

**SOGETSU IKEBANA QUEENSLAND INC.**

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**Newsletter**

**September 2023**

Editor Amanda Terblanche



**SOGETSU IKEBANA QUEENSLAND INC.**

**Our Journey  
past present future**

**Celebrating 60 years of Ikebana in Queensland**

## **Director's Message**

**Wendy Hoskin**

Dear Members

I hope everyone has recovered from the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations of the Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Inc. chapter.

Planning for this event commenced eighteen months ago with asking the question “How do we ensure that this celebration acknowledged those 60 years?” It was encapsulated in:

### **Our Journey**

### **Past Present Future**

### **Celebrating 60 years of Ikebana in Queensland**

Planning included what, when, where and how. We knew the why!

**Past, Present and Future:** A very successful event in March brought together past and present members to share stories and skills in a relaxed atmosphere at the Auditorium, Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha. Thanks Pat Mackie and Ann Downey.



Stage ikebana by Vernisher Wooh & team

### **60<sup>th</sup> Celebration at**

**GOMA:** An extremely successful story played out in four parts with arrangements by Riji Pat Mackie and Riji Vernisher Wooh gracing the entry and stage area.



Welcoming ikebana by Pat Mackie

**QAGOMA:** Mr Tarun Nagesh, the Curatorial Manager of Asia and Pacific Art organised for the **sculpture by Sofu Teshigahara, *Eternity***, to be on public display alongside the weekly arrangement created by Robyn Cuming. This was on display from the 23 to 30 of August.

The **live video event** saw 120 Sogetsu Ikebana enthusiasts attend the stream in Cinema A with Headquarters' Master Sozan Nakamura introduced by our Patron, Mr. John Massy. This led to the demonstration of 7 arrangements being constructed. Wow, wow, wow! The Opening event was also attended by the Consul-General for Japan, Mr Junji Gomakubo and the Deputy Consul-General for Japan, Ms Chieko Masuda.



Mikiko Inoue playing the koto

We then moved to the GOMA Bistro for a cocktail event with welcoming music performed by our talented Mikiko Inoue playing the koto. It was wonderful to have interstate Australian Sogetsu Association Directors Christopher James (Victoria), Ray Bywaters (South Australia) and Hiroko Prado (New South Wales) join us for this

event. All enjoyed a great night with refreshments and convivial conversation.

**Patron John Massy awarded Life Membership to Pat Mackie** for her ongoing support of Sogetsu Ikebana in Queensland. Pat joins Shirley Behan as our current Life Members.

**Annual Exhibition 26-27 August 2023** was once again held in the Auditorium at Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens.

Our very first exhibition was held at this Auditorium in October 1974 and has been held annually there ever since (bar 1985, at the International Convention Centre, Gold Coast; and 2020 and 2021 due to COVID, when virtual exhibitions took place).

The Deputy Consul-General for Japan here in Brisbane, Ms Chieko Musada, officially opened the Exhibition. After a very gracious opening, Ms Musada spent a couple of hours



Ikebana by Robyn Cuming & Sculpture *Eternity* by Sofu Teshigahara in QAG



Australian Sogetsu directors Hiroko Prado, Wendy Hoskin, Ray Bywaters & Christopher James



Pat Mackie awarded Life Membership by John Massy



Ms Chieko Musada, Deputy Consul-General for Japan



taking in the arrangements, the ikebana demonstrations and also took the time to chat with many of our members and have some morning tea. Thank you to our member Chieko Klerkx for her assistance in this.

Sue Poole curated the Exhibition under the guiding eye of Pat Mackie with Riana Holliday lending assistance. The airy, open feeling of the room gave the arrangements and our members room to shine. Congratulations to all the members who exhibited in this milestone exhibition.

Demonstrations once again drew large numbers. Thanks to Pat Mackie, assisted by Ann Downey and Eri Pitt, as well as Chieko Klerkx who was assisted by Gary Yong Gee and Belinda Lee Snow for your knowledgeable presentations.

This year the workshops were moved to the education space on the northern side of the auditorium. This was very successful as the area remained setup between workshops. Two workshops were successfully led by Ikuko Okada and Julie Lumsdale with added support from other members.

The trade table once again was very busy. Thank you Masako Morrison for the planning, the trading and then the reconciliation of money to go back to members. This year members who are also potters, were able to sell new containers on the stall. Thanks also to the teams who assisted on both days.

Thanks also to Sallyanne Scott and the members taking care of the reception area and once again meeting and greeting visitors.

We welcomed back the refreshments as part of our exhibition. Thanks to Ingrid Kivikoski for organising teams to work at the stall and to members for supplying cakes, biscuits and various goodies. Thanks to those who assisted.

Behind the scenes, using social media ensured our information was broadcast to the wider world. Thanks Nicole Dorner-Scales and Catherine Purdon. Social media does not operate without photographs so thanks once again to Greg and Jan Killoran for acting as paparazzi for these events.

We also introduced a media space where ikebana CD's were shown. This worked well as people could take the time to watch Iemoto Akane Teshigahara as well as others weave their magic. I think we can build on this next year.



Ikuko Okada, Ann Downey, Ingrid Kivikoski, Hiroko Prado, Ms Chieko Musada, Deputy Consul-General for Japan, Wendy Hoskin, Ray Bywaters, Riana Holliday, Christina Chen, Sue Poole

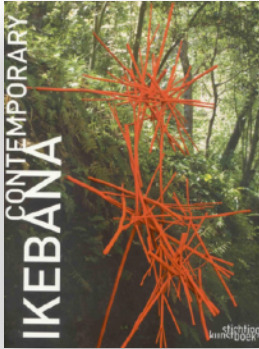


Workshop presented by Ikuko Okada



Mikiko Inoue and Sue Poole welcome visitors at the Exhibition

Thank you to all members who participated in the Exhibition. I would especially like to thank our secretary, Ann Downey, for her unflagging support of this year's events. From acting as a sleuth tracking down past members, to her consistent support for and organisation of the GOMA event, Ann was always there. Thank you also to Christina for the organisation of banking facilities, floats and reimbursements. You all rock!



Now for our next member event! **Land Art with Lily Karmatz.** This is a workshop like none we have had in the last few years. Several teachers and members have books showcasing land art, like the inspiring book "Contemporary ikebana". Ann Downey provided members with information about the Land Art Workshop scheduled for 7 October 2023. We will be using the creek space at the Kenmore Uniting Church.



Creek space at the Kenmore Uniting Church

Continue to always smell the flowers.

Wendy

## Letter from Iemoto Akane Teshigahara of the Sogetsu School of Ikebana, Japan Headquarters



**To commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sogetsu Queensland Branch.**

*My heartfelt congratulations on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sogetsu Queensland Branch.*

*Since its foundation, the members of the Queensland branch, under the tutelage of successive Iemoto and late Mr Norman Sparnon, have been striving to add to their artistry and refine their techniques and formative abilities.*

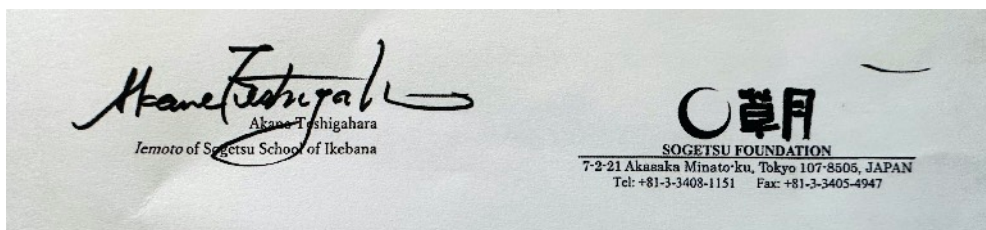
*At the same time, you work closely with other branch members in Australia to establish a beautiful solidarity.*

*Of all the Sogetsu groups in the world, your love for Sogetsu ikebana and enthusiasm for its creation is special. My deep respect goes to you for the dedication and hard work of the members of the branch over the years.*

*The joy of creation and sharing this joy with people beyond national borders is what Sogetsu Ikebana aims for. The founder, Sofu Teshigahara said, "**Ikebana is the art of peace**". I do hope that you would take a courageous new step forward*

*into the next decade with that message in your heart.*

*The Sogetsu school will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2027. I look forward to rejoicing with all of you on this unique milestone. Together, we will carry the art of ikebana, which I believe is the light of hope, into the future beyond the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.*



## **Letter from Kiri Teshigahara, Sogetsu International Director of the Sogetsu School**

**To commemorate 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sogetsu Queensland Branch**

August 2023

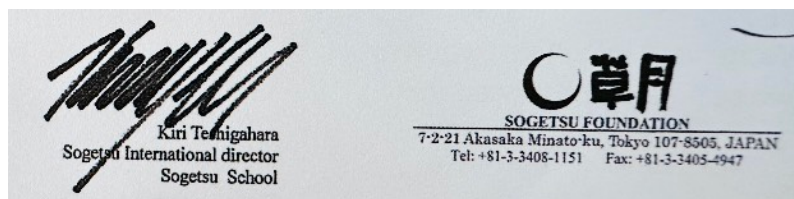
*On this auspicious occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sogetsu Queensland Branch, I would like to extend my warmest heartfelt congratulations to all of you.*

*Mr. Norman Sparnon = Australia ! Although I have never been to Australia, I have had the pleasure of meeting him frequently at parties held in Japan by my grandfather Sofu and father Hiroshi and during Sogetsu special events. Mr. Sparnon was a gentleman with a kind smile and very popular among our Sogetsu friends in Japan. His achievements were extraordinary. Thanks to him, Sogetsu ikebana took root and spread in Australia. His life began and ended with ikebana, and in 1963 he opened his first class in Brisbane, Queensland, to educate and captivate Australians about the limitless possibilities of art of the Sogetsu ikebana. Thanks to his efforts over the years, there are many people in the Australian Sogetsu branches who are enthusiastically promoting Sogetsu ikebana.*

*I would like to express my gratitude to everyone in Queensland branch who have wholeheartedly followed and preserved his teachings, then developed Sogetsu ikebana there, such a wonderful country, such artistic people.*

*We are now beginning preparations for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sogetsu Ikebana. I look forward to meeting all of our passionate Australian members at the centennial celebration in Japan.*

Kiri Teshigahara





## Letter from Ray Bywaters, Director Australian Sogetsu Teachers Association (ASTA), South Australian Branch

Dear Wendy, Ann and members of the Queensland Branch of Sogetsu

Congratulations to your Branch on reaching such a milestone in your Branch's history and for enabling us to share such a wonderful time with you all. The sixtieth year is associated with diamonds and your celebratory event certainly sparkled with enthusiasm and on entering the **exhibition at Mt Coot-tha it simply dazzled with the magic of ikebana.**

It was my pleasure to represent the South Australian Branch, along with long time member Judy Crichton and her daughter-in-law Tracey. On behalf of Judy, Tracey and myself, thank you for organising a most enjoyable, stimulating and convivial series of 60<sup>th</sup> celebrations. Please pass on our sincere thanks to everyone, especially to our chauffeurs, who made getting to and from the exhibition so easy.

Everything ran very smoothly, and the added extras were such a bonus. I know that Judy was particularly keen to join the celebrations having spent many a happy time sharing the joy of ikebana with your early founding members Nora Dyer, Mavis Beer, Mildred Goldsmith and attending workshops with Norman Sparnon, when she visited Queensland. Judy celebrated her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday a few days later and her dedication to ikebana over the past 54 years has not wavered. Our SA members value her dearly and she continues to inspire us with her steadfast approach.

We thoroughly enjoyed the demonstrations, both at GOMA on Thursday and Saturday at Mt Coot-tha. **The members' exhibition was a sheer delight, so refreshing, highly professional and very true to the spirit of Sogetsu.** I fully understand the amount of thought, planning and execution of skills that forms the backdrop for such a large-scale exhibition to be successful and also know how much time is invested in organising, setting up and dismantling a display. Well done to everyone. We look forward to sharing the photographs of the event with our members at our next meeting.

Please pass on our thanks and very warm regards to everyone, whose friendly conversations and assistance ensured that at all times we felt very welcome.

I hope you will be able to have time now to sit back, relax and reflect on such a successful and happy occasion.

Kind regards  
Ray Bywaters



Judy Crichton from South Australia with Tracey

## **Letter from Christopher James**

*Dear Wendy,*

On behalf of the Victorian Branch I would like to congratulate all the members of the Queensland Branch of the Sogetsu School of Ikebana on your 60th anniversary celebrations. Please commend the members for their work in organising such a large event which presents Sogetsu ikebana to the wider community as well as members of the Sogetsu family in Australia.

I wish you all well for a successful exhibition and demonstrations at Mt Coot-tha over this coming weekend. I regret that previous engagements prevent me from being able to stay in Brisbane over this weekend.

Kind regards,  
Christopher  
Director  
SSIV

## **Ikebana in the Community**

In July 2023 at the John Oxley District Orchid Society Show at Mt Coot-tha, six beautiful and varied ikebana arrangements were done by Fay Stutt and Julie Lumsdale.



Ikebana by Fay Stutt and Julie Lumsdale at the Orchid Show

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



2nd Certificate Sankyu  
Teacher Vernisher Wooh  
& Christina Chen



3rd Certificate Nikyu  
Teacher Pat Mackie  
& Helen Cook



## What's coming next...

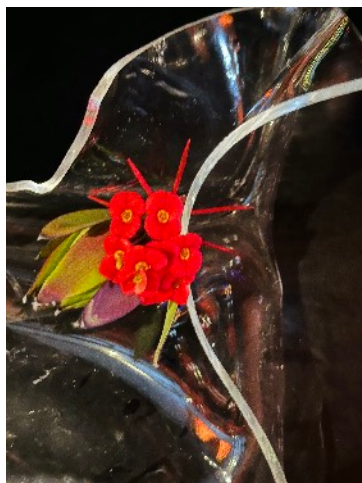
Land Art Member Workshop by Lily Karmatz;  
7 October 2023; using the creek space at Kenmore Uniting Church

Year End Lunch 6 December 2023

Photo reflection ... on the recent ... 60<sup>th</sup> celebrations









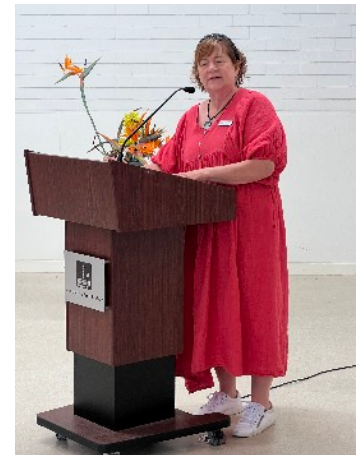


Group work  
created by Vernisher Wooh and team  
Chris Wyer, Ikuko Okada, Samantha Wooh &  
Tomomi Tanowaki

**The splendid  
functions at GOMA  
were followed by  
the Annual Sogetsu  
I k e b a n a  
Queensland Inc.  
Exhibition at Mt  
Coot-tha**



Ikebana arrangement  
by NSW visitors  
Margaret Hall  
& Hiroko Prado



Wendy Hoskin welcomes  
all at the Sogetsu Exhibition  
2023





Ann Downey demonstrated an ikebana arrangement

People took time to enjoy each art work, participate in a workshop and learn during a demonstration. Most importantly we all enjoyed and rekindled what we refer to in ikebana as **“friendship through flowers”**.



Visitors watching a live demonstration of ikebana arrangements by Pat and her team



A live ikebana demonstration by Gary Yong Gee, Belinda Lee Snow and Chieko Klerkx



Ikuko Okada presenting an ikebana workshop



Photography team  
Greg and Jan Killoran

A special word of appreciation to our photography team **Greg and Jan Killoran** for the amazing coverage of several celebration functions.

See more individual photos of each ikebana arrangement on social media:

[www.ikebanabrisbane.org.au](http://www.ikebanabrisbane.org.au)  
and  
instagram [sogetsu.ikebana.qld.inc](https://www.instagram.com/sogetsu.ikebana.qld.inc)  
and  
Facebook: [ikebanabrisbane](https://www.facebook.com/ikebanabrisbane)



Sue Poole created this beautiful arrangement



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