



SOGETSU IKEBANA QUEENSLAND INC.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/ikebanabrisbane>

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Director's Message

Welcome to another Sogetsu Ikebana year. May 2020 be filled with the things that make you happy! Of course, one of those things should be to continue getting enjoyment and pleasure out of attending regular classes and spreading the spirit of ikebana within the community.

Our End of Year Lunch at Chu The Phat Restaurant, South Brisbane, was well attended. It was a great opportunity to catch up with fellow ikebanists who we might not see much of during the year, as well as meeting some of our newer members.

There is a change in venue, this year, for our Annual General Meeting, which is on Wednesday, 18 March. It will be held in the Lecture Theatre in the Queensland Art Gallery. Our Guest Speaker will be Elin Dahlin, Sogetsu Ikebana Teacher from Sweden. Elin will share with us her wide depth of knowledge and experiences of ikebana from another country. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

On Tuesday, 24 March, some Sogetsu Queensland members and students will be going to Ballina, in northern New South Wales to attend the 60th Birthday Celebrations of Ikebana International Lismore Chapter #32, at the Ballina RSL Club. There will be ikebana arrangements on display, demonstrations by Seiseki Umemura followed by lunch. This will be a great opportunity to meet some of our old ikebana friends from the other States.

Instead of the usual Friday/Saturday workshops, held in the middle of the year, Vernisher Wooh, the recent Norman and Mary Sparnon Endowment Scholarship recipient, will conduct workshops over two Saturdays at the Kenmore Library, on 16 and 23 May. This will be a wonderful chance for our members to benefit from some of the knowledge Vernisher undoubtedly obtained during her three months stay in Tokyo from September last year.

Saturday, 22 February 10:00am
In-House Workshop –
Chieko Klerkx

@Perrin Park Community Hall, Josling
Street, Toowong

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

Lismore Ikebana
Chapter #32
60th Diamond Year

Demonstration
by the esteemed
YOSHIRO UMEMURA

Exhibition

Demonstration

Luncheon



When: Tuesday 24th March 2020 - 10.30am

Where: Spinnakers Restaurant Ballina RSL

Cost: \$65.00 per person plus booking fee

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/537957

or

need more information contact

Kaye 0421 909 937 / kayep@thecellar.com.au

Glenda 0427 593 400 / acrabah@nor.com.au

Dianne 0413 896 494 / greganddimorison@bigpond.com

DATES TO NOTE:

In-House Workshop – Saturday, 22 February

A.G.M. – Wednesday, 18 March

I.I. Lismore Chapter #32 celebrations –
Tuesday, 24 March

Workshops by Vernisher Wooh – Saturday,
16 May and Saturday, 23 May

General Meeting – Saturday, 25 July

Annual Exhibition – Saturday, 22 and Sunday,
23 August

Finally, around this time last year, one of our senior Registered Sogetsu Teachers, Rosalie Turk, decided to take a 12 month break from teaching. She now intends to give up teaching on a permanent basis. Rosalie, who came from Townsville, has been a long time Sogetsu member and Teacher. Her time in Brisbane has seen her being a very active and valued member of the Management Committee for many years, and she was our Director in 2008 and 2009. Rosalie remains a member of our Association and intends to stay involved in Sogetsu

Ikebana where she can. I wish Rosalie and her husband all the very best for a happy and healthy future.

Keep enjoying your Ikebana.

Catherine

Celebrate 60 Conference – Celebrating our 60th Anniversary – New South Wales Branch of Sogetsu

Just a reminder that application for registration of the above will be posted on the New South Wales website: www.sogetsu-ikebana.org.au on 1 March 2020. Programme dates are: 9 – 13 November 2020.

Welcome Cocktail Party on Monday, 9 November; **Workshops** on Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 and 11 November, **Exhibition of Ikebana** on Thursday and Friday, 13 November, **Performance** by The Iemoto Akane Teshigahara and **Sayonara Dinner** on Friday, 13 November.

Recipient of 2019 Autumn Imperial Decorations – Mr Ross David McKinnon AM

On Sunday, 3 November 2019, the Government of Japan announced the foreign recipients of the 2019 Autumn Imperial Decorations. Mr Ross David McKinnon AM is among this year's foreign recipients and, in recognition of his contributions towards introducing Japanese cultures and promoting the understanding of Japan in Australia, he is awarded The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette.

As Curator-in-Charge of the Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha, Mr McKinnon recognises the cultural significance of the Japanese Gardens in the Japanese Pavilion at the World Expo 1988 in Brisbane, and played an important role in its preservation and relocation to the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens. Since relocation, Mr McKinnon continued to support Japanese cultural groups and events through the use of the gardens and made great contributions to introducing Japanese culture and promoting the understanding of Japan in Australia.

Published in the Consulate Updates, December 2019 put out by the Consulate-General of Japan, Brisbane.



MEANINGS OF THE PLANTS THAT ARE THE ACCEPTED SYMBOLS OF THE CALENDAR MONTHS OF THE YEAR, IN JAPAN

January: Pine

Pine is one of the 'three friends of winter', used in arrangements made for the New Year. The other 'friends' are bamboo and flowering plum. Pine, considered the king of trees, symbolizes long life, courage and endurance because it is evergreen; it can grow in a crevice on a bleak mountainside, and it is a particularly strong and long-living tree. Some of Japan's most treasured trees of this species are over seven hundred years old. Their long life and beauty is undoubtedly the result of the great care and attention lavished on them, for their lovely lines are not entirely nature's work but largely the result of years of careful pruning and training. Different types of pine have different numbers of needles in each group. The twin-needle pine, in particular, is used to convey special wishes on the occasion of a marriage.

February: Plum

Plum blossom, one of the 'three friends of winter', is not the cultivated type, which bears the sweet fruit we know in the west; it is the wilder variety, the fruits of which are inedible. It is one of the first trees to flower in the New Year, and so it ends the dreariness of winter. It symbolizes beauty, virtue and nobility. The blossom is highly valued for its fragrance. Branches of plum are often used as subjects in old prints and hanging scrolls, because with age they become gnarled, twisted, moss-covered and very beautiful. Old branches are saved and used again and again with other materials.

March: Peach

The peach blossom is associated with femininity. It symbolizes perfection and is adored for its very soft and delicate flowers. It is the traditional flower used for the Girls' Festival, and should be used in its natural state, not twisted and shaped. Small arrangements of peach branches are made to stand on the lower steps of a stand, made especially to hold the dolls displayed at this time. It is often combined with the yellow flowers of wild mustard for this festival. The arrangement conveys a wish for all the feminine attributes of gentleness, beauty and happiness for the daughters of the house. Many weddings take place during this month, when the blossom is at its most attractive stage.

April: Cherry

The cherry blossom symbolizes perfection and is worshipped and glorified as is no other tree in Japan. The whole nation celebrates when the cherry trees bloom, and hundreds of poems have been written about cherry blossom; it is the national flower of Japan. The blossoms are rarely used in flower arrangements for they fall quickly, and this could introduce a note of sadness. If used they are combined with evergreens and not with other flowering materials, since their beauty is considered to be too pure to mix with anything else. The trees are not of the fruit-producing variety, but the blossom is sometimes collected to make tea.

May: Peony

The peony stands for shyness and prosperity, because its bud is slow to open, and the flower retains its beauty for such a long time. In China the peony is considered the king of all the flowers. In Japan it is also highly thought of and is one of the three flowers accorded royal rank. The herbaceous and the tree peony are so similar that they are referred to as 'twin sister flowers'. When using them in arrangements it is usual to have one full-opened bloom amid buds and half-opened flowers. They are usually arranged alone rather than with other plants.

June: Iris

Included in the Iris family are flowers with both male and female attributes. It is however the *Iris ensata* which is most famous in Japan; it is the flower used for the Boys' Festival, because the narrow swordlike leaves symbolize courage, the tall straight stems denote uprightness, and the mauve and white flowers nobility. The *Iris sanguinea* (Siberian Flag) is considered to be feminine. Many arrangements are made with iris flowers, and when they are available the leaves are used as abundantly. One of the most popular arrangements in the west and one which is always considered to be very oriental, is that in which irises and their leaves are placed in graduated groups in a large shallow container. The fixing media, usually pinholders, are covered with small, smooth-worn stones and polished pebbles to increase the impression of a water garden.

July: Morning Glory

The short-lived flower of one of the most prolific flowering plants is called the 'the poor man's flower'. The Japanese are very enthusiastic about this plant, and many large and beautiful varieties have been developed. The blooms last a little longer if cut before the sun reaches them, and they are usually arranged alone. The morning glory symbolizes affection and attachment. An old legend tells of a man cutting down all but one of the morning glory plants in his garden so that the beauty of a single flower could be seen in solitary splendour from the tokonoma in the tea house.

August: Lotus

The lotus plant is closely associated with Buddhism, and ceremonial arrangements for the temples were often made from its flowers and leaves. One of the first rikkwa arrangements, in which only one type of material was allowed, was made with lotus flowers and leaves. The phases of existence were expressed by using its seed heads, open and furled leaves, and open flowers and buds. In Japan people gather in parties to view the flowers, which open before dawn and close when the sun rises. The dried seed pods are very popular in arrangements of dried materials; they can also be used at Christmas, when the holes in them can be filled with brightly coloured beads to make an attractive decoration.

September: Seven Grasses

This collection of grasses symbolizes the coming of autumn. They appear in many Japanese paintings and have been the inspiration of many poems. A festival held on the seventh day on the seventh month is called the Festival of Nanakusa. The grasses are gathered at this time, on what would usually be the last county walk before autumn sets in. In Japan, flower arrangement materials are divided into trees and grasses – therefore anything that is not a tree is a grass, and flowers are included in the grasses. The usual collection of grasses would include clover, pampas, vine, pink, patrina, thoroughwort and bellflower.

October: Chrysanthemum

The chrysanthemum is the emblem of the Imperial court of Japan and symbolizes peace, nobility and long life. The Japanese have applied a great deal of horticultural skill to the development of this plant since it was introduced into their country from China, in the eighth century. It is said that there are now more than five thousand varieties in existence. The leaves are often almost as beautiful as the blooms, and should be handled with care, for they are just as easily damaged. If some petals should fall, drop white candle wax in the space to prevent other petals from falling. Chrysanthemums last longer if the stems are broken under water than if they were cut. They should be stood in at least six inches of water overnight to harden.

November: Maple

The message of the maple is 'faithful to the end'. The leaves have to be drastically thinned to bring out the beauty of the line of the branch. As some varieties soften very quickly, it helps if you harden them for twelve hours in salted water (one tablespoon of salt to a quart of water). The leaves will benefit from an occasional spray with clear water. The lovely autumn tints of these leaves can be captured for winter use if the leaves are dried in one of the new crystal mixtures -one or two days is usually long enough for this. When dried, the leaves are so light that they can be glued back into position on their original branches.

December: Camellia

The camellia is the emblem of pride, contentment and domesticity. It is undoubtedly a plant of exquisite beauty, but until recent varieties were bred to overcome its sad habit of dropping its blooms, it had to be avoided, for the falling bloom could be taken as an omen of fall in prestige, or even of sudden death. The leaves can be wiped with milk to retain their polished look. If you are stripping the leaves to obtain a line, remember that a leaf is necessary to draw the water up to the flowers, so leave one just below them. Single flowers are often used in chabana arrangements. Cut branches will keep for months if left standing in water in a cool, dark place.

Sourced by Catherine Purdon



Iemoto Akane's *Kanreki* (60 birthday)

In March 2020, the Iemoto will turn sixty and in Japan your 60th birthday is called "*Kanreki*" which literally means 'full circle of the calendar' and celebrated by wearing a red hat and vest. *Kanreki* is seen as one of the most important milestones in life in Japan.

On Sunday, 1st March 2020 "*Akane Festa*" will be celebrated in the Sogetsu Kaikan with 60 ikebana works on display along with celebration videos projected in the Sogetsu Kaikan on the day. A Celebration Gathering will also be held in the Sogetsu Hall, with a buffet lunch served after the special ceremony.

Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland wishes the Iemoto *Happy 60th Birthday* and even more prosperity and good health to continue leading the Sogetsu School.

The following is an Important Notice from the President of Sogetsu Foundation, Akane Teshigahara, as printed in the *So Newsletter* 2019/12, No. 259.

Dear Sogetsu members overseas,

At present, Sogetsu School is striding steadily toward its 100th anniversary and is committed to keep playing a responsible role in ikebana society.

With this in mind, Sogetsu Foundation, the parent organization of Sogetsu School, has engaged in various activities to bring more people into ikebana.

The first Iemoto, Sofu Teshigahara, thought, as long as humans live in harmony with plants, love and respect plants, ikebana would be accepted not only in Japan but also in the entire world as ikebana expresses human beings through plants. Based on this belief, Sofu dedicated himself to various creative activities both at home and abroad thanks to your strong support and was highly evaluated in many countries. These activities were continued by all the following Iemotos. As a result, a traditional Japanese culture of ikebana has become popular in almost every country,

Our world is becoming culturally borderless today, and it will surely be more so in the future. This is an age in which anyone in any part of the world can study Sogetsu ikebana at any time. To ensure the environment for every member to learn and enjoy ikebana more, Sogetsu Foundation will continue to work hard and show the special beauty of ikebana to everyone possible across the world.

Since the foundation of Sogetsu School, its activities have been fully supported by the involvement of the members. In order to continue and improve these activities, we need to ask for further support from all the Sogetsu members overseas as well as those in Japan.

Your kind understanding and cooperation with our revision of the membership fees will be highly appreciated.

We, Sogetsu Foundation, promise to work our hardest to make the maximum use of this for the 100th anniversary of Sogetsu School and years ahead.

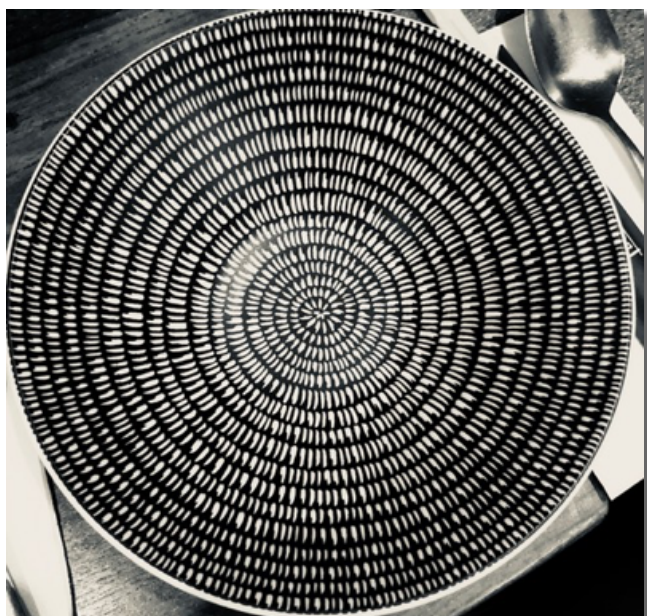


Photos from our End of Year Function

Our Annual End of Year Function saw thirty-six members attend a banquet luncheon at Chu the Phat on Wednesday 4th December 2019.

Judging from the noise level, a very enjoyable luncheon was had. Thanks to John Massy, our Patron, for his donation of raffle prizes which were well received. The decision as to who won the raffle items was somewhat unconventional, but it worked!

Thanks to Catherine for the organisation of the luncheon and to Nicole for the photographs that caught the fun of the luncheon.





Our family through photos.



The first and second photos are from November 2019 Sogetsu's 101st Exhibition at Spiral Garden. The venue was designed by Okazaki Sensei. The third photo was my wall hanging arrangement at the exhibition. Vernisher Wooh



Certificates recieved by Michelle and Vernisher's students.



Not really an arrangement, but I made this Christmas tree from bits and pieces in my Ikebana stash. Ann



ann downey

*Seasons Greeting from
Mavis Beer,
Arcare Townsville*

*The man in the red suit is
someone I met at Arcare*



Japan November 2019

Trips to Japan have always been keenly anticipated but this trip was something special. It began with a journey with my daughter in parts of Japan and included meeting up with Judith McCulloch and her two daughters Jenny and Vanessa at Sogetsu HQ to participate in the International class, which was our daughters first class. The other highlight of this trip was attending classes with Vernisher and my wonderful students Gillian Ann and Karin.

I felt very proud when these students produced great Ikebana appreciated by the teachers and together we gained the title of "Team Australia"

Pat Mackie

PS Apparently the bottles were 'decoration'! (Editor)



Searching for that special container.



Relaxing after a hard day at a Tokyo restaurant.

Pat and some of her students attending a class at Headquarters in November.



Dress ups!



Thank you to Judith for her many years as editor of Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland's newsletter. The newsletter is a chance to keep up with current events, ensure we know what is coming up and share the joy we all feel through ikebana. Newsletter items are always welcome. Contact me through whosk2@gmail.com
Regards

Wendy Hoskin Editor