



In Season

Sogetsu Sydney/NSW Newsletter

Dear members,



"After every storm comes a rainbow. Australia has seen much hardship over the past year and more. Let's take time to celebrate our lives, look to the beauty of nature and awaken our senses with uplifting Sogetsu Ikebana on display at The Calyx."

Fast approaching is our event "Sogetsu Ikebana Awakening", which will run from June 26th to July 4th. Not only have we seen a wave of disasters beyond anyone's belief throughout the period since the last time we were able to participate in this event, such as bushfire, drought, floods, and the ongoing saga of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also we have experienced the sad loss of life and a life-threatening health scare on a personal level. This has made me (and I'm sure the others) realise how fragile life is and that we have so much to be grateful for. I hope we can demonstrate the true spirit of humanity through the beautiful displays of ikebana at the Calyx, at the Royal Botanic Garden.

There are many ways in which you can participate and we greatly value the support of everyone who chooses to be involved. I encourage all our members to support the event by exhibiting your ikebana masterpiece, performing a demonstration or even running a workshop. All forms of contribution will be extremely appreciated! So please get in touch with me ASAP if you can help. And remember to start inviting all your friends, family and loved ones people to the event right along with anyone else you might think will be interested in Sogetsu Ikebana!

On a separate note, the Committee members of Sogetsu Sydney/NSW got together for lunch to show an appreciation to the past director Margaret Hall for her dedication and outstanding leadership over the past five years. Rosemary Clinch gracefully hosted this lunch at her beautiful home and we all had an amazing afternoon. At a time like this, I cannot help feeling the beauty and the power of friendship through ikebana.

See you at our next meeting on June 7th!

Hiroko Prado
Director



Coming up

Local events

June General Meeting: June 7, 10:30am

Venue: Chatswood Bowling Club

Theme: Freestyle using Camellias plus Exhibiting Tips

Please bring camellias and some camellia branch material, a container and your tools and don't forget your mug for tea/coffee.

Sandy Marker will lead the workshop

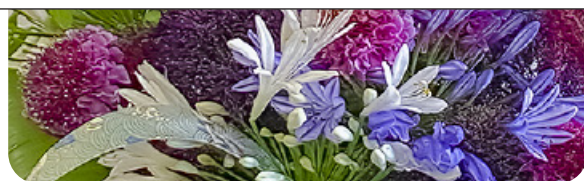
Sogetsu Ikebana Awakening, Exhibition, Demonstration and Workshop:
June 26 to July 4.

Website:

www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/What-s-On/Sogetsu-Ikebana-Awakening-Exhibition-Demonstration

Contact for exhibitors/volunteers: Hiroko Prado

The Opening Ceremony (June 26) will be attended by Sydney's Consul-General of Japan, Mr Kiya Masahiko.



Camellia Society annual Show: July 10 & 11

Venue: Ravenswood School

Contact for exhibitors: Sandy Marker



Japanaroo 2021: August 20 to 29

Venue: Sydney wide series of events.

For our entry we are in discussion about hosting a "Sogetsu Ikebana Open House" at the Chatswood Bowling Club on August 23.

We were also invited to hold an ikebana workshop at a mini "Matsuri" type of event on August 25 18:00-21:00 as a part of the event.

The details will follow!

Celebrate 60 Reinvented!: Nov 29 to Dec 1

Venue: Kirribilli Club

We are working towards putting on a celebration dinner including a demonstration by Iemoto Akane Teshigahara on screen and plans are progressing towards making this happen on December 1 2021. Please save the date!

Recently

Past events

May meeting & workshop

The May meeting at Chatswood was an exciting day where many members attended, including a guest whom we gave a warm welcome.

The theme was "Using Both Unconventional and Fresh Materials WITH TWISTS!"

The twists were that the unconventional materials had to be "RECYCLED". In an additional twist, the materials were allocated by "Lucky draw" so no one knew in advance what recycled materials they were going to get! Needless to say, this made for some challenging and exciting arrangements from the attending members!

Daniel Verner generously provided most of the unconventional materials which he had collected up prior to the meeting.



Members received interesting materials of all different kinds, from ribbons or paper cups to strange and unusual construction materials! Everyone put their thinking caps on and got their brains working full speed making their allocated material work with the containers and fresh flowers they had brought along.

It was a great mental exercise, and even though challenging at first, participants all had an enjoyable time and created some very interesting and beautiful arrangements.

As always we appreciated everyone's work and are thankful for the invaluable critiques and advice from our senior members.

Handy hints and tips

When we make an arrangement its always a delight to enjoy it in person but we often times want to make a record of our work and share it with friends who might not be able to be present at the time.

This is why we photograph most of the arrangements we make.



Here are a couple of pointers to help you along.

1. Keep it clean - any dirt or debris you can see is going to be in the photo and at best be a distraction from your arrangement. Be sure to tidy before you photograph, this should include the arrangement itself, the water, the container, the surface it sits on AND the background.

2. Composition matters- Ikebana is as much about space as it is about any other element, photography is the same. Just as you wouldn't cram your arrangement into a space where it was running into the surrounding walls, the edges of your photograph should likewise not cut off flowers, leaves or the ends of branches.

Look out for more handy hints and tips in future issues of this newsletter.

Written by Alexander Evans.



Just about everyone now has a handy camera right there on their phone these days which can (more often than not) produce high quality images. It is important to remember though, that there is only so much this technology can do! So it's still useful to work on growing your own photography skills

so that you can do justice to your wonderful arrangements when photographing them.

Member gallery



Christine Lee
Sogetsu Sydney/NSW



3



5



2



4

1 - Christine Lee, 2 - Daniel Verner,
3 - Masae Ako, 4 - Sawling Lim, 5 -Naoko Dainis

These arrangements have been shared by members for your enjoyment. If you'd like to submit photograph please email your picture to:
sogetsu.ikebana.nsw@gmail.com

Note: please make sure your photograph is on a plain background and that the arrangement is not cropped off at the edges, top or bottom.

In Focus

Camellia in context



In Japan the Camellia occupies a very special place in society, not only in an ikebana sense but also more broadly.

Japanese people celebrate the turning of the year by closely observing nature in each of the four seasons. This cultural preoccupation grew out of the Shinto belief system which deeply values and appreciates all of the natural world and sees in each object a sacred spark of divine spirit called Kami. This goes for everything from the largest mountain to even the tiniest of creatures and plants.

The camellia has its special significance in the winter season as it is one of the few plants that bear flowers during the coldest part of the year. When snow and ice cause much of the natural world to become dormant camellias are a very precious symbol of brightness and hope for the springtime ahead. Adding to this symbolic meaning, some plants in the camellia family are a source of tea leaves which also has a powerful and unique role in traditional life throughout the history of Japan.

In an ikebana context we find camellia has beautiful AND useful aspects as a material to work with. As mentioned earlier the flowers occur in winter when few other plants are blooming. Due to their fragility and the brief life of each bloom they remind us of the fleeting and fragile beauty of life and help us to feel connected with nature whilst appreciating each and every moment. Additionally, the foliage is evergreen, glossy, elegant and long lasting, qualities that are highly useful when other trees and shrubs are rendered bare. Combine all this with often slender yet flexible branches whose lines can be used to accentuate movement or define clear open spaces and its easy to see why this is such a special and treasured plant.

Text, arrangement and photography by Alexander Evans



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

