

NEWSLETTER August 2014  
 Editor Carolyn Sandercoe

☺ **MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR**

☺ **ANNUAL EXHIBITION**

Well, the exhibition for 2014 is over, and I wish to thank all those who participated in our "Dancing Flowers" exhibition. This year there were 28 individual arrangements and five group arrangements. The group arrangements were particularly well received by those who visited the exhibition and it was great to see some of Vernisher Wooh's new students being involved in the groups. I hope to see even more members participating in the exhibition next year. It will be held on 28 and 29 August 2015.

Thanks are due to all the members, husbands and friends who assisted in making the weekend exhibition run so smoothly. I would like to mention specifically Pat Mackie, our exhibition chairperson. This year she was assisted by Vernisher Wooh. Those involved in organising various areas during the exhibition will make their own reports. It was very pleasing to see all members working together so well.

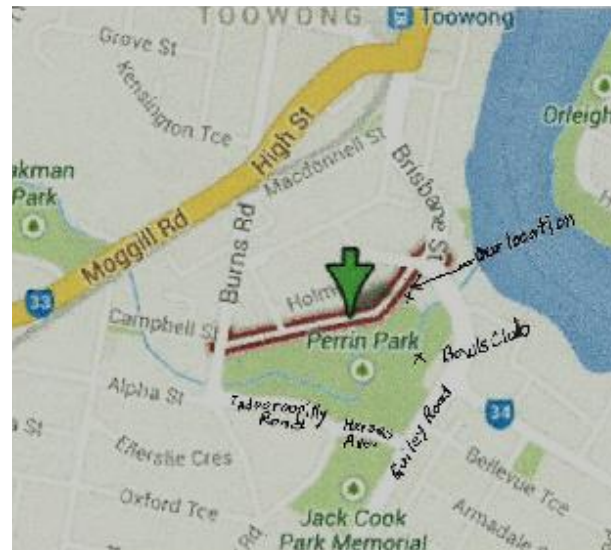


Judith: "Dancing for Joy". Judith and Wendy: "Gyrating Dancers".

☺ **COMING EVENTS**

Now we can look forward to our **LOCAL WORKSHOP**, to be conducted by Vernisher Wooh. The topic for this is "a nageire arrangement showing movement,

to be viewed from all angles". It will be held at the Toowong Community Meeting Place, Josling Street, Toowong, beginning at 9.30 am until 1.00 pm on Wednesday, 3 September. Please bring your own lunch to share.



The location in Josling Street is next to Perrin Park. If parking is not available in Josling Street, please go to Heroes Avenue, which runs between Indooroopilly Road and Gailey Road on the other side of Perrin Park from Josling Street. There is a car park behind the bowls club, with a short walk on a walking path to The Toowong Community Meeting Place.

☺ **MASTER WORKSHOP**

The committee is very pleased that **Seiseki Umemura** will come to conduct workshops on 17 and 18 October at The Kenmore Library. Please make an effort to come and benefit from his expert teaching. The topics for these workshops will be available in a few weeks.

I hope all members continue to enjoy their ikebana experiences.

Judith McCulloch

☺ **EXHIBITION REPORTS**

☺ **FRONT DOOR: Del Blackburn**

Thanks are due to the cheerful welcoming party who assisted at the door, morning and afternoon, in meeting and greeting the visitors to our Exhibition. They handed out leaflets, lists of teachers and exhibitors and encouraged visitors to view the demonstrations and join the “hands-on” workshops and guided tours. We welcomed Valerie from America who is holidaying in Australia and was keen to make contact with our Association. It was pleasing to see not only family groups but young couples showing an interest in our arrangements.



Wendy and Fran happily manning the front desk.

☺ **KITCHEN: Ingrid Kivikoski**

The kitchen ran very smoothly by an army of willing volunteers. It certainly was a great team effort. A big THANK YOU also for all who came in with yummy 'home baked' goodies for morning/afternoon tea. We even had some of the Botanic Garden gardeners come in specifically for our home baked goodies. Again thank you to all of you.



Michelle, Ingrid, Jan, Corina, Sandra and Mok enjoying kitchen duties.

☺ **TRADE TABLE: Robyn Cuming**

Many thanks to all who donated to the trade table at our annual exhibition, and special thanks to those who worked on the trade table over the course of the weekend.



Robyn and Catherine ready for sales of plants and containers.



Wendy and Margaret also helping on trade table.

☺ **THE HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS** were held on both days. They were designed for anyone who had no knowledge of Sogetsu Ikebana. The teachers who conducted them used their own ideas to present the classes and were assisted by members with teacher certificates. One young girl enjoyed her experience so much on Saturday that she returned on Sunday, when her grandmother also joined in the class.  
Judith McCulloch



Vernisher demonstrating. Kimio assisting workshop participant.



Proud achievers of Vernisher's hands-on workshop on Saturday.

☺ **THE DEMONSTRATIONS** were held on both days, when four different members on each day presented Sogetsu Ikebana to interested audiences. This meant that a variety of styles could be presented, and a variety of materials used. Judith McCulloch



Catherine demonstrating cutting technique. Finished arrangement.



Rosalie demonstrating. Finished arrangement.



Carolyn's demonstration. Judith's demonstration.



Shirley's demonstration. Pat's demonstration.

## ☺ GUIDED TOURS



Pat conducting a guided tour

Guided tours during the weekend were led by experienced members. The public who attended these were attentive, asking interesting questions, and took in the skill and beauty of the arrangements. They gained an insight into the principles of Sogetsu Ikebana and these were uniquely expressed by each ikebanist. By having to name each arrangement within the theme of "Dancing Flowers", each ikebanist had to think carefully how movement and floral material would be combined with a chosen container to complete the arrangement. Tour participants often commented on the sense of movement and were particularly interested in how it was achieved. A number of Floral Art Students from Southbank TAFE had received a flyer and came to the exhibition. They seemed blown away by the art work and skill involved. Carolyn Sandercoe

## ☺ A SAMPLE OF EXHIBITION ARRANGEMENTS

With Pat away on a well-deserved break I [Ed.] thought readers who were unable to attend, would be interested in some of my impressions of the exhibition. On entering the auditorium I experienced an instant feeling of my heart being uplifted from the everyday hum drum of life by the beautiful arrangements and the way they had been thoughtfully placed. The large collaborative installation by Vernisher and some of her students that was placed in the middle of the Auditorium titled "Bamboo Limbo" had taken almost two days to arrange.



"Bamboo Limbo" by Vernisher, Michelle and Sandra.



"Flower Jive" by Mary-Ann, Beverley and Corina.

The other collaborative arrangements were also so original and emphasized the overall theme of Dancing Flowers. They were full of movement, contrasting containers, interesting flower combinations – emphasizing light and dark, strong and delicate amongst other features.

**SOME INDIVIDUAL ARRANGEMENTS**



"A garden symphony" by Shirley, Peggy and Karen.



Pat: "Zig Zag jive" inside, and outside "Rhythm of the wind".



"Field of dancing flowers" by Del, Helen, and P.K.



Carolyn: "Malagasy mambo".



Del: "Waltz of the flowers".



Sandra: "Tecktonik".



Janet C: "Flamenco in Flowers".



Margaret L.: "River ballet".

Michelle: "Swing dance".



Wendy: "Dancing on ice".



Margaret K.: "Gold dancing on Jade".



Kimio: "Save the last dance for me".



Janet K.: "Swinging fantasy".



Fran: "Bamboo break dance".



Rosalie: "Pole dancing".

While it is not possible to include all arrangements I hope you will agree the arrangements were very diverse and stretched the imagination of our ikebanists, many expressing a sense of fun as well. Several members of the public expressed their wonderment of the arrangements. I asked a young girl what was the highlight for her during the exhibition and she said "Everything". Hoping to get a slightly more

specific reply, she just emphasized "Everything!" Perhaps we will have a special new student one day! For those with access to a computer, all the exhibition arrangements are gradually being added to the Gallery section and for those on Facebook, many will appear there as well as other ikebana arrangements from different occasions.

☺ We were pleased that Joyce Hyam, an earlier long-term member, visited with her daughter. They enjoyed their visit [Editor's Prerogative] It was very pleasing to see my mother Val Sandercoe who is our most elderly current member, visiting the Exhibition with ikebana husband Ken. They also both enjoyed the exhibition.



Carolyn Sandercoe

### ☺ MEMBERS' NEWS

Would all members please note in your diaries the next two workshops mentioned in our Director Judith's message. These workshops are an invaluable help to advance our ikebana skills and a great way to get to know other members.

#### **In-house workshop location**

For those who are not familiar with parking choices at the Toowong Community Meeting Place Judith has included a map on Page 1 to assist. This venue is ideal for our in-house workshops and we hope more members will enjoy attending them.

### ☺ ITEMS OF INTEREST

#### **Cycads**

At two of the exhibition demonstrations, leaves of the Japanese Sago Cycad (*Cycas revoluta*) were used in two arrangements (Page 3 – Pat's & Carolyn's). Unlike their usual form of being straight, the leaflets and main stems (rachis) were very curly. This created a great deal of interest by the audience and

members alike. To explain this, it all goes back to before the leaves form and develop between September and October each year. In recent years a small native blue and grey butterfly, the Cycad Blue (*Theclinesthes onycha*) has become very common along the Queensland coast. It is the only Australian butterfly caterpillar that feeds on cycads (info & photos from [brisbaneinsects.com](http://brisbaneinsects.com)). It starts off green and as it grows and ruins your plant, it becomes a deep brown. All feeding occurs at night when we are snug in our beds and not thinking about cycads! Instead of using insecticides, I heard that covering the centre of the plant before the leaves appear, and then keeping them completely covered until they become tough (about 2 months) prevents the butterfly from laying its eggs and hence no caterpillars chew the leaflets!



Caterpillars are sometimes attended by ants as shown in photo.



The Cycad Blue Butterfly.

If material used to cover the growing leaves becomes tight, the fronds form beautiful and uneaten shapes! Perhaps this may give others an idea for interesting ikebana material in the future. Ed.

### **Kalanchoe**

On Page 4 Carolyn's arrangement featured the tall flower spike of the Felt Plant or Giant Kalanchoe (*Kalanchoe beharensis*). This plant from Madagascar grows to a height of about 3 metres and the flower spikes are up to a further metre. It grows

well in Brisbane and thrives on neglect. The large thick triangular leaves to 30cm are covered in felt giving the colour appearance of silvery grey-green. They are also very amenable to use in ikebana. The flowers only occur on the mature plants. The stems are also very sculptural, if not a bit spiky.



Kalanchoe flower spike and leaves.

Carolyn would be happy to share cuttings with interested members. Ed.

### **Bixa**

Another seed capsule that creates much interest each year at our exhibition is from the Mexican Lipstick Plant (*Bixa orellana*). The orange-red substance around each mature seed inside the capsule was used by the Aztecs for lipstick and other adornments. When margarine was first invented in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, it appeared as an unattractive pale lard. The solution to this was to add the dye from the Bixa and Voila!, it then looked like butter to everyone's delight. Large plantations were established in suitable climatic zones around the world to help margarine take off as a butter substitute. More recently artificial colours have now been substituted.

The Bixa plant prefers a sheltered sunny well-drained position and only moderate water and fertilizer. In May it has pretty pink terminal flowers soon followed by the interesting seed capsules (see Page 3 - Carolyn's demonstration arrangement). They are mature just in time for our exhibitions in July-August. It is wise to prune the shrubs heavily after this time to ensure more capsules will be within reach for the following year. If unpruned it can become a tree to 8 metres! Ed.