



Report of October

New members 4 Total number of adults training 60 Total number of children training 70

Results of Getsurei Shinsa on 21st October

<u>Jun-3rd Kyu</u>	Helly Conroy	<u>4Y 12</u>	Jason Economidis	<u>2Y 7</u>	Myles Frost
	Jamie Baker	<u>4Y 4</u>	Brent Weston	<u>2Y 6</u>	Murray Davis
	Vince Cubito	<u>3Y 9</u>	Eric Kwok	<u>2Y 4</u>	Matt Carpenter
<u>8th Kyu</u>	Neal Mathew	<u>2Y 12</u>	Daniel McDonald	<u>S5</u>	Chris Neucom
	Justin Harris		Sam Gray	<u>S1</u>	Christopher Swinton
<u>9th Kyu</u>	Gabriela Scheufele		Eagle Kao		
	Rob Lawrence				
	Michael Tuppin				

Events in November

1. Self-defence Class & Demonstration

♦Self-defence class; Saturday, 25th November 1:00pm~2:30pm

- ♦The class is not for public but only for the members.
- ♦Although there is no class fee, students' fund is collecting some money for the BBQ party held after the demonstration.
- ♦BBQ Party will be held after the demonstration and everyone including your family and friends are welcome to join us.

♦Demonstration; 3:00pm~

- ♦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.

2. Getsurei Shinsa

- ♦ 18th November, Saturday 1:00pm~
- ♦ Shinsa training starts on 11th Saturday.

3. This Month's Holiday

- ♦ Dojo's Holiday 27th November, Monday

A bit of knowledge for Aikido

Nothing can go wrong through the practice of Aikido.

~aiming for world peace

words by Kancho Sensei

It was my second year of Uchi-deshi life when I still did not know much about Kancho Sensei (Master Gozo Shioda) and his techniques yet and I was at the Headquarters' annual demonstration watching him, the best part of the demonstration had been saved for last. Being a new uchi-deshi, there was no chance of me taking his uke but I still had to be ready in a line for any type of work. If Kancho Sensei was showing a hint of needing a bokken I had to pretend to go and take a bokken showing my enthusiasm towards participation. Otherwise I would be in a big trouble for not being concerned enough of Kancho Sensei's intention and my senior uchi-deshi's need. It might be far from my image now for you training in my dojo having me as a Sensei. Anyway, even though I was busy *pretending* I was always trying to do something at the spot where I was in seiza I watched his demonstration with a great interest in how an old man about seventy was going to perform.

The old man gave a violent *shuto* (like a karate chop) on my senior uchi-deshi's neck who was a very muscular man and knocked him out. Then he did *Irimi-zuki* on the next uchi-deshi pushing his back of the head right into the tatami mats with Kancho Sensei's body bent in ninety degrees. I even felt sorry for my bully seniors and got anxious for my own future. After these violent scenes, this cruel old man gave the audience a big pleasant smile like a nice sea breeze and said, "Nothing can go wrong through the practice of Aikido. All in the world will be in peace." He received a salvo of applause from all of the audience. Being twenty years old I was then, I felt very odd hearing the word 'world peace' from his mouth after looking at his violent scenes and just could not understand the connection between peace and Aikido.

There is a huge difference between *Bujutsu* and *Budo* although both words are translated to 'martial arts' in English. The direct translation of *Bujutsu* is military skills/techniques when *Budo* translates as military path/way. It may sound not much difference to you but let me explain the history briefly how these two became totally different. *Bujutsu* is simply the skills to fight and kill people, that was developed by *samurais* through the 15th to the end of 16th century when Japan was right in the Age of Civil Wars. Since the start of the 17th century Japan reached a peaceful era without civil wars for as long as 260 years. *Samurais* still had to train themselves being soldiers in their nature but they did not need to use the skills to kill people any

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more. Naturally, the purpose of the training in *Bujutsu* changed –from gaining the skills of killing people to training one’s spirit and mind through severe training and to use the mind state in the daily life – and that then became *Budo*, way of man through military training. The culture of samurais that developed in the period called Edo Era sublimated ‘jutsu’ into ‘do’, the sublimation from mere physical skill to well-cultivated philosophy.

What we train in our dojo is Aikido but not Aikijutsu. What can we learn from Aikido? We feel the techniques of Aikido up to as many as three thousand of them in the classes; turning without fighting back when being pushed, moving forward obediently with the pulling strength redirecting the line slightly. We learn the harmony of force between our partners through these movements. If one pushes his own way without harmonising with his partner’s movements and force, the partner will feel unpleasant in his technique. I cannot call it as an Aikido technique if it leaves an unpleasant feeling to his partner. I can affirm that a technique, no matter how powerful it is, can be a great pleasure if the force between shite and uke are harmonised. So, the training of Aikido is to say mastering of the power of harmony by working and studying together with all of our training partners who are different in the sizes and strength to get just the right technique for both shite and uke.

So, the dojo is where we train aiming to acquire the power of harmony through physical Aikido techniques. Since our life outside of the dojo is longer and it is more important for us we should apply the power of harmony into our daily lives. For example, when we are driving in the traffic. There are heaps of crazy drivers of cars, motorbikes, trucks, buses, pushbikes or even ridiculous walkers on the roads. It is so easy for us to get annoyed and angry against these people and we show our rightness by beeping horns or other means. This is not the way of applying Aikido, though. No matter whatever the conditions of the road or the drivers we simply harmonise ourselves with them having the presence of mind, using the principle of “Welcome it, when it comes. Let it go, when it leaves. Harmonise it, when you are confronted.” In this way we never lose our sense of calmness and can avoid accidents reading the movements of traffic.

Most useful situations of applying Aikido principle are at home with your partner, as I often mention. Various issues and happenings occur daily, some good but some are not so good. There is no point blaming one’s own partner’s faults but just harmonising with her/him using the principle. If she/he pushes then we withdraw but not by pushing back, if she/he pulls then we move forward with it but not by pulling back, not compromising but harmonising with the mind of helping each other. Always keeping this way in our minds, we can maintain pleasant relationship even in the most difficult terms.

Once you can overcome this most difficult relationship it is so easy to handle any other relationships at work or other situations. We can enjoy challenges and how to apply the strategy of harmony when we meet a man who is unfavourable. This type of person can be the great teacher for us to polish the power of harmony. When each of us who learns Aikido puts a great effort into harmonising with others in everyday life we can lead a mellow/smooth life without conflict and that will lead to a world peace eventually. I believe this is what Kancho Sensei meant in his words, “Nothing can go wrong through the practice of Aikido. All in the world will be in peace.”

Well, I have a fantasy of world famous politicians and leaders training Aikido together, learning how to harmonise with each other, aiming for the world peace above the differences in their thoughts and faith. I know it’s a fantasy but thinking in this way we have a mission to raise our dojo’s level not only in the technique aspect but also in the spiritual maturity to get the high attention from the world. Among all the other dojos, who are after their strength and protection, we, Brisbane Yoshinkan students, practice Aikido not only for one’s own self-defence or interest but aiming for the world peace on an epic proportion. This is cooler, I think, than just training for improving one’s own skills, especially under the recent circumstances when the possibility of starting the bigger scale wars is getting higher. The idea that Brisbane Yoshinkan Dojo exists to actualise the world peace, training for the lofty purpose, gives us a higher goal to motivate ourselves to train harder. Now, summer is coming closer when the training gets more severe, we shall work out a good sweat keeping Kancho Sensei’s words in our hearts.

OSU!

Michiharu Mori