

NEWSLETTER

No.320 April 2022

AIKIDO YOSHINKAN BRISBANE DOJO

Dojo: <http://yoshinkan.info> Facebook: <http://bit.ly/dojojb>

March Report					
New members 2		Total number of adults training 40		Total number of children training 33	
Results of Sogo Shinsa on 25th & 26th March					
Jun-3rd Kyu	Cameron Hunter	4Y8 step	Cameron Blake	3Y1 step	Dean Jones
5Y6 step	Kaido Mori	3Y7 step	Vladimir Roudakov	2Y2 step	Danielle Gravalin
4Y8 step	Murray Booth		Janna Malikova		
Events in April			2. This Month's Holiday		
1. Getsurei Shinsa			• Easter Holiday: Friday 15 th ~ Monday 18 th		
• Training starts, Thursday 21 st 7.15pm~			• Anzac Day: Monday 25 th		
• Steps, Friday 29 th 7:15pm~					
• Shinsa, Saturday 30 th 1:00pm~					

In respect for our dojo's precious student

The following prayer was read by Mori Sensei at Greg Burley's memorial ceremony

I, Michiharu Mori, head of Tenrikyo Kutomi Brisbane Fellowship and also the head of Brisbane Dojo, would like to offer a prayer for Mr. Greg Burley with my true and heartfelt sincerity.

For the last six years since you joined our dojo you were the one who visited and trained the most. Not only I but everyone thought that the view of having you on the mats was something that should happen every day. I still feel as though I will see you on the mats. I, without realising, wait for you to turn up to class during the warm-up about five past six which is when you usually arrived at the dojo. We all know that you demonstrated what devotion and discipline meant and that you were the model of the power of endurance.

Six years ago, I remember that you struggled to learn the art of Aikido as you had a background of training in Karate and your ukemi style was from Judo. Aikido was surely challenging for you. I recall the scenes when you were still wearing a white belt and you had difficulty memorising the series of movements for Tanto, Jo and Bokken for an annual demonstration. Thus, you stayed late after the class and kept practising silently by yourself. It was very impressive to my eyes which showed that you were genuinely a hard and diligent worker.

As a result of your devotion to training your Aikido progressed steadily as you began to enjoy the art more. At the same time, you also took responsibility as a black belt of the dojo to welcome and look after newcomers both adults and children. You taught them very gently and patiently with care and respect. All the beginners were absolutely grateful for having you as their guide. It was not only beginners who were grateful but all the other students too, for you were always there in the dojo ready to help anyone who needed an uke and you always kept encouraging others with your words and attitude, being a model of an unbroken spirit.

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Further, you always stayed back to work and clean the toilet and the sink which were used by the dojo's students, and that showed your selfless commitment to the dojo and its community. I admire you thoroughly for you were a dignified samurai. In my understanding, a samurai is a person who is respected not only for his noble spirit but also for his self-sacrificing mind and action to serve people and their happiness humbly. You truly demonstrated the samurai spirit. Thus, I always had a high respect in you and counted on you. Greg, you were genuinely our precious senior student at the Dojo, and there is no one who can take your place.

Your time was not long enough, but we all have received so much strength and warmth from you. You certainly demonstrated what it meant to be a great man and always carried yourself with respect and dignity. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to you on behalf of everyone from the dojo. Thank you, thank you very much indeed, Greg. We miss you deeply and profoundly.

However, I was taught that our souls never end, there is more than this current life. Our souls borrow this body from God at the time of conception and we return it to God at the time of death. This has been repeated for all of us many times over since the Creation. Therefore, we use the term "To pass away for rebirth," or "Departure for rebirth." Departure for rebirth indicates that one will return to life in this world again someday as a new baby. Thus, passing away is neither final nor is it forever. It is merely the end of the present body, but it is also a new beginning for rebirth.

The Foundress of this teaching taught us that death is like changing our clothes; we take off our old clothes and change into new ones. But, as we are human, departure is always sad, and today, our hearts are heavy with sadness with the loss of a loved one. It is important to recall the life, the kindness and the friendship of Greg Burley and to treasure and give life to the memories of joy he has given us, and to be thankful for the time we shared with him. We are truly thankful that we were able to know such a remarkable man and a great father.

Aikido will be sustained for many thousands of years, and I believe that one day, you and I will cross paths when our reincarnated souls meet again in the dojo. I will look forward to meeting your soul in the future, while your spirit of Greg Burley will live with us forever. We promise you that the dojo students and I will keep training hard to improve learning from each other, with hearing your voice saying, "Keep going!" in our hearts.

I respectfully ask you to watch over the Burley Family to guide them and protect them for their bright lives and genuine happiness as you rest in the Shrine of Spirits. Within our grief and sorrow, in union with your family, relatives and all your friends, we thank you for your love, dedication, sincerity and for all the fond memories and joy you brought us. Thank you so much, Greg.