



SOGETSU IKEBANA QUEENSLAND INC.

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Newsletter May 2023

Editor Amanda Terblanche



SOGETSU IKEBANA QUEENSLAND INC.

Our Journey

past present future

Celebrating 60 years of Ikebana in Queensland

Invitation

Celebrate Our Journey past present future - 60 years of Sogetsu Ikebana in Queensland at the Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA), Brisbane **from 4 pm on Thursday 24 August 2023** with a livestreamed Ikebana demonstration from Tokyo in GOMA CINEMA A, followed by a celebratory party at the GOMA BISTRO.

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. 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. Buy your tickets before 30 June 2023. Just go to <https://www.trybooking.com/CGEPV> for all the information.

Director's Report May 2023 - by newly elected Director, Wendy Hoskin -

1. 60th Celebration

Consulate attendance has been confirmed although the Consul General will change prior to the celebrations.

2. Past, Present and Future

My thanks to all who assisted in this very successful event. To Pat for her organisation, to Ann tracking down past members, Ann for her phenomenal sleuthing abilities, the Monday Morning group for the flowers, to Belinda for the sandwiches, to Jenny for her assistance in the kitchen and to all those members who lent assistance. I believe this was an excellent event that not only celebrated the great tradition that is Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland, but also allowed for a very relaxed and inspiring morning. Again thanks.

3. Annual Workshop for Members on 9 & 10 June 2023 by Christopher James

We have a great opportunity to further our skills with the following workshops:

- a. An ikebana which emphasises water in a suiban and incorporates a stone.
- b. An ikebana which extends the arrangement in the area outside the container. Textbook 4-16 Paying attention to the place where the arrangement will be set. (This raises the question: What are all the essential elements that make up an ikebana?)
- c. Construction techniques for making larger structural arrangements. We will focus on dowelling. If you wish to make large freestanding work, you will need to work in pairs.
- d. An ikebana using two non-matching containers/vessels. More than 2 is recommended especially for advanced students.

You may wish to follow Christopher's Blog, Roadside Ikebana.

4. From Headquarters

I have received this communication from Japan. (Please see Iemoto Akane's message, an extract from the SO Newsletter April 2022 in this Newsletter).

Towards the 100th anniversary of Sogetsu School in 2027, it is time for us to ask ourselves "What's SOGETSU?"

- *What does Sogetsu ikebana mean to you?*
- *What is your thought about Sogetsu ikebana?*

We would like to take this opportunity to invite all members of the Sogetsu family to think again about "What is Sogetsu." Where its attraction lies? In history or curriculum? In form, plants, or mind?

We call for the mottos which express "your Sogetsu". What you like about Sogetsu, why you enjoy it, with what word you would introduce it to your friends, and so on. There should be 100 different answers for every 100 people. Please let us hear your thought by sending us the mail. overseas@sogetsu.or.jp We are intending to share it with other members in the future Sogetsu events and the social media.

Committee for 2023-2024 serving Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Inc.

Director:	Wendy Hoskin
Deputy Director:	Sallyanne Scott
Secretary:	Ann Downey
Treasurer:	Christina Chen

Committee Members:

Akemi Dunne; Riana Holliday; Ingrid Kivikoski; Chieko Clerkx; Ikuko Okada; Karin Power; Masako Morrison (Historian)

Non-committee portfolios:

Robyn Cuming	QAGOMA Co-ordinator
Nicole Dorner-Scales	Web Manager & Administrator of Instagram and Facebook
Amanda Terblanche	Newsletter Editor

Patron: John Massey

Note of appreciation:

My sincere thanks to **Christine Wyer**, former Director for her leadership of our association over the last two years. She has led us with flying colours through a turbulent time in our journey. Chris has now stepped down from the committee.

My thanks also to former Deputy Director, **Amanda Terblanche** for her dedication over the last two years. Again, those were turbulent years. Thanks for your support of Christine during this time. Your behind-the-scenes work has been much appreciated. Luckily for us Amanda will still edit our newsletter from afar.

- Wendy Hoskin, newly elected Director -

Annual General Meeting - by Nicole Dorner Scales

We held our AGM on the 22nd of March this year with a good show of attendance from our Queensland members. We thank the Queensland Art Gallery for allowing us to use their lovely auditorium once again for this annual event.

Our guest speaker was Ms Giuliana Bonel, Marketing, Commercial and Experience Director at Brisbane Powerhouse, Queensland's home for contemporary culture.

The Powerhouse is situated in Yagara Country, New Farm, along the Brisbane River. It is a repurposed tram power station, constructed in stages between 1928 and 1940. It once supported the largest tram network in the southern hemisphere. After its decommission in 1971, the building became a haven for the homeless, performers and graffiti artists, whose artwork is now known as heritage-listed aerosol art. Recently it has been listed by *Pedestrian* as 1 of the 11 most Instagrammable walls in the world.



*Guest speaker Giuliana Bonel
of Brisbane Powerhouse*

Reborn as an arts centre the Powerhouse now features plays, concerts, shows and has become a home for festivals (such as MELT, Brisbane Comedy Festival and the Brisbane Festival). The month-long Hap Wah Night Food Market is held in March and October. Every Saturday morning the Jan Powers Farmers Market bring the freshest produce to the Brisbane Powerhouse forecourt. It is the most popular Saturday Market in Brisbane with over 120 stalls. Riverfront fine dining include the 5 star dining Bar Alto and relaxed dining Mary Mae's.

Ms Bonel shared her vision for the Powerhouse. In the next three years it can become the leader of contemporary art & culture. It also has a huge growth potential towards the Olympic Games to be held in Brisbane in 2032. This also includes a First Nations engagement strategy, which consists of a First Nations advisory committee, arts program, commissions of new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander works, partnership with local and national First Nations Led Arts companies, Naidoc Week Program, cultural meeting place, permanent "threshold" artwork and cultural awareness and learning programs.

The new major outdoor projects include the Night Feast, fusion feasting plus art, Pleasuredome, a luxury sailcloth event space and an outdoor cinema, *Gold Class under the Stars*.

The Brisbane Powerhouse has been identified as a “Best of Queensland Experience by Tourism & Events Queensland” with 63% of their audiences returning multiple times a year. It has 270 000 social media followers with over 800 000 virtual interactions per year.

After Ms Bonel’s informative presentation the actual AGM commenced and included the usual Agenda of Minutes of previous AGM (2022), Director’s Report, Treasurer’s Report, Election of Office Bearers for 2023-24, General Business and list of students having received certificates since the previous AGM.

Once the meeting closed, members enjoyed catching up at the QAG Cafe.

Introducing our new Director, Wendy Hoskin in her own words: “My Wonderful Journey with Ikebana

My earliest memories of Ikebana were my grandmother’s arrangements that were always on the hall table and the coffee table. The containers on the hall table changed but the one on the coffee table was always the same, an oval container with the kenzan usually in Number One position. There were often three glass balls floating in the arrangement.

Grandmother Jean Jones and my mother, Beverley Woodcroft learnt Ikebana from grandma’s aunt, Henrietta White, a teacher of floral art at the Brisbane Central Technical College. Henrietta was married to Cyril White, the State Government Botanist 1917 to 1950. He was a pupil to his grandfather, Fredrick Bailey, a Colonial Botanist in Queensland until 1915. Plants and flowers were a large part of the White family’s life. Henrietta must have gone to sessions being by Norman Sparnon as she began teaching Ikebana as part of her course at about the same time he was teaching in Brisbane.



Wendy Hoskin

Another vivid memory is grandma’s garden with strelitzia, aspidistra, shrimp plant, poinciana and liquid amber. I have ikebana vases that would have been purchased by Auntie Ettie and grandma. The hasami is too small for my hands. Hands were obviously smaller fifty years ago! Kenzans have been pricking my fingers since childhood.

My first visit to an ikebana exhibition was in 2013. Amazing. I commenced classes with Pat in 2014 and have been attending classes with Pat ever since. This has been a time of self-reflection, learning, challenging myself, laughter and comraderie. Some arrangements take two hours to come together, and other times could be five minutes.

I love attending workshops led by members of our association. We have a huge collective knowledge of Sogetsu Ikebana and I am honoured to be a member of this group. Please, please, please make yourself available to attend these workshops. They are also a wonderful way of meeting fellow enthusiasts.

Working with children has been such a wonderful experience. As a schoolteacher, I was able to hold classes with students excelling at Japanese with both class lessons and group lessons. Their work was always showcased at a school event.

I now look at the world very differently. I can not go for a drive without constantly looking for ikebana foliage. Travelling for three months to South Australia resulted in a pile of wood strapped to the front of the van. The next trip saw the collection of rusty stuff!

My ikebana strengths lie with unconventional materials, using wood within arrangements and I love using aspidistra, both fresh and dried - aspidistra has been a constant in my work. Grandma used it regularly in her arrangements.

I thank members of the organisation for trusting me to continue to move our organisation forward."

Sogetsu Ikebana Past, Present, Future Event March 2023 by Jan Killoran

The Past, Present, Future Event held in March was enthusiastically supported.

How inspiring and lovely to see current members work alongside past members, students and supporters in creating ikebana.

With positive encouragement and friendship of current members, even past members that were not intending to do arrangements, decided on the day to take part in creating beautiful arrangements.



Having a **Past Present Future Event** that was not a formal exhibition but one of friendship, creation and social interaction was appreciated by all.



It was interesting and entertaining for all to hear the many stories, tales and memories told whilst enjoying a delicious lunch which was provided to all.



A very lovely and successful day thanks to Pat Mackie and her team of happy helpers.
- **Jan Killoran** -

Masako Morrison about the Past Present Future Event:

I attended the recent Mt Coot-tha Event as an observer. It was great to attend it to reconfirm that there are quite a number of people who appreciate Sogetsu style of Ikebana throughout the years in QLD alone !!!

I shared the table with 3 Toowoomba ladies. I heard about when they used to learn Ikebana from **Norman Sparnon** at his workshops - and those were quite hands on experiences!! After so many years these ladies still enjoy and are interested in the current, more modern arrangements done by active members.

They still exhibit Ikebana at Toowoomba art gallery every September, while the Toowoomba flower show is on, and they enjoy doing their arrangements.

You can enjoy Ikebana almost anywhere, anytime

- **Masako Morrison** - 🌸🌺🍁



Hi

Lovely to meet today

Thank the Branch for your wonderful hospitality. It was a pleasure for all the Mildred girls to meet the next generation of Sogetsu students.

Look forward to the next beautiful function

Warm Regards

Hannelore, Nelda. And Dianne

Thank all members for a special Sogetsu Ikebana celebration on Wednesday 15/3/2023.

Regards

Margaret Eiser

Lovely to see so many of you today at Mt Coot-tha. Great arrangements.

Cheers!

Robyn

Thank you all for an absolutely delightful time today. It is what the Sogetsu Ikebana 'family' is all about!

Sincerely,

John



Yesterday was such a wonderful day for all. Everyone did great arrangements when we had no pressure for Exhibition!
Carolyn

*What stood out at the **Past, Present and Future day** was how so many people just chipped in and helped on the day. Also lovely to see so many come.*
Ingrid



From Japan Head Quarters, we share an extract from SO Newsletter, April 2022 (last year) with Iemoto Akane's message:

SO Newsletter

Keep Right on Talking!

No.81 : Akane Teshigahara

What's SOGETSU?

I am sure that you are anxious sometimes with the series of unimaginable events that have occurred over the past few years. Although the situation remains chaotic, we realize that with only five years to go until the 100th anniversary of Sogetsu in 2027, we should start making preparations from now on in any case.

With that in mind, I chose the theme, "What's SOGETSU?" as we move toward this remarkable milestone.

The reason is that all of us - Sogetsu teachers, students, staff, etc. - should think about the question "What is Sogetsu?" once again from our unique standpoint.

I pinned my hope on this theme so that not only people who are already involved in Sogetsu but also those who have no idea what Sogetsu is, will develop an interest in it. I am often asked in interviews, "What is the difference between ikebana and flower arrangement?" To make it easier for



*Lately, I have often updated my personal Instagram.
If you have no experience of this, why not get started on it? It's a great way to keep track of your own work, and I enjoy receiving all the various reactions in the comments. I strongly recommend it!*

the general public to understand, I answer by saying, "ikebana is an aesthetic of subtraction, and flower arrangement is an aesthetic of addition." As you know, however, Sogetsu Ikebana can express both subtraction and addition. The most attractive feature of Sogetsu is that it can include both without any fixed restrictions. I think that is why we are able to express so much diversity. It would be a great waste to narrow down the possibilities by making assumptions off the top of our heads. However, an attitude of "I could have done it anyway" without commitment does not work. It will become even more important for us to observe and study various things with the flexible mindset that is typical of Sogetsu Ikebanists' strong curiosity, and transmit something that will make people who do not know about Sogetsu think, "I've never heard of Sogetsu before, but this is amazing!"

People take things for granted unless they are inspired to view new angles and chances slip by quickly. When being asked, "What is Sogetsu?" once again, one person may think, "I was rescued by Sogetsu," while another person may consider, "Sogetsu is healing for me." What is important after answering this question is to say it

out loud in your own words. For example, there is a big difference between someone who can proudly say, "I may not be able to do much on my own, but I want to cheer people up as much as I can, so I upload my ikebana on my social media site every time I arrange it" and people who say, "Well, I create my work without thinking about anything in particular." Of course, some people are not comfortable about being conspicuous or outspoken, which is by no means a bad thing. However, if each of us takes the opportunity to think about this theme, clarify it and speak out about how Sogetsu has made them feel, it is possible that some of you will find the power to do a lot for a world that is often suffering and in misery. Then something will surely move and change. "Why this theme now?" But it is precisely because we live in times like this that it's so relevant.

Of course, I, too, will ask myself very seriously, "What does Sogetsu mean to me as *lemoto*?" for the next five years. While exploring "This is SOGETSU" for each of us, we can prepare our minds and hearts for our Centennial!

- Akane Teshigahara

Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Inc: The Journeys continue...



Congratulations Vernisher !!!!

After years of dedicated study, teaching and magnificently creating ikebana, Vernisher Wooh of Brisbane has recently succeeded in her **RIJI** exams, the highest qualification in Sogetsu ikebana. The Journey continues !!!



Indeed, the Ikebana Journey continues...



Toowoomba Sogetsu Ikebana
Founding Members:
Barbara Tulloch, Elsie Coote,
Jan Simon
and Helen Seawright

Mother, then daughter...

Toowoomba Sogetsu Ikebana Founding member Jan Simon is now 91 years old and still lives in Toowoomba. Last year in September her daughter, Jill Simon took her first ikebana lessons with Amanda Terblanche.

Barbara Tulloch, Elsie Coote, Jan Simon and Helen Seawright were students of Norman Sparnon and then decided to begin the Toowoomba Chapter.



1st Freestyle arrangement
by Jan's daughter Jill
Simon

Another journey continues...30 yrs later

Jenny Mackie

"For many years I have had to observe my Mother's artistry fleetingly or as a spectator due to the demands of my career. Taking the time to come inside her world and observe her skill as a Riji, rather than a mother, has been a very special and enlightening time. I am looking forward to continuing the journey of learning with her and from her artistic talent." Certificate obtained 1 November 2022.

Pat Mackie

"My Ikebana journey began about mid 1992 and only my wonderful teacher Mary Jane Ramsden would know if she still has her book of student details, which is most unlikely! My first certificate is dated May 1993.

Never in my wildest dreams would I have imagined Jenny studying Sogetsu as my student. It warms my heart that she has found a love and enthusiasm for Ikebana and that I can assist in her journey along the "flower path" of Sogetsu Ikebana.

Look forward to another Mackie Riji in years to come 😊"



Certificate 1 Yonkyu:
Jenny Mackie
and
Teacher Mom Pat Mackie

Love of ikebana ... and the journey of learning... congratulations



Certificate 1 Yonkyu:
Anya Hodson,
student of Pat Mackie



Certificate 1 Yonkyu:
Julia Wallace,
student of Pat Mackie



Certificate 1 Yonkyu:
Jennifer Mackie and
Teacher Pat Mackie



Certificate 2 Sankyu:
Teacher Pat Mackie and
Daniela Wilson



Certificate 2 Sankyu:
Teacher Pat Mackie and
Akemi Dunne



Certificate 3 Nikyu:
Mikiko Inoue and
Teacher Pat Mackie



Teacher's Diploma 4th Grade
Yonkyu Shihan:
Maria McRae and
Teacher Vernisher Wooh



Teacher's Diploma 2nd Grade
Nikyu Shihan, Sanyo
Sue Poole and Teacher Pat Mackie



Teacher's Diploma 4th Grade
Yonkyu Shihan:
Emi Ito and
Teacher Pat Mackie



Teacher's Diploma 3rd Grade Sankyu Shihan:
Ann Downey, Wendy Hoskin, Sallyanne Scott, Gillian Jones,
Nicole Dorner Scales and Teacher Pat Mackie



Teacher's Diploma 3rd Grade
Sankyu Shihan:
Belinda Lee Snow and
Teacher Pat Mackie

Coming events

9 & 10 June 2023

Workshops with Christopher James

24 August 2023 60th Celebration !!!

**Online Ikebana Streaming Demonstration by Master Instructor Nakamura
Sozan in GOMA CINEMA;**

Followed by a Celebration Party in GOMA BISTRO

Celebrate with us and buy your tickets before 30 June 2023.

Just go to <https://www.trybooking.com/CGEPV> for all the information.

26 & 27 August 2023

Annual Sogetsu Ikebana Exhibition

at Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha Auditorium



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