

NEWSLETTER

No.278 October 2018

AIKIDO YOSHINKAN BRISBANE DOJO

Dojo: yoshinkan.info Facebook: facebook.com/BrisbaneYoshinkanAikido/ Twitter: twitter.com/YoshinkanAikido

September Report					
New members 2		Total number of adults training 50		Total number of children training 40	
Results of Sogo Shinsa on 28th & 29th September					
Rokudan	Emmanuel Economidis Richard Diehm	3rd Kyu	Tfer Newsome	2Y7 step	Roland Thompson
		7th Kyu	Benjamin Cribb	2Y6 step	Viktor Ovcharenko
Sandan	Murray Booth		Caitlin Baptist	2Y4 step	Kent Windress
Nidan	Stephen Cuthbert		Shane Baptist	2Y3 step	Andrea Troncoso Salas
Shodan	Neale Windress Duong Thai			2Y2 step	Wikrom Tang Greg Burley
		5Y12 step	Ryan Slavin		
3rd Kyu	Ana Cuthbert Jonathan McConnell	5Y7 step	Lawrence Monforte	2Y1 step	Louis Chatfield
		3Y2 step	Joel Delaney	S1 step	Van Morris
Events in October					
1. Getsurei Shinsa			2. Hajime Class		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training starts, Thursday 18th 7:15pm~• Steps, Friday 26th 7:15pm~• Shinsa, Saturday 27th 1:00pm~			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Saturday 20th 1.00pm~• Please note that there is no usual class.		
			3. This Month's Holiday		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dojo's Holiday - Monday 29th October		

PARAGRAPHS FROM DEMO WINNERS

I feel honored to receive the 'Mori Sensei award' and I would to thank him for it. I would like to thank Richard Sensei for the support he has given me over the past 14 years. Due to my work commitments, in this 14 years, my training has not been consistent. Still my passion towards Aikido is unchanged. When I put together the demonstration for Kyogi-enbu – self-defense style, Alister and I tried to make it seem realistic and based on Aikido's techniques. We got ideas from movies, video and training we undertook.

This award has means a lot to me, especially, in this time of my Aikido life. I am sure it will encourage me and give me more passion to train for years to come. Once again I want to thank Mori Sensei for inviting us to attend the Brisbane dojo's anniversary each year. I will see you all next year.

Osu

Henry Sheng

Hey again fellow Aikidoka,

The annual demo has been and gone once again. What insights did all learn this past year? Who did you learn from? How was it conveyed? Did you learn by listening/watching/participating?

One thing that I try and avoid is.... Watching myself in an Aikido demo or grading or even classes. When I watch a recording it seems so slow and disjointed, I annoying repeat to myself "what are you doing!!!" "straighten your back, heel down, shoulders back, head up!" all these little "habits", that when I really think about it, Sensei has seen them and corrected them thousands upon thousands of times (thank you for you patience Sensei, Osu!).

One thing that I love doing is..... Participating in Aikido demo's, grades and classes. When I participate in Aikido I love to feel the technique and how uke and myself move. Getting closer and closer, to train harder and harder, to push yourself, build yourself.

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This demo Sensei chose to add the "self-defence" Jiyu-waza option. Perfect! An opportunity to slice one of my brothers up. Now Tom went with Kaido. That left Steve, as Alex already had alot on his plate. The excitement built as I message Steve and TOLD him that I've got a "real" Katana and WE'RE doing a self-defence demo, with "try not to die to much" punch line.

Looking back at the training for the demo, we both "died" way to many times to call our distant relatives Samurai's. However the training provided great insight on how easily one hesitation or mishap can end up cutting hit/cut pretty hard. It is also extremely difficult to avoid or block an attack, especially when you have hit your uke a couple of times already. However that makes the training that much harder for the both of us and hopefully more entertaining for Sensei and students on the nights we train.

Looking forward from this demo, there is a massive amount of training to be done and insights to be learnt. I wish best of training with every student at my aikido home.

Osu!

Michael Bannah

Coffee Break

The weaponry towel of Master Sokaku Takeda

Being an Aikido-ka, I was always thrilled by reading or hearing the incredible heroic tales about Master Morihei Ueshiba (O Sensei) or Master Gozo Shioda. Someday, I still dream, as long as I keep training hard, that I will be like them, dodging pistol bullets as if nothing or beating up a gang of Yakuza in a flash.

O Sensei's master, Sokaku Takeda, also left some extraordinary episodes. I heard this episode directly from my master Gozo Shioda. He said, "Sokaku simply showed us drawing his well-used knife from its sheath and put it back in. The speed of the action was incredible enough but the roar of cutting through the air was unbelievably loud that gave us the cold shivers." Well, hearing this, I tried it too, of course. I got out a mock knife and positioned it on my left hip just like lai-do style. I focused and took the knife out as fast and hard as I could, and there, I heard dead silence. How nice...

Further, in his biographical novel the author says Sokaku used a magic of 'going through a wall,' appearing in a room through a wall or coming outside through a wall in some scenes. Well, it's a novel and though we knew they could be just fictional tales we, young dojo students, talked about what kind of tricks or skills he could possibly use in adoration. But I believe what Master Gozo Shioda saw was true and I still think he might have had an ability to go through the walls, being superhuman he was. Anyone, who would like to try going through a wall, please go ahead and let me hear how you went. Be brave, just like Harry Potter going through the platform wall!

Furthermore, there is a legendary episode about Sokaku which often comes up as an interesting topic among Japanese martial artists. One evening when he was taking a bath, a bunch of thugs attacked him. They had Japanese swords and knives to kill Sokaku but he beat them up in reverse, using his bathing towel as a weapon! – crushing their ribs, breaking their arms and smashing their noses. The interesting point is how he used his towel to fight against swords and knives. Well, I have seen on Youtube that one Aikido-ka demonstrated his techniques using a towel which means he obviously studied and worked out how he could use the towel to perform Aikido techniques.

I, naturally, got interested too whether it really worked, I picked up a towel and called my son (very lucky and convenient having a useful son at any time 😊) I was quite excited for the first five minutes or so as I

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felt if I was finding out new techniques. I tried and contrived ways to tangle the towel to his wrist (to his elbow did not work,) locking him in Shiho-nage, Sankajo and more. As I was about to convince myself of developing proper new techniques, I suddenly came to a realisation, "What on earth am I trying to use an inconvenient tool when I am having my perfect and most useful empty hands?!" Locking people directly with my free hands were much much more practical and effective!

Novels are written by authors lots from his imagination to induce readers to feel excited and have fun. Authors are not necessarily the professional of any fields but they are good at making stories out of the reality. Saying so, Eiji Yoshikawa, the author of the famous novel "Musashi Miyamoto," who was one of Gozo Shioda's friends told him, when my master praised how well the depictions of Musashi's battle scenes were written, that everything was created from his brain as he never trained swordsmanship. Well then, Sokaku's legendary tale of using a towel against swords could be too, the imagination of the author. While Sokaku was having a bath a group of thugs with swords and knives assaulted him, this is truth. And then, the author thought Sokaku must have had a towel with him and that would make the story more thrilling and entertaining if he used it as a weapon.

I, from the point of a professional Aikido-ka, am positive to assume that Sokaku being the master of martial arts fought and beat the attackers with his usual way, using his hands directly, not like Jacky Chen using belts, ties, plates, basins, bags of cements as such in his movies. In conclusion, we, living in the reality, should keep training steadily to improve our levels of Aikido skills without fancy new tools. As we get closer to the level of Master Sokaku Takeda we can manage handling a group of thugs safely without a use of any awkward items!

Osu,

Michiharu Mori