☺ ART GALLERY ARRANGEMENTS

Please note that if you are intending to visit QAGOMA soon, our weekly Sogetsu

arrangements are now located at the GoMA end of the Art Gallery. It is a good area for light and maximum visitor exposure. For members wishing to exhibit, please contact John Baxter. Members are reminded that Gallery arrangements can be viewed on our website. Ed.

☺ A FAREWELL

It is with regret that our Branch has been informed by long-time teacher Lily Karmatz that she will not be re-joining in 2014. We have all appreciated Lily's beautiful flyers for our Annual Exhibitions for several years, her many creative arrangements including those at the Art Gallery, as well as her efforts to spread the word of Sogetsu Ikebana to the wider community. She was also the driving force behind our local Celebration of 50 years of Sogetsu in Australia in 2010. Several older members, who were able to take part in and enjoy that event, are no longer with us now. Thank you, Lily and we wish you well in your future endeavours. Ed.

☺ GOOD NEWS FOR GARDENERS

For those familiar with the recent curse of the introduction of Myrtle Rust into Australia, there is some good news for home gardeners. Yates has recently released a multiple fungicide approved for domestic use called 'Zaleton'. While this fungicide will not help our wild native flora in the Family Myrtaceae (one of our most important Australian plant families), we will be able to control outbreaks at home. So many of these myrtaceous native and exotic plants are well suited for use in ikebana. Ed.

☺ LOTUS - JAPANESE FLOWER SYMBOL FOR MID-SUMMER

The Sacred Lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*) is native to Asia and Australia and grows in still waters of ponds and river banks. It has many edible parts and the Buddha is depicted as sitting on a Lotus flower.

The picture to the right comes from a book of mine first published in 1937 by Alfred Koehn entitled "Japanese Flower Symbolism" Lotus Court Publications, Peking, China. It is a scholarly work by a foreigner who lived in Japan for many years, studied ikebana and left before WWII. All the illustrations are hand tinted in colour and the book is one continuous length of paper, concertinaed, and then hand-bound by needle with string. All ikebana illustrations are in the Ikenobo style and this depicts a Rikka arrangement. (Sogetsu was only 10 years old at that time).

The following quote comes from the opposite page to the illustration.

"Today rise early if you want
To see the knight of blooms.
Shōha

Flower of Midsummer, symbol of Truth, Perfection, and Immortality, the Lotus, its roots embedded in sluggish channels or muddy pools, rises above the water's surface, its broad, deep green leaves and delicate petals always fresh and clean.

As a symbol in flower arrangement, the Lotus is one of the most adaptable, as the three states of existence should always be depicted; the Past by the seed and wide-open leaves, the Present by the flower and half-open leaves, and the Future by the bud and the closed leaves.

Buddhism has chosen the Lotus as its supreme emblem because it suggests a pure and lovely spirit lifting itself above worldliness to live in peaceful serenity."



Lotus arrangement

That sounds like a good note to finish on, to encourage our practice of ikebana and help lead us to a state of serenity.

I hope to bring you other pages of the book as they suit our seasons and availability of flowers. Those members who live in the warmer parts of Queensland no doubt have their patch of Lotus already eyed out for use.

For further reading on the Lotus refer to Ikebana International Vol.44 Issue 3 1999-2000 "The Jewel in the Lotus" by Janet Leigh Foster. Ed.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

For members' items to reach the newsletter editor in time for inclusion in the next edition, please submit them by early April. If you have any news and are not sure what or how to write it, please let me know and I will willingly help. Remember it is the **members' newsletter**, not the editor's! My phone number is 07 33786868 and email is currong15@bigpond.com . I look forward to hearing from you and I promise I don't bite!