

### Message from the Director

We start 2024 with a sense of excitement and anticipation. This year will be a busy and exciting one for the Branch.

### 60th anniversary

Along with our usual activities and events, we will be celebrating our 60th Anniversary in October/November this year. We are pleased to announce that Mrs Kosa Nishiyama has accepted our invitation to visit Melbourne as our special guest. There will be a demonstration at The Edge in Federation Square Melbourne, a dinner, and a workshop led by Mrs Nishiyama.

As part of our celebrations, we will hold an exhibition over four weeks at the City of Whitehorse ArtSpace Gallery, with each week having a different theme, and providing opportunities for all our members (including students) to exhibit. Details of how to apply to attend our celebratory events will be provided and will be published at this [LINK](#).

As planning activities ramp up, I am grateful for the enthusiastic support of members, their willingness to participate, and their generosity of time and effort in support of the anniversary, and the aims of SSIV.

### Branch activities

#### Collection and Library

SSIV has a small but increasing collection of vessels and ikebana-related items that have been donated to the Branch over the past decade.

Some vessels in the collection are well-known to members, having been used by their owners at workshops and exhibitions over the years. As a group, we believe they should continue to be used and admired.

The establishment of the SSIV Vessel Library is part of our commitment to preserving and keeping the Collection 'alive'. For information about the Collection or the Library including how you can help develop the Collection, please contact us using this [LINK](#).

At our 2023 exhibition active teacher members were invited to use vases that had been donated by a special bequest to the Collection. This proved very successful with the Collection vases providing an element of interest and an extra challenge to experienced members. Photos of the 2023 exhibition can be seen at this [LINK](#).

#### Exhibition - Summer Salon Series

During December 2023 and January 2024, SSIV participated in an exhibition called the Summer Salon Series at Hawthorn Arts Centre. Ten members exhibited in turn over ten weeks.

The SSIV exhibit was located amongst other media: paintings, sculptures and so on. The arrangements were very well received by exhibition visitors, and it was heartening to see ikebana included as a valued artform.



*Christmas/New year arrangement by Sue Healey for the Summer Salon Series using dried vine, flax, billy buttons, and a bauble, in a ceramic vessel from the SSIV Collection*

## Members Meetings

### February

At our February meeting, the Branch formally established an associate membership category “Student membership” for students at Books 3 & 4 level. The aims of the new membership are threefold:

- helping ensure the longevity of the Branch
- providing opportunities for a growing number of new teachers to present workshops, and
- providing students with networking and enrichment occasions.

Applications for student membership can be made at this [LINK](#).

The February workshop theme was “The preparation and use of dried materials”. Demonstration arrangements by Angeline (Shoan) Lo incorporated dried, coloured materials, fresh and dried materials in combination.

Angeline discussed the advantages of dried materials, methods for drying, and the circumstances in which they are very well-suited. More of Angeline’s arrangements, and those made by members can be viewed at this [LINK](#).



*Arrangement by Shoan Lo using various dried, painted branches and strelitzia leaves, with fresh hydrangeas in a glass vessel*

### March

Our Annual General Meeting was held in March. The Committee election was held with the following members elected as follows:

Director: Christopher James

Deputy Director: Aileen Duke

Treasurer: Tess Toop

Secretary: Karen Thode

General Committee: Susan Healey, Di Zaviska

Long-serving Committee member, Elizabeth Angell, Deputy Director and Immediate Past Director did not seek re-election this year.

We thank Elizabeth for her invaluable service and her continuing support as a member of the Branch.

To make best use of our growing Collection of vessels and ikebana-related material, a policy for the disposition of vessels and equipment donated to, or held by, the Branch was introduced and will be finalised shortly.

The March (AGM) workshop theme was “Everyday objects as containers, using colours in the same tonal range”. Demonstration arrangements by Aileen Duke along with members’ arrangements can be seen at this [LINK](#).



*Arrangement by Aileen Duke featuring a garden hose and materials in tones of green*

### Save the date 2024

6 May: Members meeting and workshop

22 June: Ray Bywaters, Sogetsu Adelaide Branch, two workshops

22 July: Meeting and workshop

19 August: Meeting and workshop

26 October - 23 November: Annual exhibition

28 October - 3 November: 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations

2 December: Meeting and workshop