



No.155 July 2008

AIKIDO YOSHINKAN BRISBANE DOJO

Report of June

New members 3

Total number of adults training 65

Total number of children training 57

Results of Sogo Shinsa on 28th June

Sandan	Matthew Watson	5th Kyu	Wade Lacey	3Y2 step	Matt Carpenter
Nidan	Myles Frost	9th Kyu	Christopher Wake	2Y7 step	Michael Bannah
Shodan	Amy Hughes		Matthew Ryan	2Y6 step	Christopher Swinton
	Helly Conroy		Wayne Harris	2Y5 step	Alastair Wilkinson
	Tom Bannah	Jiro Sumitomo		Aaron Stewart	
Jun Shodan	Francis Hollingworth			2Y3 step	Aarjaun Burch
1st Kyu	Robert Austin	4Y12 step	Jason Williams	S5 step	Mark Coleman
2nd Kyu	Adam Sawyer		Brent Weston		Lawrence Monforte
3rd Kyu	Kaido Mori		Lee Stemm	S4 step	Koray Karanfilci
Jun-3rd Kyu	Kris Anderson	3Y12 step	Douglas Buchanan	S3 step	David Shepley
4th Kyu	Anthony Williams		Evan Chapman	S2 step	Urs Battig
	Michael Tuppin				

Events in July

1. Getsurei Shinsa

- ♦Saturday, 26th 1:00pm~
- ♦Shinsa training starts from 19th Saturday.

3. This Month's Holiday

- ♦Dojo's Holiday 28th Monday

A bit of knowledge for Aikido

Aikido Yoshinkan –House where students cultivate their spirits through Aikido

When Master Gozo Shioda was a child he had poor health and was physically fragile. So, his father who was very wealthy built a dojo in his yard to invite Judo and Kendo instructors to train his son both mentally and physically. He named the dojo, "Yoshinkan" – house of cultivating (training/disciplining) spirits/minds. So, Aikido Yoshinkan means a house where students cultivate their spirits through training Aikido.

A long time ago when I was still a young uchi-deshi at the Honbu dojo, one day I went into Kancho Sensei's (Master Gozo Shioda) room delivering two cups of tea, one for him and one for his guest who was a director of the Headquarters' committee. While I was serving the tea carefully they kept chatting without caring about my presence. The topic was about my senior sensei, Takeno Sensei, for how gangster-like he was both inside and outside the Honbu dojo. Listening to their chat I had difficulty stopping myself from bursting into laughter, while trying to pretend I was not interested in it at all. Though I did not see directly what Takeno Sensei was like before, I knew his features were very much yakuza-like now and then. However, since he was around forty when I entered the Honbu dojo he looked more of a severe, threatening budoka to me rather than a yakuza. So, it was a lot fun for me to listen to his young age episodes that proved how bad a boy he was. Even this kind of yakuza-like boy (I did not say this but Kancho Sensei called him so) changed so much in twenty years of hard discipline at the Honbu dojo who became a man to be highly respected and attained the position of head instructor. Dojo truly is the place to nurture and foster people.

Like attracts like. As the proverb says, Takeno Sensei favoured me the most. What it means to favour in this case is using me as his uke the most and bashing me as hard as possible to give me the present of concussions. At that time there were two factions at the Honbu dojo, the Takeno faction and the Chida faction. Though both factions were surely practicing Gozo Shioda's Aikido style it was easy to distinguish which style belonged to who by looking at his technique. I was naturally in the Takeno faction as he favoured me but I never really realised why. "Like attracts like," here I understood why he liked me by listening to Kancho Sensei's chat.



When I was in junior high school around the age of fourteen, the standard of judging other boys was whether he was a strong fighter or not. All the ranks of the (bad) boys in the school were depended on the results of fights. We walked school staring around like fighting dogs and took any chance of fights whenever we caught someone's eyes saying he was a brat. Our idol was the real yakuza and we copied their fashion thinking it was the coolest. This was my environment when I was brought up in the countryside. No wonder that I was brought to Takeno Sensei's attention, we were the same kind. A country boy who had no idea about another world moved up to a big city, Tokyo, and joined in the very traditional, strict Japanese budo world, wearing the fashion of yakuza-style. There was no surprise that I was not welcomed.

After ten years, when I was about to resign the Honbu dojo, while I was chatting with my senior uchi-deshis they began to talk about old memories of me when I joined. They saw me standing at the entrance of the Honbu dojo from the office and by looking at my appearance –wearing the coolest yakuza fashion– they were determined to make me quit before I became an uchi-deshi. It made sense to me then that I received incredibly bullying techniques from them even though I was only a general student when I first entered. Although they had the clear intention of bullying me, from my side I was quite pleased to find out that Aikido techniques were so effective and therefore I always smiled back at them, even though I was suffering from the pain. My attitude in this manner made them more annoyed and angry, so I received even harder techniques in return. I did not wish to yield to them on my honour of keeping the pride of a country bad boy. It absolutely was a severe survival game.

When I look back what kind of person I was then, I can only thank deeply the Yoshinkan Honbu dojo for training, disciplining and nurturing me to bring me up to what I am now. People do change, people can change. My life is a good example of how much a person can change. That kind of silly, bad boy now teaches the importance of harmony to others running a meaningful dojo here in Brisbane. It is amazing what a dojo can offer, dojo truly means the place where you learn *path* (life). It is a great place to nurture people.

Various types of people gather in dojo, and there are people who can get along with you well and also people whom you do not feel like being with. The latter people are the great teachers for you to grow mentally to learn the power of harmony through trying the best to harmonise with them mentally and physically. Besides, as the dojo is the place of nurturing and fostering, all the adult students have a significant role of looking after the youths with warmth and hardness in balance, the same way as Aikido techniques, and guide them to become valuable grown-ups. So, even if you ever find some youths having bad manners or being rude, please keep the mind of raising and guiding them, instead of being annoyed.

We all train at Aikido Yoshinkan Brisbane Dojo that is the place of learning life, harmony and cultivating our spirits, through Aikido training. We shall all work together to promote a good training dojo here in Brisbane.

OSU

Michiharu Mori