



SOGETSU IKEBANA QUEENSLAND INC.

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Newsletter February 2023

Editor Amanda Terblanche



Director's Message

Chris Wyer

Welcome in 2023.

This is the year we celebrate 60 years of Sogetsu ikebana in Queensland.

We are including in this year's celebration thoughts of the past, present and the future. Hence this year's theme, 'Our Journey'. To have you all on this journey with us is wonderful.

The programme organised for this year is exciting and forward thinking. Pat Mackie and Ann Downey detail two of the celebratory events below. In addition, our two day workshop in June will be led by Christopher James from Melbourne. Christopher is a Riji and a Norman and Mary Sparnon Endowment Scholarship recipient.

Together these three events give us time for revision, extension and socialising with other members. So mark these events in your 21st century digital calendar with pop up reminders! Try not to look at these events in isolation, but as a part of a journey of celebration.

Iemoto Akane Teshigahara writes in the inspiring magazine, *Sogetsu 2022 Winter*, No. 355, p. 87

*"When things are changing slowly and quietly
there is no need to push or rush.
By sincerely tackling what you need to do now
making progress one thing at a time,
the landscape around you will change,
and you will be renewed before you even realize it is happening."*

Akane talks of her thoughts of becoming 60 and her reflection on reaching this milestone. I see several of her thoughts that apply to us as individuals and as members of our organisation as we continue our journey. This milestone of 60 years we as an ikebana organisation have also reached this year.

Many of you know Mildred Goldsmith (Riji 1991) and she also was my first ikebana teacher.

She has just celebrated her 102nd birthday.

Her ikebana life resembles what Akane is saying. She still engages occasionally with ikebana practically and views Ikebana Fridays online with joy and curious thought. As one of the original Norman Sparnon students at Bread House, Gregory Terrace, she too is still being 'renewed'.

As you will also see from this newsletter, our members continue to offer Sogetsu ikebana to the public in various ways. Many thanks to all who reach out through learning and doing.

Stay in touch, a busy and exciting year ahead

Chris



Mildred Goldsmith
102nd birthday



Coming events in 2023 to diarise

15 March

Past and Present Members, as well as Students Celebrate Art of Sogetsu Ikebana, guided by Pat Mackie (Riji)

22 March

Annual General Meeting

9 & 10 June

Workshops by Christopher James (Riji) from Melbourne

29 July

General meeting

24 August

Livestreamed Ikebana demonstration by Master Instructor of Sogetsu HQ Nakamura Sozan, followed by:

Celebration with drinks and finger food at GOMA Bistro on the river

!!! Better get your tickets asap !!!

26 & 27 August

Annual Exhibition at Mt Coot-tha Auditorium

6 December

Sogetsu End of Year Lunch



Past and Present Members and Students celebrate and display

“Our Journey” arrangements

Our first event celebrating our 60th Anniversary of Sogetsu Ikebana in Queensland takes place on Wednesday 15 March 2023 from 10 am to 2 pm. The venue will be the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens Auditorium, that you know so well.

Our chosen theme is “**Our Journey**” and as an important participant in that **Journey** you are invited to join past and present members, with present students, to celebrate our wonderful art of Sogetsu ikebana.

The auditorium tables will be used for arrangements, so no need to bring your plinths. We ask you to create a freestyle of your choice on the table or floor or in groups, if you wish.

All arrangements will be displayed for us to admire as we socialise over a light lunch. I hope you will all take part to make this a special occasion.

Enquiries: Welcome to get in touch with Pat Mackie on 0418 794 996 or patkmackie@bigpond.com.au

RSVP: By Monday 13 March 2023 to Ann Downey on 0434 364 910 or badowney@bigpond.com.au

- Written by Pat Mackie -



Celebrating 60 years of Sogetsu Ikebana in Queensland

Feature Event

As mentioned in the Director’s message, 2023 is the 60th anniversary of Sogetsu Ikebana in Queensland. A number of events and workshops will happen during the year to mark this milestone, including our annual exhibition at Mt Coot-tha Auditorium on Saturday and Sunday 26 and 27 August.

The **feature event** is at the Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA), Brisbane. There will be a livestreamed Ikebana demonstration from Tokyo in GOMA Cinema A, followed by a celebratory party at the GOMA Bistro on Thursday 24 August 2023 from 4pm.

Master Instructor of Sogetsu HQ Nakamura Sozan will prepare 5-7 medium to large arrangements during a 70 minute online demonstration. This is a wonderful opportunity to watch a Master Instructor at work. Then we will move to GOMA Bistro on the river for a celebration with drinks and finger food.

Tickets for this inspiring event in the renowned Gallery of Modern Art, Stanley Place, Brisbane are available for \$70 per person, and everyone is invited; so please encourage your family, friends and supporters to join you on this special occasion.

Thursday 24 August 2023 from 4pm
GOMA, Stanley Place, South Brisbane

Cost \$70 per person

Enquiries to Ann Downey, Secretary, 0434 364 910 or badowney@bigpond.com

Small Children and Ikebana

by Julie Lumsdale

In 2022 I liaised with a Child Care Centre Director to introduce ikebana to small children.



Preparation entailed a blue card to be eligible to work with children

and designing lessons suitable to the age of the children (ages 3-5 years). I connected with **Louise Worner**, an Australian born ikebanist, based in Spain. She has a **blog on Ikebana and Children**. Louise offered a 2-lesson plan for US\$ 20 as part of a grant. This was excellent as a starting point and gave a departing structure.

We used recycled material for the containers, such as thick glass drink glasses, cut off soft drink bottles, etc. I included some simplified “theory” which connected to what they had been learning, for example the colour wheel, matching shapes of leaves to a template, etc. All material had to be safe to children – no white sap plants or thorns and only I had the hasami in my hand.

The attention span of the children was about 20 minutes. It was challenging to achieve a lesson that short! The kids love a joke and fun in the process.

The staff are your best friends and assisted heaps. They also took photos as part of their newsletter for the parents. I included a Grandparents Day, where – with the help of the grandkid, a grandparent made an ikebana arrangement.

It has been the most rewarding time I have had with the children. In 2023 we plan to do some more. You are welcome to get in touch with me for more info.

VALE Lois Kerwick aged 95 years

In the 1970's Lois Kerwick began ikebana lessons with Nora Dyer. In *Under the Grass Moon* (p.138) Lois reflected on her "Ikebana Journey". She expressed gratefulness to both Nora and Esmé Dyer for introducing her to Sogetsu Ikebana. Lois said that the path of her life was enriched by Sogetsu ikebana lessons, exhibitions, workshops, demonstrations and friendship with members.

Lois was also a member of Ikebana International. We thank Lois for being a valued member of our Brisbane Chapter, sharing and enriching our mutual "Ikebana Journey".



Vale Lois Kerwick

Love for ikebana + learning along the way...



Certificate 1, Yonkyu:
Haruko Koumoto &
Teacher Chieko Klerkx



Certificate 1, Yonkyu:
Carolyn Taylor &
Teacher Chieko Klerkx



Certificate 1, Yonkyu:
Casey Smith &
Teacher Chieko Klerkx



Teacher's Course 4th
Grade, Yonkyu Shihan:
David Shield &
Teacher Chieko Klerkx

December 2022 Workshop

一期一会

“Ichi go Ichi e”

take care of every moment when you meet everyone
each time is indeed a once in a lifetime occasion

Culturally stimulating and delightful defined the December 2022 Workshop featuring Sumi-e and Shodo, two traditional art forms. It was beautifully presented by two of our own members, Tomomi Tanowaki and Ikuko Okada. Members participated with guided **calligraphy**, and making a complimentary ikebana arrangement.

Tomomi Tanowaki presented the Sumi-e and says:

“I was so pleased to introduce Sumi-e to Sogetsu members. Sumi-e is ink wash painting in Japanese. It originated in China, was introduced in Japan by Zen monks in the 14th century. We depict the natural wonder by using the shade of ink. At the workshop, I have painted a bamboo. Then Ikuko added a beautiful poem:

竹林迎風 戛玉不調零

"In the quietness of the bamboo forest, the wind blows like the sound of someone playing the Koto (Japanese harp, musical instrument) erratically."

Thank you for coming to the workshop. It was “Ichi go Ichi e” (一期一会).”

Ikuko Okada then presented Shodo, and says:

“*Shodo*, Japanese calligraphy means the way of writing. It is the art form of writing with ink and brush, just like painting, possessing rhythm, emotion, and spiritual quality and aiming to express yourself through writing.

The Kanji “一期一会 *Ichigo Ichie*” that I wrote at the workshop was one of my favorite four-character proverbs. It means “one time, one meeting”. *We may see each other often socially, yet each gathering can never be repeated exactly. Viewed this way, the meeting is indeed a once-in-a-lifetime occasion. Every moment counts!*”



Ikuko and Tomomi presenting Sumi-e and Shodo



Ikuko writing proverb ichi go itchi e



Catherine & Tomomi



Tomomi, Ikuko & John



Ikuko and Akemi



Mikiko



Ann & Ikuko



Ikuko and Nicole



Tomomi, Ikuko, Karin



Ikuko & Riana



Ikuko & Ingrid



Eri



Ikuko in action



Ann puts ikebana & calligraphy together



Ann incorporated her calligraphy in her ikebana arrangement



Mikiko incorporated her calligraphy in her ikebana arrangement

The 2022 Year End function, Bonen Kai was a joyous event members enjoyed in the company of many of their flower friends.



Editor

Dear Members, on *Our Journey* in ikebana, we all can now celebrate 60 years of Sogetsu ikebana in Queensland.

I thank you for your initiative with photos or articles for each Newsletter. For more photos see [instagram:sogetsu.ikebana](https://www.instagram.com/sogetsu.ikebana) and [Facebook:ikebanabrisbane](https://www.facebook.com/ikebanabrisbane)