

NEWSLETTER July 2015
 Editor Carolyn Sandercoe

☺ **MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR**

All those who attended the recent workshops conducted by Umemura Sensei came away, once again, gaining a little more of Yoshi's in-depth ikebana knowledge. One thing he did stress is that all our arrangements must have both contrast and harmony. It was pleasing to see some new faces and it is always encouraging when observers attend. A detailed report on these workshops can be seen later on in the Newsletter. One of our Sogetsu Teachers, Shirley Behan, has decided to retire from teaching. Shirley has been teaching for nearly 20 years, both in Townsville and Brisbane. Shirley has been an active member of the Association, having been a Committee member and then as Treasurer for a number of years. Shirley intends to remain a member of the Association and on behalf of all Sogetsu members, I wish her and Ron all the best for their future travels. Our exhibition flyers are available for distribution. These will be given to Teachers to pass on to students. These flyers will also be available to

be picked up at the General Meeting on 22 July.

Welcome back to our Secretary, Sue Poole, who has returned from New York.

Keep enjoying your ikebana.

Catherine Purdon

MEMBERS' NEWS

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR ATTENTION

- 22 July** 10am **Arrangements** – “Flowers Only” before General Meeting.
- 10:30am **General Meeting** at TCMP, Josling St, Toowong.
- 16th August** 11am-3pm **Japan Week Celebration, Japanese Garden.**
- 27-28 August** **Exhibition Set-up days**
- 29-30 August** **Mt Coot-tha Annual Exhibition. Theme - Welcome to Spring.**
- 2 September** (Wed) **Social Outing** to Wild Canary Restaurant at Brookfield Gardens, 2371 Moggill Road, Brookfield.
- 12noon: **Lunch.**
- 2:30pm: **Demonstration to the public.**

☺ **SEISEKI UMEMURA'S WORKSHOPS 19TH-20TH June**

At Yoshi's Sogetsu Workshops, we learnt new skills, new ways of thinking about our ikebana and enjoying each other's company. We all left with a deeper knowledge of our life-long learning art form.

Friday morning:

Wooden construction techniques using drill and dowel.



Seiseki Umemura demonstrating construction techniques making a square.

The first workshop was to create a framework for an arrangement in the

afternoon session. We used our own choice of branch material of a minimum diameter of 2cm. The exercise was to use a drill to make holes, and then to fix the branches in place with dowel.

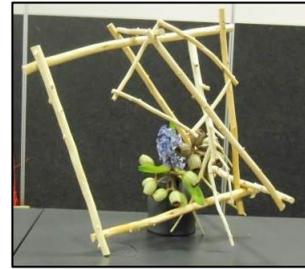
Some points from Yoshi:-

- Buying lengths of dowel, create a stronger connection than using pre-cut dowel in packets.
- Think of creating a framework with an 'ikebana sense' eg difference in branch thicknesses, denseness, and depth.
- When dowel hole is too tight, trim dowel with hasami to make it narrower at the tip.
- When making multiple shapes of different sizes added together, triangles and squares make the structure most stable.
- Extra stems can be added for stability and interest.
- For repeated use of framework, stems can be painted different colours for instance.
- As well as flat surfaces, structures can be used on walls or hanging freely from the ceiling.
- Fresh branch material must be tough to use for drilling. Material such as umbrella tree or celery tree, are unsuitable.
- If using bamboo, preferably use clumping bamboo varieties which have a thicker wood depth.
- To further strengthen structure, use wood glue in hole as well as dowel for permanent strength.



Some frameworks complete, and an exhausted Pat M. after a hard morning's work!

Friday afternoon: Arrangement to fit structure.



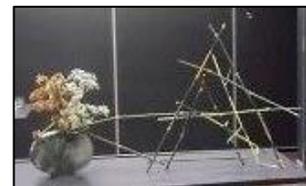
Yoshi's completed arrangement.

Some of Yoshi's tips:-

- If structure is of dead material, use live(ly) material for arrangement within.
- Try placing the container in several positions within the framework to determine the best position.
- Aesthetically, making a box shape is like representing a tokonoma, which limits the space for the arrangement inside. It helps the arranger to keep it simple.
- A similar simple arrangement form extends back about 500 years ago in the tea ceremony room. It contained a cage-like wooden structure within which was placed a simple vase with one Camellia and four and a half leaves attached. Of course Sogetsu Ikebana has freed up our style, but has not lost its deep roots in history.



Yoshi demonstrating improvement to Del B.'s structure.



Catherine P.



Rosalie T.



Sandra P.



Carolyn S.



Beryl R.

Saturday Morning: Simplified Arrangement--large and small.



Yoshi demonstrating small and large simplified arrangements.

This is the most difficult exercise of all. While it is difficult to explain in words, achieving beauty is hard. There is only one way to present the container, material and design.

Some of Yoshi's tips:-

- In choosing material for a large arrangement, as opposed to a small one, retain a simple look but use larger material.
- Remove as many materials as possible before the beauty of the design is lost.
- For a large arrangement, choose material with a strong character.
- More than two materials can be used but they must provide contrast. Usually three or more materials are

more difficult to use and are less likely to be successful.

- Avoid any repetition of materials.
- Usually use just fresh materials (text book style).

Large arrangements



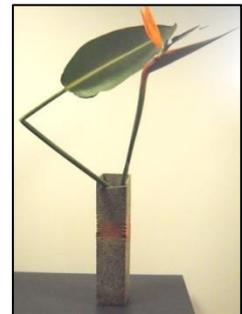
Pat M.



Judith McC.



Catherine P.

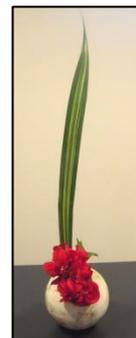


Gary Y.G.

Small Arrangements



Gary Y.G.



Margaret K.



Judith McC.



Pat M.



Carolyn S.

Saturday afternoon: Emphasizing Water.



Yoshi demonstrating use of water in sealed plastic bags within which leaves have been placed. Water overhanging the container creates interest and a blue hyacinth outside the bags also evokes water.

Some of Yoshi's tips:-

- Branch material over water is a successful combination.
- Glass containers are good.
- Using materials other than water such as ice cubes, dry ice and crystal glass can also evoke the feeling of water.



Two arrangements by Peggy P.



Fran S.



Pat. M.



Beryl R.



Robyn C.



Gary Y. G.



Vernisher W.



Our happy band of workshop ikebanists on Saturday afternoon!

DEMONSTRATION AT THE CWA CENTENARY SUB-BRANCH, MT OMMANEY

On Tuesday evening, 2nd June 2015, Janet Killoran, Ingrid Kivikoski and I demonstrated Sogetsu Ikebana to a small group of CWA ladies at the Mt Ommaney Library. They made us feel very welcome and consequently the three of us felt more at ease during our demonstrations. After Jan's introductory speech, I did a freestyle moribana followed by Jan doing a lovely nageire using snapdragons. Ingrid's arrangement using vegetables was a "hit". She used a leek, with the green tops cut off a little, creating a fan-shape, then hung a red chili and added some bullhorn capsicums. Thin green grass-like material completed the arrangement. I followed by doing a freestyle arrangement using branches and iris leaves and Jan did a simple arrangement using a treasured old colourful "salt pig" of her mother's. The three of us enjoyed the

experience of spreading the word of ikebana. [What a great introduction to ikebana for the CWA ladies! -Ed.]



Ingrid, Catherine and Janet with their demonstration arrangements.

GENERAL MEETING 22nd July

For time and place details, please see front page. The arrangement theme is **Flowers only**. We hope as many members come as possible. It will also be a good opportunity to pick up as many flyers for the Exhibition to give to friends and family, as well as for nearby shops where many owners are happy to display our notices. Looking forward to seeing you there!
Ed.

JAPAN WEEKEND 16th August 2015.

This year all the Japanese activities will be held at the Japanese Garden, Mt Coot-tha between 11am and 3pm. Our Association is contributing four arrangements, along with Ohara arrangements. During the day there will be Tea Ceremony demonstrations, Japanese Calligraphy and music including a choir. It would be a marvellous opportunity to introduce family and friends to a variety of Japanese art forms.

ANNUAL EXHIBITION MT COOT-THA, 29-30th AUGUST.

Theme:- WELCOME TO SPRING

It is time now to start thinking seriously about our arrangements for the

Exhibition. Our new Exhibition Chairperson Vernisher Wooh, has already been hard at work and has produced the entry page for all exhibitors. We thought it was a good idea to include it at the end of the newsletter to help inspire members and give you the opportunity to get your information to her early. It makes her job so much easier. More information about the exhibition will come from the Secretary in the near future. There will be some changes regarding the trade table this year. Robyn, our Convenor, has given us plenty of time to sort out our ikebana items, and work out what to bring to the trade table.

TRADE TABLE

Members are asked to support the trade table by donating ikebana related items for sale, e.g., plants, containers, dried materials, and any other ikebana related items.

Commission to members will be paid on ikebana containers \$40.00 and over at a rate of 20%. Anything valued under \$40.00 will be regarded as a donation.

There is a limit of 10 items per person on which commission will be paid.

Robyn Cuming, Trade Table Convenor

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL SYDNEY CHAPTER #36, 55TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS.

For those members who may be interested, the 55th Anniversary Celebration will be held at the Menzies Sydney Hotel on Friday 21st August 2015. To attend or find out more information, please contact Mrs Maude Chin or Faye Brock (ikebanasydney@hotmail.com).

**AUSTRALIAN SOGETSU
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION NSW.**

**55th ANNIVERSARY WORKSHOPS
WITH MRS YAMAGUCHI AND TEAM.
SATURDAY 22ND AND SUNDAY 23RD
AUGUST.**

Mrs Yamaguchi, a Master from Tokyo, and her team will bring new and trendy ideas from Sogetsu Headquarters. It will be held at Greenwich Community Kindergarten, 46-50 Greenwich Road, Greenwich NSW 2065, Sydney.

There will be four workshops:- (1) Using New Zealand Flax, (2) Bamboo skin special (material supplied), (3) Relief, coloured board and dry branches (acacia or broom or any branches supplied) without water, individual arrangements, followed by group arrangement, and finally (4) Making lacy material out of grout.

To attend, positions must be applied for, with only 35 available. Final date for applications is 8th August. If you are interested, please contact Mrs Yumiko Soo as soon as possible. Her details are:- Mrs Yumiko Soo, 53 Kameruka Road, Northbridge NSW 2063, email soo.yumiko@gmail.com, mob.ph: 0410 650 434.

VALE MARGE HAYES

Barry de Crummere from Sydney informed us recently of the passing of Marge Hayes.

"I have been asked to inform you that our dear friend Marge Hayes passed away last Saturday 6th June 2015 following a very long illness. Marge was one of the late Norman Sparnon's earliest students in Sydney and later became a highly regarded Ikebana teacher, Sogetsu branch director and exhibitor. Kindly inform your Sogetsu Branch members and friends who may

have had the pleasure of knowing Marge.
Regards,
Barry de Crummere."

朝月
sogetsu

“WELCOME TO
SPRING”



**ANNUAL EXHIBITION 29th
and 30th August 2015**

Set up will be Thursday 27th & Friday 28th August from 10am.

Name (Include all names if it is a group arrangement):-

Title of your arrangement:-

Plinth arrangement required? If yes, please indicate whether your plinth arrangement is viewed from an angle of 180 or 360 degrees?

Floor arrangement (supply approximate space required):-

Sketch you arrangement on the reverse side of this page; indicate the length, width and height in centimeters (cm).

Please return form to Vernisher Wooh by August 14th

