



SOGETSU IKEBANA QUEENSLAND INC.

<http://www.ikebanabrisbane.org.au>

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Director's Message

As we approach the end of 2019, it is time for us, as Sogetsu Ikebana practitioners, to reflect on how we have grown, Ikebana wise, through the year.

Have we been enthusiastic students attending our classes during the Ikebana year, have we been keen participants in any workshops that have been available, have we been willing to promote Sogetsu by way of giving demonstrations or doing arrangements at various institutions/clubs or churches? From what I have observed and heard about, yes, I think we have all contributed in some way in spreading our love of Sogetsu Ikebana during the year. Congratulations!!! Let's continue to push and extend ourselves on our Ikebana journey.


I am aware that many of our Queensland members will be attending The 101st Sogetsu Annual Exhibition in Tokyo between 20 and 25 November and will also be taking the opportunity of attending Special Workshops conducted by the Sogetsu Foundation during this time. This is a wonderful way of improving and developing our individual skills and to meet and befriend fellow Sogetsu enthusiasts from all over the World.

Instead of our usual Christmas themed lunch this year, it has been decided to call the get-together "Bonen-kai" which literally means "forget the year party". Bonen-kai is a gathering held among groups of co-workers or friends to forget the troubles and woes of the past year and hope for the bright future and success of the oncoming year. Naturally, we'll also use this opportunity to celebrate our successes this year and to enjoy the friendship and company of our colleagues.

All the best to you and your families for the coming Christmas season. Let's look forward to a creative and wonderful 2020.

Keep enjoying your Ikebana.

Catherine Purdon



**Wednesday, 4 December
2019 – End of Year
Sogetsu Lunch @ Chu the
Phat, 111 Melbourne St,
South Brisbane. A
banquet lunch for \$30
and starts at 12:00**

The following is an extract from the So Newsletter 2019/10, No. 258, from the Sogetsu Foundation, by Akane Teshigahara, on *What is a large work for Sogetsu?*

"Sogetsu always specializes in large works!". This kind of comment I get at times makes me wonder if it is a compliment or actually a sarcasm. We plan out carefully in order to make the most of the wide space when we arrange a large work. We also have to take care about how to display it safely outdoors. Techniques aligned with tradition and experience make Sogetsu able to create large-sized works. It is a perfect opportunity to show the beauty of Ikebana by attracting people's attention with a large work. We can send out a message "This is Sogetsu Ikebana!" with confidence".

Table Centrepiece Arrangements for the QAGOMA Foundation's 40th Annual Dinner

Following our success in providing table arrangements for their Foundation dinner last year, the QAGOMA Foundation contacted me, inviting Sogetsu ikebana to again do the table centrepiece arrangements for their Foundation's 40th Annual Dinner on Saturday, 12 October.

After an initial meeting with two of the QAGOMA Foundation staff, some discussion at a Committee Meeting, and amongst our senior teachers, it was agreed that Sogetsu would be honoured to donate our services in constructing the table arrangements.

At previous annual dinners, the centrepiece arrangements have all been standardised, using similar flowers and vases. It was proposed that this year, instead of using the same type of vase for each table, we would source small, differently shaped ikebana containers, from our teachers and students which provided some variety in the arrangements, whilst keeping to a theme.

The criteria for the centrepieces was that the colours of the flowers had to complement the geometric artwork on the walls of the Water Mall in the Queensland Art Gallery, where the 19 tables would be set up, as well as the orange 40th Anniversary Annual Dinner Program/Menu.

There was much discussion about the type of flowers and material to be used and eventually Cycad leaves were agreed upon as the main material. As always seems to be the way, our first choice of flower, which was ordered, turned out not to be available. Subsequently orange, yellow and pink Ranunculi were chosen as the main flowers with some blue Iris added for contrast.

The arrangements were a great success and were commented upon favourably by the Gallery staff and attendees.

Of course, a project like this cannot be successful without good teamwork, and the team of Pat, Sue, Chris and Nicole worked tirelessly and very effectively to make it happen.

Catherine Purdon





Bamboo Day

Social Bamboo Day held on Saturday, 28 September

A big Thank You to Belinda Lee Snow who suggested we have a Sogetsu social day at her friend's property at Ellen Grove, a suburb south-west of Brisbane, using bamboo from a 25 metre-long grove of beautiful tall green bamboo, along the side of the house

Members, future members and friends, who turned up for the challenge of tackling the bamboo, were greatly assisted by Tyson, who had come with his chop saw to help in the cutting of the bamboo. Tyson worked tirelessly: nothing was too much trouble or bother to him. He was a welcome "new addition" to our ikebana group. Thanks to Belinda Lee for his invite!

Belinda Lee initially spoke of her recent encounters with dealing with bamboo, having used bamboo in her arrangement at our recent annual exhibition. Pat then gave us a demonstration on how to split the bamboo by way of a "splitter". Some of us took a while to accomplish this technique, but when it worked well, it was exciting to see and hear the bamboo splitting into thin strips. Pat was also the expert "star shape" bamboo fabricator, assisting and helping those who wished to go home with their own little creation.

It was a hot fine day so having lunch under the covered open-sided shed was a welcome relief and a good opportunity to reflect on the morning's achievements and plan for the remaining projects after lunch.

It was a very enjoyable get-together and a great way to bond with our fellow ikebanists.

Catherine Purdon



Sad News – Death of Phil Suffern

We as a Sogetsu “family” were very sad to hear of the sudden passing of one of our members, Phil Suffern, on 17 September, at the age of 71 years.

Phil was one of Vernisher’s students and had been a Sogetsu Ikebana member since 2017. At our recent annual exhibition in August, Phil was an enthusiastic helper with the “hands-on” classes as well as presenting a display as an individual exhibitor. Vernisher had mentioned to me in the past of Phil’s love of Ikebana, as well as his beloved orchids, and his joy in using plant material from his garden in his arrangements, where possible.

At the request of one of Phil’s daughters, three of his fellow Ikebana students did arrangements in Phil’s containers, for his funeral service. Thank you Michelle, Masako and Ikoko.

This is Phil's arrangement for the 2019 Ikebana Exhibition. He received his Third Certificate earlier this year. He will be sadly missed.

Catherine Purdon



Vernisher Wooh

Vernisher Wooh has one month left of her studies under the Norman and Mary Sparnon Scholarship in Tokyo. You can catch up with her workshop arrangements by visiting her website: ikebanavernisher.com

Social Bamboo Day



**Wednesday, 18 March
2020 – A.G.M. in the
Lecture Theatre,
Queensland Art Gallery**

**Annual Exhibition
22–23 August**

**Lismore II Branch 60 year Celebration Lunch,
Exhibition and Demonstration 24 March**

**Iemoto Akane Teshigahara
to visit Sydney in November**

One of our Teachers, Michelle Wong, was asked to do an ikebana arrangement for an event that was held at the China Construction Bank, Queen Street, Brisbane, on 25 September.

Thank you so much to Wendy Hoskin, who has willingly filled in as Newsletter Editor for Judith McCulloch. Judith's two daughters are taking her for a holiday to Japan.

