

NEWSLETTER

No.306 February 2021

AIKIDO YOSHINKAN BRISBANE DOJO

Dojo: <http://yoshinkan.info>

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

January Report					
New members 3		Total number of adults training 35			
Results of Getsurei Shinsa on 29th & 30th					
Jun-3rd Kyu	Hermaan Chen	9th Kyu	Yolee Chen	3Y3 step	Janna Malikova
5th Kyu	Perry Mader		Wenchyn Chen	2Y12 step	Duong Thai
6th Kyu	Charlotte Sargent	10th Kyu	Laura Kanowski	S1 step	Martin Fernandez
8th Kyu	Cameron Hunter				Michael Mader
		3Y3 step	Vladimir Roudakov		Danielle Gravolin
Events in February					
1. Getsurei Shinsa			2. This Month's Holiday		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training starts, Friday 19th 7:15pm~• Steps, Friday 26th 7:15pm~• Shinsa, Saturday 27th 1:00pm~			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dojo's Holiday: Monday 1st March		

Thoughts from Mori Sensei

This year's annual demonstration

The New Year has started. Last year, we had to cancel our 25th anniversary demo for the first time due to Covid. I believed that continuing to hold annual demonstration had a significant meaning for the dojo but as it was forced to have a break, I take this as an opportunity to reconsider why and how we hold the dojo's annual demonstration.

There are three purposes for holding the annual demo. The main purpose is to show the outcome of one year's hard training. Since Aikido does not have matches it can be difficult to keep ourselves motivated. Having an opportunity to demonstrate our techniques that we have earned is very important for students. In addition, from training even harder in the lead up towards the demo our techniques improve more and, as a result, our individual level as well as the dojo's level rises remarkably. The second purpose is to invite our family members. I hear that some students have trouble leaving home for training as their family members feel abandoned. Thus, the annual demo is a good occasion to invite one's family to show them what they have been doing in their absence at home and to share our dojo community. The third purpose is to display Aikido for public, a good way of advertising Aikido and the dojo.

Although the importance of holding the demo for students and their families hasn't changed it seems that the demo is no longer effective for the purpose of advertising Aikido to the public. For about the first ten years, 1995 to 2005, we had a few hundred audience to entertain. However, the number of audience members began to drop as our social environment changed, as the internet became the foundation system of human communication. The rise of YouTube has impacted on the way people satisfy their curiosity. In other words,

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watching YouTube is enough to know many things instead of visiting to see things directly. If people want to know what Aikido is, they just watch YouTube. Well, in seeing more empty audience seats over time at Sommerville House where we held our annual demonstration, we tried to put up more posters on the notice boards in the old days and now ask students to upload posters on their Facebook page. Yet, it has been hard to attract public attention.

Thus, I came to the conclusion that we do not need to hire a hall with a big audience seat but keep the annual demonstration for the first two purposes, for the dojo students and their families. By having the demo at our dojo, there is no extra cost, no setting mats and no time limit. The problem is not having enough space for all of us. But it was solvable by separating the children's demo and adults' demo to different days.

In addition, I thought about making the annual demo event bigger as a joint project with the other two dojos, Southside Dojo and Sunshine Coast Dojo. The plan is to have some special classes in the morning and the joint demonstration in the afternoon, a whole day event. Yet, again, our dojo is not big enough to hold this kind of event; not enough mats, not big enough changing rooms and having one toilet is definitely not enough! So, my idea currently is to have this joint event every five years as our anniversary function. Please look forward to our 30th anniversary year in 2025 when we will have a big event!

Taken together, we will have our 26th annual demonstration this year at our dojo on Saturday 21st August with the dojo students, their families and some representative students from both Southside Dojo and Sunshine Coast Dojo. The children's demonstration is scheduled one week before on Saturday 14th. Let's see how this is going to work and we will reconsider again the next year. The program will be similar to the usual ones which involves a variety of skills and techniques for all the levels. We shall train hard cultivating our body and spirit consistently and continuously aim this show day as a short goal.

OSU!

Michiharu Mori