



SOGETSU IKEBANA QUEENSLAND INC.

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Newsletter April 2024

Editor Amanda Terblanche

Director's Message

Wendy Hoskin

Welcome to the new year for our Sogetsu ikebana association.

Our Annual General Meeting took place on 20 March 2024 at the Queensland Art Gallery. Our guest speaker was Sonia Bitmead, Sales Manager of Currey Flowers, suppliers to florists and wholesalers locally. What an inspiring speaker! Her passion for locally grown flowers and her passion for biosecurity were both very informative and inspiring. It reinforces that we can buy locally. (See the article compiled from input by Carolyn Sandercoe and me, Wendy Hoskin).

After four years as secretary, Ann Downey, thank you for your support to Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland, especially with our 60th celebrations and to me as fledging Director. We also thank Sallyanne Scott for her work as Deputy Director.

It is a pleasure to announce the Committee of 2024-2025:

Wendy Hoskin	Director
Carolyn Sandercoe	Deputy Director
Helen Cook	Secretary
Christina Chen	Treasurer
Masako Morrison	Historian
Akemi Dunne	
Chieko Klerkx	
Ikuko Okada	
Ingrid Kivikoski	
Karin Power	
Sallyanne Scott	

Non-committee member roles:

Robyn Cuming	Gallery Coordinator
Amanda Terblanche	Newsletter Editor
Nicole Dorner-Scales	Web Manager, Instagram & Facebook Administrator

John Massy Patron of Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Inc

During the ikebana year ahead members will be offered 3 Saturday workshops. On 1 June 2024 our local Riji, Vernisher Wooh, a former recipient of the Norman and Mary Sparnon Scholarship will present the first workshop. Ray Bywaters, the 2022 recipient of the Norman Sparnon Scholarship will present our annual two-day workshop on 11 and 12 July 2024. Workshop details will be emailed to all members.



Ann Downey & Wendy Hoskin

Our Annual Exhibition will be held at the Auditorium at Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens on Saturday 31 August and Sunday 1 September 2024.

In November 2024 the Victorian Sogetsu Ikebana Branch will be presenting demonstrations and workshops done by a visiting Master from Japan Headquarters. As soon as details are finalised, the information will be emailed to members.

Barry de Cummere stood down after many years as a Trustee of the Norman and Mary Sparnon Endowment Trust. Ray Bywaters was appointed by deed to be the second Trustee and Christopher James continues as a Trustee. Regarding the next scholarship applications of the Norman and Mary Sparnon Endowment Fund, the application information will be distributed by email to all members.

The past year was absolutely splendid in that we thoroughly celebrated 60 years of Sogetsu Ikebana in Queensland at several workshops and events during the year. A big highlight was the live streaming from Japan at GOMA, followed by a celebration function on the riverbank at GOMA. Another remarkable event during the year was a most enjoyable social event and exhibition by members Past, Present and Future. The Annual Exhibition in August 2023 at the Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha featured amazing diverse arrangements, hands-on workshops, a trade table, refreshments, guided tours and live ikebana demonstrations. Both days were well attended. Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland was once again invited to do the table arrangements at the QAGOMA Foundation Dinner - an honour efficiently and artistically executed by a small group of our members.

I would like to close with this quote as I feel it encapsulates the words of the Newsletter and the practice of Sogetsu ikebana.

*“He stopped,
pausing to arrange his words
like an ikebana expert with his flowers,
shifting, bending, adding, and taking away
to achieve the results he desired.”
Tan Twan Eng*

A 31-year journey of Sogetsu Ikebana arrangements exhibited in Queensland Art Galleries (QAG/QAGOMA) - Written by John Massy



Ikebana by Robyn Cuming

I want to pay a compliment to the Japanese culture that brought us the art form that has been bringing us weekly a fresh, new and contemporary Sogetsu ikebana arrangement in the Queensland Art Gallery since 1993 - for the past 31 years.

How proud Norman Sparnon would be to see that his journeys to Japan had resulted in a thriving association in Queensland 60 years on, and how delighted Sofu Teshigahara, founder of the Sogetsu School of Ikebana in Japan, would be of an association that has uniquely translated his precepts into an art form that is distinctively ours here in Australia.

How did we come to be here at an important staging point on our journey along our *kado* – the way of flowers?

I joined the staff of the Queensland Art Gallery mid 1979 when the Gallery was housed on two levels of the MIM Building at 160 Ann Street in the city. Shortly afterwards we were honoured to present the travelling exhibition, **The Art of the Japanese Package**. To provide a cultural context for the exhibition, we presented a public program that included demonstrations by the three principal schools of ikebana practising in Brisbane at that time – Ikenobo, Ohara and Sogetsu.

The success of this exercise prompted us to repeat a similar program when the Queensland Art Gallery staged the exhibition **Treasures from the Idemitsu Museum, Tokyo** in conjunction with the opening of first purpose-built Queensland Art Gallery at South Bank in 1982.

A Japanese cultural program was expanded when we presented **The Ceramic Traditions of Japan** – Masterworks drawn from collections of the Idemitsu Museum, one of the major exhibitions staged by the Queensland Art Gallery as a complement to World Expo 88. As well as demonstration presentations, the assistance of the delightful Nora Dyer was sought in having her **create a major Sogetsu Ikebana piece adjacent to the entry to the exhibition space each week for the duration of the exhibition.**

Richard Austin was Chairman of Trustees of the Gallery at the time. He had spent considerable time in Japan and was a great admirer of that culture. He prevailed upon the Director to have the Queensland Art Gallery collect a significant example representing each of the Six Ancient Kilns of Japan, which collection duly eventuated. The Gallery's Senior Exhibitions Officer at that time, Mr Joe Devillee, designed a stunning gallery space, The Arco Gallery of Asian Art, to house this collection. Regrettably, it no longer exists, but the karesansui, the gravel garden, created to be viewed through the window wall of that Gallery space, can still be seen on a walkway opposite the Museum Café.

It was resolved to offer Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland the opportunity to present an arrangement immediately outside that Gallery space on a weekly rotational basis. The practice commenced in 1993 and continues today. At this point, I would like to acknowledge Sogetsu ikebana members John Baxter and Robyn Cuming who have efficiently maintained the roster for this activity over those 31 years.

In recognition of Sogetsu ikebana's valued contribution to the Gallery's public appeal, the Queensland Art Gallery presented the exhibition Living Culture in 1997, marking the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Sogetsu School of Ikebana in Japan by Sofu Teshigahara in 1927. For one whole month, members of Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland staged and maintained wonderful arrangements for the delight of the visiting public.



Ikebana by Gary Yong Gee

In August 2023 at the Celebration of 60 years of Sogetsu Ikebana in Queensland, I presented the Sogetsu Association with archival documentation of that significant event in 1997.

The presentation space for weekly arrangements by Sogetsu ikebana members has journeyed around the Art Gallery over the years - the tradition continues. In 2022-2023 weekly arrangements were displayed in the Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA), in conjunction with a Still Life exhibition. This was almost contradictory – Still Life or Nature Morte in French, suggests dead things, but the term ikebana translates loosely as ‘to make flowers live’. **The vitality of this art form, in its contemporary style as espoused by the Sogetsu ikebana School, ensures its continuing public appeal.**



Ikebana by Vernisher Wooh



Ikebana by Chieko Klerkx

On our ikebana journey, we delight in our continuing association with QAGOMA and express our grateful appreciation for the provision of a staging point along our way.

My experience of Ikebana in the Queensland Art Gallery - by Robyn Cuming

It is now over 30 years since we have been displaying our Ikebana arrangements at the Queensland Art Gallery.

When we began there were not many of us on the roster so our turn doing our arrangements came around rather often. Fast forward to the present day and now we have 24 members on our roster – a wonderful achievement.



Sogetsu ikebana by Pat Mackie

We began by being allocated a space in the Asian Gallery on the second floor. Since then we have moved to various locations. I do believe that where we are now situated is the best space as so many patrons pass our arrangements on their way into the gallery. We have also been asked to change to QAGOMA when gallery staff believed our arrangements will complement an exhibition being held there.



Sogetsu ikebana by Chris Wyer

The volunteer gallery guides who accompany groups through the gallery tell me they now include a stop at our arrangements. The gallery staff also say they look forward to our arrangements each week.

We are truly privileged to display our ikebana skills at such an outstanding venue and to share our ikebana story.

Editor : Heartfelt appreciation and congratulations to Robyn Cuming for managing the roster with such efficiency, 52 weeks in every year, for years and years.

Roses and gerberas from a Queensland Flower Farm

- Compiled from input by Carolyn Sandercoe and Wendy Hoskin

What a surprise to be greeted by bunches bursting with freshly picked roses and beautiful gerberas when entering our AGM Meeting venue! This is how we met Sonia Bitmead, our guest speaker and a second generation flower farmer from Currey Flower Farm, Karalee.



Sonia is wife to Jeremy and mother to Molly and Eli. She is the Sales Manager of Currey Flowers, which was started by her parents Don and Lynda Currey 53 years ago. They supply florists and wholesalers locally, along the coast of Queensland and into Darwin.

There are 60 000 rose bushes and 13 000 gerberas which are hydroponically grown and it is a 7 day a week operation.

A few years ago we published an article by Annie Donaldson of Branch & Sea, a Meanjin/ Brisbane based, botanical design studio. I (Wendy) then lucked an invite from Petal Peddlers to an afternoon at Currey Flower Farm, with Bart Hassam of Maison Fleur. Both these encounters tweaked my interest in sustainability in the flower industry and the importance of buying local which led me to Sonia Bitmead.

Sonia gave a very interesting and informative talk about their family flower farm and issues to address to remain a viable business. Her first point was about biosecurity – the serious risks to all local flower farmers presented by pests and diseases that can enter Australia on commercial floral material from overseas. As 98% of roses sold to the public are imported, pests foreign to Australia, such as the Western Flower Thrip, are a huge threat as certain strong pesticides are banned in Australia, but used overseas to combat these Thrips. The pests are now resistant to these pesticides. Because the Australian flower industry is small, Sonia says too little effort is made by Quarantine Service to check flower imports.

Over the years many flower farms have closed, to the point of only 15-20 rose growers remaining, compared with about 300 in earlier years. Sonia explained that it also is a struggle to have access to new varieties of flowers as it costs about \$10,000/rose to import new species through Quarantine and develop it to market.

Sonia sees the future in the commercial flower trade is to focus on only seasonal flowers. Roses for example may be smaller in summer, but will last a lot longer than imported ones. This year has been particularly poor due to such long periods of excess humidity. (I think we all felt like wilted roses this summer!) A wide variety of exquisite rose blooms and gerberas are grown over the seasons at the Currey Farm. Sonia generously invited Sogetsu members to the Farm.

It was a most interesting talk with a generous supply of flowers for us all to help ourselves. The roses we took home from the meeting were all still flowering with a wonderful perfume after a week.

Members shared photos of lovely arrangements created with these beautiful locally grown flowers. A lingering thought after listening to Sonia is that buying local indeed makes good and in this case rosy sense.



Masako Morrison created an ikebana arrangement



Nicole Dörner-Scales created an ikebana arrangement

Vale Del (Delysia) Loxton

- written by her Flower Friend Dianne Jenkin



Vale Del Loxton

Looking through the prism of one of her great loves, ikebana, the art of Japanese flower arrangement, this is testament to my friend Del.

We met at our first ikebana lesson in September 1971. Little did I know then that Del was to become one of my dearest friends and ikebana collaborators.

She studied under Mildred Goldsmith from Maryborough for several years and then we travelled to Toowoomba twice a year to study also under Australia's most respected sensei, Norman Sparnon OAM. Sensei Norman was impressed by the quality of Del's art and praised her by saying "you've got it". Del became highly regarded for her creativity, style and inventive approach from a single flower arrangement to major installations. She rose to the high rank of Jonin Somu in the Sogetsu Ikebana School.

Del then extended her skills in the practice of classical ikebana of the Ikenobo School. While she loved the "no boundaries" ingenious values of Sogetsu Ikebana, she will be also remembered for her elegant rendition of Ikenobo where more rules applied.

In 1975 she was the major driver in the formation of the Bundaberg Chapter of Ikebana International. This organisation promotes all schools of Ikebana throughout the world. She was founding President of the Bundaberg Sogetsu chapter and served as Director of the Wide Bay area from 1981-1983, and again from 1985-1987.

Del and I collaborated in major installations in Melbourne, Sydney, Noosa, the Gold Coast, Maryborough, Bundaberg and Buderim and she exhibited as a solo artist in the New South Wales art gallery in 1985.

We travelled together to Japan twice in the company of Mr. Sparnon. **A memorable experience in 1978 was viewing the Three Man Exhibition work of Mr Sofu Teshigahara, Miss Kasumi Teshigahara and Mr Hiroshi Teshigahara.** We had the honour of being guests at many major ikebana schools as well as attending 2 world conferences of Ikebana International.

Del and I were invited to Lismore in 1992 to demonstrate our art to 250 guests at a luncheon sponsored by the Lismore Chapter of Ikebana International. By this time we had also mastered the art of travelling with flowers, branches, vines and vases mostly in the spare part van of the Toyota Dealership belonging to Neville, Del's husband.

She wanted to promote and share ikebana and began to teach in Bundaberg in the eighties and her students graduated to teacher level and joined in many exhibitions. In 2015 Del took up teaching in Buderim to inspire a new generation of ikebana lovers.

All who knew and loved Del will understand that I am not exaggerating when I say Del was an outstanding, wonderful person and citizen and she was marked by her generosity of spirit to her friends and her community. I and the ikebana family also knew her for her mischievous sense of humour and her capacity to inspire others. On behalf of this family I pay homage to her life, her work and her humility.

Vale Joan Naumann 1928 to 2023 - written by daughter Leigh Kahler and son Ross



Vale Joan Naumann

Aged 95 Joan Naumann passed away on 31 December 2023 having lived a full life, enriched by many artistic endeavours, of which ikebana was a major influence. Joan was a member of Sogetsu ikebana Queensland for well over 40 years.

Initially she did formal floral arranging for a number of years, entered competitions and eventually becoming a Life Member of both the Northern Districts Horticultural Society and the Queensland Dahlia Society. Joan gained enthusiasm for ikebana and its various forms. In 1972 she commenced learning ikebana with Mary Brown alongside her sister Ruth Rowland. They looked forward to attending those Tuesday classes.

Joan enjoyed the structural principles of ikebana, but also the free expression and creativity that conventional formal arranging did not allow. She did further classes and study in Sogetsu and Ikenobo with Norman Sparnon "... with eagerness and some trepidation" in her own words. **Joan built a wide circle of friends, flower friends, throughout the social times of ikebana,** her sister Ruth, Norma Price, Mary Brown, and other committee members Joel Rodgie, Faye Shanahan, Marj Taylor, Val Sandercoe, Joan Ann Kendall, Florence Rooney, Nora Dyer, Esme Dyer, Masako James and I am sure there were many others. She was part of the committee for many years serving in positions of Vice President and Secretary during the 1980s.

She participated in workshops, exhibitions, conferences as well as having arrangements on display at places such as the Queensland Art Gallery, the Japanese Pavilion at Expo 88 and the Botanic Gardens. Nev, Joan's husband for 65 years, was a champion dahlia grower and breeder. He was constantly sourcing dahlias and materials such as unusual foliage, driftwood or palm frond sheaths for Joan to use. A pottery course was her initiative to make her own containers. Joan and Nev travelled to Japan and visited the Ikebana Tokyo headquarters in the 1990s. **Flowers and plants unleashed creativity and were a major part of her life.**

Sogetsu ikebana at the Japanese Emperor's Birthday Reception - written by Chieko Klerkx

In February 2024 I was invited to attend the Japanese Emperor's Birthday Reception at the Consul-General of Japan's Brisbane Residence. I was also invited to make Sogetsu Ikebana arrangements for the occasion.

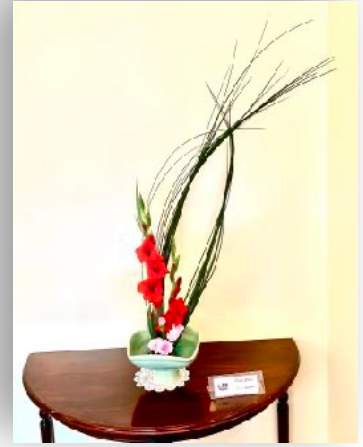
There were many guests at the reception, including Governor of Queensland, Dr Jeanette Young, Queensland's Deputy Premier Mr Cameron Dick and members of the Japanese community and many others.



Arrangement by
Chieko Klerkx

I made two Ikebana arrangements and my student, David Shield made one. Some of the leaves used were sourced from the Residence's garden.

I felt privileged to receive lovely comments on my Ikebana arrangements by the Queensland Governor, Consul-General of Japan Mr Gomakubo and others.



Arrangement by
David Shield

Love of Ikebana...

and the journey of learning ...

congratulations !



Certificate 1 Yonkyu:
Man(dy) Nguyen &
Teacher Pat Mackie



Certificate 1 Yonkyu:
Jill Simon &
Teacher Amanda Terblanche



Certificate 1 Yonkyu:
Rachel Yi-Hui Lin &
Teacher Pat Mackie



Certificate 1 Yonkyu:
Jillian Hamilton &
Teacher Pat Mackie



Certificates 1 & 2 Sankyu:
Teacher Chieko Klerkx &
Yukina Sakabe



Certificate 2 Sankyu:
Julia Wallace &
Teacher Pat Mackie



Certificate 2 Sankyu:
Jennifer Mackie &
Teacher Pat Mackie



Certificate 2 Sankyu:
Clodagh McAlinden &
Teacher Amanda Terblanche



Certificate 3 Nikyu:
Teacher Vernisher Wooh &
Christina Chen



Certificate 3 Nikyu:
Riana Holliday &
Teacher Amanda Terblanche



Certificate 3 Nikyu:
Daniele Wilson &
Teacher Pat Mackie



Certificate 4: Ikkyu
Teacher Pat Mackie &
Akemi Dunne



Teacher Diploma 4th grade
Yonkyu Shihan:
Karin Power &
Teacher Chieko Klerkx



Teacher Diploma 3rd Grade
Sankyu Shihan:
Student Samantha Wooh of
Teacher Vernisher Wooh (absent)

**“If the hands are properly trained, they will take orders from your heart, remain steady, and always work for you.”
Sofu Teshigahara - The Book of Flowers**

Interesting statistics about the Certificates awarded in previous year

Sogetsu Ikebana offers a curriculum for continuous learning, from beginners to very advanced. Of the many students following the curriculum, the following Certificates were awarded by Japan Headquarters in the year ending Feb 2024:

Certificate 1	6 students
Certificate 2	8 students
Certificate 3	6 students
Certificate 4	4 students
Teacher Diploma 4 th grade	3 students
Teacher Diploma 3 rd grade	3 students
= Total number of certificates for year	30 certificates



Special event !!!

**Congratulations
Vernisher !!!**

**Teacher Vernisher Wooh
celebrating her 70th
birthday with her students**



What's coming next

1 June 2024
12 and 13 July 2024
31 August and 1 September 2024

Workshop presented by Vernisher Wooh
Workshops presented by Ray Bywaters
Annual Exhibition Mt Coot-tha