

NEWSLETTER

No.274 June 2018

AIKIDO YOSHINKAN BRISBANE DOJO

Dojo: <http://yoshinkan.info>

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|---|--------------------|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| May Report | | | | | |
| New members 1 | | Total number of adults training 50 | | Total number of children training 41 | |
| Results of Getsurei Shinsa on 25th & 26th May | | | | | |
| Jun-Shodan | Neale Windress | 8th Kyu | Adler Hofea | 5Y4 step | Kaido Mori |
| | Charles Delaporte | | Hermaan Chen | 3Y3 step | Michael Bannah |
| | Greg Burley | 9th Kyu | Flavien Renaud | 2Y5 step | Dean Jones |
| | Duong Thai | | Caitlin Baptist | 2Y3 step | Kent Windress |
| 5th Kyu | Jonathan McConnell | | Leah Ryder | S3 step | Bastian Hartmann |
| 8th Kyu | Martin Fernandez | | | | |
| Events in June | | | | | |
| 1 Sogo Shinsa | | | 2. This Month's Holiday | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training starts, Friday 8th 7:15pm~• Steps, Friday 22nd 7:15pm~• Shinsa, Saturday 23rd 1:00pm~ | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dojo Holiday 25th Monday | | |

A little more knowledge for your Aikido journey

Annual Demonstration

Our biggest dojo event of the year, 23rd annual demonstration, is getting closer, scheduled on 5th August. I hope everyone, as many students as possible including white belts, will participate in the demo.

I recommend all the white belts to take a part in the program's Item 1 "Kamae-niyoru Atemi & Shumatsudosa Renzoku" and the program's Item 8 "Basic techniques." "Basic techniques" are performed only by white and brown belts, and you will practise from 9th and 8th Kyu grading syllabuses. By participating in these items, grading tests will become easy for those who have not graded yet. For those who have already graded, you will gain confidence to perform these techniques even in public. It will be a good opportunity to demonstrate the techniques you can be confident with in front of your families and friends.

As this annual demonstration represents our 23rd time, I heard an opinion that the demo is getting into a rut. Well, the purpose of demonstration is not about having fight matches to compete each other like other martial arts but to show the skills of Aikido and display our spirit in them through structured programs. Keeping this basic theme in my head, I reviewed the program.

"Four-men group Jiyu-waza Kyogi-enbu" was the headquarters' demo program which was the only program brown and black belt students could win the awards (no shite-uke/two-men Jiyu-waza like we have.) Many Aikido practitioners (except instructors) from any Yoshinkan dojos/clubs all over Japan and from the world participated actively in this program to win the title, since it was rewarding to win something as a result of hard training when we do not have competitions in Aikido. I followed this in the hope of Brisbane dojo students participating in the headquarters' demo and winning the trophy one day. Yet, in the reality, I was aware of students saying that arranging four men to keep training together before the demo was pretty difficult and sometimes they had to perform without enough training. This program

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was applying too much pressure on the students now, I thought, and therefore this program is taken off from this year.

Instead, I added two new Kyogi-enbu: Jiyu-waza with weapons and self-defence techniques. You can display appealing performances using weapons dynamically and design your own self-defence performance freely; you may wear a dress with a wig if you would like to be a woman to perform women's self-defence techniques, or wearing a police consume as such, or you can show very traditional style self-defence skills. Also, you can use any objects to perform self-defence techniques. You can compose any stories or situations to show your self-defence skills in this program, just open your mind and think freely.

There is one thing I am making sure when I decide the demo programs that every participant has sufficient opportunities to perform techniques, *Shite-side*, that they have trained through attending hard classes. This thought comes from my bitter memory that I mentioned before in my article.

Moving up to Tokyo from a countryside after I graduated high school I persevered through hard training, under the condition of being treated as a subhuman. I survived the Senshusei Course (Riot policemen's course) and two years had passed. My level of *ukemi* progressed considerably high by then that resulted in being asked to take uke for most of my senior instructors. Since I was getting confident with my Aikido (as *uke*, I should say) I invited my father to observe the headquarters' annual demonstration. He sat in the very front row that I booked for him and observed the whole demo very closely. I displayed my best *ukemi*. I kept hitting the mats hard while rolling elegantly under control each time I was smashed by my strong and tough senior instructors. I was very proud of myself. For my father, however, who did not know anything about Aikido, I appeared to be such a weak and poor fighter who kept being beaten up without having any success to attack someone. As I met my father in confidence after the demo, he looked at me, his disgraceful son from his view. In pity he said, "You are so weak..."

While all the other Aikido students admired me for taking many *uke* from deadly instructors and for the fact that I kept getting up though my head was being slammed repeatedly onto the hard tatami mats by Takeno Shihan. But none of these performances appealed to my father who had the general idea of which the person being smashed is the loser of the match. Yes, I was shocked and felt miserable, but I learned a lesson. If I was going to organise a demonstration for my students one day, I was ensuring that I let every person experience the highlights so that they can be satisfied without feeling miserable.

For your information, it was after seven years in my 9th year of uchi-deshi life when I finally performed *shite* as an instructor at the headquarters' demo. Yes, I was a very expert *uke* for a long time! In Japan it is common for any apprentices to work on only basics for a long period; like an apprentice to be a professional sushi chef not being allowed to make a sushi but all the other miscellaneous tasks for the first three years.

But here at my Brisbane Dojo, I wish everyone to play the main characters. Please everyone, take a part in this great opportunity to make wonderful memories!

OSU,

Michiharu Mori