

NEWSLETTER MAY 2015

Editor Judith McCulloch

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

At the last Committee Meeting, the main focus was our annual exhibition at Mt. Coot-tha on 29 and 30 August and making sure we all get an early start in planning and preparing for this event. This year, I wish each member to play an active part in helping to "spread the word" about our exhibition and once our exhibition flyers are printed, teachers will be given a supply so that they can be handed out to students. There are also Sogetsu leaflets from Japan available so if any member wishes some of these and the exhibition flyers to distribute to the community, please feel free to contact one of the Committee members.
Keep enjoying your ikebana.

Catherine Purdon

WORKSHOPS IN JUNE

Seiseki Umemura will conduct workshops at the Kenmore Library meeting room on 19 and 20 June 2015.

Please see the registration form on the last page of this newsletter for details.

The Saturday class involves use of some construction techniques. Learning these will enable students of Sogetsu Ikebana to enhance their abilities to produce a wider range of work.

If you would like to participate and don't yet have the tools listed as required on the registration form, please let your teacher know or, if you don't have a teacher at

present, let Catherine Purdon know and it will be arranged that you can borrow the items you need.

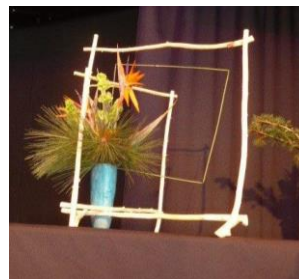
In March Seiseki Umemura presented a demonstration at Ballina where he used in one

arrangement the frame that it is proposed participants in the workshop could make.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR ATTENTION

19, 20 June workshops with Seiseki Umemura at Kenmore

The workshop set down for 9 May 2015 has been cancelled.



Arrangement with a frame

Members more experienced in construction techniques may like to make a free-standing structure of their choice.

PROFILE OF SEISEKI UMEMURA

As there are some new members who do not know Seiseki Umemura, the following profile is included in this newsletter to introduce him to you. It was supplied by Barry de Crummere.

Seiseki Umemura was born in 1948 into a successful family of silkworm breeders and award winning silk thread producers in Toyota City, Japan.

He has a unique history for an Ikebana artist. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Spanish Language and Literature from the University of Osaka, Japan and a Masters Degree of Business Administration from Columbia University, New York, U.S.A. He has served with NEC, ESSO, and GENERAL ELECTRIC in the area of International Marketing and Finance with extensive overseas assignments.

After 15 years in the Japanese corporate system he decided on a career change and chose the calmer world of Ikebana. He commenced his studies of Sogetsu Ikebana in Tokyo and obtained his Teacher's Diploma from Mrs. Yasuyo Yamanaka of the Sogetsu School of Ikebana Headquarters in Tokyo in 1986. After his arrival in Sydney, Australia as a permanent resident in 1986 he continued his Ikebana studies with the renowned Ikebana Master, the late Norman Sparnon O.A.M. who had studied Ikebana in Japan with the founder of the Sogetsu School, the late Mr. Sofu Teshigahara, who awarded to him his teacher's to highest-level Ikebana diplomas.

In March 1995, on the recommendation of Mr. Sparnon, Mr. Umemura was awarded the highest rank of Ikebana Master, RIJI, by Mr. Hiroshi Teshigahara, the son of the founder and then the Headmaster of the Sogetsu School in Japan.



Mr Umemura at Ballina in March 2015

Since 1987 Mr. Umemura has conducted Ikebana workshops, demonstrations and exhibitions throughout Australia in Melbourne, Brisbane/Gold Coast, Townsville, Adelaide, Rockhampton and Lismore and overseas in Hong Kong and in New Zealand in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. In 1998 during the "Modern Boy Modern Girl" exhibition and in 2001 during the "Monet and Japan" exhibition he was invited by the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra to conduct Ikebana workshops and demonstrations. In 1999 he was invited by the University of Central Queensland, Rockhampton to demonstrate Ikebana and to present an outdoor exhibition on the campus during the Japan Studies Association of Australia Biennial Conference. The Art Gallery of N.S.W. has invited him and the Australian Sogetsu Teachers Association (A.S.T.A.) N.S.W. Branch on three occasions to exhibit in the Asian Gallery.

From 1990 to 1993 Mr. Umemura assisted Mr. Sparnon with the direction and participation in the Ikebana exhibitions and demonstrations by the Australian Sogetsu Teachers Association, (A.S.T.A.) N.S.W. Branch during the David Jones Spring Flower Festivals in Sydney and Canberra. From 1994 to 2002 he directed and participated with A.S.T.A. during these annual events in Sydney and Canberra.

In 2003 Mr. Umemura, the first recipient of the Norman and Mary Sparnon Ikebana Scholarship, studied for three months at the Sogetsu School in Japan under the present Headmaster Akane Teshigahara and several other Sogetsu master teachers.

In March 2007 as part of the celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the Sogetsu School in Japan, Mr. Umemura was presented with an Overseas Teachers' Award from the Headmaster, Akane Teshigahara in Tokyo, Japan.

Mr. Umemura conducts Ikebana classes from beginners through teacher's diploma levels in Artarmon, a suburb of Sydney.

Seiseki Umemura has been a regular visitor to Brisbane for many years, where he has presented demonstrations, conducted workshops and participated in special exhibitions.

SOGETSU HEADQUARTERS, TOKYO, JAPAN



Ikebana by Ryu Ishikawa

As I walked up to the beautiful glass building I could see an exhibition of glazed ceramic containers outside and inside in the tiered exhibition area. There were also some bamboo installations. I can only imagine what it must be like when this area is filled with flowers.

The next vision was the large arrangement of spring blossom branches and flowers which was on the information desk in the foyer. We also saw this arrangement being refreshed one morning which was also interesting.



Ikebana by Ryu Ishikawa on our last day at Headquarters

We then headed upstairs to begin the first workshop for which we had booked. Very quickly I was shown the system of obtaining flowers, containers and other material to make an arrangement. I was a little apprehensive at first but soon realised that I just needed to apply all that I had learned.

What a joy it was to be able to choose all the blossom branches each day to make an arrangement.

I was able to see how they fix their materials and to refine the way that I do it even further. I have conquered the downstick and the cross bars!!



Inside the classroom

Even though it was raining and cold outside most of the days that we were there, it was a warm friendly atmosphere inside where we were welcomed at each class. We chose tables looking out over a park area and towards Shinjuku each day and with that view and the beautiful creations that were taking shape inside the room, it has stimulated my passion even further for Ikebana.

Another thing that I learned is that we have a good standard of work here in Brisbane and that is a credit to the teachers that we have here. If you have the opportunity to visit Sogetsu Headquarters, do it as it is great to see how it is done in the home of Ikebana.

(I visited with Judith McCulloch between 4 and 14 April 2015.)

Sue Poole

ANNUAL EXHIBITION

The committee would like to encourage members to make some larger ikebana works at this year's exhibition, by working with a group. Form a group of members you enjoy working with and create something special this year!



NEW TEXTBOOKS

In autumn 2016, a new textbook – number 5 – will be published. This is for teaching students who have finished book 3-4 and are working towards a Teacher's Diploma 4th Grade.

From October 2016 a “Sogetsu Textbook Special training Session” is scheduled to begin at Headquarters and in other areas.

Possible theme titles for inclusion in this new textbook are listed in the latest Sō Newsletter.

This Sō Newsletter includes an item of news that may be of interest to some members who remember Mr. Toshiyuki Ohki. He visited Brisbane and Townsville in 1998. Sadly, he passed away on 25 January at the age of 65 years. Iemoto Akane attended his funeral on 28 January and delivered a eulogy.



NORMAN AND MARY SPARNON SCHOLARSHIP

It has been announced that Sandra Marker of the New South Wales Branch of Sogetsu Teachers' Association, is the fifth recipient of this Scholarship. The Scholarship allows the recipient to spend three months in Japan attending ikebana classes. Congratulations to Sandy!



Ikebana by Misei Ishikawa and others at an Ikebana International exhibition at Tokyo Big Sight, April 2015



This is the sign that was outside the hall – “Flower Dream” was the name of the exhibition, which included ikebana and Western floral art as well as many other displays of flowers.



Registration Form for Workshops by Seiseki Umemura
Venue: Kenmore Library: 9 Brookfield Road, Kenmore.

FRIDAY, 19 June 2015
10.00 to 12.00 AM

Workshop 1 – wood structure (table/floor/freestanding) or picture frame.
Required for frame: drill, drill bit, dowel (round timber 5 mm in diameter), saw, hammer, 8 pieces of timber/branches 20 mm or more in diameter, 500 mm or more in length.

Lunch 12.00 to 1.00 PM

FRIDAY, 19 June 2015
1.00 to 3.30 PM

Workshop 2 – arrangement incorporating structure/arrangement in picture frame

SATURDAY, 20 June 2015
10.00 to 12.00 AM

Workshop 3 – two simplified arrangements – one large, one small – Book 4 Lesson 8

Lunch 12.00 to 1.00 PM

SATURDAY, 20 June 2015
1.00 to 3.30 PM

Workshop 4 – focusing on the uses of water – Book 4 Lesson 12

Name:

I wish to attend the following Workshops:
(please circle)

Workshop 1 *Workshop 2* *Workshop 3* *Workshop 4*

Cost per Workshop: - Members \$25.00; Non-members \$30.00.

Payment details:

Payment can be made by money order; direct debit to National Australia Bank BSB 084 255, A/c No. 83871 1869, or by cheque, made out to The Treasurer, Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Inc.

As the Secretary, Mrs Sue Poole is away, Registration forms must be returned to:

Mrs C. Purdon, 62 Greenock Place, Ferny Grove 4055

Attendance at the workshops (and payment) can be received on the day.