

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2017

Editor Judith McCulloch

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It was great to see so many members come along to our Annual General Meeting at the Brisbane Square Library on Wednesday, 22 March. The Library again proved to be a suitable and convenient venue. An enjoyable light lunch at the nearby Café was well attended.



The only change to the Committee and Non-Committee Members from last year is the addition of a new Committee Member,

Michelle Wong, who will also be taking on the job of Historian, replacing Phoebe Sit who is busy looking after her young son.

At the AGM, Local Life Memberships were awarded to Judith McCulloch and Shirley Behan in recognition of their long and dedicated service to Sogetsu Ikebana in Queensland. Congratulations to both these wonderful ladies.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Umemura Sensei's workshops on 5 and 6 May at the Kenmore Library. These workshops should be both interesting and challenging. Details of the workshops, as well as the Registration Form, can be found later in the Newsletter.

"The flower becomes me" remains the Sogetsu Foundation's 90th Anniversary theme for 2017 and with that in mind, please note the following, which is a quote from the Sogetsu Magazine Spring 2017 No. 332:

"The flower becomes me" remains the Sogetsu Foundation's 90th Anniversary theme for 2017 and with that in mind, please note the following, which is a quote from the Sogetsu Magazine Spring 2017 No. 332:

"Flowers become human in ikebana. Since an ikebana work embodies everything of the person who creates it, when different people arrange the same material, each work becomes "me" and that's what makes ikebana so exciting".

Keep enjoying your ikebana.

Catherine Purdon

COMING EVENTS

- ♦ 5, 6 May—workshops with Seiseki Umemura
- ♦ 19 July—General Meeting, ikebana arrangements
- ♦ 19, 20 August—Annual Exhibition
- ♦ 4 October—social outing
- ♦ 15 November—workshop
- ♦ 6 December—Christmas lunch



Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor

Alan Rix was guest speaker at the AGM.

Read Sue's report on page 3

Celebrating 90 years of Sogetsu Ikebana

This was a very special visit to Sogetsu HQ. I was greeted by a wonderful exhibition created by Akane Teshigahara in collaboration with some well-known Japanese artists, very modern, so different!

Sunday was the Celebration day and everyone was excited to see Akane's demonstration. The Award ceremony began the proceedings where many overseas and Japanese members received awards for their promotion and spread of the joy of Sogetsu Ikebana. Because of the large number of recipients, a representative accepted the award on our behalf as we all stood proud to be receiving this recognition.

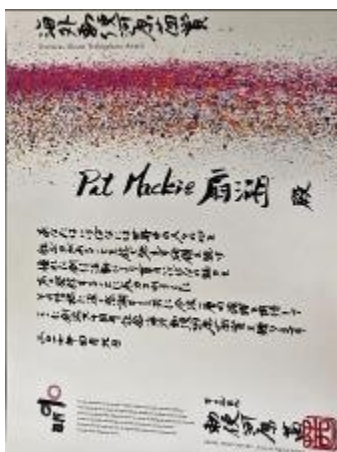
Then came the most amazing demonstration, where the Iemoto, taking full advantage of the very modern Maihama amphitheatre, showed her artistic skill to the sound of music, light and special effects. Photos were not allowed but I am sure you will see some in the upcoming magazines.

My award "Overseas Akane Teshigahara Award" had the following translation on the bottom:

"You have tirelessly devoted yourself to studies of ikebana and made tremendous efforts to widen knowledge of the appeal of Sogetsu Ikebana through your excellent creative activities, with your strong belief that ikebana has power to connect the feelings of people all over the world. In order to gratefully acknowledge your passion and wish your continued success, the Sogetsu School hereby gives you the Sogetsu 90th Anniversary Commemorative Overseas Akane Teshigahara Award."

We all received a container designed by Akane as well.

Pat Mackie



Local Life Membership Certificates and Badges - Judith McCulloch and Shirley Behan

At the Annual General Meeting, John Massy, our Patron, outlined both Judith's and Shirley's past and present ikebana history.

In Judith's case, John mentioned, among other things, that she was on the Committee from 2000 until 2016, with two years spent as Secretary and two periods as Director. Judith was involved in many celebrations and changes to the then Brisbane/Gold Coast Branch. This included assisting in compiling the information to be included in the publication "*Under the Grass Moon*" to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the Sogetsu School of Ikebana in Queensland in 2003. The book was set out by Judith on her computer. She was also instrumental in compiling the Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Inc. Rules 2011. Judith continues to teach having commenced teaching in 2007.

John noted that Shirley began ikebana classes in Townsville in 1979. When Shirley came to Brisbane around 2005, she became a valued member of the Brisbane/Gold Coast Sogetsu Committee, serving for many years; a large part of that time as Treasurer. Shirley reluctantly resigned from teaching in mid-2015, after 20 years teaching in both Townsville and Brisbane.



John presented Judith with her Local Life Membership Certificate and badge during the Annual General Meeting. As Shirley was unable to attend the AGM her Certificate and badge will be presented to her by the Director and Secretary at Shirley's

home once she has recovered from her recent knee operation.

Catherine Purdon

Sue Poole has written the following summary of the talk given at our AGM by Professor Alan Rix

Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Rix, who joined University of Queensland in 1985 teaching in Japanese Studies, was the speaker at our Annual General Meeting in March. As part of his duties for the University of Queensland, he is responsible for the UQ Art Museum. He and his wife have given philanthropic support to many museums and galleries throughout Australia including the Rockhampton University Art Gallery which has his contemporary Japanese Wood Block Prints.

He explained his strong interest in art which was inherited from his parents who collected Japanese ceramics. Professor Rix had built up a collection of Japanese Wood Block Prints and Japanese ceramics during the time he studied in Japan.

Professor Rix had researched the life of Norman Sparnon and told us of Mr Sparnon's experience as part of the allied translator service and later the British Occupation Forces. It was this experience that brought him close to Japan and impacted his future life where ikebana became his passion. He was said to have believed that after the war the world needed beauty.

The description by Professor Rix of his parents' camellia garden on the North Shore of Sydney had us all wishing we had seen it.

At the end of his informative talk, Prof Rix read a letter that he had written to his parents in 1973 when he had attended the first tea ceremony of the year with members of the Imperial family. The letter was very descriptive of the implements used and the solemnity of the occasion.

Professor Rix believes that the art of giving is vital for future generations. We were very grateful for the time that he gave to us and for his inspiring message.



**OUTDOOR WORKSHOP WITH
TETSUNORI KAWANA
MAY 2007**

Left to right: Helene Harrison,
Shirley Behan, Mr. Kawana
(with others)



Left to right: Nancy Southwell,
Mr. Kawana, Pat Mackie, Rosalie
Turk, Margaret Lee, Lily
Karmatz, Chieko Klerkx in front



Left to right: Mr. Kawana, John
Baxter, Christine Wyer, Judith
McCulloch, Ursula Pagels

WORKSHOP NOMINATION FORM

Workshops: Friday, 5 May and Saturday, 6 May 2017

Where: Kenmore Library, 9 Brookfield Road, Kenmore

Held by: Umemura Sensei who always has his wonderful experience to share with us.

Workshop 1: Friday, 5 May – 10.00 am – 12.30 pm

Theme: Lesson 5-18 Textbook 5 – Composition Expressing a Movement

You will be required to create a composition by developing its idea from a verb of movement. Rise, climb, expand, roll, jump run...There are so many verbs indicating movement. Choose one and make an arrangement by which it can be felt, although the plants don't visibly move.

You will need to bring a container, kenzan or downstick and materials to complete this arrangement.

Lunch: 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm; Participants will provide their own lunch. Morning tea provided.

Workshop 2: Friday 5 May – 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm

Theme: Lesson 5-7 Textbook 5 – Composition Using Unconventional Materials.

Use only non-plant materials to explore a composition which cannot be made in an ordinary arrangement of plants.

Paper, cloth, clay, plastic, lead sheet, aluminium, wire, bubble wrap can be worked on by hand to create shapes. You can use a container as one of the components for the composition, not just for making an arrangement in it as usual.

You will need to bring all the materials required to complete this arrangement.

Workshops 3 and 4: Saturday, 6 May

10.00 am – 4.00 pm This is an all-day workshop, in two parts.

Theme: Create, Re-create.

In the morning, you will create an arrangement using any container and materials. In the afternoon, using the first materials as a focal point, you may add materials, with the same or a different container, to change the look of the arrangement.

Lunch: 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm – Please bring your own lunch.

✂-----

REGISTRATION FORM

Name

I will attend the following workshops: Please circle:

Workshop 1- \$25.00 Workshop 2 - \$25.00

Workshops 3 & 4 (all day) - \$50.00

We would encourage participants to attend all workshops.

Observer Cost: \$15.00 per workshop

I have enclosed the workshops costs of \$.....

Please return your completed form and money by Monday 1 May, to

The Secretary, Sue Poole, P.O. Box 1917, Toowong Q 4066