

# NEWSLETTER

No.279 November 2018

AIKIDO YOSHINKAN BRISBANE DOJO

Dojo: [yoshinkan.info](http://yoshinkan.info) Facebook: [facebook.com/BrisbaneYoshinkanAikido/](https://facebook.com/BrisbaneYoshinkanAikido/) Twitter: [twitter.com/YoshinkanAikido](https://twitter.com/YoshinkanAikido)

<b>October Report</b>					
New members 3		Total number of adults training 49		Total number of children training 39	
<b>Results of Getsurei Shinsa on 26<sup>th</sup> &amp; 27<sup>th</sup> October</b>					
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Kyu</b>	Caitlin Baptist	<b>2Y6 step</b>	Dean Jones	<b>2Y1 step</b>	Charles Delaporte
	Shane Baptist	<b>2Y5 step</b>	Kent Windress	<b>S2 step</b>	Van Morris
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Kyu</b>	Damian Morris	<b>2Y2 step</b>	Louis Chatfield		
<b>Events in November</b>					
<b><u>1. Self-defence Class &amp; Demonstration</u></b>			<b><u>2. Getsurei Shinsa</u></b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Self-defence class; Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm~2:30pm</b></li><li>• The class is not for public but only for the members.</li><li>• Everyone who wishes to participate in the self-defence class needs to register at the counter with <b>\$20</b> cash participation fee. (will be used for BBQ party and drinks)</li><li>• BBQ Party will be held after the demonstration and everyone including your family and friends are welcome to join us.</li><li>• <b>Demonstration; 2:45pm~</b></li></ul> <p>All of the black belts and Mori Sensei will display their demonstrations after the class. You can invite your family and friends for the demonstration.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Training starts, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> 7:15pm~</li><li>• Steps, Friday 16<sup>th</sup> 7:15pm~</li><li>• Shinsa, Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm~</li></ul>		
			<b><u>3. Children's grading-demonstration, new colour belts awarding ceremony and X'mas Party</u></b>		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> 10.00am~</b></li><li>• A grading-demonstration by all the children starts at 10am.</li><li>• Awarding ceremony and X'mas party after the demo.</li><li>• Dojo will provide some soft drinks and a small X'mas gift for each child.</li><li>• <b>Please bring a plate with you.</b></li></ul>		
			<b><u>4. This Month's Holiday</u></b>		
			Dojo's Holiday 26 <sup>th</sup> Monday		

## Sharing the feelings of Black Belts

### Rokudan

OSU,

6<sup>th</sup> Dan...Sensei you have dragged me kicking and screaming all the way from 10<sup>th</sup> kyu, I have never once believed I deserved to be a higher grading, and this time is no exception. I am forever a white belt, every time you demonstrate a technique that I think I can do and I come to the stark realisation it's wrong...still.

I began training with Sensei in the Fish Lane Dojo, many years ago. From the start Aikido has been a passion for me, I enjoyed the tough and uncompromising teaching of Sensei in those days. I hope I have grown at the same place as my great Sensei in that I have learnt to blend and ebb and flow with my fellow students rather than the roughhouse techniques of that bygone era.

And yes Sensei although your memories may be hazy in this regard, you were a terrifying presence on the mats, I was frightened to make mistakes and I dare not make any sound except for kia on the mats for fear of what may happen. The gradings were so intense I used to feel sick from fear, mainly that I would disappoint you in any way, because I know how personally you take the success and failures of all students, in truth in all facets of their life not just the mats.

This is why when people ask me am I nervous I say I'm terrified, this is true for every grading and every demonstration either as Sensei's uke or for my own. Ukeing for Sensei was my greatest honour and will

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always be my greatest memories of Aikido. To feel the power and the smooth and intense connection is something I couldn't explain, it's something you must experience to understand.

Suffice to say it is scary, intense and direct in a way that boggles the mind on many levels. I thank you from the bottom of my heart Sensei for those wonderful opportunities I will treasure those moments forever. That and your teaching have been invaluable to me in life, I am a different person because of this and for that I also owe you a debt of gratitude that I will endeavour to repay one training at a time for as long as I can.

To my Ukes Lawrence and Kaido, I can't thank you enough for the sacrificed time to assist me in my demonstrations over the years, you truly understand the spirit of Aikido and it has been an honour and a privilege to train with you.

To my original partner Jason S, I miss you always and it was a pleasure to always train and grade with you.

Shuko San, thank you for the countless translations over the years and the contribution you make to all facets of the dojo, the dojo is a better place because you are there also.

To my wife Dee, thank you for putting up with my frustration and complaining all of these years and for supporting me in this endeavour, without you nothing matters.

Sensei you have built a legacy that I hope will continue for generations to come and I am honoured to have played a small part in the Dojos history.

To the Students, please train with the discipline and intensity required for you to grow and improve your techniques, the time on the mats is precious and the time with sensei irreplaceable.

Arigatōgozaimashita Sensei.

*Emmanuel Economidis*

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## **Rokudan**

Absolutely elated to have made it this far. I started my Aikido Yoshinkan journey back in 1991 on the Sunshine Coast. Back then when I started training it was with David Dangerfield and he had been training with Joe Thambu in Melbourne to change from the Aikido style he was doing to become the first Yoshinkan dojo in Queensland.

I had just moved to the Sunshine coast and commenced training after being a kickboxer for a while influenced by Jean Claude Van Dame at first, and then Steven Segal. I was immediately addicted from the first class I attended. The type of people that came to the dojo were genuinely nice people. Some other Martial Arts that I practiced attracted more aggressive and less friendly people, so Aikido felt like a good fit for me.

After training for three years on the Sunshine Coast and training in every class I could, including teaching children's classes and helping out teaching in high schools. I moved away to take a job in Port Macquarie NSW and had my first attempt at opening an Aikido School. After realising how much I didn't know I closed the school and moved to Japan to undertake the Sensusai Course at the Yoshinkan Headquarters in Japan. This course was designed to take you to black belt in 9 months with a further 2 months of training to become a teacher. After 5 months training in Japan doing three hajime classes a day I returned to Australia with a broken body and an empty wallet.

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After resting up and repairing my body I commenced training at the Aikido Yoshinkan Brisbane Dojo in August 1996 and I have never looked back or to any other dojo. This dojo was far superior, I felt to anywhere else I had ever trained, Mori Shihan knew his stuff and he pushed us hard, I instantly had a new passion for Aikido.

Here is my Aikido resume so far: I graded to Shodan on 27/09/1997, Nidan 31/07/2001, Sandan 27/08/2003, Yondan 24/06/2006, Godan 19/04/2011 and Rokudan 29/09/2018. What a journey it has been!

I feel that Yoshinkan Aikido has transformed me into the person I am today and it has made me strong mentally and physically and I owe all that to my teacher and to the students past and present who helped me along the way. Thank you all.

Osu

*Richard Diehm*

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## **Shodan**

My first and most important task is to add my congratulations to Mori Sensei, firstly for grading to 8th Dan and secondly for guiding and training two of our Dojo's senior students grading to 6th Dan.

I was quite excited and nervous and also humbled to grade to Shodan on the same day as 2 Rokudan, 1 Sandan, 1 Nidan, 2 Shodan and many others including my son, Kent to 2Y4.

I was about 60 when I started my Yoshinkan journey and it was through the encouragement, support and patience of Mori Sensei and Kent which allowed me to reach Shodan, five years later, the real beginning of my Yoshinkan journey. Thanks also to my very patient and tolerant Uke's, Kaido and Cameron and also Wikrom and Dean.

Kent encouraged and convinced me to start training here and on entering the Dojo for the first time, I sensed the comradery. Kent also helped a lot to find solutions to any small hiccups along the way. I am very fortunate to have been led to Aikido and this Dojo in particular. Thanks Kent.

As I'm a private student I usually only meet up with other students at Grading time and have always enjoyed the comradery, support and encouragement from the whole Dojo. However, last Saturday, the Dojo was overflowing with these feelings. Feelings which have been inculcated by Mori Sensei and Shuko-san. Both of you should be very proud of your Dojo which you've created and of the like-minded students who make up your Dojo.

I always enjoy training on Wednesdays and our chats, Mori Sensei. However, I always feel very frustrated when I can't achieve something which I believe that I should be able to achieve, however that obviously means that I need to focus and train harder. A well-known Olympic coach says that we all need to train harder than the level we think that we will compete at. This philosophy applies to every aspect of our lives.

I find Aikido very challenging and counter intuitive but very rewarding. It also helps to keep me centred. I'm still searching for that elusive harmony.

Finally, I'd like to thank Mori Sensei and Shuko-san, again, for your continued dedication and for always searching for advancement and improvement and Mori Sensei for your patience, tolerance and support while guiding me along the path of Aikido.

OSU

*Neale Windress*