

**NEWSLETTER November 2015**  
Editor Carolyn Sandercoe

☺ **DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

Firstly, I would like to thank the Committee for all their efforts during the year leading up to our annual exhibition which was held at Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens Auditorium on Saturday and Sunday, 29 and 30 August 2015.

The numbers were well up from last year and we received many favourable

comments from the public both on the beautiful arrangements, as well as on the configuration of the Auditorium, which was enhanced by the addition of the Japanese screens placed behind many of the arrangements.

The success of the exhibition this year gives us encouragement to strive to do even better next year.

In particular, I would like to give special thanks to Vernisher Wooh, in her first year as Exhibition Chairperson. She worked tirelessly to ensure that everything went smoothly before, during and after the exhibition. Thank you, Vernisher.

The culmination of everyone's efforts was clearly evident on Saturday morning, at the opening where everything came together in the theme of "Welcome to Spring", as created by the individual displays by all our members. They were truly breathtaking. It was also fantastic seeing so many new

exhibitors this year, proving that Sogetsu Ikebana in Brisbane is moving forward.

I would also like to thank the convenors of the trade table, kitchen and door; Robyn, Ingrid and Sandra, and all those who volunteered in those areas. Thanks as well to those members who did the demonstrations, conducted the tours and also organised the hands-on classes that proved to be in high demand, and to those

partners who year in and year out support us in so many ways.

Once again, thank you all and keep enjoying your ikebana.

Catherine Purdon.

**IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

**18<sup>th</sup> Nov. 11am -1pm TCMP Workshop conducted by Chieko Klerkx "Christmas/ New Year Arrangement". Bring lunch to share together.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Dec. 11:30am - 3pm—Christmas Lunch at Nantucket Charcoal Grill and Bar outside Indooroopilly Shopping Centre in Station Rd. Booked room "The Terrace".**



Catherine's Third Teacher's Diploma presented by Pat Mackie.



Catherine's exhibition arrangement with much of the unusual material supplied courtesy of Margaret Lee's garden.

## ☺ ASSOCIATION'S ACTIVITIES

### ☺ ARRANGEMENTS AND GENERAL MEETING, 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY

Before the meeting, those present created an arrangement using “Flowers Only”. It was a challenging but rewarding exercise, followed by each member explaining a little about their arrangement and what they aimed to achieve. It was also good practice before the “Spring” exhibition where flowers were obviously going to play an important role.



Pat with mounted Komon Diploma.

Before the meeting commenced, Pat Mackie gave us a very interesting talk on her journey up the ikebana qualification ladder over many years. She pointed out how important it is to make records of all special classes, demonstrations, workshops, especially from Master Teachers and Tokyo Headquarters activities, as they will need to be noted when applying for the higher level diplomas. She only wished she had been told this when starting on her journey. So, everyone take note! Hearty congratulations to Pat on being awarded the level of Komon which is only one level lower than the highest – Riji. At General Meetings it would very good if more members would attend, to help out in the decision making and fresh ideas for your hard-working Management Committee.

Below are some of the arrangements completed before the meeting.

Carolyn Sandercoe



Chieko Kerkx



Sue Poole



Vernisher Wooh



Pat Mackie



Judith McCulloch



Carolyn Sandercoe

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### ☺ JAPANESE CULTURE DAY



This year, as part of Japan Week, a Japanese culture day was held on 16 August 2015 at the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens. Many aspects of Japanese culture were showcased in and around the Japanese garden and on the stage where



people watched dancing, drumming, etc. sitting on the grass.



Ikebana was displayed in the pavilion in the Japanese garden. Four arrangements each were done by ikebanists of Sogetsu and Ohara Schools of Ikebana.

This Japanese Culture Day is an annual event and is very popular. Our members were able to promote Sogetsu and our forthcoming Annual Exhibition by speaking and handing out information to many visitors who came to this display. Ikebana arrangements for this event were done by Chieko Klerkx, Sue Poole, Michelle Wong and Judith McCulloch. Catherine Purdon was the co-ordinator.

Judith McCulloch

## Sogetsu School



Judith McCulloch



Sue Poole



Chieko Klerkx



Michelle Wong

## Ohara School



Emiko Davidson



Misae Natsume

Carolyn Sandercoe

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## ☺ MT COOT-THA ANNUAL EXHIBITION 29-30 AUGUST 2015



Preparing arrangements outside and inside the auditorium.

As usual this year's exhibition was a great success in no small part to the dedicated leadership of our new Exhibition Chairperson Vernisher Wooh, our Convenors, Association members, spouses and the Management Committee. Nothing that requires a great deal of early preparation is ever successful without a great team who cooperate with goodwill and a lot of hard work. It was pleasing that this year there was a considerable increase in the number of attendees and it was also overall more financially profitable than last year.

A special thank you also goes to our Patron John Massy who opened our exhibition with kind and informative words. Congratulations all!



John Massy opening our exhibition after preliminary words by our Director Catherine Purdon.  
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## ☺ REPORTS BY CONVENORS

### Exhibition Chairperson:-

I would like to thank the Sogetsu Ikebana artists involved in this year's exhibition. You should be very proud of your outstanding work. This year we bought Japanese screens for the back drop of the arrangements, and we had quite a number of group arrangements this year. I think it is necessary that our exhibition continues to evolve and that we find ways to keep it fresh and interesting to our very appreciative Brisbane public. Many thanks go to those members who contributed to the success of the exhibition. This includes the people who helped out in the reception, kitchen, guided tours, trade table, demonstrations and the hands-on workshops. The exhibition was a great success. I would also like to thank Ingrid for her beautiful design of this year's exhibition flyer. Last but not least I would like to express my thanks to the exhibition committee.

Vernisher Wooh



Presentation of Jonin-Somu Diploma by Pat Mackie.  
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Vernisher's arrangement.

### Reception Convenor and Treasurer:-

I would like to thank all the volunteers who manned the desk, and their reliability in handling the takings. Many young children and several mothers with babies were keen visitors to the exhibition. The popular hands-on workshops included some of these visitors.

Sandra Pollard  
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### Kitchen Convenor:-

Many thanks to everyone who worked in the kitchen at our recent exhibition. It truly ran like a dream.

It certainly would not have been such a success without all of your hard work serving all the visitors - making tea and coffee and the endless washing up of all the cups.

Also a big thank you to all the 'bakers' who made the very yummy cakes, slices and curry puffs. Without these, we could not have offered this great service. Word is certainly getting around about our homemade goodies, as some visitors who have been before, mentioned that they look forward to it every year.

Ingrid Kivikoski



Joy and Corina in the kitchen.  
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### Guided Tours Convenor:-

Those who joined the tours commented that they really enjoyed our exhibition. They also mentioned that the theme of our exhibition "Welcome to Spring" was well presented. They felt that the colourful ikebana arrangements made them feel happy and felt that Spring was certainly present in the auditorium.

Chieko Klerkx





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### Trade Table Convenor:-

The trade table proved very popular at the annual exhibition this year with lots of ikebana related material for sale.

The most popular time for buying was Saturday morning after the demonstration, when many items were sold.

Many people asked for needle aids so in future, the committee may need to consider purchasing some for sale.

Many thanks to those who provided items for sale and those who helped with the sales. Narelle Harrison deserves a special mention, as she drove all the way from Townsville and brought boxes of ikebana books and magazines from former members of the Townsville branch.

Robyn Cuming



Fran Savill at Trade Table.



Sue V., a local potter, with beautiful unique ikebana vases.

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### Demonstrations and Hands-on Workshops Convenor:-

The demonstrations and hand-on classes have become an integral part of our annual exhibition and it is rewarding to know that our visitors really enjoy them.

This year we changed the format slightly and had three demonstrators on together.

On Saturday: Catherine, Jan and Pat, and Sunday: Judith, Sue and Chieko.

I think this worked very well and gave support to the "first timers" - Sue and Jan.



Example of Pattern Exercise.



Chieko Klerkx



Sue Poole



Judith McCulloch

Rosalie conducted the "hands-on" class on the Saturday where she used a theme taken from her recent workshop in Sydney. With the use of a kenzan she scraped the leaves of flax to produce a very interesting texture which was then used for an arrangement.

I used squashed plastic drink bottles as containers and a theme of "line & surface" using steel grass, aspidistra leaves and poppies for colour. Everyone enjoyed the challenge and some shared with their friend as I had only prepared 20 bottles. Maybe we will have to make provision for more participants next year.



Two very proud young ikebanists after Pat's hands-on class.

Many thanks to our demonstrators and workshop teachers.

Pat Mackie

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## ☺ Exhibition Arrangements

It was such a joy to take photographs of all the arrangements. Unfortunately due to limited space, not all could be included. Others may be found on our website under Exhibitions or Facebook.

### Some Group Arrangements



At entrance, Shirley Behan and Peggy Perkins.



Michelle Wong and Corina Yip



Del Blackburn, P.K. Loo & Pat Mackie



Beverly Booth & Sandra Pollard



Judith and her class's group arrangement using white containers and a unifying variety of leaves only, to create a harmonious whole of nine separate arrangements by each of her students.

### Some Individual Arrangements



Robyn Cuming



Corina Yip



Takako Timbrell



Wendy Molloy



Phil Suffern



Rosalie Turk



Sandra Pollard



Gary Yong Gee





Janet Killoran



Kimio Takahashi



Judith McCulloch



Ingrid Kivikoski



Peggy Perkins



Joy Litfin



Michelle Wong



Val, our most senior member, and husband Ken, viewing Carolyn's arrangement. They then had a delicious morning tea from the kitchen and thoroughly enjoyed both.



Pat Mackie

It was also very pleasing to see another senior member Fay Shanahan at the exhibition, Mary Brown's first student in the 1960's. Mac Brown, Mary's ikebana husband, who was ably assisted by his son Douglas, was also welcomed to the exhibition. Mac commented that the exhibition was one of the very finest he had seen! He may not have noticed that several of the containers used in the arrangements had come from Mary's collection, and at least one steel vase had been made by him.

Carolyn Sandercoe

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### ☺ SOCIAL OUTING TO "THE WILD CANARY" RESTAURANT

The social outing for lunch at "The Wild Canary" Café at the Brookfield Nursery was organised for 2 September. As this was just after our Annual Exhibition, members



Phoebe Sit



Beverly Booth

who went enjoyed the opportunity to relax in the company of fellow members and enjoy the meal.



Members enjoying a delicious lunch at The Wild Canary.

After lunch there was an opportunity for members to demonstrate "ikebana from the garden" to the general public in the nursery area. Demonstrators were Catherine Purdon, Sue Poole, Ingrid Kivikoski and Carolyn Sandercoe. The two arrangements by each demonstrator were well received by members of the audience.



Sue, using palm leaves and sunflowers, to give a strong summer effect.



Carolyn starting with tall ceramic vase, with overflowing dried and green Japanese cycad leaves and bright Bouganvillea. Her other arrangement used an upside-down glass salad bowl with young and old crow's nest fronds and an unusual Hippeastrum.

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## ☺ MEMBERS' NEWS

### VALE DOROTHY EDWARDS

'Lismore's ikebana expert'.

Dorothy passed away on 26/7/2015 at St Vincents Hospital Lismore. Attached is the obituary that appeared in The Northern Star on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015 compiled by Patricia Wilson.

"Dorothy Edwards devoted her life to creating beautiful arrangements of flowers and branches in the Japanese style called ikebana.

Having discovered this 'new' art through a 1959 article in the Australian Women's Weekly, Dorothy, a commercial florist in Lismore, used determination and ingenuity to contact Sydney-based Norman Sparnon, who had studied ikebana in Japan. He agreed to give lessons locally to interested women.

Dorothy also gained permission from Japan to form the Lismore chapter of Ikebana



Catherine demonstrating two contrasting ikebana styles.



Ingrid explaining some points about ikebana.



International. Chartered in March 1960, it was the 32<sup>nd</sup> chapter to be approved in the world and the second in Australia. It was an amazing achievement for a young woman in a small Australian city.

Dorothy's name soon became synonymous with ikebana as more and more young women joined the group and held exhibitions for public viewing. She studied with Mr Sparnon and achieved her teaching qualification in 1965.

Since then she has taught many people about Japanese floral art, not only through her classes but through countless demonstrations given to various groups.

The basic principles of ikebana are not only the rules for the creation of an arrangement but the tranquillity, serenity and patience that surrounds the author of the work. It was Dorothy's style to work calmly and slowly giving full attention to the material being used.

With her encouragement, we have supported many community organisations through displays of our work and monetary donations. These include visits from Yamato Takada and donations to Opera at the Channon, Our Lads and Rescue Helicopter.

In March this year members of the Lismore Chapter [of I.I.] held a major exhibition to celebrate the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the group being chartered. Dorothy Edwards aged 94, our founder and only life member of Ikebana International, was not only in attendance, but created a beautiful arrangement as she had done for the other 54 exhibitions held since 1960.

Dorothy Edwards died on July 26, 2015, leaving a unique legacy for all those who saw and enjoyed her work. The members of Chapter #32 salute you and say: "Thank you Dorothy – our friend and mentor."



Dorothy Edwards devoted her life to creating arrangements of flowers and branches in the Japanese style called ikebana.

Photo – Courtesy of Mirelle Merlet-Shaw.

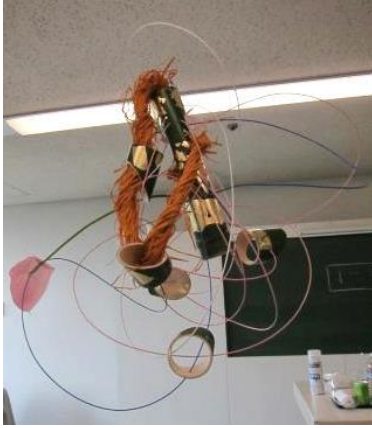
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For those new to Sogetsu Ikebana, you may be interested to know that through Dorothy's persuasion of Mr Norman Sparnon to start teaching in Lismore, he then decided to introduce lessons in Brisbane and later, further north. The rest is history! Several of his early books include arrangements he created and photographed at Dorothy's home, using the materials from her beloved garden. Our present generation of ikebanists owe much to Dorothy and her enthusiasm for this art form. Dorothy was a member of our Association as well as Chapter #32 of Ikebana International [Ed.].

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### **© Report on Tokyo Classes taken by Vernisher Wooh.**

The following photos are the arrangements created at Tokyo HQ during the Summer Seminars at the end of July this year. The first photo is taken from a class titled 'Take Off – Space Performance' given by Ken Katayama.



The other three photos are from a Rieko Takenaka class called 'Transforming Space – Changing the Appearance of the Space'.



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### ☺ Japanese Business Event at GOMA.

In mid-August, a GOMA representative contacted our Association at short notice, requesting a Sogetsu arrangement for a Japanese Business Event being held in a few days' time in the evening. As Vernisher Wooh was next on the Art Gallery roster to install her turn of the weekly arrangements, she very kindly offered to create and install an arrangement suitable for the space and

event. Her arrangement was later moved to our usual spot at the Gallery. I think you would all agree that her arrangement was masterful and beautiful. [Thank you Vernisher and well done! Ed.]



Vernisher's arrangement at GOMA.

Carolyn Sandercoe

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### Demonstration at Women's Church Fellowship

On the 18<sup>th</sup> September, I demonstrated Sogetsu Ikebana for the Women's Fellowship at my church. I have done this for a number of years now. Usually the church announcements are made in the weekly bulletin for a month. In this way, it also attracts a lot of non-members. Everyone enjoyed the demonstration and asked questions afterwards.







Included in Margaret Lee's arrangement was a beautiful specimen of flower and bud of the *Camellia pitardii*, bred by Bob Cherry near Sydney for the 50<sup>th</sup> Sogetsu Celebrations in Australia. The variety is called 'Eiha' (Reflecting Wave), the Flower Name given to Norman Sparnon by Sogetsu's first Headmaster, Sofu Teshigahara. Margaret is growing it in her superb garden at Mudgeeraba.

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Vernisher Wooh

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### 😊 A Beautiful Camellia



*Camellia pitardii* cv. 'Eiha'

### 😊 Newsletter

As Editor I would like to thank all those who contributed to this newsletter, and to Fran Savill, Judith McCulloch and Catherine Purdon who helped provide editorial improvements.

Last but not least, I would like to very sincerely thank my long-suffering husband David who helped twiddled the computer dials that remain a complete mystery to me.

**See you all at the Christmas Luncheon!**

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