

**IKEBANA
INTERNATIONAL**

LISMORE CHAPTER NO 32

PRESENTED BY

DOROTHY EDWARDS

FOUNDER

LISMORE CHAPTER NO 32

NORMAN SPARNON

In April 1959 Dorothy Edwards purchased an Australian Womens Weekly

In it, there was an article about Mr Norman Sparnon, who had created an exhibition of Sogetsu ikebana at David Jones dept store in Sydney

Mr Sparnon had studied ikebana in Japan for 13 years. He was attached to General Mac Arthur's occupation forces in Tokyo. Norman's wife, Mary, like many of the wives of the Occupation Force personnel, began taking lessons in ikebana.

Mary was not as proficient in speaking the Japanese language as Norman, so asked him to interpret for her. Norman became so interested in the art that he began taking lessons himself.

He studied with the Sogetsu school, which had been opened by Sofu Teshigahara in 1927. With the permission of the headmaster, Sofu, he also studied at the classical school of ikebana, the Ikenobo school.

The Japanese schools acknowledged Norman as the greatest master of ikebana in the western world

WRITING TO NORMAN

Dorothy Edwards wrote to Norman Sparnon, c/o David Jones, Sydney, and fortunately they forwarded the letter on to him.

Norman advised that application could be made to Japan to form a Chapter of Ikebana International, whose purpose was to stimulate, cultivate and perpetuate the study of Ikebana and allied cultures throughout the world.

Through this association, masters, teachers and students are drawn into closer understanding. By the establishment of chapters throughout the world, contact is maintained with ikebana as it is practiced in Japan, thereby giving stimulus and inspiration not otherwise available.

Membership is open to all persons who are interested in the art of Japanese flower arrangement regardless of experience

TOKYO CPO BOX 1262
TOKYO, JAPAN
JUNE 5, 1959

Dear Mrs Edwards,

At our Chapter Meeting today Mrs Kramer handed me your recent letter in regards to forming a Chapter in Lismore, Australia.

This is rather amazing when you realize just recently we have answered inquiries as to starting a Chapter in Victoria. We are just delighted that we are really becoming International!

We now have Chapters, or Prospective Chapters in Rome, Paris, London, Okinawa, Hong Kong not to mention the twenty some odd ones in the United States.

I am enclosing two Reply Forms, 1 and 2 in hopes that this will be of some help in getting you started. If I can be of any help to you please feel free to write me as I will be delighted to give you all the help possible.

Let me hear from you in regards to your success and
best of luck to you and your group.

Cordially,

Phyllis Brice

Chairman

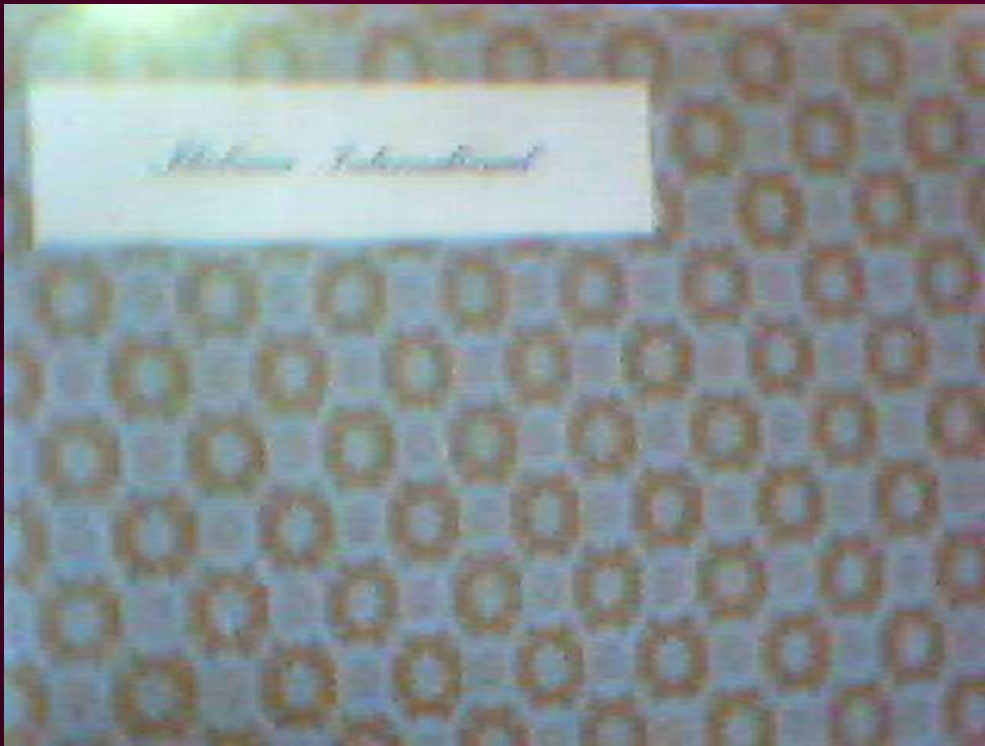
Membership-at-large.

CHAPTER FORMING

Dorothy Edwards,
Mollie Renner,
Nina McDonough,
Kath Allen,
Kelsie Roberts,
Sylvia Young

were the founding members of the
Lismore Chapter No 32
Ikebana International.

THE CHARTER



FIRST PAGE

Madame de Pompadour
Paris 1764

Dear Madam

Madame de Pompadour
Madame de Sevigne
Madame de Montespan
Madame de Maintenon
Madame de La Fayette
Madame de Mazarin

CHARTER

The provisions laid down by Japan Headquarters were;

1. Is there a nucleus of individuals with ikebana experience?

2. Does the area have or could it produce qualified teachers to take care of the requests for lessons that will naturally arise with chapter formation?

(Ikebana classes are not considered as I.I. chapter program meetings.)

3. Is the initiating group capable of attracting individuals with leadership abilities for officers?
4. Will there be members available, who because of their experience, professional background or hobbies, who will help develop a satisfactory program. Are there adequate meeting place facilities?

5. Will it be possible to carry out a planned program on a budget determined by your membership total? Approximately 2/3 of your I.I. Chapter dues remain with your treasury of the standard Y1800 (45.00 u.U.)

6. Is the initiating group sufficiently interested to function organizationally as required by Tokyo?

(Is there a typewriter and a qualified typist to help do this?)

8. Is there a thorough realization that the initiating group is making application to affiliate with an organisation of Japanese registry, dedicated to the floral art of Japan?

Yours truly,

Ikebana International Chapter Committee

No date 1959

ANSWERS TO THE FOREGOING QUESTIONS

16th June 1959

Dear Mrs Brice,

In March my firm sent me to Sydney to see the Constance Spry Demonstration and each week since then have been giving Floral Art Demonstrations in Lismore and the surrounding district.

During these Demonstrations I have mentioned the existence of Ikebana International Chapters, and quite a number of people have signified their intention of joining the Chapter.

In reply to the questions;

1. There is one Japanese War Bride in Lismore at the moment, who has had lessons in Ikebana. As yet she speaks very little English, but is very keen in joining with us. Otherwise there are only people who can appreciate the Art.
- 2 I have been teaching Floral Art at the Lismore Technical College for the past five years, and there are 2 other women in the district who would be capable of teaching.

3. There are four members of our local Quota Club – sister Club of Rotary – who have expressed a wish to join, and these women either own their own businesses or are executives. These women alone could fill the executive positions, and their standing in the community will assist in the forming of the Chapter.

4. I think the foregoing will also answer this question. There are numerous halls, and meeting places in the town suitable for our needs and the firm has also offered the use of their premises for our meetings.
5. Yes
6. Yes, the Typists are no problem at all.
7. Yes

8. Yes I have emphasised at all times that the organisation is of Japanese origin.
9. Lismore stages a Floral Carnival in the second week in September , and I have suggested to Mr Sparnon that he may like to visit Lismore then and launch our Chapter officially.
10. I trust these answers will prove satisfactory to the Chapter Committee and look forward to your reply.

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL

OCTOBER 21 1959

Dear Mrs Edwards,

At the regular October meeting of the Board of Directors of Tokyo Headquarters your group, as recommended by the Chapter Committee, was accepted for the status of a Potential Chapter of Ikebana International.

As befits an international organization we expect your compliance with instructions which will enable us and you to maintain a close, but a business-like contact.

Please note the following preliminary instructions;

1. Establish a regular date for a monthly meeting of your governing body. They should give immediate consideration to
 - (a) A study of the I.I. Constitution and By-Laws to aid in patterning your organizational structure.
 - (b) Setting up proper financial procedures for receipt and expenditures of all funds belong to your I.I. Treasury (For specific instructions on dues remittance see instructions on reverse side of Form C)

2. Formulate a procedure for a Vice-President named as Chapter coordinator who will be responsible, with the guidance and supervision of your President, for all contacts to and from Tokyo.

These requirements should be noted:

A. All correspondence with Tokyo must be typewritten and in duplicate, unless other copies are specified.

B. Records are to be maintained with separate file on instructions, form reports, magazine issues and newsletter (distribution to the individual membership should be immediate when monthly bulk shipments of newsletters are received).

C. Monthly reports forms A and C are due via air mail after the end of each month, negative replies in one copy only.

Potential Chapter Notification – page 1

POTENTIAL CHAPTER NOTIFICATION – PAGE 2

A list of materials being forwarded to you by sea mail is enclosed. An individual chapter coordinator in Tokyo will be assigned to your chapter who will provide you with contact with this headquarters. She will recommend you for chartering at the end of a period not less than three months and not to exceed nine months from this date.

In accepting your group as a Potential Chapter we have every expectation of your qualifying for a charter. We hope you will understand that the business details stipulated herewith are as necessary to your dedication to ikebana as a container is to a completed flower arrangement – a perfect combination is only achieved by careful, loving attention.

With all good wishes,
Phyllis Brice
The Chapter Committee
Ikebana International.

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL
CPO BOX 1262 TOKYO JAPAN 1959

Dear Mrs Edwards,

It is a pleasure to inform you that upon recommendation of the Chapter Committee your group was formally accepted as a Prospective Chapter of Ikebana International at the regular meeting of the I.I. Board of Directors.

To prepare for your next stage, that of a Potential Chapter, will you please submit to Tokyo Headquarters, typewritten and in duplicate the following;

- (1) The names, addresses, and card numbers of a minimum of six members-at-large of Tokyo Headquarters or duly transferred chapter members. These will be considered your founders.
- (2) The names and addresses for a President, pro-tem, and Tokyo Headquarters Coordinator who will be one of your Vice-Presidents.
- (3) A proposed program of activities.

(4) An outline of plans for a membership drive.
**DO NOT SEND ANY ADDITIONAL DUES
UNTIL NOTIFICATION OF YOUR
ACCEPTANCE AS A POTENTIAL CHAPTER**

When the above requirements are satisfactorially acceptable to the Tokyo Chapter committee you will be recommended to the I.I. Board. Their approval will give you authority to recruit members in the name of I.I.

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL

CPO BOX 1262 TOKYO, JAPAN

FEBRUARY 26TH 1960

Dear Mrs Edwards,

Ikebana International Tokyo Headquarters Board of Directors has received with pleasure the report of your satisfactory completion of organizational requirements. Your application for affiliation with Ikebana International as a Chartered Chapter signifies your desire to unite with this association in its stated purpose.

We hereby welcome you as the Ikebana International Lismore, Australia Chapter. Under the conditions of Charter affiliation, as stated in the Ikebana International Constitution and By-Laws, you are granted the rights, privileges and responsibilities of officially representing Ikebana International, Tokyo, Japan. You are chartered as a chapter in the area approved by this head-quarters, as specified in your application, for a period of two years beginning from the date appearing on your charter.

Your charter is a handsomely bound, Japanese style book.

The chapter's name, date of charter and names of the founding members are entered therein, with the proper official seals and signatures. Generous space is provided for a further listing of the chapter charter members, and continued records of the achievements of the chapter.

Thus your charter constitutes a valuable permanent history from the birth of your chapter. Each president should receive at her installation, the responsibility of guardianship and perpetuation of this record, passing it on to her successor intact at the termination of her office.

The “Conditions of Charter Affiliation” listed therein are, as stated, minimum requirements. It is our hope – our expectation – that your efforts as a chapter, will be guided, not by a statement of minimum requirements, but by the example set by those dedicated leaders and devoted members whose endeavours have developed Ikebana International, in a few brief years, into the truly international association that it has now become.

Guiding policies for I.I. Chapter government are formulated and administered by a Headquarters Board of Directors and a Chapter Committee composed of people dedicated to the service of I.I. Your regular reports, one of your requirements as a chartered chapter, keep them informed of your rate of progress, your need for advice or assistance, or your failure to comply with directives.

Should it become evident to Headquarters that failure to meet requirements is due to lack of sincere interest in the aims of the association, and that further effort on the part of the group is unlikely, the Board of Directors may revoke charter privileges. In this event, dissolution of a chapter, Headquarters requests the return of the charter – I.I. property.

Prior to the expiration of the two-year period for which your chapter is chartered, application must be made to I.I. Tokyo Headquarters for a renewal of charter privileges.

Consideration for revalidation will be on the basis of your record as a chapter.

As stated in the I.I. By-Laws, chapter charters and revalidations are subject to a fee of Y1,800 (U.S.\$5.00)

Now that you have completed the organizational details, your much used typewriter may be relegated to a corner, (accessible for monthly reports) in favour of your flower scissors, which we hope you will use with renewed vigor and inspiration.

We look forward to hearing of your accomplishments With all good wishes

Carola Meller President Board of Directors I.I.

C.P.O. BOX 1262
TOKYO, JAPAN
JUNE 3, 1960

Dear Mrs Edwards,

It is with sincere regret that I must say “Sayonara”. My husband has just been reassigned to Washington, D.C. and we must leave the land of Ikebana International.

During the short time I have been your Chapter Coordinator I have vicariously enjoyed your triumphs and shared your disappointments. Your chapter has moved steadily forward in carrying out the aims of I.I. And it has truly been a pleasure to work with you.

A new coordinator will be assigned to your chapter shortly. In the meantime, your correspondence will be taken care of at the I.I. Office.

With many good wishes for your continued interest in I.I.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Rubin

Mrs Seymour Rubin

1735 VAN NESS AVE
SAN FRANCISCO 9 CALIF.

Dear Mrs Edwards:

Mr Sparnon previously wrote stating he would write later to give your Chapter a little help toward a closer understanding of Ikebana. This was based on a promise he made to you co-ordinator, Mrs Rubin at a Chapter Co-ordinator meeting.

We have now sent your Chapter a copy of Mr Sparnon's book "Japanese Flower Arrangement, Classical and Modern".

We hope that it will prove of assistance to your members who are enthusiastic and anxious to know more about Ikebana.

Best wishes for the future

Sincerely

Mary G. Sparnon.

14TH JULY 1960

Dear Mrs McCurdie,

We are enclosing herewith Bank Transfer for the amount of six pounds seventeen shillings and ninepence, which the bank has assured us is the correct amount for us to send.

The bank has been very good, they sent to Sydney for special books on the currency, and explained it in full detail to our Treasurer Nina. Even the manager sat in on the session, and was most helpful and interested in the things that we are doing.

Our Bank sends the money to Sydney, and they in turn return the Bank transfer to Lismore.

The members have all received their magazines, but were disappointed that they were the ones they had received on the night of our Chartering – never the less they are bringing them along to the Film Slide Evening we are having on the 26th July, and will sell them to the public.

Trusting that everything is now in order.

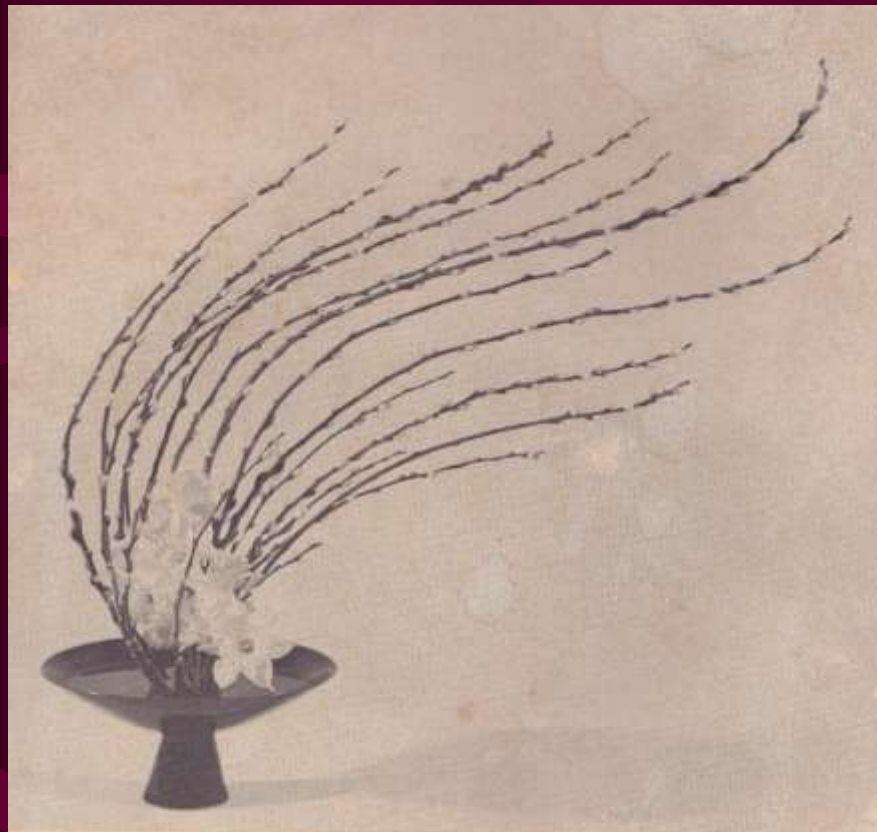
FIRST LESSONS

Norman Sparnon travelled to Lismore in 1961 giving lessons from Australia Day 26th January to 30th January 1962.

Fourteen members attended these lessons in the Apollo Hall,. Carrington Street, Lismore, and all students were awarded their first certificates in Sogetsu Ikebana at the end of the lessons.

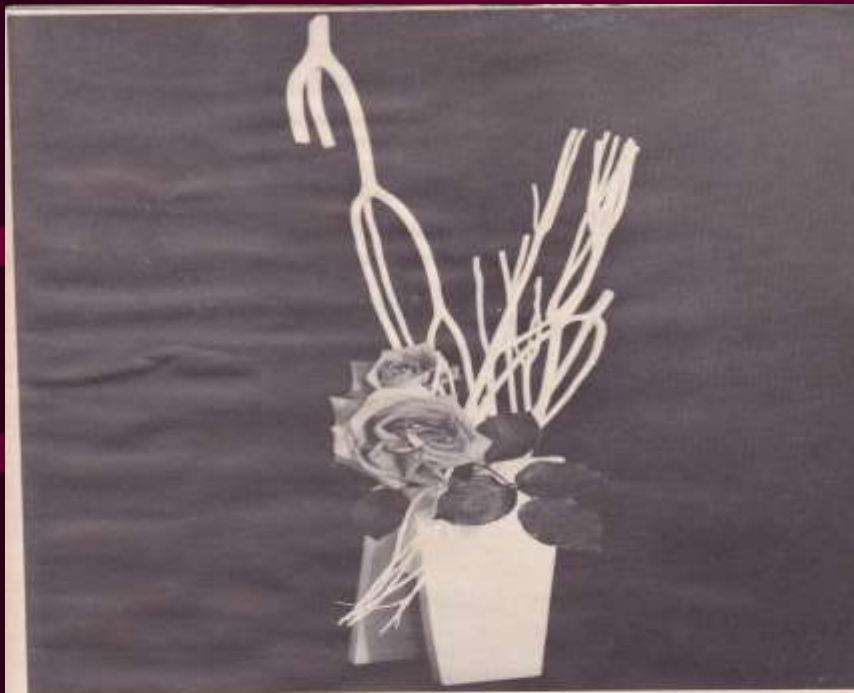
Certificates cost ?????

THE AUSTRALIAN IKEBANA FLOWER ARRANGEMENT
DIARY 1968
EDITED BY NORMAN SPARNON
ARRANGEMENT BY DOROTHY EDWARDS



Mrs Dorothy Edwards, Lismore, N.S.W.
A graceful line arrangement of pussy willow and daffodils.

ARRANGEMENT BY
MRS BONNIE KERKENEZOV 1968



Mrs N. Kerkenezov, Lismore, N.S.W.

Two Super Star roses combined with branches of Edgeworthia papyrifera, arranged in contrasting directions.

DIARY 1968

EXHIBITION

The background of the slide is a dark, almost black, color. It is decorated with several thick, wavy, horizontal lines in a deep blue or indigo hue. These lines are layered and overlap, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall aesthetic is modern and sophisticated.

PRESIDENTS

Presidents:

1960-1961 Mollie Renner

1961-1962 Dorothy Edwards

1962-1963 Dorothy Edwards

1963-1964 Midge Brand

1964-1965 Midge Brand

1965-1966 Midge Brand

1966-1967 Midge Brand

1967-1968 Bonnie Kerkenezov

1968-1969 Bonnie Kerkenezov

1969-1970 Mollie Renner

1970-1971 Midge Brand

1971-1972 Frieda Harrison

1972-1973 Frieda Harrison

1973-1974 Merle Cloutier

1974-1975 Merle Cloutier Hayden

1975-1976 Betty Slater

1976-1977 Margaret Colman

1977-1978 Margaret Colman

1978-1979 Marilyn Lewin

1979-1980 Marilyn Lewin

1980-1981 Midge Brand

1981-1982 Dorothy Edwards

1982-1983 Dorothy Edwards

1983-1984 Ruth Grosser

1984-1985 Ruth Grosser

1985-1986 Betty Talbot

1986-1987 Betty Talbot

1987-1988 Lillias Hughes

CHAPTER BANNER

Pam Gordon and Helen Fatt holding the banner of blue velvet made by Pam in 19???????

The painting of pink cherry blossom was done by Helen Fatt .



IN MEMORIAM

Marie Pidcock

Heather Mclean

Heather Farrell

Frieda Harrison

Mollie Renner

Lexie Martin

Ann Deegan

Marie Glynn

Lucy Mackay

Sylvia young

Midge Brand

Joy Wright

Kath Hine

Nina Mcdonogh

Phyllis Berry

Phyllis Buck

Kelsie Roberts

Lillias Hughes

