

NEWSLETTER

No.310 June 2021

AIKIDO YOSHINKAN BRISBANE DOJO

Dojo: <http://yoshinkan.info>

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

May Report					
New members 1		Total number of adults training 48		Total number of children training 43	
Results of Getsurei Shinsa on 28th & 29th					
Jun-Nidan	Dean Jones	8th Kyu	Wenchyn Chen	S5 step	Danielle Gravalin
	Louis Chatfield	9th Kyu	Sara Raj	S4 step	Martin Fernandez
4th Kyu	Samuel Baptist		Mikiko Nakao	S2 step	Caitlin Baptist
Events in June					
1. Sogo Shinsa			2. This Month's Holiday		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training starts, Friday 11th 7:15pm~• Steps, Friday 25th 7:15pm~• Shinsa, Saturday 26th 1:00pm~			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dojo's Holiday: Monday 28th• Kids class closes from Saturday 26th June and restarts on Thursday 15th July.		

Sharing the feeling of Black Belts

Nidan

Hi everyone,

Its taken me a while to write some thoughts on grading Nidan. And if you look at how much I visit the dojo it has taken me a lot more hours than most people to acquire some skills that can get you to this point. Slow learner but since its improvement only relevant to yourself not a comparison with others then if I compare myself at Shodan with myself now at Nidan I have improved. One example is in third class training as uke for Sensei which Sensei was only able to resume from council restrictions about the time I had gained Shodan. When I started the learning process wow was I clumsy and tense, tripping over Sensei and bumping into him as he was carefully managing techniques, so I was not smashed or injured. This went on for months and months, and it's a credit to Sensei's patience and harmony that I was able to progress at all. The over-tension affected speed and balance and ukemi form (if you think I am slow now, I was heaps slower when this started, haha ;-):D. This meant Sensei needed even more care and checks to harmonise and to protect himself from stray limbs flying about. Now a few years later, and I can relax more and make more speed with uke attack and I have a higher percentage of Zenpo-kaiten-ukemi that are straighter and safer. But I am still a long way off fully relaxed to achieve the speed of others far more advanced.

So Nidan is a milestone of course on the journey that is Aikido Yoshinkan here at Mori Sensei's dojo. But it's not a celebration or a level up like game play, it's not a chase for points and bonus abilities. It's just recognition of your own training and dedication to improving yourself and on this occasion me improving myself with the help of absolutely everyone else in the dojo. Thank you all so much!

Finally, though slightly out of context a couple of thoughts on this continuous degradation of aikido by other martial artists particularly the MMA folks, well a) for everyone of those that complains or

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degrades there is probably a 1000 or more that just train to improve themselves at their chosen Budo so we can ignore the 1 out of 1000. b) Competition and winning depends on who turns up to fight. This applies to the street crime scene and an organised sporting event. Even at an MMA or Karate Kumite competition out of say 16 competitors in the end there is one winner and 15 losers. What's that say to the losers about their art? If they are on the right track hopefully it just says they need to improve themselves. c) Masakatsu Agatsu 正勝吾勝 (O'Sensei) so who needs competition anyway and finally d) If you ever have to use your Aikido to defend yourself and others when harmony and neutralising tactics have failed, don't give up, stay in the fight, make the danger zone inside 1m just as dangerous for the attacker, atemi are allowed (no rules in serious life-threatening situation). But when you can, when you see the line, and the moment use an aikido technique without thinking and with full intention of making it work. This could even be something from all of our wonderful special classes provided by Sensei. But if it doesn't work or only half working quickly reset and change to another technique that suits the current line and moment and again perform the technique with full intention and commitment.

Anyway, Thank you Sensei and Shuko San and everyone past, present and future for your time and patience and assistance with my learning.

OSU!!!

Greg Burley