



SOGETSU IKEBANA QUEENSLAND INC.

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NEWSLETTER JULY 2017

Editor Judith McCulloch

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The workshops conducted by Umemura Sensei on 5 and 6 May proved to be a great success. It was wonderful to see so many attending and it was encouraging that some of our new students came along both to participate and to observe on both the days. There will be a full report on the workshops, plus photos, later in the Newsletter.

As you would expect, the Exhibition Chairperson, Vernisher Wooh and the Committee have commenced planning for our annual exhibition on Saturday and Sunday, 19 and 20 August at Mt Coot-tha Auditorium. At the end of this Newsletter there is an Exhibition Form which needs to be filled out and returned to Vernisher. On Sunday, 20 August, the annual Japan Day activities will also be held in and around Mt Coot-tha Gardens so, no doubt, that day will be a busy one.

The General Meeting is to be held on Wednesday, 19 July and I look forward to seeing you there. Don't forget there is an informal workshop *In a Suiban without kenzan* at 10.00 am prior to the GM. I will hand out our Exhibition flyers to everyone at the meeting so they can be distributed amongst family and friends and within the community. It is also an opportunity to ask any questions about the exhibition in August and to volunteer to help on the front door, kitchen and trade table.

Keep enjoying your ikebana.

Catherine Purdon

COMING EVENTS

- 19 July—General Meeting, ikebana arrangements
- 19,20 August—Annual Exhibition
- 4 October—social outing
- 15 November—workshop
- 6 December—Christmas lunch

To those members who are not well, we send good wishes and hope you are soon feeling much better.

*Please note that this year the Toowong Community Meeting Place has been re-named.

It is now

**"PERRIN PARK
COMMUNITY HALL"**



You and your friends are invited to an ikebana exhibition, the Japanese art of flower arranging.

When : Saturday 19 August 2017 10am - 4pm
Sunday 20 August 2017 9am - 4pm

Mr Dale Arvidsson, Curator, Brisbane Botanic Gardens, will open the exhibition at 10:15am on Saturday 19 August.

Venue : Mt. Coot-tha Botanic Gardens Auditorium
Mt. Coot-tha Road, Toowong, Brisbane

Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Inc.
website: www.ikebanabrisbane.org.au
facebook: www.facebook.com/ikebanabrisbane

- Admission \$4
- Free ikebana demonstration 10:30am daily
- A guided tour of the exhibition 11:30am and 2:30pm daily
- Hands-on ikebana class 1:30pm daily (\$3)
- Coffee and tea for sale
- Ikebana containers for sale & related materials at the trade table open 11:30am

For more information contact
Sue - 3870 4930

REPORT ON MAY WORKSHOPS

THE POWER OF WORKSHOPPING

The addition of book 5 to the Sogetsu curriculum is exciting. How fortunate we are to have Umemura Sensei to inspire us - awesome in demonstration, skilful in suggestion and subtle in correction. It was wonderful to have his guidance to assist in understanding the task at hand and 'fine tune' skills.

It takes a little time to settle and relax into a workshop, so that chat with coffee and cake is important. It is after this you can begin to use your known skills to create an arrangement which shows something of yourself within the set conditions. Conversations with others are also a very important teaching tool. This workshop provided a great opportunity within a 'safe zone' for learning.

After visiting my notes which were few - I was too engaged in everything - I have reflected on these points:

- The skill of observation - being alert is a lesson for life
- Once a material is processed it loses its natural form
- Subtly cover a tall container to marry the materials
- Understand the syntax of a word (more importantly the verb in this workshop!) and allow for the possibility of change on the completion of the arrangement!
- The arrangement has movement in the form; it is not static
- More material means more conflict
- Counter balance gives a sense of relief and lightness
- Create to re-create needs an understanding of what you actually started with so that a significant or conceptual change can be made
- Starting from a different place offers exciting new pathways to create
- In order to create, practice is needed.



*Vernisher assisting
Umemura Sensei*



For those people who were able to attend part of or the entire workshop, thinking about the focussed lessons, if I was to say these words - play, confusion and laughter - could you align these words with one or more of those lessons? What a good idea it was to offer this workshop through observation for those who could not participate fully - a wonderful introduction to workshopping.

I started my journey of Ikebana in the mid 1970's and little did I know that this learning journey was to move me along a continuum which has no visible end point! As an 'oldie with this Branch and yet a 'newbie' by now living in Brisbane, it was assuring to see that 'Friendship through flowers' is practised and very special.

Thank you to our hard working committee who enabled us to access higher level skills through attending this workshop.

Chris Wyer

MORE FROM THE MAY WORKSHOP



Friday workshop attendees



Saturday workshop attendees



These are general workshop scenes.

Most likely you will recall that the themes for the workshops were:

- Friday—1. Composition expressing a movement
- 2. Composition using unconventional materials

Saturday—create, re-create (all day)



Those members who were unable to attend any of these workshops missed a great opportunity to learn from Seiseki Umemura. I hope you will be able to join in next time.

MEMBER ACTIVITIES

The Power of Yes - Celebrating Togetherness

Saturday, the 27th May 2017 was the 50th Anniversary of the Referendum from which indigenous people became citizens of Australia. A celebration of this anniversary was organised for that date in the Ipswich City Square. One of the organisers approached me to invite Sogetsu Ikebana to be involved as part of their program - "Say it with Flowers". Both Pat Mackie and I did an arrangement, donating both the flowers and containers back to the local community. As can be seen from the photos, our arrangements were situated in the middle of the Square on small round tables and whilst there was no backing to complement them, they were well received by the festival attendees and we received a lot of positive response. We were made to feel most welcome and a lovely email was received thanking both Pat and me for our participation.

Catherine Purdon

Vernisher gave an ikebana demonstration for her church women's fellowship.



Ikebana by Catherine



Ikebana by
Pat



MORE MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Pat presented Ingrid with her Teacher Diploma



Belinda-lee Snow received her certificate.



Louise Quinn received her first certificate.



CAMELLIA SHOW

The Queensland Camellia Society again asked Sogetsu ikebana to be involved in their annual Camellia Show which was held on Sunday, 25 June. In previous years they have held this show at Mt Coot-tha Auditorium but this year it was held in Peace Hall, Windsor. The hall is a large building dating back to the Second World War with plenty of parking nearby.

Unfortunately, only Catherine and I were available to participate on the day. We both did two arrangements. The attached photo shows our arrangements against the Japanese screens I brought to hide the hall's old wooded walls.

Both Catherine and I sourced our Camellia materials from various neighbours and friends. It is surprising how willing people are to share their precious plants.

The Ohara School also participated displaying some beautiful arrangements. Hopefully, next year more of us will become involved.

Pat Mackie



SOGETSU
90th
ANNIVERSARY
創流90周年

草月



Symphony of Movement

ANNUAL EXHIBITION 19th and 20th August 2017

Set up will be Thursday 17th & Friday 18th August from 9.30am.

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

Title of your arrangement :

Please indicate whether your plinth arrangement is viewed from an angle of 180 or 360 degrees ?

Floor arrangement (supply approximate space required) :

Sketch your 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 3rd 2017