



No. 118 June 2005

AIKIDO YOSHINKAN BRISBANE DOJO

Report of May

New members 7

Total number of adults training 67

Total number of children training 65

Results of Getsurei Shinsa on 28th May

<u>Jun-Sandan</u>	Lee Stemm	<u>9th Kyu</u>	Corey Nackman	<u>9th Kyu</u>	Nathan Hanoling
<u>Jun-Nidan</u>	Matthew Watson		Jamie Baker	<u>3Y10 step</u>	Jason Williams
	Eric Kwok		Matthew Pethig	<u>2Y10 step</u>	Albert Lu
<u>5th Kyu</u>	Jaime Bowtell		Tomonori Suzuki	<u>2Y4 step</u>	Rosie Bannah
<u>8th Kyu</u>	Patrick Kua		Taj Denierhausen	<u>2Y3 step</u>	Michael Bannah
	Sean Collins		Peter Chant		

Events in June

1. Sogo Shinsa

- ♦Saturday, 25th 1:00pm~
- ♦Shinsa training starts from 11th Saturday.

2. This Month's Holiday

- ♦Queen's Birthday 13th Monday
- ♦Dojo's Holiday 27th Monday

A bit of knowledge for Aikido

Yoshinkan, as the practical Aikido

About two years ago we had a lady training with us who was as tall as 196cm (6.4 feet), if you remember. She said her size was very common in her homeland, Holland, but I guessed she was counted as a tall lady even in her home country. There shouldn't be so many of those tall ladies on the earth! I thought. Judging her from her appearance she should have had a big heart but in fact, inside of her enormous body there was a shy, timid and sweet nature like a little girl. I received an email from her not long after she left for home. Here is the short summary of what she wrote; "I got a job as an English teacher at my hometown. I would have been too nervous and too scared to stand in front of many students and could not work as a teacher, if it was me before. But, I experienced grading tests and demonstration and I got over these, that I was most scared of. Now, I am alright in public even though I still get a bit nervous but I can manage it. I can work happily thanks to my Aikido training at the Brisbane dojo." For me, who teaches Aikido, this email was absolute joy.

In Japan there is a demonstration of ancient martial arts held every year. People who train in various arts and styles of ancient martial arts get together and demonstrate. The first time I went there it was to uke (receive techniques) for Takeno Sensei's demonstration just after I finished the Senshusei course. On the day, my mind was totally pre-occupied with the concern about whether I would be able to complete my task or not so that I could not spare any thoughts and enjoy watching others. I thought it would be a great humiliation being an uchi-deshi (professional live-in student) and to *not* stand up before Takeno Sensei finished the demo.

I remember the scenes: that my view gave a sudden twist several times hitting my head too hard, but in an end, I experienced a sense of achievement from the fact that just a fledgling, first year uchi-deshi, got through the uke of Takeno Sensei. After I finished my job soundly I got myself back and became calm enough to watch various other demonstrations. Talking honestly, I was quite shocked at the fact of how poor their levels were. Well, there were unique and interesting demonstrations in ancient martial arts like crossing swords wearing ancient body-armour; throwing ninja-star-like knives; shooting arrows using a Japanese traditional bow from a running horse; showing how to use matchlocks and so on. All the general techniques without weapons were using basic skills like throwing, restraining with joint-locks, punching and kicking. I could see what they were aiming to do but their movements and techniques



were not trained at all, almost a beginner's level. Acrobats who work in circus would have thrown ninja-star-like knives a lot better because they are well trained. Since their techniques and movements were so dull and slack from a lack of training there was no reality of it being martial arts. The demonstration showed the fact that there was hardly anyone who were training ancient martial arts seriously any more. If it was about the punching and kicking area Karate-ka would have demonstrated a lot better than them, but no modern martial arts like Karate, Kendo, Judo, etc were invited for the demo. Although Aikido itself was a new martial art because its root was originated 800 years ago as Jujutsu, Aikido was invited in the ancient martial arts demonstration, when Daitoryu Aiki Jujutsu should have been invited as an ancient style in fact.

After I got back to the Honbu dojo to report to Kancho Sensei (Master Gozo Shioda) how our demonstration went, I slipped my impression of other ancient styles and how poor they were. He laughed at my words wildly and let fall these words, "No other professionals." On hearing this, I realised that I had never heard anyone in another style who earned their living from just running a dojo. Even masters in other styles usually had their jobs outside the dojo and trained their arts in spare moments from their work. A group of people who are devoted only in martial arts training all day, every day like Yoshinkan Honbu Dojo is very rare. It means that almost no professionals exist in other styles of martial arts. (Boxers, wrestlers, etc who fight for money are categorised in sports.) It made great sense to me that the level of ancient martial arts demonstration was so poor. At the same time I became very proud of Yoshinkan that trained professional Budo-ka (not sports players) and I felt that I was privileged to be trained in the Yoshinkan style.

The Yoshinkan is recognised as the practical Aikido from other martial arts. That is because Yoshinkan teaches policemen and riot policemen who actually use Yoshinkan techniques practically to restrain and arrest criminals on the streets. Yoshinkan as a professional style of martial arts is what I am proud of. I train myself hard daily to teach this practical Yoshinkan style to my students as a professional Yoshinkan Aikido instructor. However, most of my students are not police officers or security officers who need to use the techniques practically in the real world. So, where can they use the practical Yoshinkan Aikido?

The answer is in Kancho Sensei's words, "Aiki that is life". We should use the theory of Aikido in our lives, living in harmony with others and being harmonised with our surroundings. This is the practical Aikido I believe. The episode of the lady from Holland I mentioned at the beginning was a good example of the true practical Aikido, dojo training being utilised in one's life. We learn Aikido skills physically and learn the way of harmony mentally. This is the modern way of martial arts training and the right way of learning Yoshinkan Aikido practically, I think.

To tell the truth it is almost a miracle, all thanks to Aikido training, that a hopeless immature person like myself talks about harmony with others. If I were original myself, I would not have been able to celebrate eleven years of my marriage this year but would have been divorced by now without creating an harmonious life with my wife. That is all thanks to the teaching of Aikido, "welcome it when it comes. Let it go, when it leaves. Harmonise it when you're confronted," (or maybe just thanks to my wife's patience). I deeply appreciate the teaching of practical Yoshinkan Aikido for my fully satisfied and happy life.

OSU!

Michiharu Mori