



SOGETSU IKEBANA QUEENSLAND INC.

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Director's Message-November 2021

Chris Wyer

As our Ikebana year is coming to a close, I wonder if you have ever asked yourself or others "What is it that draws us into Sogetsu Ikebana?" I received my first certificate in 1976 and I am still drawn to and surprised by the beauty that Ikebana offers. Jot down the immediate thoughts that come to you of what keeps you connected to Ikebana. Easy isn't it? Your responses should confirm why we continue to learn from our teachers and others and continue to stay connected with Sogetsu Ikebana in many different ways. Our talented and qualified teachers know the importance of skills and technique so that creativity of ideas is able to flow a little more freely and should I say successfully.

Member activities

Our last workshop 'Surprising Containers' has just been enjoyed through interesting Ikebana, challenging oneself, a more developed sense of observation of a container, laughter and friendship. Members who participated in the Ceramics workshop have now collected their containers. There were many surprised faces to see the success of their efforts. The very rewarding Underwater workshop - meaning arranging underwater in glass containers - was well attended by our members and successful. Working with QAGOMA providing table arrangements for the Annual Foundation Dinner was another rewarding experience. Many more opportunities have been seized upon to bring this beautiful art to the public. Our awareness and understanding of 'place' has been deepened by participating in this work in public spaces.

Donated containers

We have been donated many Ikebana containers owned by Lorraine Angel, a Brisbane member whose teaching certificate is dated 1968. I thank her daughter very much for passing these containers on to us to share with other ikebana enthusiasts. Donating containers to Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland is a very generous gift to our organisation.

Finally, one more important time to enjoy each other's company outside of a workshop or lessons is the Sogetsu End of Year (Bonen Kai) Lunch. I look forward to greeting the many members who are able to share in this celebration of friendship.

Warm Regards

Chris

Dates to Remember

Association Lunch

Wednesday Dec 8

Libertine, The Barracks

12 Noon

**Photographs for the Christmas
Edition**

Please send in a favourite arrangement
whosk2@gamil.com

Container Workshop led by Pat Mackie

Julie Lumsdale

Saturday 20 November was the last workshop for 2021 and was called Surprising Containers. Sensei Pat Mackie conducted the workshop.

Step 1 was choosing a number which related to the containers set up on the tables. We were asked to "show off the container" using only our own plant material - no swapping! Mostly we focused on the material rather than the container which was evident by the feedback from Pat. She did give us hints by saying if you have more material than container you need to go back to using two plant pieces only. We were also not allowed to move the container - something new to us too!

Step 2 happened after 30 minutes of "showing off the container" in the participant's view. Pat modified the arrangements we had made to reflect the brief. Some examples included using flowers inside the container looking out of holes in the container; taking excess plant material out of the container so more of it could be viewed; bringing the height of the plant material lower to the container mouth without obscuring the unique openings; enhancing the split; extending the line of the material so it was not interfering with the container, etc.

Step 3 started with a small break before everyone changed tables and therefore arrangements and containers. The plant materials from the second step were to stay and not be moved. We then enhanced the arrangements by showing off the material using our own material only (not necessarily what had been used before). Whilst we were more familiar with this concept, complementing someone else's arrangement required a bit of contemplation.

Pat reviewed the new arrangements after 30 minutes - there was praise for this work demonstrating we were in much more familiar territory. Pat also commented that sometimes we spend too much time perfecting our arrangements and in doing so we lose the sparkle that comes with impromptu arranging. Spend time thinking about your idea and then do your arrangement quickly.

Everyone had been waiting on their successful "bid" for containers for sale. Some envelopes had few requests, others were popular. So the draw brought a great deal of happiness for the winners (you could only win one container, you forfeited any wins after the first win) and for the unsuccessful and those who had to forfeit I am sure there was some regret. Congratulations to all participants who were successful.

And a great session was had due to the creativeness of Pat - thank you so much for a fun day.



I thoroughly enjoyed Peter Biddulph's Ikebana Ceramics Workshop held at the Brisbane Institute of Art, and would highly recommend it!

I have been studying Ikebana with Chieko Klerx since 2015 and have been fortunate to use a variety of her amazing containers, as well as acquiring a few of my own over the years. I have always been intrigued at how the Moribana and Nageire ceramics had been crafted, so I jumped at the opportunity to try it for myself.

Peter is a master craftsman and a very patient teacher. He guided us along each step, providing practical tips about how to get the best results. And it's a good thing that he did, because I hadn't worked with clay since Grade 10 art class in 1995! Luckily it came back pretty quickly, especially how therapeutic clay is to work with.

During the first lesson, we learnt how to construct a shallow Moribana and a tall Nageire container. Peter discussed various clays, methods of construction and firing techniques. Everyone enjoyed having a go on the giant clay slab roller, a machine which looks like an oversized pasta roller. I think that's when the food talk started, and continued into our second lesson two weeks later. During this lesson, not only did we glaze our containers (a task involving several people and a lot of laughter), but we also ended up having an in depth discussion about food.

All in all, I thoroughly enjoyed taking home two beautiful and functional Ikebana containers as well as meeting a group of people who are as passionate about Ikebana, ceramics and food as I am.



Water and Glass Workshop led by Gary Yong Gee



They say a picture tells a thousand words. Thankyou Gary for a wonderful workshop. Listening to other participants, we all agreed that the learnings we took away from your workshop were many and varied.



Queensland Art Gallery Annual Foundation Dinner

Chris Wyer

Late in September, Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland were invited to work with the QAGOMA Foundation to create 20 table arrangements for their Annual Foundation Dinner. The table arrangements were to be themed in response to the 'European Masterpieces' exhibition with each arrangement being similar. The setting for this evening dinner was around the Water Mall in the Gallery. What a privilege!

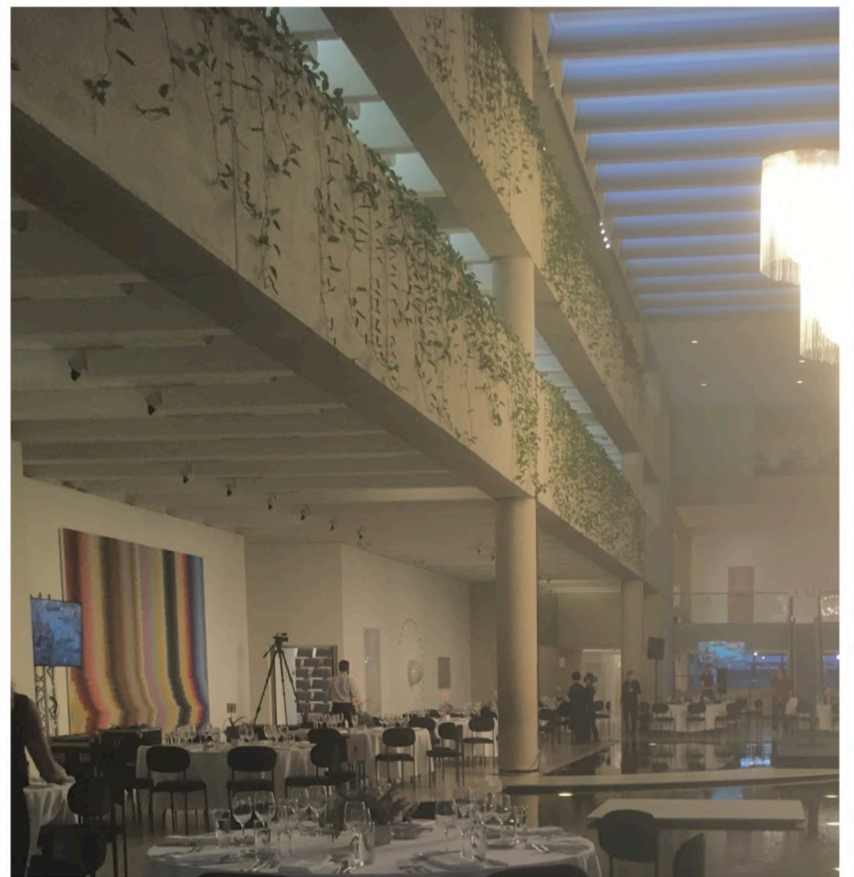
This year our August exhibition was titled 'My Ikebana'. It was now time to delete the 'My' and create Ikebana as a response to art. Our brief included dusty pink, deep yet soft blue and arches, among other possibilities which were significant themes running through the European Masterpieces. Vernisher lead the team of Chris, Ikuko and Masako. Firstly we considered the materials and design...or was it the design and then the materials?? Concepts were presented to the Foundation for consideration from which one was selected.

Placing the completed arrangements on each table surrounding the Water Mall in the soft evening light of the Queensland Art Gallery and then stepping back to view the public space in which they were placed, was absolutely beautiful and breath-taking.

Masako reflected, *"It was a very good experience for me and I was so excited to see the results."*

Ikuko reflected, *"It was surely a good experience"*.

Given this opportunity to consider place and ikebana allowed us to 'create a work through interaction between the location and the viewers' - a truly wonderful learning experience.



Love of Ikebana + hard work = achievement

Congratulations to Vernisher's students, Kyoko Uchida, Maria McRae, Joanne Russell and Masako Morrison on receiving various certificates from Japan.

Joanne receiving her
Fourth Certificate



Maria receiving her
Fourth Certificate



Masako receiving her Teacher's
Fourth Grade Certificate



Kyoko receiving her third
Certificate



On 24th September, our long time member Maureen Flynn came to Redland Museum to watched my Ikebana demonstration.



Guidelines for Newsletter Contributions

I hope this will assist those of you who wish to share information with members about your journey with Sogetsu Ikebana. Our association reports annually on the activities we take to educate the wider world on the joy of Sogetsu Ikebana, and these are showcased in our newsletter. This newsletter is an important part of educating our members on what we are all doing and how we reach out to others. The newsletter is not a space to promote the sale of goods or services.

Following are the guidelines for our newsletter:

- The title of your article will be placed in a text box
- Please keep your story to a maximum of one A4 page of text including photographs
- A maximum of four photographs usually although this maybe fluid. Ensure your photo has been cropped and edited prior to submitting
- Borders 1.27 cm
- Font Comic Sans
- Font size 11
- Use referencing if you are quoting the work of others

Articles are to be to the Editor in the first week of the month of publication. In 2022 the Newsletter will be published in February, April, June, September, November and December (A short Christmas edition)

As Editor I may need to alter articles to fit the newsletter. Some photos may not be included.

Please feel free to ring me to discuss your article.

The newsletter depends on members' participation. It also adds to the archives of our association.

Please think of participating.

Our final newsletter will come out just prior to Christmas and will largely be photographs.

Teachers can you

1. forward some photos of your breakups if you had any
2. any highlights you may wish to share with our members

Students can you forward any photographs you have of your Ikebana Christmas.

Regards

Wendy

Newsletter Editor

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take note