

March 2022



Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Inc. Newsletter

The Japanese art of flower arranging

Director's Message

Welcome back to an exciting year of Ikebana whether this be, attending classes, arranging in public or private spaces or viewing beautiful arrangements by others. Now that our borders have opened travelling and how we resume our day to day lives has changed as our personal choices of movement have expanded.

In Akane's article in the first So Magazine for 2022, Akane was preparing to "RELEASE" her Solo Exhibition for 20th Anniversary at the Sogetsu Kaikan Annex Atelier. I was personally encouraged by the Sogetsu Atelier staff members saying when faced with deliberation, changes in mind and hesitancy, "Don't think it's impossible! Let's give it a try first!"

Let's make ways where we too can work together, maybe as the artist or as the encourager or the assistant to make our ikebana a connected experience to assist in the challenges that sometimes confront us.

Dates to Remember

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday March 23

10:30AM

QAG Lecture Theatre

Followed by lunch at your
expense

www.ikebanabrisbane.org.au

Instagram: ikebanabrisbane

Facebook: sogetsu.ikebana.qld.inc

Director's Message continued

Spring 2016

Our year long program for 2022 is looking very exciting as we consider our activities to develop our skills and thoughts for progressive and creative ikebana. This year's workshops will have our 60th celebrations for 2023 in mind, so attending these workshops will help with developing new skills and different ways of thinking. Once the program is available mark the dates in your diaries.



The end of year lunch on 8 December was held at Libertine, the Barracks. It was attended by many members including our Patron John Massy and his wife Karen. Much laughter and catching up made it a very successful social gathering to end our Ikebana year. Well done Ann, who, after a long journey of seeking a suitable restaurant, recommended Libertine.

Just a reminder our AGM will be held at the Queensland Art Gallery Lecture Theatre on 23 March beginning at 10:00. Our guest speaker will be Rhiannon Walker who is Associate Conservator at the Gallery. After meeting with Rhiannon I am confident that an engaging session is assured.

Continue developing your ikebana, sometimes being the artist, sometimes being an encourager, sometimes assisting and sometimes the viewer to feel its beauty.
Take care

Chris Wyer
Director

Vale: Kimio Takahashi

Sadly Kimio Takahashi passed away on 13 February 2022 aged 74.

John Baxter and Kimio met at a Floral Expo in Osaka in 1990. While in Japan Kimio did Western floral arrangements and it was when he came to Australia in 1994 that he took up Ikebana. He has been a Sogetsu Ikebana member since 1996. Kimio also was a potter and made some beautiful pieces that were exhibited at some pottery shows.

Vernisher adds that, Kimio was always an excellent helper at any time, particularly at the exhibitions. No job was too big or too small, he was always there to the end to help. Chieko

remembers that Kimio was a very sensitive, kind and very talented Japanese friend.

Not only was he talented with flowers but painting and pottery. He explored his potential. He will be sadly missed.

John sent this photo of Kimio with an arrangement by Robyn Cuming that used one of his pottery containers. Most of his work was on his website which has sadly been closed down. Thank you for the photo John.

Thank you to both Kimio and John for your contributions to our small community.



Vale: Beryl Rasmussen

Beryl Rasmussen (late of Warwick) passed away 26 December 2021 aged 80.

Beryl's interest in ikebana began in Melbourne. She moved to Warwick in 1981 when several years later she visited an Ikebana exhibition in Brisbane and met Mary Brown... and the rest is history.

Beryl was creative and artistic and often focused her work on the Australian outback. She found every lesson, event, workshop and exhibition inspiring. Beryl was an Ikebana member for many years. We thank her for her valuable contribution to Sogetsu Ikebana.

This is my final edition of the newsletter for our association. I wish to thank all those members who have contributed to the newsletter as I pass the mantle to our Deputy Director, Amanda Terblanche.

Amanda's email address is amandaikebana@icloud.com.

I look forward to upcoming editions of the newsletter and urge members to continue to contribute to our newsletter. Remember there are past newsletters available on our website that not only are a wealth of information, but also show how the Art of Sogetsu Ikebana continues to evolve.

Again, thanks
Wendy

Materials in Focus

LOTUS - JAPANESE FLOWER

SYMBOL FOR MID-SUMMER

This article was originally written by member and botanist, Caroline Sandercoe for a 2014 newsletter. Thanks Caroline.

The Sacred Lotus (*Nelumbo Nucifera*) is native to Asia and Australia and grows in still waters of ponds and river banks. It has many edible parts and the Buddha is depicted as sitting on the flower. The picture to the right comes from a book of mine first published in 1937 by Alfred Koehn entitled "Japanese Flower Symbolism" Lotus Court Publications, Peking, China. It is a scholarly work by a foreigner who lived in Japan for many years, studied ikebana and left before WWII. All the illustrations are hand tinted in colour and the book is one continuous length of paper, concertinaed, and then hand-bound by needle with string. All ikebana illustrations are in the Ikenobo style and this depicts a Rikka arrangement. (Sogetsu was only 10 years old at that time). The following quote comes from the opposite page to the illustration.

"Today rise early if you want
To see the knight of blooms.
Shōha Flower of
Midsummer, symbol of
Truth, Perfection, and

Immortality, the Lotus, its roots embedded in sluggish channels or muddy pools, rises above the water's surface, its broad, deep green leaves and delicate petals always fresh and clean. As a symbol in flower arrangement, the Lotus is one of the most adaptable, as the three states of existence should always be depicted; the Past by the seed and wide open leaves, the Present by the flower and half-open leaves, and the Future by the bud and the closed leaves. Buddhism has chosen the Lotus as its supreme emblem because it suggests a pure and lovely spirit lifting itself above worldliness to live in peaceful serenity."

Lotus arrangement That sounds like a good note to finish on, to encourage our practice of ikebana and help lead us to a state of serenity. I hope to bring you other pages of the book as they suit our seasons and availability of flowers. Those members who live in the warmer parts of Queensland no doubt have their patch of Lotus already eyed out for use. For further reading on the Lotus refer to Ikebana International Vol.44 Issue 3 1999- 2000 "The Jewel in the Lotus" by Janet Leigh Foster. Ed.



Lotus arrangement