



Newsletter

June 2026

Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Inc.

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

Message from the Director, Wendy Hoskin

The Director and Members of Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Inc. have pleasure in announcing our Annual Sogetsu Ikebana Exhibition on 13 and 14 June 2026.

Towards 100 years of Sogetsu Ikebana

Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Exhibition 2026



10am - 4pm
Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 June
Auditorium, Brisbane Botanic
Gardens
Mt Coot-tha Road, Mt Coot-tha,
Brisbane

Towards 100 years of Sogetsu Ikebana

Sogetsu Ikebana Exhibition 2026
Official opening by Mr Ishikawa Katsutoshi, Consul-General of Japan
at 10.15am Saturday 13 June 2026. Announcement of the winner of
the Ikebana Pottery Prize.



Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 June 2026

Admission \$5

Free Ikebana demonstrations daily 10.30am and 1pm
Free guided tours daily 11.30am and 2.30pm
Ikebana containers for sale daily from 11.30am
Hands-on workshops daily 2pm - \$20
Use the QR code to prebook your hands-on workshop
after 1 April 2026
Refreshments for sale



Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Inc
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Facebook: ikebanabrisbane
Instagram: sogetsu.ikebana.qld.inc

Contact: The Secretary
helencook8@bigpond.com for more
information

Annual Exhibition 2026 at Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens

I am pleased to introduce the Exhibition Team of 2026:

Curator - Vernisher Wooh

Assistant Curator & Treasurer - Christina Chen

Publicity convenor - Catherine Purdon

Convenor of Tours, Demonstrations and Workshops - Chieko Klerkx

Refreshment convenors - Fay Stutt and Tomomi Tanowaki

Reception convenors - Gina Hsu and Adeline Chik

Ikebana shop convenor - Belinda Lee Snow and Shop Finances - Janet Cheng

Web Manager, Instagram and Facebook Administrator - Nicole Dorner-Scales

I remind every member to heed calls for assistance with the exhibition on the set-up days, the exhibition days, including dismantling and clean up. This eases the load on all and will deliver an enjoyable and successful Exhibition 2026.

This year we are trialing the use of TryBooking to allow visitors attending the Hands-on Workshops to enrol before the exhibition as Nicole Dorner-Scales always receives queries on the website Info Line prior to the event. The QR code is on the Exhibition flyer above.

Recent activities

In April and May a wide range of stimulating activities have taken place. We appreciate and thank the organisers of each of these events (see several articles in the Newsletter):

- The Makers Gallery Exhibition - a collaboration between ceramic artists and ikebanists
- A Japanese Tea Ceremony
- Ikebana teachers exhibit weekly in the Queensland Art Gallery on a rotating basis
- Ikebana students and teachers exhibit weekly at Inala Art Gallery
- Sogetsu Ikebana introduced at the Samford branch of Native Plants Queensland
- Mini Workshop creating an aluminum vase and an ikebana arrangement
- One Hundred Years Celebration - participating in "Ikebana inspired by the number 100"
- Several students obtained Sogetsu certificates issued by the Sogetsu School in Japan
- Master Mori from Japan presented four Workshops. This was and is an ikebana highlight for all of us. It is extraordinary since it has been more than a decade since a Master from Japan conducted Workshops in Brisbane.

Master Mori from Japan presented four Workshops in Brisbane

On 18 & 19 April 2026 Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Inc. was delighted to host Master Mori Sairin for a highly successful weekend of workshops and demonstrations in Brisbane.

Then, the subsequent weekend Master Mori presented four more workshops in Adelaide.

We are grateful to the **Norman and Mary Sparnon Endowment** for the funds supporting the visit and workshops of Master Mori - from which more than 100 Sogetsu ikebana members Australia-wide could benefit.

We also thank the current trustees Christopher James and Ray Baywaters.

Not everyone is in a position to visit Japan - and funds from the Norman and Mary Sparnon Endowment brought a Master from Japan to teach ikebana in Australia - thus every member was given access to learning from a Sogetsu ikebana Master.

Each of the four textbook-themed workshops began with a demonstration by Master Mori. The 4 workshop themes entailed:

- creating an arrangement by intertwining plant material;
- creating an arrangement by using one kind of leaf only;
- creating an arrangement by disassembling and rearranging plant material; and
- in the 4th workshop participants worked in 5 groups to create a freestanding structure with dried material.

Master Mori excelled in giving constructive and concise feedback on each individual arrangement of the 50 participants per workshop. Effectively he critiqued about 150 individual arrangements - from which the whole group learned.

The Workshop concluded with a Question-and-Answer Session. This was an impromptu activity, which the audience appreciated and actively participated in.

As mentioned, the events brought members Australia wide together for an inspiring and enriching learning experience. All respondents rated the overall experience very high and expressed strong support for similar events in the future.



*In gratitude to late Mary and late Norman Sparnon for leaving their estate to sponsor studies towards Sogetsu Ikebana in Australia
Photo credit: Australian Sogetsu Teachers Association Inc., New South Wales*

Thank you to Miyuki Kruse of the Brisbane Japanese Language and Culture School for the donation to assist with the services of the photographer, Derrek Moo.

These workshops delivered a memorable and resoundingly inspiring experience and for that I wish to thank:

- the organising Workgroup comprising Helen Cook, Christina Chen, Pat Mackie, Vernisher Wooh, Masako Morrison, Ikuko Okada, Belinda Snow, Eri Pitt and Chieko Klerkx - thank you for your relentless work and commitment
- the volunteers, translators, sponsors and all participants who contributed
- the presenter, Master Mori Sairin; the quality of these workshops was phenomenal.

One Hundred Years' Celebrations

In the lead up to Headquarters' 100 Centenary Celebrations in 2027 we are participating in "Ikebana Inspired by the Number 100." Firstly, we featured 100 Ikebana arrangements created at the Workshops held by Master Mori. Thank you Ann Downey for coordinating.

The Second entry will be 100 self-made aluminium Ikebana containers. I will be coordinating and I'm asking all attendees, and others who regret not being able to attend the workshop, to submit photos of arrangements in one, two or three self-made aluminium vases to whosk2@gmail.com

Norman and Mary Sparnon Ikebana Endowment to study Ikebana in Japan

To ensure that all members are aware of the possibility to receive a sponsorship to study Sogetsu Ikebana in Japan, I mention the Norman and Mary Sparnon Endowment here.

It was set up from the estate of the late Norman and Mary Sparnon in accordance with their wishes and as stated in their Will. The purpose of the endowment is to fund a practising Sogetsu Ikebana teacher to study at the Sogetsu Headquarters in Tokyo, Japan, for three months when income from the endowment investments is sufficient to fund a scholarship.

The duration of the scholarship study period is three (3) consecutive months as stated in the Will. The endowment will pay for economy airfares, Australia/Tokyo/Australia, travelling expenses within Tokyo, travel insurance, modest accommodation and living expenses. Tuition fees for scheduled classes at Sogetsu Headquarters and the cost of volunteer interpreters will be covered. However, the endowment will not pay for the cost of the recipient's diplomas. The trustees, in consultation with the successful applicant, will finalise the travel and accommodation arrangements.

You are eligible to apply for this scholarship if you meet ALL of the following criteria:

1. You are a practicing Sogetsu teacher in Australia;
2. You are a member of your local Sogetsu Branch;

3. You are a current financial member of the Sogetsu Teachers Association (STA) in Tokyo;
4. You hold a fourth grade diploma (Yonkyu Shihan) or higher;
5. You have completed Book 5 of the Sogetsu Curriculum or equivalent Book 5 training as approved by Sogetsu Headquarters

“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.”
– Benjamin Franklin

Regards

Wendy

Various Perspectives Reflecting on the Master Mori Workshops

Participants Perspective

From the participant feedback forms Wendy Hoskin compiled this summary of what participants particularly valued:

- The opportunity to receive individual feedback on arrangements
- Master Mori’s inspiring demonstrations and detailed individual critiques



Master Mori giving detailed feedback and adjustment suggestions on each and every arrangement

- Learning new techniques and approaches to theme interpretation
- The welcoming atmosphere, excellent venue and high-quality organisation
- The chance to connect with fellow Sogetsu members from across Australia
- The opportunity to study directly with a Sogetsu Master, which is rare in Australia
- The exceptional value and motivation these workshops provided for future learning.

An Assistant's Perspective - written by Mikiko Inoue

The workshops were very inspiring, because Mori sensei gave each of us constructive comments on our ikebana arrangements. We could learn not only from his comments to ourselves, but also from the comments to every other participant. Mori sensei looked at everyone's ikebana intently and responded with precision. Sometimes he gave us severe comments, which was really good for us.

I was fortunate to have assisted with Mori sensei's demonstrations. When he asked me to take all the leaves off the parlour palm, I stripped them. He didn't like how I did it, because one could see the white dots on the stems where the leaves have been stripped.

I learnt from his perfectionism, his love and passion for ikebana. I felt his commitment for ikebana in his life, which is respectful and quite amazing. That was the most inspiring.



Mikiko Inoue prepared the palm leaves as corrected by Master Mori Sairin

The workshops were definitely worth taking and I was pleased that I participated.

An Observer's Perspective - written by Roslyn Mason

Relatively new to my ikebana journey of learning and discovery, I was excited to attend, as an observer, the recent workshop and demonstrations by Master Mori.

From the Master's demonstrations I really appreciated the unconventional use of the poinciana tree material and the intertwining example arrangement he created.

There was much to see and absorb from the amazing demonstrations to the individual efforts by my fellow members of the Sogetsu community. The energy and excitement from participants were contagious. It was inspiring to watch the interpretation and development of individual works aligned to each theme.



Master Mori took the Poinciana tree to a whole different level in this arrangement

I followed the Master as he listened to each person's overview of their work and provided thoughtful, individual feedback, while explaining his adjustments to each piece.

My key takeaway from this observation was the refinement of designs by removal of material, simplification of lines and clearly defining the focal point.

Congratulations and thank you for such a professional event. It truly inspires to keep learning this art form.

Interstate participants' perspectives

Visitor A: We felt incredibly welcome throughout. The workshops were engaging, inclusive and thoughtfully delivered. Sensei Mori Sairin was especially generous with his time and feedback, which made the experience even more meaningful. We're very grateful to have been part of this sensational event. Thank you again for hosting.

Visitor B: Thank you so much for your preparation and hard work before, during and, no doubt, after the weekend. Your hospitality and camaraderie were greatly appreciated by all us Victorians, and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. It was wonderful to meet up with some of you again and get to know you better, and to meet others for the first time.

Visitor C: Thank you for such a wonderful weekend. We were absolutely thrilled with how everything came together - it was truly a delight to be there and to participate. Events like this clearly require a tremendous amount of work, and it's evident you have an exceptional team supporting you to coordinate something so seamless and enjoyable. Congratulations to everyone involved.

Visitor D: It was also a lovely opportunity to meet with other teachers and ikebana artists, to connect and share knowledge.

Visitor E: I think it was a very special time with Mori sensei and I'm grateful I had the opportunity to join you for the weekend of learning.



Master Mori being generous with his time and considered feedback

The Presenter's Perspective - Translated version of Master Mori's Thank You Note

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone at the Queensland and South Australia branches for your warm support and generous hospitality during my visit.

I am truly touched by the kindness and thoughtful care you extended to me.

Thanks to your support, the workshops went very smoothly and were a great success. I am very pleased that they were well received. I sincerely wish for the continued growth and development of your branches.

I very much look forward to seeing you at the Sogetsu 100th Anniversary next year.

Please take good care of yourselves, especially during this season.



Master Mori Sairin demonstrating an arrangement themed "dismantle and reassemble material" and Hiroko Prado (L) translating



The workshops went very smoothly and were a great success - and so say all of us.

Makers Gallery Australia exhibiting vessels in collaboration with Sogetsu ikebana - written by Amanda Terblanche

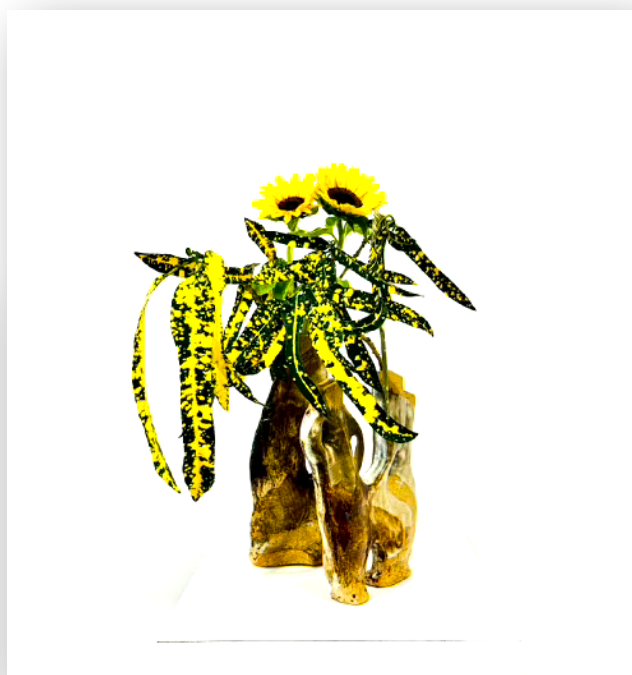
In April 2026 Pat Mackie was again invited by the Makers Gallery to collaborate with ceramic artists in an exhibition.

Imagine the tantalising magic - Pat's students walk into a studio filled with amazing and unique ceramic vessels. They then have the pleasure of selecting not one, but several beautiful vessels to create complementing ikebana arrangements in. Thank you Pat sensei for including your students in this very special exhibition and your constructive inspiration.

An array of diverse arrangements was created. The Makers Gallery offered a wonderful space with a sense of life surrounded by art - congratulations Stephanie Outridge Field.



Beehive of ikebana creativity



*Distinct harmony
Ceramic artwork complemented by ikebana
by Pat Mackie*

Tomoko's Tea Ceremony - written by Masako Morrison

The Japanese Tea Ceremony is of course a very traditional custom, but even as a Japanese person I have never really had the opportunity to be involved in a Tea Ceremony. So, it was a first-time experience for me, as well as for the other attendees.

Tomoko Soho White, dressed classically in her kimono, welcomed us to her Tearoom, which is decorated just like a traditional tearoom. I certainly was not expecting that level of detail. It was a very pleasant surprise to begin with.

The traditional features of Tomoko's Tearoom include an alcove (tokonoma), reed floor matting (tatami) and the ceremony master's place (temaeza).

In the alcove a Japanese calligraphy scroll, related to the season, is displayed. A simple, single beautiful camelia was arranged in a vase. A seasonal wildflower is usually chosen in Japan to express the changing season and harmony with nature. This is based on Sen no Rikyu's teaching that *'flowers should be as they are in the wild'* and was arranged naturally in the nageire style. So now I understand why Tomoko chose to practice the Ohara school of ikebana. The alcove is a very important part of the Tea Ceremony, to showcase the moment in time and be appreciated with respect by the attending guests.



Ikebana group respectfully appreciating Tomoko's Japanese Tea Ceremony

The four principles of the Tea Ceremony:

- harmony (Wa),
- respect (Kei),
- purity (Sei) and
- tranquility (Jaku).

Although I wasn't knowledgeable about the details of an authentic traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony, as soon as Tomoko's Tea Ceremony began, I started to feel elements of those four principles and my emotions continued to be moved for the duration of the Tea Ceremony.

Tomoko intently explained to us the origin, history and philosophy of the Japanese Tea Ceremony. Tea brought from China by Zen Buddhist monks, originally as medicine, eventually became a respected beverage that evolved into the Tea Ceremony. Over the years the Tea Ceremony became popular with the noble class and later, as Japanese society modernised, became available to everyone.

"The Way of Tea concerns the creation of the proper setting for that moment of enjoyment of a perfect bowl of tea. Everything that goes into that serving of tea, even the quality of the air and the space where it is served, becomes a part of its flavour. The perfect tea must therefore capture the 'flavour' of the moment — the spirit of the season, of the occasion, of the time and the place."

- Urasenke Chado

Sogetsu Ikebana Introduced at Native Plants Queensland - by Julie Lumsdale

Any branch of Native Plants Queensland is the place to go if you want to learn about native plants from local experts in a friendly and welcoming setting.

On April Fool's Night (1 April 2026) I arrived at the Samford branch to demonstrate ikebana to 24 members. With only native plant material I completed 6 arrangements (moribana and nageire).

Several people brought their own native material to be used – spectacular red gum flowers and even an interesting, dried log. People came forward to assist with the last 2 arrangements (they obviously had some flower arranging experience). Both arrangements were well done.

When the meeting finished a member stopped by and he said to me “I didn’t think I was going to have any interest in the talk tonight, but I have taken away several things you have demonstrated”. I call that a success! No April Fool here...

Aluminium Container Workshop - written by Jane Hurley

I was thrilled to attend the “Working with Aluminium” mini workshop presented by Belinda Snow. Many thanks go to Belinda for providing materials, excellent guidance with techniques, gorgeous examples for inspiration and helpful advice for future projects.

It was a wonderful experience, and I thoroughly enjoyed the creative process involved. The applications and possibilities are endless. The group’s creations were both fabulous and incredibly varied. That to me was the absolute highlight.

Just quietly, it was also a teeny, tiny bit satisfying hitting an inanimate object with a blunt instrument!



Julie Lumsdale and Samford members of Native Plants Queensland



... rubber hammers front and centre...



You count 21 aluminium vases ?

Celebrating 20 years learning with Pat Mackie - written by Catherine Purdon

I recently reached my 20-year learning journey under Pat sensei, now holder of a Riji Diploma from The Sogetsu School of Ikebana of Japan.

I commenced classes with Pat Mackie in February 2006 being first introduced to Sogetsu Ikebana when I visited their annual exhibition at the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens Auditorium in 2005. When I walked into that Auditorium I said to my husband, "I would love to learn that art."

I chose Pat's name off the Teachers' List I picked up from the exhibition and as Jindalee was sort of on my side of town, Pat was "the one". I was keen to start, and rang Pat only to be told by Steve, her husband, that Pat was in Tokyo, taking ikebana lessons at the Sogetsu Headquarters. Pat rang me on her return, and said unfortunately lessons for the year had ended, but classes would resume at the end of February 2006. "Well, that's a long time to wait..." I thought, but thinking back now, I wonder where those 20 years have gone...!



Catherine Purdon and Pat Mackie

Right from my nervous start, Pat has proved to be a patient, knowledgeable, friendly and kind teacher. I was the only student on Monday mornings for quite a while and the two-hour lesson seemed so long to me and I'm sure Pat must have felt the same.

Over the years, there have been various people come and go in the Monday morning class. Jan Killoran commenced lessons about two years after me, followed by Ingrid Kivikoski a couple of years later. We three have built up a strong friendship through our love of ikebana, under Pat's learned guidance during these classes.

I achieved The Teacher's Course Fourth Grade Certificate in July 2011. I was Pat's first student to attain this certificate from beginner to Teacher level, thus proving Pat's patience and teaching skills. I have always admired Pat's skills. Her enthusiasm. Her love for ikebana. All these qualities come through in her lessons and the way she takes every opportunity to widely promote Sogetsu ikebana. I know that I have developed in many positive ways through this ikebana journey and my thanks and gratitude must go to Pat for her continued encouragement and support.

Congratulations on obtaining Sogetsu Ikebana Certificates

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

*“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 Ann Downey &
Penny Vandeleur*



*Certificate 2 Sankyu:
Junko Akabori,
student of Ikuko Okada*



*Certificate 2 Sankyu:
Shigeko Kishida,
student of Ikuko Okada*



*Certificate 2 Sankyu &
Certificate 3 Nikyu:
Phoebe Hawthorne & teacher
Pat Mackie*



*From L to R:
Cathy van Extel (Certificate 3 Nikyu),
teacher Vernisher Wooh,
Jill Simon (Certificate 4 Ikkyu),
Lisa Hsu (Certificate 3 Nikyu)*



*Certificate 3 Nikyu,
certificate 4 Ikkyu &
Teacher's Diploma 4th Grade Sankyu Shihan
Jordan Azcune and teacher Pat Mackie*

Save the Date

11 June	Annual Exhibition set up Day 1, Mt Coot-tha
12 June	Annual Exhibition set up Day 2, Mt Coot-tha
13 June	Annual Exhibition Day 1, Mt Coot-tha Auditorium
14 June	Annual Exhibition Day 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

Excerpt from:

Message from Iemoto Akane Teshigahara: On the Occasion of the 100th Anniversary



Iemoto Akane Teshigahara

My thoughts now turn to the next 100 years. I can clearly visualise Sogetsu vibrantly thriving in its second century future. No matter how much the times may change, ikebana remains an art form that can only be brought to life by human hands. As long as the steadfast spirit of humanity continues, the joy of creating ikebana will always be alive.

With Sofu's words, "Flowers become human in ikebana" deeply engraved in my mind, I reflect upon the past century while looking forward to beginning the next 100 years with intense revitalisation.

- Source: Sogetsu Japan website sogetsu.or.jp

Editor

Members, thank you very much for the input you provide and for sharing photos for Newsletters.

Should you wish to enjoy more photos go to:

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