



*Happy New Year to our valued members!*

Wishing you and all of your loved one's health and happiness in the new year.

I am pleased to say that we ended the year 2021 on a rather happy note. Despite lockdowns, limited movement and the Omicron variant of Covid-19, we were finally able to hold our exhibition "Sogetsu Ikebana Awakening," both at the Calyx, the Royal Botanic Garden, and virtually with the same title. The opening ceremony was well attended and had the presence of VIPs, Mr Kiya Masahiko, the Consul General of Japan, Mr Shono Keiji, Director of Japan Foundation Sydney, and Ms Kazuko Chalker, Advisor of Japan Club Sydney, to name a few. I felt overwhelmed by the excellent support we received.

Here I would like to give a big thank you to all who participated and who supported us! A special thanks go to Margaret Hall, Sandy Marker, and Alexander Evans, and the additional helpers who tirelessly worked behind the scenes. We couldn't have done it without them!

I cannot tell you how grateful I am for not only your continued support but for your friendship, and we look forward to making a lot of Ikebana arrangements and fond memories in 2022!

First off, the first monthly meeting this year is on February 21st.

In positive developments, we are bringing back Saturday meetings, (every alternate month) starting from April this will allow members who have full schedules during the week to join us at least some of the time.

We are also happy to tell you that Ms Vernisher Woo in Queensland agreed to give a demonstration and workshop at our AGM on March 14th. Ms Woo was the recipient of the 7th Norman and Mary Sparnon scholarship in 2018, and we are excited about what new ideas and techniques she could show us!

I am looking forward to seeing everyone!

Best regards,  
Hiroko Prado  
Director



# Important announcements

## Annual General Meeting Notification

The Annual General Meeting will be taking place on March 14th at the Chatswood Bowls Club at 10am. All members are welcome to attend and vote on issues that will be raised on the official agenda which will be released 3 weeks prior to the date of the meeting via email and in person at our February Meeting.

## Special Notification

As we discussed at the previous AGM a change of name was proposed. In the upcoming AGM members will be given the opportunity to vote to make the name change official in the constitution of our organisation. This will happen at the AGM on March 14th and will be a special agenda item.

## Membership Fees

Members should note that annual membership fees of \$35 are now due. Please be conscious that to have a valid vote on any of the issues that may be raised in the the upcoming AGM you must be up to date with any dues being paid prior to the AGM.

Please make payments by Bank transfer or Cheque. If you need to pay by cash, please use an envelope with your name on it. The membership renewal form will be sent with this newsletter.

We are a non-profit organization whose operation is supported by membership fees. By paying for the dues on time, you continue to be a key supporter of Sogetsu Ikebana Sydney/NSW.

We appreciate your early renewal!

# Coming up

## February Monthly Meeting

Monday, February 21st, 10am onwards  
Venue: Chatswood Bowls Club  
Theme: Text 5-13 Glass Containers

Please bring glass container(s), including translucent, transparent, or patterned; however, they have to show what's inside, along with your tools and materials. Masae Aki will demonstrate and lead the workshop

## AGM & March Monthly Meeting

Monday, March 14th  
AGM: 10am- 11am  
March Monthly Meeting: 11am onwards

March Monthly Meeting will include a demonstration and Workshop by Ms Vernisher Woo, 2018 Recipient of the Norman and Mary Sparnon Endowment. The theme of the demonstration and workshop will be advised closer to the time.

Please mark your calendar with the following monthly meetings in 2022

April: Saturday, 9th

May: Monday, 9th

June: Saturday, 18th

# Recently

## November 2021 meeting & workshop

The last meeting members were able to attend in person was held in November 2021. The members enjoyed making festive Ikebana arrangements using ideas that were demonstrated by Hiroko along with their own creative ideas! Please enjoy these images from the November 2021 meeting.



Hiroko Prado



Fan Demonstration by Hiroko Prado



Workshop arrangement by Alexander Evans



Wrapping Demonstration by Hiroko Prado



# Growing Sogetsu

Sogetsu Ikebana is such a wonderful artform that brings people from all cultures and backgrounds together. At the moment we see around the developed world that populations are ageing. This is well known in Japan but is also happening here. We see it in ikebana circles as well. Many members are from an older generation.

It is a wonderful benefit to have access to the experience and wisdom of older members and important to show gratitude for the lessons they are able to share. However it is essential to be mindful that without new membership and younger students being recruited and encouraged, the wonderful knowledge of those older members will not get passed on to the next generation. This may eventually lead to a situation where some branches might cease to exist as members age and are less able to make and participate in ikebana, which would be a terrible loss.

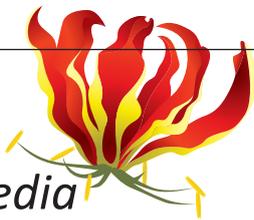
Reaching out to younger people in the hope of engaging them with ikebana is so important and some ways to do that are through sharing our work, talking about it with people and showing how joyful, satisfying and fulfilling ikebana can be in so many ways.



Sandra Marker with demonstration arrangements

We greatly encourage all our members to reach out to potential new members or anyone who might just be interested to learn more through all means available. This can include by using social media such as facebook, instagram, tiktok, or any of the other many social media platforms. If you don't know how then ask a family member to help you, they might even get interested enough to try ikebana themselves!

Even if it is a little out of our comfort zones it's important to reach out into the world with ikebana in ways that are new and interesting. So share your arrangements, talk about ikebana, ask people what they think about it, sit with your child or grandchild and show them a thing or two, talk with the florist when you buy your flowers and most of all share the joy.



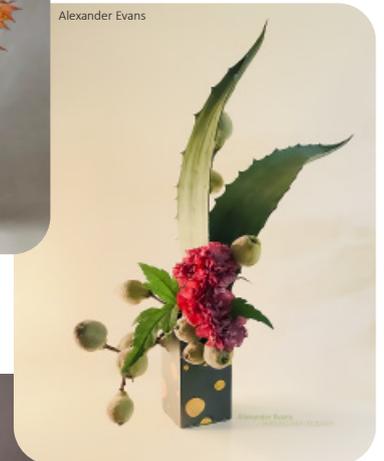
# Social media

Some may know already, that we have started up a refreshed facebook page under the new name Sogetsu Sydney/NSW. Our hope is this gives people a chance to share their work even if they are stuck at home or not able to make it to meetings or classes. It would be great to see you all posting and sharing things there. Whatever your level or ability its always good to see people sharing and encouraging each other!

On that note, Alexander had the idea of a fun monthly theme which Sandy Marker has added to and elaborated on. We aim to get people back into their ikebana in a joyful and lighthearted way. and with that in mind february's theme is "Fabulously Fruity February Fridays" with people encouraged to make an arrangement with fruit in it somewhere, on the branch, off the branch, in a bowl, however you like, mostly have fun, then take a picture and share it on the facebook page or put it on your own socials or even just show it to your friends with the hashtags #fruityfebruary and #monthlyikebanachallenge



Ekaterina Seehaus



Alexander Evans



Sandy Mangels



Sandy Marlier

Our hope is this will lighten everyone's spirits and help us enjoy better times ahead. The theme for March is going to be "Massive March Madness Mondays!" and for that we hope to see arrangements using mass- all different kinds! And remember to have fun with it. #massivemarch #monthlyikebanachallenge

# In Focus

## Exhibition Success

It was a great pleasure to close out 2021 in the fortunate situation of being able to proceed with our annual exhibition at the Calyx in the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney.

Though somewhat delayed the event was nonetheless a great success. Sogetsu Sydney/NSW Members contributed beautiful arrangements, and some inspiring demonstrations were made by a number of our respected Teachers which were very well received by audiences in attendance.

The opening was kindly attended by VIPs, Mr Kiya Masahiko, the Consul General of Japan, Mr Shono Keiji, Director of Japan Foundation Sydney, and Ms Kazuko Chalker, Advisor of Japan Club Sydney, to name a few.

In addition a simultaneous virtual exhibition had been organised by Alexander Evans and Sandra Marker along the same theme of Sogetsu Ikebana Awakening. The outcome of the virtual exhibition was a video showcase of the works by participants from all over the world which you can see at [www.sogetsu-ikebana.org.au](http://www.sogetsu-ikebana.org.au)



Hiroko Prado



Alexander Evans



Sandra Marker



Christopher James



Seiseki Umemura



Jenny Goodwin



Margaret Hall



Margot Perez



## Your Committee

Hiroko Prado- Director, Sandra Marker- Deputy Director, Margaret Hall- Previous Director, Yumiko Soo- Treasurer, Alexander Evans- Publicity/Communications, Rosemary Clinch- Committee Member, Jenny Goodwin- Committee Member, Kevin Walpole- Committee Member, Masae Ako- Committee Member

