

Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Inc.

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

Newsletter Contents

- Message from the Director
- Save the Date
- For you to borrow and use! Containers (kaki)
- Ikebana Workshop Etiquette
- Annual Exhibition 2026 & Historical Overview of 100 years of Sogetsu
- Certificates recently obtained
- Enthusiastic learning: Certificate statistics of the past year
- Hiroshi Awards 2027: Pat Mackie and Vernisher Wooh
- Introducing Ikebana in our Communities
- Ceramic Art by Peter Biddulph and Complementing Ikebana by Vernisher Wooh
- Mini Committee Minutes

Message from the Director

- Wendy Hoskin

Welcome to the March 2026 edition of the Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Inc. Newsletter. In March we held the **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**. Our Ikebana members were mesmerised by Dr Rhyl Hinwood, a Brisbane based sculptor and the guest speaker. Rhyl has designed and produced over seven hundred commissioned public artworks. She is a Member of the Order of Australia since 2006 for "service to the arts as a sculptor of artworks for public places and buildings, and through her teaching roles and support for students". Rhyl's breadth of work is remarkable.



Sculptor Dr Rhyl Hinwood presenting at the AGM



Sculpture by Rhyl Hinwood

I would like to thank all members who attended the AGM. To the committee of the year ending 31 March 2026 I thank you for your participation. Thank you Ikuko Okada for your service and leadership for so many years. Carolyn Sandercoe who served as Deputy Director, thank you. For your committee work before relocating to Japan, thank you Akemi Dunn.

I welcome the members who have volunteered to assist with the future of our association.

The new Committee for 2026 - 2027

Wendy Hoskin	Director
Masako Morrison	Deputy Director
Christina Chen	Treasurer
Helen Cook	Secretary
Belinda Lee Snow	
Cathy Van Extel	
Chieko Klerkx	
Elyanna Fong	
Gina Hsu	
Sallyanne Scott	
Yudith Ng Wong	
Amanda Terblanche	Newsletter Editor

Non-Committee Members for 2026-2027

Julie Lumsdale	Historian
Robyn Cuming	Art Gallery Coordinator
Nicole Dorner-Scales	Web Manager, Instagram and Facebook Administrator

Many members enjoyed lunch in the QAG Café after the AGM. It was also an opportunity to see Ann Downey's ikebana arrangement in the Queensland Art Gallery (QAG).

Master Workshop with Sensei Sairin Mori on 18 & 19 April 2026

Helen Cook and Christina Chen have been working continuously to see that these workshops come to fruition. Vital information for participants was emailed by Helen (dated 30 March). We have had enthusiastic and good enrolment to these workshops. Opening bookings for Observers to the workshops also resulted in a good response.

There will be opportunities for members to interact informally with Sensei Mori during his time in Brisbane before he heads to Adelaide.

We appreciate the Norman and Mary Sparnon Endowment Fund and the Brisbane Japanese Language and Culture School for financially supporting the Master's workshops.

Annual Exhibition on 13 & 14 June 2026 at Mt Coot-tha

Preparation for our annual exhibition in June is well underway. Most positions for the oversight of the exhibition have been filled. For members intending to exhibit at our Annual Exhibition ***Towards 100 Years of Sogetsu Ikebana***, Vernisher Wooh, as curator has provided a brief historical summary of the development of Sogetsu ikebana to reflect the theme. This historical summary was emailed to members by Helen Cook on 13 March 2026; and is also in this Newsletter. This deeper preparation will help you to consider the influences from which our ikebana practice has emerged. It will also assist you to decide which era your exhibition arrangement will reflect. Discussions with your ikebana teacher will be of great benefit to your creative process.

Workshops 2026

Every workshop is an opportunity to learn from others. Often information shared is not covered in classes or through textbooks. Please take the opportunity to participate. Helen Cook and Masako Morrison will be coordinating the workshops.

A stimulating variety of Workshops has been scheduled for the year. It includes a Tea Ceremony, a Mini Workshop prior to the General Meeting in May, making Perspex Sculptures (presented by our Brisbane Riji, Pat Mackie), a full day Workshop by Hiroko Prado (a recent Norman and Mary Sparron Scholarship recipient) and a Spaghetti Leaf Workshop (using a pasta machine to create amazing textured leaves resulting in a fresh approach to ikebana arranging). See **Save the Date** in this Newsletter for details of all the workshops.

Gallery News

We continue to present weekly ikebana arrangements at the Queensland Art Gallery (QAG). Recently we have also been exhibiting at the Inala Art Gallery - thanks to Pat Mackie's initiative and coordination. Please contact Pat for further information. The Maker's Gallery has become another annual collaboration between Australian ceramicists and Queensland Sogetsu ikebanists.

It is important to raise awareness of Sogetsu ikebana and the enduring creativity it offers. Thank you to members who present at various associations and clubs; please share the experience by submitting a short article for the Newsletter to Amanda Terblanche.

The year ahead is exciting. Please participate when you can.

Ikebana is the art of space - the space between branches, the space between flowers and leaves and the space between masses.

— Sofu Teshigahara

Wendy

Save the Date

17 April 2.00 pm	Workshop by Master Mori Set Up, Griffith Uni N3
18 April 9.00 am	Workshops by Master Mori Day 1
19 April 9.00 am	Workshops by Master Mori Day 2
24 & 25 April	Adelaide 4 Workshops by Master Mori
2 May	Tea Ceremony by Tomoko White, Kuraby
16 May 10.00 am	Mini Workshop and General Meeting, Hamilton Hall
11 June	Annual Exhibition set up Day 1, Mt Coot-tha
12 June	Annual Exhibition set up Day 2, Mt Coot-tha
13 & 14 June	Annual Exhibition Day 1 & 2, Mt Coot-tha Auditorium
18 July	Workshop: Perspex Sculptures; Pat Mackie, Jindalee
25 July 10.00 am	Committee Meeting Moorooka Meeting Room
5 September 9.00 am - 4 pm	Workshops (2) by Hiroko Prado, Norman & Mary Sparnon Scholarship Holder 2025, at Kenmore
19 September 10.00 am	Committee Meeting
7 November 1.30 pm	Workshop Spaghetti Leaves, Ann Downey, Moorooka
21 November 10.00 am	Committee Meeting
28 November 2026	End of Year Celebration (date to be confirmed)
5 & 6 June 2027	Annual Exhibition 2027

FOR YOU TO BORROW AND USE

Containers (kaki) owned by Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Inc.

- written by Helen Cook

You may be aware that the winning entry in our new Ikebana Pottery Competition will be acquired by the Association - for members to use! You will be able to borrow this container to do an arrangement for an event or demonstration.

The association has a range of other items on its asset register. Some of these items are used only at the annual exhibition. These include screens, a wireless sound system along with signs, banners and some kitchen items.

There are also a couple of sets of smaller vases previously acquired for the Foundation Dinner or exhibition workshops.

The association already owns 7 attractive pottery containers which you are welcome to borrow. Most of these containers are the result of past donations. Containers include a large white trough, a yellow moribana suiban, a bronze colour oblong moribana and 4 containers suitable for nageire arrangements. Pat Mackie is kindly storing these vases, and Wendy Hoskin is storing 3 metal containers for larger installations.

Please check out the photos should you like to borrow any of these kaki for future use.



If you would like to borrow one of the association's containers, please contact Pat or Wendy to arrange the loan.

Ikebana Workshop Etiquette - written by Chieko Klerkx

Here are a few ideas to enhance the enjoyment of workshops and the inspiring company of fellow participants. Etiquette often results in being at ease and leads to a harmonious environment.

1. Arrive at the workshop early and prepare your space so the workshop can begin on time.
2. Greet the sensei at the beginning of the class; in Japan students traditionally bow.
3. Watch and listen to the sensei's demonstration quietly.
4. You may ask questions during the demonstration if the sensei has said it's okay to do so.
5. You may start work on your arrangement after the sensei has finished their demonstration.
6. When you have finished your arrangement, clear your area of all objects in readiness for the sensei's critique. Stand next to the sensei when your arrangement is being critiqued.
7. Students not being critiqued should stand away from the sensei and avoid blocking the area.
8. Whilst the sensei is critiquing other students' work, listen actively and avoid engaging in conversations.
9. Do not take photos or videos during any critique, instead focus and learn from what the sensei is saying.
10. Once the sensei has completed everyone's feedback, only then can you begin to dismantle your arrangement.
11. When the sensei has finished critiquing everyone's arrangements, you may take photos.
12. Thank the sensei at the end of the workshop; traditionally in Japan people bow.

Annual Exhibition 2026 and Historical Overview of 100 Years of Sogetsu - written by Helen Cook

We are beginning to steer our preparation towards our Annual Exhibition at the Mt Coottha Auditorium on 13 and 14 June 2026 as it is our major activity for the year. This year the theme is "Towards 100 years of Sogetsu Ikebana".

Members intending to exhibit will be delighted with the following historical summary of the development of Sogetsu ikebana by the curator, Vernisher Wooh. This in-depth background for preparation will help you to consider the influences from which our ikebana practice has emerged. It will also assist you to decide which era your exhibition arrangement will reflect.

Naturally you will also consult your teacher and some of the books produced by the iemotos during the previous 100 years to gain a broader perspective of the journey Sogetsu ikebana has been on. Each iemoto – Sofu, Kasumi, Hiroshi and Akane Teshigahara - influenced this development in their own inimitable way.

Historical Summary of Sogetsu Ikebana's Development - by Vernisher Wooh

A 100-year evolution (highlights)

- 1927–1940s : Break from fixed forms to free style.
Founder and 1st iemoto, Sofu Teshigahara establishes Sogetsu in 1927 to allow personal originality - “anytime, anywhere, by anyone.” Early Sogetsu shows embrace modern containers, visible kenzan in suiban and freedom beyond classical rules.
- Post-war 1950s - 60s : Avant-garde scale & materials
Sofu tours Europe/US; Sogetsu rises as the avant-garde school, widely using man-made materials (wire, metal, plastics) and bold sculptural forms. The Sogetsu Art Center (1958–1971) becomes a hub for experimental arts, reinforcing cross-disciplinary, performance-scale ikebana.
- Late 1960s–1979 : Expansion of expressive vocabularies
Large installations, object-like works, and collaborations with designers and musicians become common in exhibitions and media.
- 1979–1980 (**Kasumi Teshigahara, 2nd iemoto**): Light, miniature, colour-treated & dried materials
Kasumi Teshigahara promotes miniatures and airy, luxurious pieces that deliberately use dried/painted elements - broadening what “arrangement” can mean in scale and surface.
- 1980–2001 (**Hiroshi Teshigahara 3rd iemoto**) : Monumental bamboo & spatial/ environmental works
Film director Hiroshi Teshigahara pushes bamboo as a core structural medium in museum-scale installations and stage design; also develops Renka (chain, improvised multi-artist arrangements). These redefine arrangements as immersive environments.
- 2001 - present (**Akane Teshigahara, 4th iemoto**) : Contemporary settings, collaboration, pedagogy
Akane Teshigahara emphasises arrangements suited to diverse modern spaces (from tables to plazas), frequent collaborations across arts, and updated teaching - culminating in Textbook 5 (2017) focusing on technique + creation and required for the initial Teacher’s Diploma (4th Grade).

- Towards 2027 (Centennial) : Reflective consolidation & outreach
Sogetsu (Japan) is curating its past/future via a 13-video series “What’s SOGETSU ?” (re-released Jan–Mar 2025) ahead of the 100th anniversary in 2027, spotlighting philosophy, history, and evolving practice.

What changed in the arrangements themselves

- From set kata to authorship : Sogetsu kept moribana/nageire foundations but centred free style as the norm - arrangements as personal statements rather than reproductions of fixed forms.
- Materials palette exploded : Plant + man-made elements (metal, plastics, fabric), colour-treated and dried botanicals became legitimate, even celebrated.
- Scale & site diversified : From tokonoma pieces to hall-filling installations and stage sets; arrangements integrated with architecture and performance.
- Signature media : Bamboo engineering (steam-bent, woven, architectural) matured into a house specialty from the 1990s onward.
- Collaborative modes : Renka formalized multi-artist, improvised sequence arranging - expanding arrangement as dialog.
- Curriculum modernization: The five-textbook pathway, capped by Textbook 5 (2017), systematises technique and contemporary expression for teaching and certification.

Congratulations! Sogetsu Ikebana Certificates Obtained

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



*Certificate 3 Nikyu: Jillian Hamilton
& teacher Pat Mackie*



*Certificate 4 Ikkyu: Jennifer Mackie
& teacher Pat Mackie*



*Yudith Ng Wong with Certificate 2 Sankyu;
Christina Chen with Teacher's Diploma 4th Grade;
teacher Vernisher Wooh & Tomomi Tanowaki
with Teacher's Diploma Second Grade Sanyo*



*Teacher's Diploma Third Grade: Phoebe
L.Y. Sit & teacher Vernisher Wooh*



*Certificate 1 Yonkyu: Teacher Amanda
Terblanche & recipient Roslyn Mason*

***"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

Enthusiastic learning: Certificate Statistics of the Previous Year

Certificates obtained year ending 15 March 2026

Certificate level	Number of students
1 st Certificate	13
2 nd Certificate	10
3 rd Certificate	2
4 th Certificate	6
Teacher's Diploma 4 th Grade	5
Teacher's Diploma 3 rd Grade	3
Teacher's Diploma 2 nd Grade	4
Total for year	43

Sogetsu 100th Anniversary Hiroshi Awards to Pat Mackie & Vernisher Wooh

Letter from Iemoto Akane Teshigahara to Pat Mackie and Vernisher Wooh

It will soon be one hundred years since Sofu Teshigahara set out on his own in pursuit of a free and creative new form of ikebana, establishing what is now known as the Sogetsu School.

Throughout the long history that Sogetsu has traveled since that day, you have diligently deepened your studies under successive Iemoto, and through your diverse activities—both in creative expression and in the cultivation of future generations—you have been a tremendous force in advancing the Sogetsu School.

In recognition of your outstanding contributions and achievements, and with great expectations for your continued success, we are pleased to present you with the “Sogetsu 100th Anniversary Hiroshi Award” at the Sogetsu 100th Anniversary Celebration ceremony to be held on April 18, 2027.

It brings me great joy that we will be able to honor your remarkable accomplishments together with people from around the world who love Sogetsu.

We look forward to celebrating with you this brilliant moment—commemorating a century of Sogetsu's journey and stepping forward into the next hundred years.

Sincerely,

Akane Teshigahara

Iemoto, Sogetsu School

February 2026

Introducing Sogetsu Ikebana in our Communities - written by Helen Cook

Sogetsu ikebana iemoto, Akane Teshigahara said in a 2022 interview:

“I think it’s my duty to open up ikebana to a wider public; to create opportunities for people to see and experience ikebana in person”

She was concerned ikebana was considered ‘highbrow’, something beyond the reach of ordinary people. Likewise, our Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland local engagement seeks to raise awareness and interest in our community. The Management Committee has discussed various options to focus our outreach activities.

Information Sheet *The Art of Ikebana*

To assist members in their activities to increase our presence at public occasions, a one-page Association handout *The Art of Ikebana* has been created for members’ use at events and demonstrations. The handout includes a brief history of Sogetsu ikebana, our social media sites and lists the teachers and their contact details. We now also offer a free *Friends of Ikebana* email option, listed on the flyer, for those who wish to keep in touch with ikebana activities. Contact Helen Cook when you’d like to get the handout sheet.

Events and demonstrations

Sogetsu Ikebana has been showcased at the following events:

Queensland Art Gallery (QAG) in Southbank

We’ve been honoured to install a weekly ikebana arrangement in the QAG. One year after a student obtains their Teacher Certificate, they become eligible to be rostered for this weekly event. Sogetsu ikebana has been displayed at QAGOMA since 1993! Every week for the past **33 years, a new, unique** contemporary arrangement is created in QAG and displayed for a week.

Inala Multicultural Art Gallery

Since late 2025, Pat Mackie’s students have provided a weekly arrangement in the Inala Gallery. The ikebana arrangements also appear on the Facebook page of the Inala Gallery. Ikebana classes were also held late last year for local attendees.

<https://ikebanabrisbane.org.au/gallery/inala-art-gallery/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ikebanabrisbane/photos/late-last-year-we-started-doing-weekly-ikebana-arrangements-at-a-new-venue-for-u/931792915879201/>

Samford Native Plants Queensland

In April 2026 Julie Lumsdale will deliver a Sogetsu ikebana demonstration to the Samford group of Native Plants Qld members and visitors at the Samford Community Hub.

Japanese Tourism Trade Show in Brisbane

The JNTO Japan Tourism Roadshow 2026 was held in Brisbane on the 4th February at the W Hotel Brisbane, connecting over 40 Japanese travel suppliers with local advisors to showcase new tourism experiences.

Organisers requested 6 Sogetsu ikebana arrangements for the event.

Mikiko Inoue was the first to respond to the opportunity and delivered these arrangements to great satisfaction of the organisers. Thanks to the other members who offered to participate in this opportunity.



Ikebana by Mikiko Inoue

Peter Biddulph Pottery Exhibition

Metcalfe Gallery, Brisbane Institute of Arts, Windsor

Vernisher Wooh provided several Sogetsu ikebana arrangements to complement the creative displays at the recent exhibition of well-known potter, Peter Biddulph.

Some of his pots were specifically designed for ikebana, while other pieces demonstrated different pottery characteristics. See Vernisher's article below in this Newsletter.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1560696082726774&set=a.524078143055245>

Brendale View Club Dinner and Demonstration

Ann Downey outlined the history and key features of Sogetsu ikebana during an ikebana demonstration at a meeting of the Brendale View Club on 17 February 2026.

View Clubs raise funds for the Smith Family.

Ann Downey prepared four arrangements and was assisted by her student, Wanda Vanderkamp.

Maker's Gallery Australia exhibiting in Clayfield, Brisbane 11 April 2026

During a 2-week exhibition from 11 April 2026 Sogetsu ikebana arrangements will complement the creative output of many Australian potters - and present a fresh perspective of the two art forms, pottery and ikebana. Pat Mackie is leading the Sogetsu ikebana team.



Ann Downey demonstrating ikebana at Brendale View Club

Petals & Pixels: GR Space Ikebana Workshop

Chieko Klerkx was invited to conduct an ikebana demonstration and workshop on 28 February as one of the opening events of the gallery. GR Space Brisbane in Spring Hill is Australia's first hub dedicated to Ricoh (formerly Pentax) cameras and incorporates a contemporary photo gallery and a workshop area.

Annual Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Exhibition Towards 100 years of Sogetsu Ikebana

Our annual showcase event will be held in the Mt Coot-tha Auditorium on **13 and 14 June 2026 at the Brisbane Botanic Gardens**, Mt Coot-tha.

Members will consider the influence of the four iemotos (headmasters), Sofu, Kasumi, Hiroshi and Akane Teshigahara on the development of Sogetsu ikebana.

The Inala Art Gallery to exhibit The Art of Ikebana 3-15 August

The Inala Art Gallery has invited Sogetsu ikebana members to hold a small exhibition from 3-15 August 2026 in the Gallery. The exhibition provides an opportunity to prepare relief work and wall arrangements in addition to gallery arrangements. An installation is planned for the front window of the Gallery during the exhibition.

Tattersall's Club 2 September 2026

On 2 September 2026 Pat Mackie will attend a club lunch to do a Sogetsu ikebana demonstration and talk about the history of ikebana.

Ceramic Art by Peter Biddulph and Ikebana by Vernisher Wooh at the Brisbane Institute of Art, 24 February - 3 March 2026 - written by Vernisher Wooh

For many years I have been invited by ceramic artist Peter Biddulph to create Ikebana arrangements for his exhibition.

His works include containers made from porcelain, stoneware, iron-rich clay and iron, each with strong sculptural qualities. These containers provide an excellent foundation for ikebana as their forms, textures and surfaces naturally influence the choice of plant materials and the overall arrangement.



Chieko Klerkx demonstrating ikebana at GR Space



Ikebana by Vernisher Wooh in a vase created by Peter Biddulph

Recently he has also created a numbers of contemporary containers. For each exhibition I usually create two to three ikebana arrangements.

Working with Peter's containers over the years has been a very rewarding experience. They are not only functional, but also expressive sculptural works, offering many possibilities for creative expression through ikebana. Through this collaboration, ceramic art and ikebana come together, where container and plant material create a unified artistic presentation.

Mini Minutes of 31 January 2026 Committee Meeting - by Helen Cook

Editor: Although *this Newsletter has already covered some of the following information*, for completeness the Committee Mini Minutes is published in its entirety.

The Committee discussed the organisation of the Annual General Meeting, the Guest Speaker, Committee Nominations and elections. In future, the Deputy Director will take on responsibility for the organisation of Workshops, with most workshops for 2026 already in preparation.

Upcoming Workshops

The following workshops are already planned for 2026:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 18 & 19 April | Master Mori Sairin Workshops |
| 2 May 10.00 am | Japanese Tea Ceremony Workshop

This workshop is run by Tea Master, Tomoko White of the Urasenke tea school who teaches the tea ceremony and explains its history. |
| 16 May 10.00 am | Mini-Workshop (with Belinda Snow and Wendy Hoskin) preceding the General Meeting |
| 18 July | Making Perspex Sculptures with Pat Mackie |
| 5 September | Two workshops presented by Hiroko Prado , Norman and Mary Sparnon Scholarship holder, 2025 |
| 7 November 1.30pm | Spaghetti Leaf Workshop with Ann Downey |

Annual Exhibition

Vernisher Wooh has been appointed Curator of this year's exhibition with the theme **Towards 100 years of Sogetsu Ikebana**. Several convenors have accepted roles and more will fill the additional roles shortly. Chieko Klerkx will continue to convene demonstrations, tours and workshops. Belinda Snow will curate the Ikebana Shop with Janet Cheng taking responsibility for the finances.

Catherine Purdon will be assisted with publicity by Cathy Van Extel. The draft postcard flyer for the exhibition was approved and has been printed.

The **2027** Exhibition will be held on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 June. This was the only weekend in June next year available for booking.

100 Year Celebrations

Sogetsu Headquarters has initiated several projects to raise awareness of the impending 100 year anniversary. Artwork for 2027 events can be purchased with special celebration postcards and posters, but no decision has been made on this, as the artwork is quite expensive. Another project is the "Ikebana inspired by the number 100". An opportunity for 100 arrangements on Day 1 of the Master's workshops has been suggested by Ann Downey and this seems achievable. Teachers might consider other ideas for celebrating 100 years of Sogetsu Ikebana.

Ikebana Pottery Prize

The Pottery competition was discussed. The flyer is ready for distribution and loaded on our website. A long list of pottery schools, suppliers, galleries etc has been created with support from our patron, John Massy, and all have received information about the competition. The competition opens on 1 April and pots must be delivered to the Mt Coot-tha Auditorium during our setup for the exhibition on Friday 12 June. The winner will be announced at the Welcome Ceremony on the first day of the Exhibition, 13 June with the prize presented by the sponsor, Miyuki Kruse from the Brisbane Japanese Language and Culture School.

Other Business

We continue to look for avenues to promote Sogetsu Ikebana in the community. The Qld Council of Garden Clubs Plant and Floral Fair will be held at Mt Coo-tha on 10-11 April. We hope to visit this year to see if future participation in this event is useful to the Association.

Future meetings

The next meeting will be the General Meeting on Saturday 16 May at 10.00am at Hamilton Hall preceded by a Mini Workshop. The General Meeting is timed to assist with the organisation of the Annual Exhibition on 13 and 14 June.

Editor

Members, it is great to often get positive feedback on the Newsletters; I thank you for the interesting contributions and photos which makes it possible. Thank you Ann Downey for proofreading the Newsletter and Nicole Dorner-Scales for publishing the Newsletters on the website.

- Amanda Terblanche