



Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Inc.

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

Editor: Amanda Terblanche

Message from the Director, Wendy Hoskin

Planning is underway for a very special milestone - the 100th anniversary of Sogetsu ikebana in 2027.

Pat Mackie, Vernisher Wooh, Chieko Klerkx, Christina Chen, Masako Morrison, Helen Cook and I formed a working group to explore ways to celebrate this significant occasion. Several ideas are being considered; the first major initiative is to investigate the possibility of holding a commemorative exhibition at the Queensland Art Gallery.

There is a wonderful historical precedent for such an event. Going back 29 years to 1997 was when the Queensland Art Gallery (QAG) hosted the **Living Culture Exhibition** to celebrate Sogetsu's 70th anniversary. Supported by the Gallery's Asian Art section, a month-long exhibition featured large-scale installations, weekly displays of ikebana arrangements, ikebana demonstrations, Saturday musical performances and interactive artwork that invited visitors to participate by tying coloured ribbons to a growing installation. The exhibition also showcased works by the founder of Sogetsu ikebana, Sofu Teshigahara. It included a sculpture and calligraphy alongside art pieces from the Gallery's own collection.



Wendy Hoskin at the Annual Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Inc. Exhibition at Mt Coot-tha

Records from the 1997 Living Culture Exhibition, including meeting minutes, a visitors' book and a photo album have now been located and will provide valuable inspiration as planning progresses.

Before formally approaching the Queensland Art Gallery the working group developed a preliminary concept that considers the proposed exhibition's scope, duration, funding and opportunities to incorporate installations from previous Sogetsu exhibitions and events.

Following an encouraging preliminary meeting with the Queensland Art Gallery, discussions are continuing as the Gallery explores possible timing, locations and departmental support. Helen Cook is also making enquiries in Japan regarding opportunities for international involvement.

This is just the beginning of what promises to be an exciting program of centenary celebrations. As ideas develop, recommendations will be presented to the Committee and I look forward to sharing Centenary Celebrations progress with members.

We are also participating in the event **Your Ikebana Inspired by 100**. Ann Downey is coordinating this and it will feature *100 arrangements a Day*, consisting of the arrangements created at Master Mori's workshops in April 2026.

Next year our annual Sogetsu Ikebana Exhibition will again be curated by Vernisher Wooh with the theme *Celebrating 100 years of Sogetsu ikebana*. Vernisher was already discussing ideas with me prior to the recent 2026 Exhibition.

The following Committee members were elected at the March Annual General Meeting:

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

I thank the non-committee members for continuing in the following roles:

Robyn Cuming	QAG Coordinator
Nicole Dorner-Scales	Web Manager, Instagram and Facebook Administrator

As we look toward our upcoming centennial and the century beyond, I encourage you to believe in the possibilities created by human hands and to pursue the unique, one-of-a-kind floral art that only you can craft - Iemoto Akane Teshigahara, So Magazine August 2026

Regards
Wendy

Annual Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Inc. Exhibition 2026

- written by Nicole Dorner-Scales



Ikebana by Jenny Mackie

I loved this year's exhibition because of its diversity and personal interpretation. Although we all had the same theme **Towards 100 years of Sogetsu ikebana**, choosing an iemoto of a particular era allowed us to interpret and create a variety of different styles of Sogetsu ikebana, displayed all in the same room.



Ikebana by Sue Poole

"Towards 100 Years of Sogetsu ikebana"

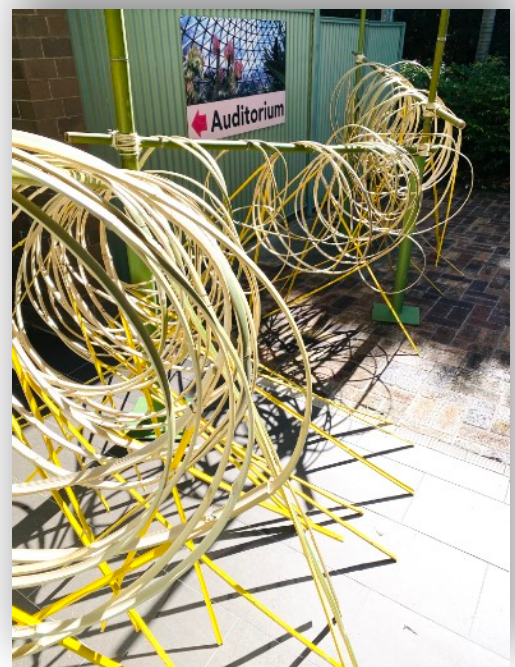
An Exhibition to Remember

- written by Ella Herwald

Amanda invited me to share a few thoughts about our **Annual Sogetsu Ikebana Exhibition** held in June 2026 at the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha.

As you all might know, this year the exhibition theme was **Towards 100 Years of Sogetsu ikebana**. Every exhibitor created an arrangement inspired by one of the four artistic periods of the four iemotos (headmasters), Sofu, Kasumi, Hiroshi and Akane Teshigahara.

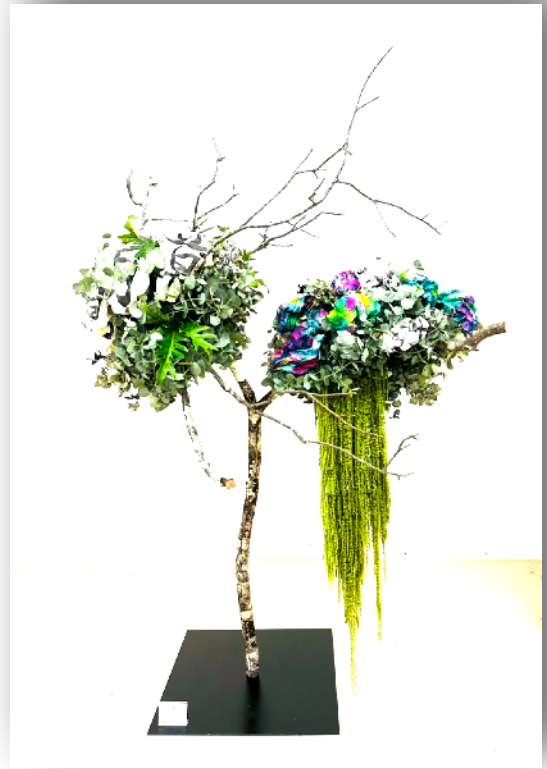
This was only my third exhibition as a member of the Queensland Sogetsu group. At first, I thought it would be boring, seeing that everyone is using identical plinths, but my doubts quickly disappeared. The plinths were beautifully arranged, giving each arrangement the space it deserved, while creating a calm, relaxed and harmonious atmosphere.



"Symphony of Circles" created by Pat Mackie, Sue Poole, Jenny Mackie, Ann Downey and Mandy Nguyen



*Sculptural ikebana by
Belinda-Lee Snow*



*Sculptural ikebana by Elyanna Fong,
Gina Hsu and Narcisa Zemek*

What impressed me just as much was the spirit among our exhibitors. Everyone seemed to be relaxed, willing to offer help and offer encouragement whenever it was needed. It was a pleasure to be part of such a warm and supportive group.

During my eleven years in Japan and my 36 years of teaching ikebana in Germany, I have been part of many outstanding exhibitions. That's why I can say that our exhibition in Brisbane was one of the best I've ever experienced. It reflected outstanding creativity, artistic excellence and the wonderful spirit of our Sogetsu community.

I am already looking forward to our exhibition in June 2027.

First Sogetsu ikebana Pottery Competition in Queensland

- written by Helen Cook

The first Ikebana Pottery Competition was a great opportunity to introduce a new audience to Sogetsu ikebana, as well as learn more about our local potters and their skills. It was great to meet and talk with some of them. It also opened up a whole new world of local artistic endeavours.

One purpose of this competition was to increase the number of containers available for sale at our Annual Exhibition. As it turned out this year, aside from the competition vases and other vases from those potters, only a small collection of items were for sale at the Ikebana Shop.

Forty applications for the Ikebana Pottery Prize were received, with 2 being withdrawn prior to the judging. The applicants paid an entry fee of \$25 so \$950 was earned in application fees. This fund went towards the cost of running the competition and the Runner-Up Prize.

Judging was kindly undertaken by John Massy and Pat Mackie. John is our patron and he is also an experienced pottery judge. Pat Mackie is a Riji (the highest level Sogetsu ikebana teaching certificate). We sincerely thank both of them for their expertise.

The judging criteria, with some differential weightings, were an imaginative piece of pottery; well crafted; fit for purpose and waterproof; suitable for a creative ikebana arrangement.

The potters were offered a voucher for free entry to the Annual Sogetsu Exhibition and tea to thank them for their participation and to encourage them to attend the Exhibition. Some told us it was their first introduction to ikebana.

Michella Xavier was the **winner** of \$500, which was kindly donated by Miyuki Kruse of the Brisbane Japanese Language and Culture School. Michella is fairly new to ceramics, having started in 2024 as a student of Brisbane Institute of Art. She does focus on vases for ikebana and other arrangements. Her Instagram group is: [furora_ceramics_collections](#). Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland has acquired the winning vase. Members most certainly will borrow it for arrangements in the Queensland Art Gallery.

Belinda Krumm won the Runner-Up prize with her entry "Black Pool" and she is a more experienced artist working in a range of media. She has been involved in many pottery exhibitions and competitions. She is currently also a committee member of the Brisbane Institute of Art. Her work can be seen on Instagram at: [carbonblackceramics](#) and [northcoastceramics](#) in Northern NSW.

Winner of the Sogetsu Ikebana Pottery Competition

- written by Michella Xavier

The news that Sogetsu Ikebana was having a pottery competition this year in conjunction with their annual exhibition was so exciting. "This could be a wonderful experience to create a vessel purpose-made for Sogetsu arrangements," I thought.



Runner-up Belinda Krumm, Miyuki Kruse and winner Michaela Xavier

Understanding the importance of the vase in ikebana and with the contemporary and creative style of Sogetsu in mind, I designed a vase which could be used in multiple ways. My vase was hand built and given different textures and angles to allow the arranger various options when creating their arrangements.

Being part of the competition has been a wonderful experience. I am very humbled to have won, especially as there were so many beautiful vases entered by very talented ceramicists. I'm looking forward to seeing the wonderful ikebana works that will be created in my vase in the future.

Runner-up of Sogetsu Ikebana Pottery Competition

- written by Belinda Krumm

I often look to nature to inspire me when creating my ceramic forms. The vase I entered into the Sogetsu ikebana Competition was inspired by the rockpools on the NSW coastline. Worn smooth rock holding a still body of water, a few pebbles, a shell, sand - these elements will always hold my gaze.

As a ceramic artist I make vessels that stand alone and are complete. To an ikebana artist a vase is a blank canvas ready for its next layer of creativity. I find this very intriguing.

I could easily be drawn into the ikebana world; even as a young child I would collect things from nature to be proudly displayed at home; I still do!

I would like to think that the future might see me making both the vessel and the Sogetsu ikebana to be held within.

Sogetsu ikebana at the Annual Camellia Show

In a very nice email Sogetsu Ikebana has been thanked for again supporting the Camellia Society's Show at Mt Coot-tha Auditorium.



Ikebana by Pat Mackie and Ann Downey

At least six arrangements were created by Pat Mackie and Ann

Downey which beautifully showcased the versatility of camellias in Sogetsu ikebana. Thanks also to members who provided their camellias for the arrangements. These kinds of outreach activities make a larger audience aware of Sogetsu ikebana.

Workshop Making Perspex Sculptures for ikebana - written by Gina Hsu



Joy at Pat Mackie's stimulating Workshop creating Perspex Sculptures

Thank you Pat Mackie for hosting the 'Making Perspex Sculptures' workshop and Masako Morrison for the organising that made this possible!

It was an amazing, fun and highly inspiring Saturday. When Pat's BBQ failed the night before, her quick thinking to use the oven instead turned out to be a brilliant blessing in disguise - the results were even better allowing multiple people to work at the same time! We also explored creative problem-solving by trying scissors for cutting instead of sawing the perspex. **Congratulations Pat sensei, it was wonderful to see everyone learning, adapting and creating together.** Thank you to all the lovely ladies - the teamwork, warmth and shared passion made it a truly memorable day!

Congratulations Sparnon Scholarship Recipient Aileen Clarke

The Trustees of the Norman and Mary Sparnon Ikebana Endowment announced the outcome of the recent scholarship selection by the eligible voting members from around Australia. **Aileen Clarke** from the Victorian Branch of the Sogetsu School has been selected as the 10th recipient. She is the current director of Sogetsu Ikebana Victoria and some of you may have met Aileen (formerly Aileen Duke) at our April Master's Workshops.



*Aileen Clarke;
Source Instagram*

Members who are practicing teachers can apply for this Endowment scholarship to travel to Japan and take Sogetsu ikebana classes for three months. Senior qualified ikebana members across Australia are eligible to vote on nominations for this award.

Letter from Japan - by Akemi Dunne

It's been eleven months since I moved from Brisbane to Kumamoto, Japan. As you all might appreciate, Japan has four very distinct and beautiful seasons.

Autumn: Last September the lingering summer heat was intense, with days feeling almost like the middle of summer. However, in November the heat subsided, the autumn foliage season arrived with trees turning red and yellow. In the pleasant weather it's a season to enjoy delicious seasonal foods (autumn is the season of appetite) and art. I went to see the Sogetsu Annual Exhibition "Flowers are the heart".

Winter: Early December I held my first solo exhibition at a restaurant owned by a friend. In January the weather turned colder and in some areas beautiful snowscapes unfolded. For the New Year's Celebration I arranged ikebana in the alcove of my traditional Japanese room.

Spring is my favourite season. It's a time of vibrant life, when various flowers bloom after enduring the harsh winter. Early April people go cherry blossom viewing.

Summer in Japan is a time of drastic changes in weather, temperature and humidity. The greenery deepens, the rainy season arrives and the beautiful hydrangeas begin to bloom.

Photos of Autumn, Winter, Spring and Summer arrangements by Akemi Dunne:



Spending a year in Japan fills my heart with the beauty of the four seasons; the solemn atmosphere of shrines and temples; as well as the food culture that enjoys seasonal ingredients. All this beauty is part of the Japanese people's long held tradition of coexisting with nature.

Congratulations Mandy Nguyen !

Pat Mackie and her student Mandy Nguyen:

Mandy has been awarded the Teacher Certificate Fourth Grade.



Save the Date Events in Brisbane

05-09-2026 9.00 am & 1 pm; **Two workshops with Hiroko Prado,**

the Norman and Mary Sparnon Scholarship Holder 2025; venue Kenmore Church Hall

19-09-2026 10.00 am **Committee Meeting**

07-11-2026 1.30 pm **Spaghetti Leaves Workshop with Ann Downey;** venue Moorooka Hall

21-11-2026 10.00 am **Committee Meeting**

30-01-2027 10.00 am **Committee Meeting**

18-03-2027 10.15am **Annual General Meeting**

5 & 6 June 2027 **Annual Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Inc. Exhibition in Brisbane** Celebrating 100th Anniversary of Sogetsu Ikebana

Save the Date Events in Japan

18-04-2027 **Sogetsu 100th Anniversary Celebration** venue Toyota Arena, Tokyo, Japan. Register here for the Sogetsu 100th Anniversary Celebration:

<https://www.sogetsu.or.jp/e/34192-2/go> to <https://sogetsu.or.jp/e/34192-2/>

13 to 19 April 2027 **100th Anniversary Iemoto Special Exhibition** (Flowers, Ceramics, Paintings) "COLORS"; venue Sogetsu Kaikan 5th Floor, Japanese room, Tokyo.

20 to 24 April 2027 **The Teachers' Workshop for STA members** to be held at Sogetsu Kaikan in Tokyo in April 2027.

See details in the August issue of "So" Newsletter available on the English page of the Members' Site: <https://members.sogetsu.or.jp/en/>