



No.223 March 2014

AIKIDO YOSHINKAN BRISBANE DOJO

Dojo: <http://yoshinkan.info>

Facebook: <http://bit.ly/dojofb>

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February Report					
New members 2		Total number of adults training 61		Total number of children training 37	
Results of Getsurei Shinsa on 21st & 22nd February					
Jun-3rd Kyu	Kent Windress	9th Kyu	Charles Delaporte	2Y10 step	Murray Booth
4th Kyu	Laura Allen		Daniel Tagg	S4 step	Simon Nordon
6th Kyu	Christian McFarland			S2 step	Vladimir Roudakov
7th Kyu	Comila Roebuck	4Y10 step	Sam Gray		Janna Malikova
8th Kyu	Olivier Allart	4Y4 step	Ryan Slavin		Lu Jiang
Events in March					
1. Sogo Shinsa			2. This Month's Holiday of Adults' class		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training starts, Friday 14th 6:00pm~ • Steps, Friday 28th 7:15pm~ • Shinsa, Saturday 29th 1:00pm~ 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dojo Holiday – Monday 31st 		

Sharing some thoughts of Black Belts

Thoughts on Nidan:

When I sat down to write this article, I found I was not sure when I started training in Yoshinkan and had to dig out my certificates. The first is dated from the 6th month 2009, which makes it four and a half years from then to now. I mention this because I was a little bemused to find that at some stage, and I am not sure when, the time training stopped being so important and the journey itself became the goal with the gradings marking my tiny steps. At some time, and I am not sure when, I stopped noticing the steps, until every now and then, I stopped, looked back, and thought, as I did today, "My goodness, was it really 4 and a half years ago?"

The past 4 years have been a wonderful time in my martial arts history. The fantastic people who have helped me along the way, the excellent leadership of Mori Sensei, the reflection of my own journey and the opportunity to help others on theirs... The journey has been physical and technical, yes, but more importantly, I think, moral, philosophical and spiritual. I am still a baby in aikido (...maybe a toddler!) but I am mindful of one of my favourite quotes: "The difference between an expert and a beginner is that an expert has failed more times than a beginner has tried". This has always been an important guiding principle for me, ever since I discovered it in different words as "He who never made a mistake has never made anything of value". Anything of value I have made in aikido has been a direct result of my mistakes and what happens then. At the Brisbane Yoshinkan, 'what happens then' is the wonderful people who make up this Dojo with great technical expertise and humility offer their help without any need for compensation except for sincere thanks. What makes a martial art the best in the world? What makes it the worst? Yes it depends on what criteria you are basing the judgement on, but no matter the criteria, the answer is always the people who train in the art. The people I have met in this art are second to none.

I would like to comment on the syllabus of the Brisbane Yoshinkan. I have often remarked to others that it is 'diabolical' in that a grading is only a few minutes; the number of techniques you have to show are also few BUT they are taken from a very long list and you have no idea which will be called: Very clever!! But it is more than that. As an educator, I can deeply appreciate a good syllabus and this one is, I have to say, pure genius. Teaching maths recently, a student made the point that he had already learned what I was teaching (trigonometry) last year. I took the time to tell him that my six year old son might say the same thing, since he already knows what a triangle is. I then explained about the concept of the spiral curriculum. This is where the curriculum is designed so that the same material is visited, revisited and revisited again. Each time the student's knowledge is deepened and broadened. Thus a student's knowledge of a triangle will go from the

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level of 'it has three straight sides' all the way through to the trig identities and unit circle and beyond, even to 'there is actually no such thing as a triangle: It is an abstraction that helps us to do things with maths'. In the same way, a student of Yoshinkan will learn for example kote-gaeshi, from 'feet here, body this way, grip like this' ... all the way through to 'it is all aikiwaza: Kotegaeshi is one of the ways to learn this'. Every time the student of Brisbane Yoshinkan does the 11th step grading, a deeper understanding of kotegaeshi will be gained. The grades up to shodan are just a preparation so that the student has the basic skills to be shite and uke for the techniques and thus learn the lessons of that technique. The Yoshinkan syllabus is a step by step method of beginner to master that is pure genius... NOT that I will ever get there mind you! But genius nonetheless.

I have only done the Yudansha steps once. My understanding of the techniques they teach is tiny compared to someone like Brenton (CONGRATULATIONS BRENTON: OSU!) who has done the steps five times, each time broader and deeper than the time before. To all who train in the Brisbane Yoshinkan, know that you are in the best hands. No you will not become prepared for the octagon there, or learn to kill someone with 'the force', but you WILL learn the true meaning of the martial arts and you will become a better person with sincere practice

OSU!

Peter Hills

2014 YEARLY PLAN (Shinsa & Events)

MARCH	29th	Saturday	Sogo Shinsa
APRIL	18th – 21st	4 days	Easter Holiday
	3rd May	Saturday	Getsurei Shinsa
MAY	31st	Saturday	Getsurei Shinsa
JUNE	28th	Saturday	Sogo Shinsa
JULY	26th	Saturday	Getsurei Shinsa
AUGUST	24th	Sunday	19th Annual Demonstration
			No Getsurei Shinsa
SEPTEMBER	27th	Saturday	Sogo Shinsa
OCTOBER	4th & 5th	Weekend	Mori Sensei holds weekend seminars and demo in Poland
	18th	Saturday	Senshusei (Hajime) Class
	25th	Saturday	Getsurei Shinsa
NOVEMBER	22nd	Saturday	Getsurei Shinsa Children's grading demonstration
	29th	Saturday	Special Class & Demonstration
DECEMBER	20th	Saturday	Sogo Shinsa