



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

## **NEWSLETTER September 2013**

Editor Carolyn Sandercoe

### **☺ DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

Greetings to all Brisbane/Gold Coast Branch members.

Many ikebana people have said how much they benefited from Kawana Sensei's workshops in Brisbane. I hope our members will carry their extra new-found enthusiasm forward and that teachers will pass on this to their students.

Many visitors as well as members have said the celebration week went very well. This could never have happened without the support the committee received from all the members. All the many tasks required for the event were cheerfully and skilfully undertaken by so many. Some of these tasks involved setting up for the workshops, preparing and transporting material for the workshops, cleaning up the hall, providing containers for the visitors, collecting material that Kawana Sensei could use for his demonstration and his arrangement and assisting him in other ways, catering for the whole week, keeping a record of events and so on. All this is apart from all the tasks associated with the Exhibition – and this year there were more than usual.

There is much that can be accomplished when we work together, and it was wonderful to have so many new members so keen to participate.

Judith McCulloch



Management Committee at Opening of Exhibition. L-R: Carolyn, Robyn, Catherine, Pat, Chieko, Sue & Judith, chairing the proceedings. John missed the photo somehow.

### **☺ IN-HOUSE WORKSHOP**

On 8<sup>th</sup> May a workshop was held for members to learn how to assist with a person conducting a Sogetsu demonstration. Both Judith and Pat, along with the help of a DVD, gave us many useful hints especially for those who may like to help Kawana Sensei in August as well as other teachers who give demonstrations at Exhibition times and other public occasions. It was of great benefit for those who attended. Members then practised the technique of doing an arrangement from behind. This was particularly challenging but a rewarding exercise.

Thank you, Judith and Pat.



Judith presenting video from Headquarters.

## ☺ 50<sup>TH</sup> YEAR CELEBRATIONS CONTINUED IN JULY-AUGUST

Following several sub-committee meetings, a final combined sub-committee and Management Committee meeting was held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2013, before Kawana Sensei arrived. All gave their reports on their area of responsibility, and it was clear that all had been busy over many months, so that the week would run smoothly. Many thanks go to all who gave of their time and expertise very generously.



Committee and Sub-committee Reps.

## ☺ KAWANA SENSEI WORKSHOP PREPARATIONS

Many thanks go to Margaret, Del and Wendy for buying, collecting, bundling and distributing all floral materials used by visitors. The quality of the material from Tesselaar's florists was excellent.



Materials team in Judith's garage the day before the Workshop.

## ☺ MON 29<sup>th</sup> & TUES 30<sup>th</sup> JULY WORKSHOPS

Our members and visitors were greeted by a well-presented, organized and top quality selection of material suitable for the workshops and well laid-out covered benches with hand-embroidered towels, water bowls and rubbish bags. Benches of containers lent by members were also on

hand for visitors. The reception team was very busy, handing out envelopes with name badges and entitlement cards for various materials, food and workshops, and the sale of commemorative items.[Ed.] It was very rewarding to receive such favourable comments from our visitors in relation to how smoothly run, and how well-organized the Kawana Sensei led workshops were.

A satisfied stomach always adds to the occasion, and our members' contributions to morning/afternoon teas, along with the tasty lunches, added to the pleasure of friendships formed and others renewed.

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Workshop - Memories

*Flowering branches, pink blossom  
Petals sprinkling over floor, sweeping,  
mopping.*

*Sensei stretching our thoughts  
Encouraging to a be more creative was  
sought*

*Delighting in the shadow formed . . . . tired  
legs.*

Rosalie Turk



Teresa Dittrich from Austria, Kawana Tetsunori Sensei and Takako Martin from Auckland during the first workshop of a basic arrangement using nageire vase and a downstick.

All the workshops by Kawana Sensei were very informative and challenging. It was amazing how he managed to move around to see each arrangement, and give useful comments even before they were complete. We all benefited from his expertise. It was very interesting how often he commented on the importance and shape of the shadows formed on the bench below, and how it enhanced the arrangement if deliberately considered [Ed.].

## ☺ TEACHERS' WORKING DINNER

Tuesday night after the workshops, all the local and visiting Sogetsu teachers had a working dinner with Kawana Sensei. This gave them the opportunity to ask questions and be advised, as well as share useful ideas regarding teaching. It was much appreciated by all, especially for new teachers and those who have few opportunities to speak with other teachers[Ed.].



A wonderful arrangement (?) of Sogetsu teachers.

## ☺ PREPARATIONS FOR EXHIBITION

On Wednesday and Thursday a number of members were involved in assisting in the collection of materials for Kawana Sensei's major arrangement in the centre of the Auditorium, as well as preparing materials for the Demonstration he later gave for the public on Saturday morning.



Kawana Sensei arrangement in Auditorium. The striking dead *Banksia* material came from Val Sandercoe's garden and other material was from The Botanic Gardens and Tesselaar's.

## ☺ FRIDAY NIGHT OPENING

The exhibition was opened by Mr Shinya Machida, Acting Japanese Consul-General. Our Patron Mr John Massy then spoke very eloquently to the occasion, and presented to our Director Judith, a beautiful

book on Japanese Style, for the membership to enjoy.



John Massy (with great tie!) Ed.

Amongst our invited guests was Joy Lane, our only current member who was in Mr Norman Sparnon's first class in Brisbane in 1963. She was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. To quote from a thank you letter from Joy "...the evening was organised to perfection. Thank you for all the special attention you gave to Glenda [daughter] and me. They are some of the happiest memories that will live with me forever and greatly appreciated."



Joy Lane with bouquet.



Delicious celebratory cake.



Pat and Steve Mackie with Teresa Dittrich from Austria in centre.

## ☺ EXHIBITION 3<sup>RD</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2013

A big thank you to all the exhibitors at our 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration this year. Together with our visitors from interstate and overseas we showcased a varied selection of styles for the general public to admire. Much has been achieved in the name of Sogetsu Ikebana in the last 50 years in Brisbane and I am sure, like me, you are very proud to be part of this tradition and look forward to continuing your participation in this exciting and interesting art form.

Pat Mackie  
Exhibition Chairperson

### DOOR RECEPTION



Del Blackburn and Sue Poole ably handling the door.

**Attendance:** 274 visitors on Saturday and 264 on Sunday (total – 533). Receipts were very satisfactory. Well done to all who took turns manning the door.

### KITCHEN

Many thanks to all who volunteered and worked in the kitchen during the Exhibition weekend. To all the cooks who made the tasty cakes and slices for the 'teas', sincere thanks. They were well received. To Kimio, and to Vernisher's husband Mok, a

special 'thank you' for all the dishwashing you did, and helping out in general. We couldn't have managed without you. We all worked well together and we made a nice profit for the Association of \$689. Margaret Kortbaek.



Kaye Pearson, P.K., Robyn Cuming and Mok.

### TRADE TABLE

This year's trade table was confined to the sale of ikebana containers and associated materials. We had many containers on commission from members and others, who had items to sell. The table did a roaring trade especially after Kawana Sensei's demonstration, as it could not be set up until then. Many attendees at the demonstration were eager buyers. Beforehand Shirley Behan had performed an enormous task of photographing and numbering all containers on commission, so that the owners would receive their correct sales amount. Thank you so much Shirley. Most helpers were past or present Townsville members and we thank Narelle Harrison for spending her precious weekend in Brisbane on the Table. While receipts were less than usual, the turnover was much greater, because the Association only received 10% of the commissioned sales. Total profit included the commission from Linda Back, a local potter who sold her own containers at the exhibition.



Karen, Fran, PK, Shirley & Peggy. Narelle Harrison MIA.

☺ **KAWANA SENSEI DEMONSTRATION**

The Saturday morning highlight was Sensei's demonstration which was very well attended by the public and members. He created seven arrangements, all very different. He was assisted by Judith and Misako James at the front, as well as Catherine Purdon and Sandy Marker. Chieko Klerkx assisted with any necessary translation.



Arrangement with *Camellia* leaves and *Bixa* pods demonstrating light/dark, strong/weak.



Judith and Misako assisting Sensei.

☺ **SOME VISITORS' ARRANGEMENTS**



Four arrangements representing the four seasons in New Zealand.

☺ **SOME LOCAL MEMBERS' ARRANGEMENTS**



PK Loo



Rosalie Turk



Judith McCulloch



Vernisher Wooh

### ☺ FEEDBACK

- I would like to extend my THANK YOU note on behalf of my students to both of you (Judith] & the committee for a successful exhibition and workshops with Master Kawana. It was a very busy week for many of us especially you and your committee. I could imagine how tired you were if not too stressful. I wanted to say thank you for the great events last night and today. The exhibition looked fantastic and glad there was such a turn out today (and a very enthusiastic audience). Thankyou for the invitation, it was great to see and catch up with everyone. Tarun Nagesh QAGoMA
- Thank you all so much for the invitation to your wonderful launch on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2013. The Auditorium was absolutely alive with excited people and very exciting floral exhibits. Your imagination never ceases to amaze us all. It was also wonderful to catch-up with so many friends of so many years standing and to hear John's magnificent reply to your address – Judith. Warmest regards and every best to you all in all of your endeavours - Susie and Ross McKinnon AM (Curator, Brisbane Botanic Gardens – Mt Coot-tha).
- Have really loved the last two days, learning so much yet again. I always find Mr Kawana so inspiring and feel I could jump over buildings after spending time with him -.Sandy Marker.
- I want to express my appreciation to The Committee for such a great well-run workshop - Michael Ewens.
- I wanted to thank you and your entire chapter for a very successful and

inspirational two days of workshops. It was clear to me, based on the success and smooth running of the workshops, that a great deal of thought and work took place before as well as during the events. Thank you, also, for making us, the visitors, so welcome. I came away very pleased and with a head full of ideas and inspiration. We welcome the opportunity to return your kindness when it is our turn to host this event - Emily Karanikolopoulos.

- Congratulations for the successful Brisbane Ikebana 50 Years Celebrations. I really enjoyed the two day workshop by Mr Kawana – lots of learning! Thanks for the very hard work of all Brisbane Sogetsu members; the two day workshop was very well and comfortably organized. I appreciated your efforts to make us comfortable and happy. Thank you - Takako Martin.
- Just wanted to say Congratulations to you and the Committee for the organisation of the celebration - it all went so very well - Fran Savill.
- Congratulations & Arigato for a successful exhibition and workshops. I would like to extend my THANK YOU on behalf of my students to the committee for a successful exhibition and workshops with Master Kawana. It was a very busy week for many of us especially you and your committee. I could imagine how tired you were if not too stressful. Your big effort and commitment for coordinating the event was much appreciated. All the best for the next 50 years to come - Lily Karmatz.
- Many thanks for a lovely week. Please thank all the girls and boys for a job well done. I had a really good time and enjoyed the whole week. I always enjoy Mr. Kawana's workshops – although I did not get anything correct. He is very inspiring. Also the food was excellent – demonstration - and also of course the Exhibition. I am looking forward to the DVD - Barbara Hockenull.
- I would like to thank you and **all the members** of the Brisbane/Gold-coast Branch who contributed to the great success of your 50th anniversary celebrations. It was excellent from an Ikebana point of view, and I was so pleased that three of my students were

able to attend also. You should all be proud. From a general cultural perspective Laurie also enjoyed his time in Brisbane. Of course, you are most welcome to mention my blog postings about the events to Headquarters. You can provide the link:

[www.roadsideikebana.blogspot.com](http://www.roadsideikebana.blogspot.com)

and direct them to the postings of 3rd and 10th August. If you wanted me to send any photos I'd be happy to do so. The ones of the exhibition are not that good but, you might not have any of the workshops in progress - Christopher James.

- Congratulations. It was a great 50th event. It is always so nice to catch up with other Sogetsu members. Please pass on my congratulations and thanks to all your members as they all did a great job. Fingers crossed that Headquarters will agree to Mr. Kawana coming to Melbourne next May and we hear soon, as you know there is much to organise - Elizabeth Angell.
- Helen, Brigitte, Elizabeth and I were very impressed by your Chapter's organization and friendliness. Everything seemed to go very smoothly from our end even though you were probably paddling like frantic ducks to keep everything ticking over. I do hope we can do half as well as Brisbane's Chapter did when Yosh visits. A very big thank for the wonderful time you gave us - Sandi Hurnard, Wellington Chapter STA.
- We also received lovely cards from Jenny Goodwin, Ursula Pagels/Alison Wright/Roxine Paterson (WA) who said "Fantastic workshops, great materials, great organisation, great people – Can we come again?"

### **VALE FLORENCE ROONEY**

With much sadness we wish to let you all know that Florence Rooney passed away recently at the age of 92 years. She had been a very active member for many years and was one of Nora Dyer's first students. They lived nearby in Chapel Hill. She later practised Sogetsu under Mary Brown's tuition. Apart from her active contributions in many exhibitions and displays, she was

a Committee Member from 1986 to 1992. She was a most dignified lady and very kind and thoughtful. She also enjoyed Ikebana Conferences and other activities away from Brisbane when she often shared a room with Molly Thompson and Faye Shanahan. Her husband Wilf was also a great ikebana husband when it came to helping out at exhibitions and assisting her to some out of town activities. She was also very proud of her granddaughter Sian Rooney (swimmer), and was able to attend the Sydney Olympics in 2000 to watch her perform. All those who had the privilege of knowing Florence were enriched by being her friend.

Florence's experience of Sogetsu Ikebana is best illustrated by quoting what she contributed to in "Under the Grass Moon" 2003.

"The literal meaning of ikebana is "living flowers". To me personally, the study of ikebana is a form of meditation. My experience has been to bring myself into spiritual affinity with the flowers and material used to create an arrangement, and to transform that affinity into an expression of my personal feelings and experiences in life. I believe ikebana is the fusion of flowers and/or plants that God created and a human being. My life has been enriched by the spiritual tranquillity gained through the study of Sogetsu Ikebana, and by the many friendships I have formed."

Carolyn Sandercoe and Faye Shanahan



On occasion of 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## ☺ MEMBER'S ACTIVITY

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September Judith McCulloch was invited to conduct a Sogetsu demonstration for a group of ladies at the Kenmore Anglican Church. Assisted by Carolyn Sandercoe she created five diverse arrangements which all looked very colourful for spring.



Judith with white cherry blossom and Wisteria branches.

## ☺ OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

**Commemorative pens:** There are several specially embossed 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary pens still waiting to be sold. At \$10 each, they would make a great Christmas present for family and friends. Place your order before they run out! The proceeds from these help defray the cost of our Celebration year.

**DVD:** It is in the final stages of preparation before being sent out.

**Books:** Copies of "Under the Grass Moon" 2003 (40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) \$35 B/W or \$100 in colour, and the 10 year update in B/W \$4 or colour \$13, (including postage) are still available.

Please contact Secretary Catherine (07 3351 1649) for all of the above items.

**Photos:** Many photos from the week have now been posted on our website. So please look and enjoy.

**Found items:** A couple of items were found after the exhibition – a **black bed**

**sheet and a black tray.** If it is yours, please contact Judith McCulloch.

## **In search of Ikebana International**

**Magazines:** A member of the public, Sheryl Backhouse of <sheryl.backhouse@bigpond.com> is looking to purchase second-hand, the following issues. **Pre34; 341/2; all 35; all 36; 37/2,3; 38/3; 39/3; 401/3; 41/2/3; 42/1,2; 45/2; 48/3; all 40; 51/1,3; all after 51.** Can anyone help Sheryl with any of these copies? [Ed.].

## ☺ COMING EVENTS

**Next General Meeting: 10:30am, and Workshop at 11:00am, Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October at Toowong Community Meeting Place, Josling St , Toowong. Topic: Arrangement using roses.**

We hope to see as many members as possible there – our last workshop for the year.

## ☺ REMINDERS

Please remember to pay **membership dues** before 30<sup>th</sup> November. Forms already sent.

Our **Christmas lunch** will be at 12 noon, Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December. Forms already sent. Please ring Catherine if you cannot find them.

Lastly, a big thank you is extended to all those who gave of their time, hard work and expertise to all of this year's activities. We look forward to a quieter year in 2014. It will be a year in which to build on new found skills and understanding of Sogetsu from the activities offered this year.

**Next Newsletter:** After 2014 AGM in March. For all contributions please contact Carolyn Sandercoe. Please let the editor know of any Sogetsu activity occurring in your neck of the woods – especially those outside Brisbane. Remember this is *your* newsletter!