

Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Inc.

www.ikebanabrisbane.org.au
Facebook: ikebanabrisbane
Instagram: sogetsu.ikebana.qld.inc
Editor: Amanda Terblanche

Message from the Director, Wendy Hoskin

I am pleased to share information about previous and future activities.

Future Workshops by Master Instructor from Japan, Mori Sairin

The Australian visit of Master Mori Sairin, Master Instructor from Sogetsu Headquarters, Tokyo has been finalised. Master Mori will conduct four workshops in Brisbane (18–19 April 2026) and four in Adelaide (24–25 April 2026). The Norman and Mary Sparnon Endowment Trust is generously sponsoring the airfares and 50% of the accommodation costs. The Trust trustees are also assisting with organising the workshops.

The Master's Workshops Planning Group proposed six possible topics to Master Mori for selection. He has refined the proposed themes to four topics:

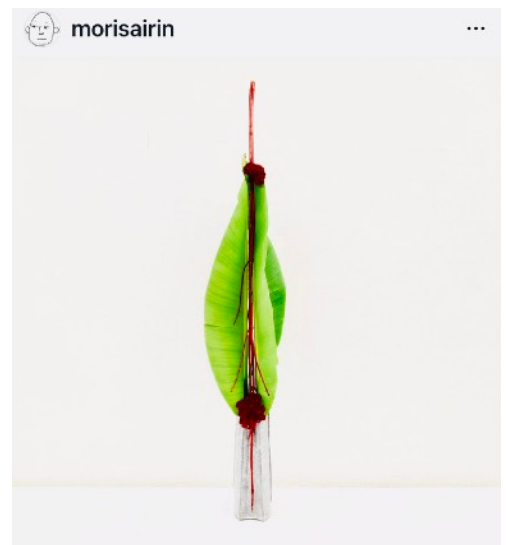
Intertwining

One kind of leaf only

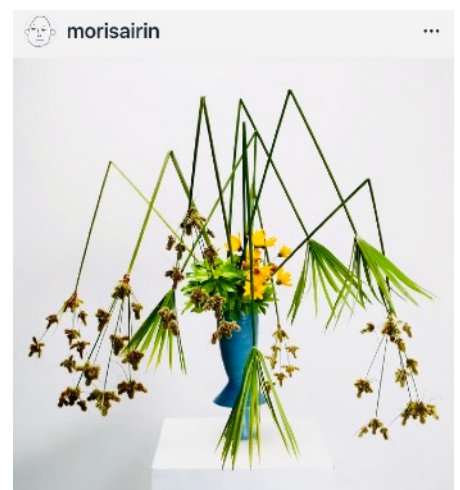
Disassembling and rearranging

Group work using branches, driftwood or dried materials

These topics will offer creative, challenging and thought-provoking sessions that go beyond the textbook and deepen members' experience.



*Ikebana by Master Mori Sairin
Source: Instagram morisairin*



Workshops will be held from 9:00 am – 11:30 am and 1:00 pm – 3:30pm, with lunch provided by a private catering company.

Information has already been emailed to all members. Those members that registered (through TryBooking) to participate will be kept informed via email. Our Treasurer, Christina Chen is coordinating the bookings. Interest is high, so book ASAP.

In the meantime, start your collection of dried material and branches, as you will be unable to purchase these.

End of Year Function

This member event will be held at **Salud!** 109 Haig Road, Auchenflower, Brisbane from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm on Wednesday 10 December 2025. Helen Cook has already emailed all relevant booking and menu options to all members. You are reminded to return your completed form to Helen and make prior payment to the Association by Friday 5 December.

Salud! Is a casual café/restaurant in Auchenflower and specialises in Latin American food with a Spanish twist. We will have our own airconditioned space at the rear of the restaurant overlooking the garden. Suburban street parking is available.

Last year Committee Members donated a gift that was then raffled. This is again the case. A free raffle ticket will be given to each attendee and gifts chosen in order.

I hope to see you all at our end of year celebration at Salud! The food looks amazing.

QAGOMA Foundation Dinner

Thanks to Ikuko Okada for leading her team and congratulations on the beautiful ikebana table arrangements made for the QAGOMA Art Gallery Foundation Dinner.

Publicity of Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Inc.

Members often promote Sogetsu Ikebana by initiating outreach workshops and/or demonstrations. To assist members and to standardise information the committee has drafted a **2-page information sheet** to be distributed at ikebana events and/or ikebana demonstrations. Please email Helen Cook to send the info sheet to you.

We are also investigating ways to “Spread the Word: Sogetsu Ikebana”. Let me know if you have any ideas.

Words of appreciation

My thanks to all committee members for their support throughout the year.

Thank you to our secretary Helen Cook. What a wonderful job you did to master Canva and produce the invitation to the Master's workshops. We appreciate how well you support the association, keep members informed and consistently perform all the secretarial duties. Christina Chen, our treasurer, you have been tireless in the performance of your duties throughout the year.

Belinda Lee Snow, Chieko Klerkx, Christina Chen, Ikuko Okada, Masako Morrison, Pat Mackie and I comprised the Master's Workshops Planning Group, and I thank each one for your time in shaping these workshops so efficiently.

Words of inspiration by Canadian ikebanist George Rigby

*Practising ikebana encourages me to remain calm and focused at all times (even when a stem just refuses to stay where I want it to...). I use this skill outside my class whenever situations don't turn out exactly as I expected. **Instead of getting frustrated, I bend, I adapt, I change my approach.***

*Creating ikebana brings me joy by putting me in touch with nature and with my humanity. **As Sofu said, "the highest expression of human nature is the joy of creating."***

Samurai practised ikebana to reach a peaceful state of concentration before going into battle. As a latter-day urban warrior, I practise ikebana to develop concentration and peace of mind that allow me to bend without breaking as I face the daily challenges of modern life.

Source:

<https://www.samuraiikebana.com/post/10-secrets-for-flawless-flower-photography>

Members, let's make time to create ikebana for the Year End Festivities and get-togethers.

Thank you for your participation during the year.

Regards

Wendy

QAGOMA Foundation Dinner - written by Okuko Okada

Sogetsu Ikebana Qld Inc. was requested to make the table arrangements for the annual QAGOMA Foundation Dinner, held on 25 October 2025 at QAG Watermall.

At the time, two of the exhibitions available for viewing were “Under a Modern Sun: Art in Queensland 1930s-1950s” and the abstract “Spectrum” exhibition.

Initially I had received approval from QAGOMA for the arrangement using dusty pink calla lilies, forest lace, gum and golden cane leaves. These typically last more than 10 days and the supplier had said they were always available.

However, bad news came five days before the event: pink calla lilies were not available! A solution was to use white lilies instead. Unfortunately, it turned out to be a challenging choice, as calla lilies in different colours last for different lengths of time - white ones though are much more fragile. Anyway, my prayer of “please just survive until the event is over!” was answered. Thanks to the great teamwork and helping hands of Yuditth Ng Wong, Leigh K, Tomomi Tanowaki and Helen Cook we successfully created centerpieces for all 15 tables.



Yuditth Ng Wong, Ikuko Okada, Leigh K, Tomomi Tanowaki and Helen Cook



Center piece table arrangement

Group Tour to Japan and Sogetsu Headquarter - written by Vernisher Wooh

In October 2025 I led a group of eight Queensland Sogetsu ikebana students to visit the Sogetsu Ikebana Annual Exhibition at Nihombashi, Tokyo.

The exhibition broadened their perspective of what Sogetsu Ikebana is. They were deeply impressed by the works, many of them studied the details carefully and even revisited the exhibition on the second day.



Narcisa Zemek, Gina Hsu, Allison Whiting, Lisa Hsu, Christina Chen, Vernisher Wooh and Adeline Chik

Narcisa Zemek, Gina Hsu, Allison Whiting, Lisa Hsu, Christina Chen, Vernisher Wooh, Adeline Chik, Elyanna Fong and Ashley Loong attended an international class at Sogetsu headquarters.

The group visited two container shops, Kotobukiya and Umeno. The students became very excited! They purchased many containers, including some from the Sogetsu Headquarters shop.

We toured Enoshima Island, Kawagoe, and several local suburbs. A most interesting feature of Enoshima Island is the train that hangs from a ceiling track rather than running on rails, giving the sensation of floating or flying above the streets. Only a few places in the world have this type of monorail. The food, factory outlets and shopping opportunities made the group especially happy.

Some of the students also went to the Mori Tower, The National Art Centre and the National Park where Sogetsu displayed outdoor installations.



Visiting Japan and experiencing Sogetsu ikebana was an enriching and inspiring experience.



Ikebana Fun at Inala Multicultural Art Gallery - written by Pat Mackie

Chi Nguyen approached me with a request from the Inala Multicultural Art Gallery. Would I be willing to organise a weekly ikebana arrangement to be displayed at the Inala Multicultural Art Gallery - and I jumped at the idea, and so did my students.



Ikebana by Fay Stutt



Ikebana by Pat Mackie



Ikebana by Belinda Lee Snow



Ikebana by Wendy Hoskin

The subsequent new awareness and interest in ikebana led to the idea of presenting “hands-on” classes for a month.

Chi Nguyen, Wendy Hoskin, Fay Stutt, Ann Downey, Belinda Lee Snow and I volunteered to create arrangements, or demonstrate Sogetsu ikebana and keenly shared the beauty and joy ikebana brings.



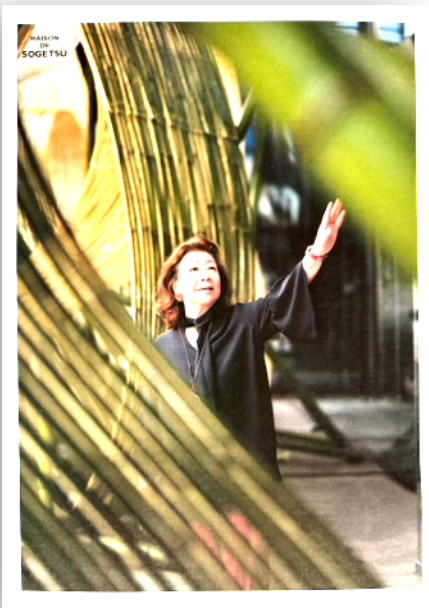
Ikebana by Mandy Nguyen



In the words of the Inala Arts Inc:

Attendees could explore the beauty and intricacies of the 3-dimensional art form, Sogetsu ikebana. It has produced some great arrangements along with an awareness and interest for Sogetsu ikebana.

Thank you to all the volunteers that sacrificed their time to share their talent, skills, art and resources to bless the local community through the Inala Multicultural Art Gallery. Thank you for volunteering in your own special way.



Iemoto Akane Teshigahara
Photo Credit: "Sogetsu"
Magazine Autumn 2025

Headmaster of Sogetsu Ikebana School: Iemoto Akane Teshigahara

-Source: No.294 (So October issue 2025)

Special Edition: Engage with the Iemoto:

Ask your Questions!

Question: Ikebana or Kado?

Sogetsu refers to itself as the "Sogetsu School of Ikebana," yet I find the term "Sogetsu School of Kado" to carry profound significance as well. What do you think? - Mr. S (Shizuoka)

Answer (Iemoto Akane Teshigahara):

Thank you for your insightful question. I'm sure many of our members have also pondered this.

Why did Sofu Teshigahara, the founder of Sogetsu, opt for the name "Sogetsu School of Ikebana" instead of "Sogetsu School of Kado"?

In Japan, many arts conclude with “-do,” such as Sado (tea ceremony), Shodo (calligraphy), Judo, and Kendo. While these disciplines are admirable, they often emphasise learning from a master and strictly adhering to their teachings, leaving little room for personal expression or individuality.

Sofu rejected this rigidity and distanced himself from his father, a traditional Kado practitioner.

Moreover, his choice to write “ikebana” in hiragana rather than the kanji underscored his unique perspective.

In his book, Kadensho, Sofu stated: The written verb for placing flowers can signify either “creation” or the “transformation.” This probably reflects his belief that an ikebana should embrace freedom and creativity, breaking away from established norms.

Sogetsu is not merely a singular path of Kado, but a journey that unfolds in multiple layers and extends infinitely.

Once you have internalised Sofu’s philosophy and mastered the Kakei-ho, you must confront yourself and create your own ikebana.

Innovation is challenging, and some people may settle into complacency.

However, if you consistently arrange flowers exactly as your teacher instructed or mimic someone else’s style, can that truly embody Sogetsu?

I aspire to uphold Sofu’s vision and hope it continues to thrive in the future.

To all instructors and learners, I encourage you to reflect deeply on Sofu’s profound intention behind the name “Sogetsu School of Ikebana” and to open new horizons boldly”.

- Akane Teshigahara

**Inspiring ikebana arrangement
by
Iemoto Akane Teshigahara**



Materials: Calabash, Moth orchid, Cockscomb

Vessel: Ceramic vase, 66×35×33cm

“I meticulously examined the shapes of the floral materials, the vase, and all other components of this arrangement, relishing the beauty of their harmonious combination, much like piecing together a captivating puzzle.”

Photo: So October 2025 issue

Sogetsu Ikebana Certificates

After successful completion of the specific Certificate Curriculum of the Sogetsu School of Ikebana, Japan, the following students were awarded certificates:

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 1 Yonkyu:
Teacher Amanda Terblanche & Glenys Mercer*



*Certificate 1 Yonkyu:
Gina Hsu & Teacher Vernisher Woon*



*Teacher's Course Fourth Grade: Yonkyu
Shihan
Daniele Wilson & Teacher Pat Mackie*



*Teacher's Course Fourth Grade: Yonkyu
Shihan
Helen Cook & Teacher Pat Mackie*

Save the Date

Master's Workshop Registration	Now, book ASAP
End of Year Celebration Lunch	10 December 2025
Live streaming: Iemoto Akane Teshigahara's New Year Celebration	12 January 2025
AGM 2026	16 March 2026
Master's Workshops Brisbane	18 & 19 April 2026
Master's Workshops Adelaide	24 & 25 April 2026
Gen Meeting and Mini workshop	16 May 2026
2026 Annual Exhibition	13 & 14 June 2026
Workshop Making perspex shapes with Pat Mackie	18 July 2026
Workshops by Hiroko Prado, Norman and Mary Sparnon	
Scholarship Holder 2025	5 September 2026
Sogetsu Ikebana's 100 th year	2027
"Sogetsu ikebana begins its next 100 years, with you"	

Should you wish to enjoy more photos go to:

instagram:sogetsu.ikebana.qld.inc

and / or

Facebook:ikebanabrisbane

Editor:

Members, thank you for the interesting contributions and the beautiful photos in this Newsletter.

- Amanda Terblanche