

SOGETSU IKEBANA QUEENSLAND INC.

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Newsletter June 2024

Editor Amanda Terblanche

Director's Message

Wendy Hoskin

From the early days when Norman Sparnon visited Brisbane to the present day, Sogetsu Ikebana has continued to grow, to morph, to reinvent. A perfect example of this is our most recent Workshop held on 1 June 2024. The Workshop entailed creating a sculpture with dried leaves and to then incorporate the dried leaf sculpture in an arrangement by using the space outside the vase. The use of space outside the container was traditionally achieved through wiring. Now we also use hot glue which allows us as practitioners to move further, to take chances, to invent, to reinvent.

I tried to find out how often dried leaves were used. In *The Poetry of Leaves*, by Norman Sparnon, published in 1970, the only reference I could find to dried leaves was the use of dried aspidistra leaves. All other references are to bleached material. The process of bleaching can be unfriendly to the environment or us. I found an [article by Linda D'Arco](#) very informative. The subtlety of the colours that are exposed as a leaf dries naturally is lost with bleaching. Dried leaves are delicate and can be difficult to use. Enter the hot glue gun! We could create with the naturally dried leaves in ways I could not previously imagine, as was proven at this recent Workshop. **All participants used naturally dried leaves to create a sculpture, with amazing results.** Thanks to Vernisher Wooh, our expert presenter.

The **Sogetsu School of Ikebana, Victorian Branch** will be celebrating their 60th Anniversary on 31 October and 2 November 2024. Should spaces become available at their workshop or dinner, I will email booking details for the following events: A public Ikebana demonstration by the Master Instructor, Kosa Nishiyama at Federation Square on 31 October 2024. On 2 November 2024 two workshops will be led by Kosa Nishiyama at the Asia Centre Melbourne University, followed by a Celebratory Dinner.

I am working on an idea to have Sensei Mika Otani present workshops in 2025. This will be the Order of the Day at our next Committee Meeting. Will keep you posted.

Anytime, anywhere, by anyone
Wendy

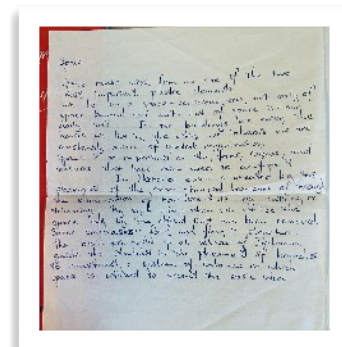
Save the Date 2024

6 July 2024	Camellia Show at Mt Coot-tha Auditorium
12 & 13 July 2024	Member Workshops presented by Ray Waters
17 August 2024	General Meeting at Kenmore Uniting Church Hall
31 August & 1 Sept 2024	Annual Sogetsu Ikebana Exhibition at Mt Coot-tha Auditorium

Space

Editor Amanda Terblanche

I was fortunate to obtain a used book by Norman Sparnon at the Trade Table. In the book I found this handwritten note about **Space in Ikebana**. These days we do not often see many handwritten notes, whilst years ago we often recognised people not only by face, but also by handwriting. This makes the note quite special. My impression was that it could be a note compiled by an Ikebana Teacher. After further investigation Rosalie Turk confirmed that it indeed is her handwriting, and yes, a note she compiled for teaching.



*Teaching note compiled by
Rosalie Turk*

Space compiled by Rosalie Turk

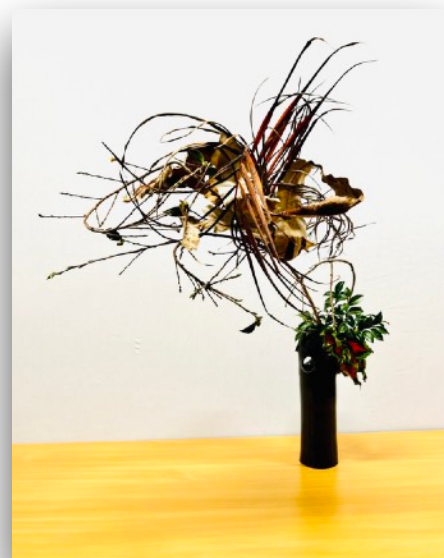
Space ranks with form as one of the two most important plastic elements.

We live in a space-conscious era, not only of space beyond the earth but of space in our daily lives. In the buildings we enter, the houses we live in, the cities we inhabit we are constantly aware of spatial organisation.

Space is as important as the forms, colours and textures that have been used to confine it.

In ikebana space is created by the placement of the three principal branches or through the elimination of non-essentials by cutting or trimming. By such elimination we utilise the space left by the object that has been removed.

Space emphasizes form and form is structure. The basic principles of all schools of ikebana guide the student in the placement of branches to construct a system of balance in which space is utilised to accent the basic idea.



*Space in ikebana:
Masako Morrison
created this glorious work*

Workshop presented by Vernisher Wooh

Peggy Perkins (participant):

Hi Everyone

Did you enjoy the workshop? How good was that.

I have been asked to write an article about the workshop for the newsletter. I'm not used to doing these kind of things, but I will have a go.

What a wonderful workshop!



*Arrangement Peggy Perkins
created at the Workshop*

Thank you Sensei Vernisher Wooh for our first workshop in 2024. All of us attending this workshop have learnt and gained something from it.

Vernisher began her demonstration by showing us how she selected dried lotus and papaya leaves. These leaves were glued together to form an interesting three dimensional shape that became the focal point.



Allison, Peggy and Vernisher



Ikebana calls for serious concentration & cooperation

Then she selected fresh tortured willow branches and split a pandana leaf. She attached her sculpture to the tortured willow and arranged all material to emphasise and create space outside the container.

Her choice of container was a bright red nageire vase and this colour and shape brought her arrangement together.

Vernisher made it look so effortless!



Demonstration concentration!



Demonstration ikebana by Vernisher Wooh

Then it was our turn to create our own masterpiece.



Dried leaves and fresh material transformed into ikebana masterpieces

We were guided to select dried leaves and a glue gun to create a sculpture; and the next step was to incorporate fresh materials and make use of the space outside our containers.

Vernisher gave each one of us specific, individual guidance and feedback on how to enhance our beautiful arrangements further. Such feedback is what we treasure at Workshops. She is such a talented, gifted person, her creative visions and her love of Ikebana always seem to amaze and inspire me.

Everyone created a work that was interesting and different. I was glad to be part of this workshop.

*Happy Ikebana Ladies!!!!
Peggy*

Jill Simon (student and observer):

Throughout the workshop Vernisher gave participants constructive feedback on their arrangements and ended the workshop with insightful individual feedback. She demonstrated significant skill in this endeavour given the high number of participants and the limited time.

Participants and observers walked away with a sense of achievement and gratitude for Vernisher and what she had shared.



Ikebana by Tomomi Tanowaki



Ikebana by Nicole Dorner-Scales

Helen Cook (participant and secretary)

A big thank you to Vernisher Wooh who led our workshop last Saturday with her consummate artistry and skill. Under Vernisher's expert guidance 25 attendees created unique and beautiful work. It was a challenging and stimulating experience. Thanks also to Ann Downey for coordinating the event, Karin Power for organising afternoon tea and Nicole Dorner-Scales for getting great photos up online so promptly. (www.facebook.com/ikebanabrisbane or www.instagram.com/sogetsu.ikebana.qld.inc)

Annual Exhibition of Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Inc. Note to Members from Pat Mackie, Exhibition Curator

Thank you everyone for your response to participate in our upcoming 2024 Sogetsu Ikebana Exhibition on 31 August to 1 September 2024. It has been great!

We have more than 40 arrangements at present.

- For those members planning installations outside the auditorium, please send me the details and drawings by mid July, because we must get permission from the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens organisation.
- Early August you will receive an email requesting a drawing, title and measurements of your arrangement.

Please note!

If you need to paint your plinth, the paint must be:

Taubmans Semigloss Colour: Sienna Frost. Available at Bunnings

If you require any further information, please contact:

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Newly elected Committee



On 13 April 2024 the newly elected Committee held their 1st Meeting to make brilliant plans for our Society.

L-R

Chieko Klerkx,
Sallyanne Scott,
Carolyn Sandercoe,
Helen Cook, Christina
Chen, Karin Power
and on the right is
Ingrid Kivikoski.



Wendy Hoskin, Masako Morrison, Ikuko Okada and Akemi Dunne were unable to attend.

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



*Certificate 1 Yonkyu
Teacher Vernisher Wooh
and Amber Huang*



*Certificate 2 Sankyu
Man(dy) Nguyen and
Teacher Pat Mackie*



*Certificate 2 Sankyu
Teacher Pat Mackie and Anya
Hodson*



*Certificate 4 Ikkyu
Daniele Wilson and
Teacher Pat Mackie*



*Certificate of Participation
for Textbook 5 Special
Training course A & B
Akemi Dunne and
Teacher Pat Mackie*

Saved by the power of ikebana many times

Switching over from house-keeping to arranging and teaching ikebana has been a helpful change of pace in my life. **I was saved so many times by ikebana because it has the power to heal our hearts.** I simply love to decorate my house or any other given space with flowers to make it beautiful.

When you are busy at home, especially with small children, you may not have the opportunity to meet new friends. I feel so grateful that ikebana enriched human relationships and introduced me to many wonderful people. One of the best moments as an instructor is when my students tell me that they were glad to have studied ikebana.

Source: Sogetsu (Magazine) Summer 2023 No 357, p84 - **Shoka Kasunga, 1st Grade Somu, Mexico.**