



SOGETSU IKEBANA QUEENSLAND INC.

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Newsletter

October 2024

Editor Amanda Terblanche

Director's Message

Wendy Hoskin

A highlight of 2024 has been our Annual Sogetsu Ikebana Exhibition at Mt Coot-tha. This year's theme was Splendour of Spring.

Thank you, Pat Mackie and Eri Pitt, for your leadership of the event.

Thank you to all the convenors, those who did demonstrations, those who led and assisted with workshops and the members who participated through their arrangements and volunteering.



*Chieko Klerkx created
Spring Mist*



*Chris Wyer: "Yesterday's
pruning is today's ikebana"*



Exhibition setup in progress

Thanks Nicole Dörner-Scales for the ongoing work with our social media and Christina Chen managing the money side of the Exhibition. The feedback provided to the committee for further analysis is appreciated and will prove valuable to enhance processes.



*Pat Mackie & Sallyanne Scott
titled their work "Ah Dracaena"*

A future project to bring a Master from Japan to Brisbane to present Workshops is in the pipeline. To assist with costs, we will encourage interstate associations to participate in our Master's workshops. We will also seek sponsorship from local Japanese businesses. Members have been invited by email to participate in a small working group.

Workshops offer us opportunities to experiment, to gain new insights, learn a few different skills and offer a healthy dose of uplifting social interaction. We'll be pleased to welcome Ella Herwald to Brisbane to present an exciting Paper Bark Workshop in October.

Regarding our Sogetsu Ikebana Newsletter, my thanks to Amanda Terblanche for her ability to ensure input from so many.

Friendship through flowers
Wendy

"I wanted to learn ikebana" **written by Eri Pitt**

A few years before I began learning ikebana, I visited the Annual Sogetsu Ikebana Exhibition at Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens. I really enjoyed it and was very impressed about ikebana spreading outside Japan. I wanted to learn ikebana myself and that can be done in Brisbane! This is how my ikebana journey began.

This year I experienced my fifth exhibition, and I really liked the theme "Splendour of Spring". Thinking about the theme I wanted to create an arrangement which will let people feel the joy of spring.

On advice from a local florist, I chose locally grown fresh Ranunculus, which were blooming beautifully around the exhibition time, and it was a pleasure to make my arrangement.

Personally, I thought that because of the theme, *Splendour of Spring* this year's exhibition was very colourful and joyful. It was a very successful exhibition, again.

I'd like to thank my teacher, Pat Mackie for giving me the opportunity to assist this year as Exhibition Co-ordinator. It was an experience to learn how many things needed to be organised beforehand. I only did a few tasks to assist Pat, and it was a good experience for me.

I'd like to say thank you to all the people who were involved in organising the exhibition and creating arrangements.



Spring Joy created by Eri Pitt

Many lovely comments at the Annual Exhibition written by Chieko Klerkx

We presented the Annual Sogetsu Exhibition on 30 August and 1 September 2024 at the Auditorium, Mt Coot-tha, Botanic Gardens.

The beautiful event was opened by Mr Junji Gomakubo, the Consul-General of Japan in Brisbane. Mrs Ikuko Hanai, Deputy Consul-General of Japan, also attended the exhibition. I had the pleasure to spend some time with them, viewing the ikebana arrangements and enjoyed coffee and cake. Mr Junji Gomakubo is very supportive of ikebana and asked many questions about ikebana.

The layout of the exhibition venue was good and created a lovely atmosphere of Spring. Demonstrations were interesting and varied. Adding an additional demonstration in the afternoon worked well and all demonstrations were well attended. The two hands-on workshops went well, and it was a joy to see the enthusiasm of participants and presenters.



Mr Junji Gomakubo and Chieko Klerkx



*Anya Hodson's arrangement
Spring Cleaning*



*Samantha Wooh's arrangement
The Flourishing Bloom*



*Allison Whiting's
arrangement Emergence*



*Chi Nguyen created
Blossoming*

After receiving such positive comments; and having seen all the amazing arrangements created by our fellow participants, we are inspired for the next Annual Exhibition.



*Akemi Dunne's
Sculptural Nature*

Ikebana arrangement inspired by the Olympics - written by Tomomi Tanawake

I enjoyed this year's exhibition; it was quite different from last year for me. Last year I participated in a group arrangement and I was quite busy with the preparation.



The before:

Tomomi busy creating her arrangement

This year I only did one solo arrangement.

My aim was to keep it quite simple.

I used bamboo and orange-coloured lilies. I got my inspiration from the colours of the medals at the Olympics.



The after:

Tomomi Tanawake has finished her arrangement titled Dancing in Spring

The Annual Exhibition is a big event for all of us. All year before the Exhibition we attend classes, where we learn more about Ikebana techniques whilst we experiment with materials and themes. We get encouragement from nature, from other forms of art, from our teachers and our classmates.

So many people worked together and created an interesting and beautiful Exhibition.

Sogetsu Ikebana in the Community

Orchids and Sogetsu Ikebana arrangements

The John Oxley District Orchid Society Inc. (JODOS) held their annual winter show on 27 and 28 July 2024 at Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha.

Two of our members, Fay Stutt and Julie Lumsdale were again invited to showcase orchids in their arrangements. The photo reflect some of the magic created. The visitors appreciated the beautiful Ikebana arrangements amongst the display of orchid plants.



Julie Lumsdale and Fay Stutt were delighted to arrange with orchids

The Japanese Culture Day

written by Chieko Klerkx

Our members were invited to participate at The Japanese Culture Day in August 2024 at the Japanese Gardens, Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha. Three schools, Ohara, Ikenobo and Sogetsu demonstrated arrangements and displayed their respective form of ikebana.

Chieko Klerkx and her students, Karin Power, Casey Tseng and Yukina Sakabe represented Sogetsu ikebana with their lovely arrangements.



Arrangements by Karin Power, Casey Tseng, Yukina Sakabe and the last two by Chieko Klerkx

Floral Art Society Friendship Day

In July 2024 Pat Mackie and students Akemi Dunne and Mikiko Inoue demonstrated ikebana at a well attended Friendship Day of the Floral Art Society. It was an opportunity to share different forms of flower fun and creativity.



Akemi Dunne, Pat Mackie and her striking arrangement & Mikiko Inoue

Ikebana workshop for the Japan Culture Exchange members - Chieko Klerkx

I conducted an ikebana workshop for the Japan Culture Exchange members at the University of Queensland. It was a new experience to the 16 participants to make an ikebana arrangement. It was a very stimulating and enjoyable event.



Chieko Klerkx with a group of Japan Culture Exchange members at the University of Queensland

Ikuko Okada received Calligraphy award At Dai-Nihon Shogei-in Exhibition at Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum by Ikuko Okada



I received an encouragement award for my calligraphy work "Modern Poetry". I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Kojima Shuho Sensei who has been teaching me for many years. The award ceremony was conducted solemnly, and the celebration party was lively and enjoyable.

To promote Japanese traditional calligraphy even more and increase its recognition overseas, just like anime, sushi, etc. which has become integrated into daily life in many countries, we are conducting workshops where local students can join us in writing with brushes. We hope to expand these activities further.

I will continue to practice hard to participate again in next year's exhibition.

Editor:

Congratulations Ikuko, it is wonderful that your beautiful artwork received recognition with this award. We know that you will keep creating beautiful calligraphy.

What is this ikebana art...?

Each one of us that is now a member of a Sogetsu ikebana group anywhere on earth, had that one big moment when we took the first step that led to an ikebana teacher.

What was this “new art called ikebana” was Chris Wyer’s question in Maryborough, QLD in the 1970’s. This brought her to her first teacher, Mildred Goldsmith.

As communicated to all members, Mildred Goldsmith passed away on 18 August 2024, aged 103 years. She too wanted to learn more about “this ikebana art” and this led her to her first teacher, Mr Norman Sparnon in 1968. In 1991 she reached the highest teaching level, Riji. Mildred taught ikebana from Noosa to Townsville.

“Chris, would you please write about your teacher, Mildred Goldsmith for the Newsletter?” requested Amanda, the editor.

Mildred Goldsmith,
my first ikebana teacher,
can be reflected on in many ways:
through her kindness,
her supportiveness,
her friendship,
her cheekiness of creative spirit
her generous heart
in sharing her skills and knowledge of ikebana.

When Mildred demonstrated to her class,
each flower and piece of greenery to be used in her arrangement
was treated with the outmost respect.
Looking deeply into each piece,
she attentively considered the strengths, the weaknesses and the possibilities.
She showed us how to gently place the piece into the arrangement
in an equally well considered container.
There was calm and quietness throughout this process.
This was to be a most exciting time of learning.

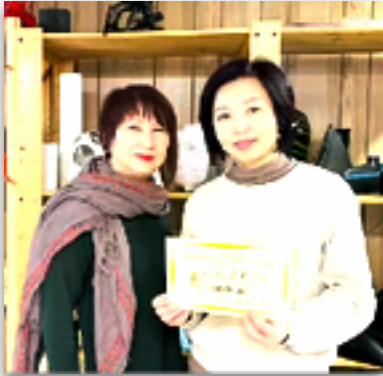
By realising the beauty and endless possibilities in nature,
I now know that
as ikebana students,
we were being taught to open our eyes,
to find beauty in the most surprising ways,
to discover beauty by exploring these possibilities.

Thank you Mildred for sharing your gifts
Thank you Mildred for teaching ikebana
You touched many lives through ikebana.
Teachers touch many lives through ikebana
Flowers changed your life Mildred
You changed our lives
Flowers change our lives
This ikebana art changes our lives.

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

"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



*Certificate 2: Sankyu
Teacher Vernisher Wooh &
Vicky Lui*



*Certificate 2: Sankyu
Miyuki Kruse &
Teacher Pat Mackie*



*Certificate 2: Sankyu
Jillian Hamilton &
Teacher Pat Mackie*



*Certificate 2: Sankyu
Teacher Vernisher Wooh &
Divya Viswanathan*



*Certificate 3: Nikyu
Anya Hodson, student of
Pat Mackie*



*Certificate 3: Nikyu
Teacher Vernisher Wooh &
Lara Lui*



*Certificate 3: Nikyu
Clare Loveband &
Teacher Vernisher Wooh*



*Certificate 3: Nikyu
Man(dy) Nguyen & Teacher
Pat Mackie*

90th birthday of Del Blackburn

Pat and Steve Mackie visited Del on this happy occasion.

Del, happy birthday from all your ikebana friends.



*Del Blackburn & Steve Mackie
celebrating Del's 90th*

What's coming next

- **12 October 2024 Paperbark Workshop by Ella Herwald**
- **23 November 2024 Design, Carve and Print Workshop by Nicole Dorner-Scales**
- **11 December 2024 Year End Lunch**

Editor

Do see photos of **all the other amazing arrangements** of the Annual Exhibition 2024; go to [instagram:sogetsu.ikebana.qld.inc](https://www.instagram.com/sogetsu.ikebana.qld.inc) and [Facebook:ikebanabrisbane](https://www.facebook.com/ikebanabrisbane)