

Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Inc.

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

Message from the Director, Wendy Hoskin

It was another successful year for Sogetsu Ikebana Qld Inc. Thank you. As we farewell 2025, we welcome 2026.

Recent End of Year Celebration Lunch

On 10 December a group of members and our patron shared a relaxed and enjoyable lunch at Salud Restaurant, Auchenflower. The food was full of Latin American flavours with very generous portion sizes. Some of us even took home a wonderful raffle prize. Thank you Helen Cook for organising the event. A special thank you to the committee members and others who offered gifts for the door raffle. We appreciate the attendance of our Patron, John Massy and his wife Karen who also donated several raffle prizes. Attendance was unfortunately down. In the new year the Management Committee will discuss alternatives.



Ikebana by Mori Sairin. Source Instagram

Towards 2027

In **2027** Sogetsu Ikebana will celebrate its 100th year and 2026 will be a preparation for the centenary celebrations. On 13 & 14 June 2026 the **Annual Queensland Sogetsu Exhibition** will take place, which is two months earlier than usual. This will offer an interesting variation of plant material available. The theme will be "Towards 100 years of Sogetsu Ikebana" in anticipation of Sogetsu Ikebana celebrating 100 years in 2027. The curator will be Vernisher Wooh and a heartfelt thank you to her.

There will be a variation to the **Sogetsu Shop** (formerly the Trade Table). This role will be split, with a Sogetsu Shop Convenor and a Table Curator. They will work together to ensure success. This will ease pressure on the convenor.

We are also introducing a **Pottery Prize** in conjunction with new containers being accepted for sale. This could be one way of increasing the number of vases available to members. Miyuki Kruse, a student of Pat Mackie and Founder of the Brisbane Japanese Language and Culture School, donated the prize money.

As the Exhibition is earlier this year, the Management Committee needs to finalise roles early in the new year. **Please, will you think about volunteering**, especially if you are exhibiting. Many hands make light work. Role descriptions are available in the Annual Exhibition Handbook, available on our website. Please familiarise yourself with the various roles.

Master's Workshop

In **2026** our Queensland branch and the Adelaide branch are both excited to host Workshops in April. It is wonderful to see that most workshops are fully subscribed. Thank you to both Helen Cook and Christina Chen for all the work carried out in the background. More information will be forthcoming in the new year. Thanks to Miyuki Kruse for the donation to assist with the photography at the Master's Workshop.

Other Workshops in 2026

Workshops will be presented by **Pat Mackie** on 18 July, **Hiroko Prado** on 5 September, and **Ann Downey** on 7 November. I ask that these dates be entered into your calendar. Unfortunately a recent workshop was cancelled due to overlapping dates.

Gallery Opportunities

A few months ago Pat Mackie responded to a request from her student Chi Nguyen to do an Ikebana Display in the Inala Multicultural Art Gallery. This was well received by the community, as were the ikebana classes by Pat Mackie and Ann Downey. The ikebana displays will continue. It is a welcome exhibition option to students who have completed Book 4, as they may put themselves forward to participate. We see this as a learning opportunity for newer members prior to participating at QAG (after completion of the Teacher Certificate). Thank you Pat.

Thank you

My sincere thanks to both the Management Committee and the Master's Visit Planning Committee members for their initiative and contribution towards this year's success and the work done for a very stimulating and creative 2026 and beyond. Thanks also to members who ensure that the association presents beautifully to the world.

Further on in this Newsletter, you'll find and enjoy reading the Committee Mini Minutes, as it is packed with information about forthcoming activities.

May you enjoy time with family and friends in this Festive Season. Take the time to breathe and smell the flowers.

Regards

Wendy

Save the Date

12 January 2026	Live streaming: Iemoto Akane Teshigahara's New Year Celebration
19 March 2026	Annual General Meeting
18 & 19 April 2026	Brisbana Workshops Master Mori Sairin
24 & 25 April 2026	Adelaide Workshops Master Mori Sairin
13 & 14 June 2026	Annual Exhibition themed "Towards 100 years of Sogetsu Ikebana"
18 July 2026	Workshop with Pat Mackie, Making Perspex Sculptures
5 September 2026	Workshops by Hiroko Prado (Sparnon Scholarship holder)
7 November 2026	Workshop by Ann Downey, Pasta machine transforms leaves
Year 2027	Sogetsu begins its next 100 years with you

Ikebana displayed at the Inala Multicultural Art Gallery



*Ikebana artist Nicole
Dorner-Scales*



Congratulations!

Sogetsu Ikebana Certificates Awarded

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



*Certificate 2 Sankyu: Adeline Chik,
Li-Chen Hsu and Teacher Vernisher Wooh*



*Certificate 3 Nikyu:
Jill Simon and Teacher Vernisher Wooh*

***“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

Master Mori Sairin

Compiled by: Amanda Terblanche in collaboration with Helen Cook, Mikiko Inoue, Ikuko Okada and Vernisher Wooh

Excitement is in the ikebana air about the prospect of Master Mori Sairin presenting Workshops in Brisbane and Adelaide. Let's enjoy a bit more information about him and his ikebana work.

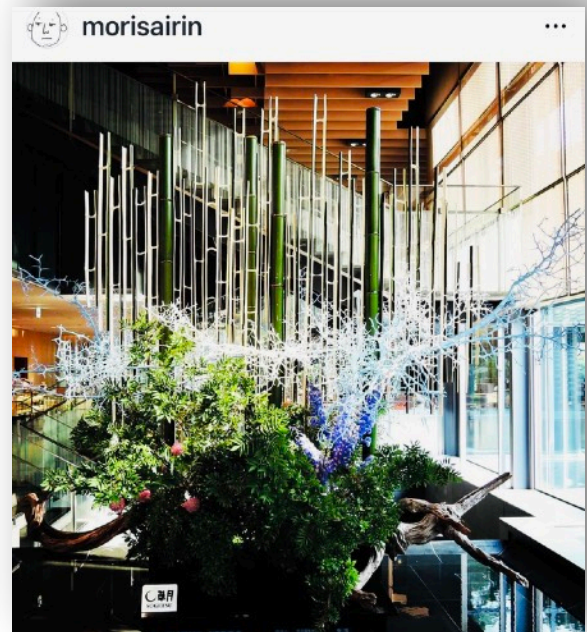
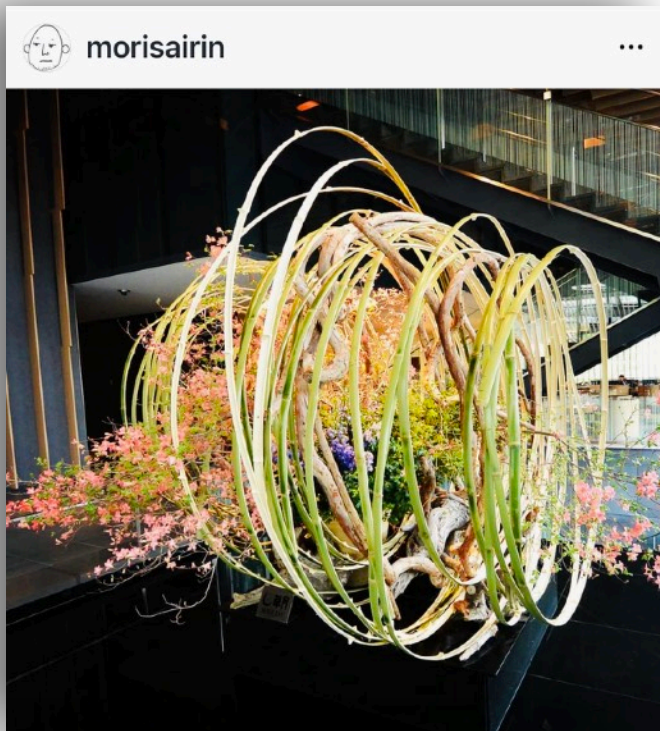
Vernisher Wooh

I can recommend Master Mori Sairin highly. His designs are very inspiring. He picks up a branch and very fast his brain creates a design by transforming the material. His ikebana works are modern and very creative. His teaching style is gentle and patient. He calmly encourages students “...try something new...” without fear. He is playful with ikebana and cheerful; he even jokes with the students.

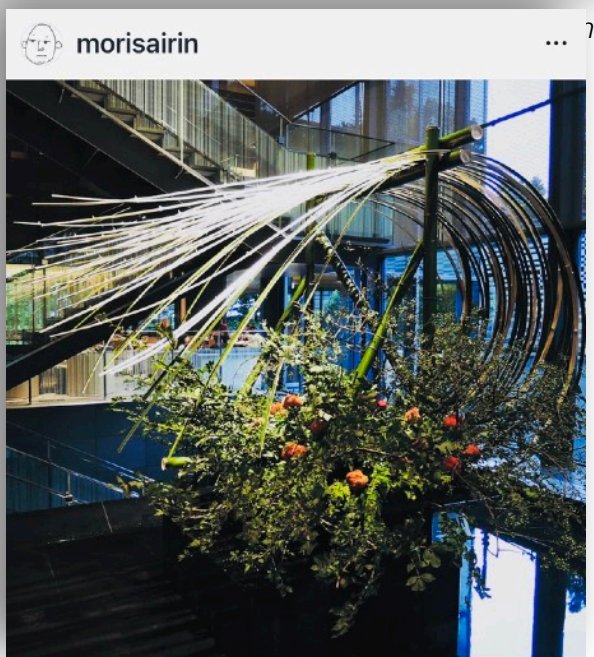


*Master Mori Sairin demonstration in France at
their 55th Sogetsu ikebana anniversary
-Source: YouTube image*

His work is frequently displayed in the Capital Hotel in Tokyo. He often travels to China for demonstrations and to teach ikebana.



Ikebana by Mori Sairin. Source Instagram



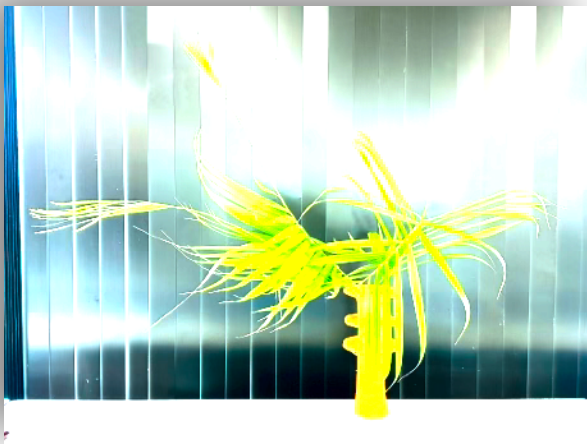
Ikebana by Mori Sairin. Source Instagram



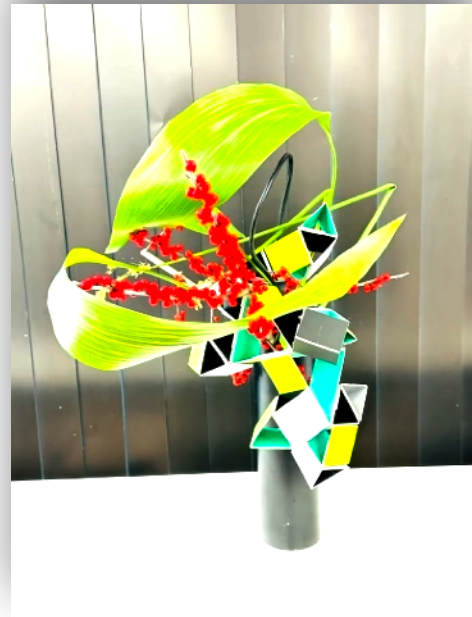
Ikebana by Mori Sairin, posted on Xiaohongshu by a Sogetsu student in China.

I participated in Mori Sairin Sensei's workshop on 2 May 2025. The theme was **Only one kind of leaf**. As my number was 45, it meant I was the last student to choose material for the workshop. The only material left to do my arrangement with was golden cane leaves!

Initially I was really puzzled about what to do. Then I got an idea and began to work. Mori Sairin Sensei did ask if I needed help, but I wanted to try first by myself. His feedback was very positive about my arrangement.



*Ikebana by Vernisher Wooh at Master Mori Sairin's workshop, theme **One kind of leaf***



*Vernisher Wooh's ikebana at Master Mori Sairin's Workshop
Theme:
Let's recall art class at school*

On 15 November 2025, I participated in another workshop by Mori Sairin Sensei. The theme was **Let's recall art class at school**. The most difficult part for me was measuring and cutting the cardboard, which required careful attention and precision. I chose light and dark green, black and grey cardboard. In the final stage, the cardboard structure was combined with fresh material.

What Morisairin posted about this workshop on his Instagram:

The Instagram translation reads "the theme is: Remember the time of artwork - return to childhood and play anyway -"

"It is hard to 'play' with ikebana. Many people feel that way. I remember how much fun I had in elementary school when it's drawing time, and if I move my hands around my heart, I might feel something different..."



*Ikebana by Mori Sairin
Source: Instagram*

Ikebana demonstration in France by Master Mori Sairin

Sensei created splendid ikebana works in November 2024 at the 55th anniversary celebration of the ***Sogetsu Branche française***. He mentioned that he had been doing ikebana for 22 years.

You might love to see the You Tube of Master Mori's demonstration for French members. It has both French and English translations although they are fairly brief. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gAiQTksiX2U>



*Ikebana created by Mori Sairin in France,
source YouTube*

Photos of our Year End Celebrations



Annual Year End luncheon of members of Queensland Sogetsu Ikebana Inc.



Students of Teacher Chieko Klerkx enjoyed a Year End Celebration at Fosh Seafood Restaurant In Portside



Teacher Vernisher Wooh and students having a Year End Breakfast at the Glen Hotel in Eight Mile Plains



Teacher Pat Mackie & students at Year End Luncheon at Hotel Monier, Darra



Students of Teacher Pat Mackie at Year End Luncheon, Hotel Monier, Darra



Teacher Pat Mackie & students at Year End Luncheon at Hotel Monier, Darra



Students of Pat Mackie at Year End Luncheon



Students of Teacher Pat Mackie at Year End Luncheon

SOGETSU IKEBANA BRISBANE WORKSHOPS

FOR AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND MEMBERS ONLY

*with Special Guest
Master Instructor,
Sairín Mori*



Saturday 18 April 2026
Sunday 19 April 2026



Workshop Times
9.00 am - 11.30 pm
1.00pm - 3.30 pm



Location
Multi-Faith Bld N35
South Ring Road
Griffith University
Nathan Campus
170 Kessels Road
Nathan **Brisbane**
Australia



www.ikebanabrisbane.org.au
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Sogetsu

Supported by the Norman and Mary
Sparron Endowment Trust

Brisbane Workshops 18 and 19 April 2026

Workshop 1 - Saturday 9.00am

Topic: Intertwining

Workshop 2 - Saturday 1.00pm

Topic: One kind of leaf only

Workshop 3 - Sunday 9.00am

Topic: Disassembling and Rearranging

Workshop 4 - Sunday 1.00pm

Topic: Group Work

Adelaide Workshops 24 and 25 April 2026

Master Mori is also conducting workshops in Adelaide during this visit, sponsored by the Norman and Mary Sparnon Endowment Trust.

Workshop 1 - Friday 9.30am

Topic: Using dried Materials

Workshop 2 - Friday 1.30pm

Topic: Using Various Locations

Workshop 3 - Saturday 9.30am

Topic: Using Both Fresh and Unconventional Materials

Workshop 4 - Saturday 1.30pm

Topic: Seasonal Plant Materials.

For more information about Adelaide workshops, please contact:

ikebana.adelaide@gmail.com

Please note that these workshops are available to Australian and New Zealand Sogetsu Ikebana members only and are not open to the general public.

Mini Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 15 November 2025

Review of the 2025 Exhibition

The Committee spent considerable time discussing feedback that the Curator Sue Poole and members provided for the 2025 Review. The response was overwhelmingly positive, but several improvements have been agreed by the Committee for future Exhibitions.

We plan to allow the **public to pre-register for workshops** on a TryBooking site advertised on the Exhibition flyer. Workshop prices will also be increased to \$20.

We hope to include **QR codes on each plinth** next year so that visitors can review the excellent information provided by members about their arrangements. This is in addition to a complete printed list being available on the front wall of the Auditorium.

The **Exhibition Handbook** has been updated to reflect the agreed changes.

The Trade Table was renamed the Ikebana Shop this year and that seemed to work well so is being continued.

Potters may be interested in a **pottery competition** with a prize to increase new containers suitable for ikebana becoming available at the Ikebana Shop. The competition will be launched shortly and will include a cash prize. Local pottery groups and galleries will be invited to promote the competition which will be judged on Friday 12 June.

Building Awareness and Engagement with Sogetsu Ikebana

The Committee had a long discussion about strategies to increase public awareness of Sogetsu ikebana and our Annual Exhibition, and to assist those interested in ikebana to find a teacher. It was noted that we had fewer requests to participate in demonstrations and workshops in 2025 than in previous years.

The Inala Multicultural Centre is currently **hosting our arrangements** which are changed weekly until the end of the year. **Introductory classes have also been offered** by Pat Mackie, assisted by Ann Downey and Mandy Nguyen. Local enthusiasm for attending was apparent. There may be other locations which would be suitable for hosting arrangements in the short term, especially if a teacher has connections or prior to the Exhibition to promote our showcase event eg local libraries or large shops.

This year we did participate successfully in the **Camellia Show** with four of Vernisher's students creating arrangements. We plan to attend the annual **Queensland Council of Garden Clubs Plant and Floral Fair** on 10-11 April 2026. This should provide an opportunity to connect with other garden clubs in Brisbane whose members might be interested in demonstrations or ikebana lessons. The Queensland Council of Garden Clubs keeps a list of presenters on various topics. We will be included on this list in future. The Director will act as contact.

Several View Clubs which support the Smith Family have requested demonstrations. We could proactively seek more such events. Examples of organisations discussed included the Probus Clubs and National Seniors. Of course, our participation in external events depends on members' availability to undertake outreach activities. It is particularly useful for teachers speaking in their locality to find new students. Presentations for these organisations are often booked up to 12 months in advance.

A Friends of Ikebana free email group will be created to offer a means of interested members keeping in contact with us following a suggestion from Ikuko Okada. They will be provided information about events and exhibitions, along with newsletters.

We now have a printed **Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Inc. one-page flyer** which includes our social media sites and a list of teachers on the back. This has been updated to include information on the Friends of Ikebana Group and can be provided to those interested so they can follow up.

The **purchase of flowers** for an event may be reimbursed by some clubs and associations. However, if this is not the case, a nominal amount (eg. \$20) may be available as reimbursement for members undertaking such demonstrations and giving their time at events, if they can provide a receipt.

2026 Workshops

The Master's Workshops Planning group has been busy with preparations and member interest has been fantastic. Some workshops are almost full.

In July, **Pat Mackie** will repeat a workshop she conducted some years ago on **Creating Perspex Sculptures** after student requests for this opportunity.

In September Workshops will be presented by **Hiroko Prado**. She spent 3 months in 2025 studying ikebana in Tokyo, Japan on the Norman and Mary Sparnon Fellowship.

The purpose of the Norman Sparnon Fellowship is to allow an Australian member to provide local workshops to update members on the latest from Sogetsu Headquarters on their return from their classes in Japan.

Ann Downey will hold a workshop in November showing members how to use a **pasta machine to create special effects on suitable plant material** after member requests for this workshop. Further workshops are in the process of being finalised.

2026 AGM and Committee elections

Respected local sculptor, Rhyl Hinwood will be our guest speaker at the AGM in 2026. Committee nominations will be sought in early 2026 for the Management Committee so we encourage members to consider contributing to the Association in this way.

The Membership renewal date for 2026 was 12 December.

Our End of Year celebration lunch was held on 10 December with Committee members providing prizes for the door raffle.

Helen Cook
Secretary

Editor:

Should you wish to enjoy more photos go to:

instagram:sogetsu.ikebana.qld.inc
and / or
Facebook:ikebanabrisbane

Members, I thank you for the interesting contributions and the beautiful photos in this Newsletter. I also thank Ann Downey for editing and proofreading this Newsletter. Thank you Nicole Dorner-Scales for publishing the Newsletters on the website.

- Amanda Terblanche