

NEWSLETTER

No.325 September 2022

AIKIDO YOSHINKAN BRISBANE DOJO

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

August Report		
New members 2	Total number of adults training 26	Total number of children training 32
Results of Getsurei Shinsa on 26th August		
3Y4 step Dean Jones	2Y5 step Kerry Nicholson	2Y5 step Danielle Gravolin
Events in September		
1. Sogo Shinsa <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training starts, Friday 9th 6:00pm~• Steps, Friday 23rd 7:15pm~• Shinsa, Saturday 24th 1:00pm~	2. This Month's Holiday <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dojo's Holiday: Monday 26th	

Coffee Break

Youthful inconsideration

At the beginning of the dojo, we had several policemen training as our students. One of them asked me to teach arresting techniques for police. At the time I wanted to return the goodwill to Australia and Brisbane where I was accepted to run my dojo, so I ran the arresting class for policemen once a week with no charge. It was my contribution to the public and its order. It started when our dojo was in Fish Lane and lasted for a year or so after we moved to West End.

Quite a few policemen joined in the classes at the start since they were interested in learning from a teacher who taught Japanese police. They were impressed with Yoshinkan Aikido techniques and that made me motivated to teach them. However, eventually, the number of participants dropped. I thought that it was due to my teaching ability, that I was not good enough for them. So, I asked the policeman student who organised the class to find out what other policemen thought about the class. The answer was quite simple. They did not like receiving the painful techniques! They did not like being uke as they thought they were the ones arresting, not the ones being arrested! Also, they had weapons to use anyway and thought that they had no reason to go through painful training. Well, fair enough, I thought.

You know, Yoshinkan Aikido is the style having a reputation of being powerful which I really like, and I am proud of. Yet, it means that students have to receive these powerful and painful techniques all the time. Even those who are fine mentally can get damaged physically and cannot keep training as a result. This is a significant dilemma which we are troubled with within Yoshinkan.

Anyway, the second highest position in the Brisbane Police at that time visited the dojo to inspect the class one day. I was very honoured to have a high-ranking officer come to my small and humble dojo. The dojo was set upstairs and the entrance and changing rooms were downstairs in the Fish Lane Dojo. So, students took their footwear downstairs to go to the dojo. When the officer came, I asked him to take his boots off at the bottom of staircase. He was very reluctant and refused gently. Yet, I asked him persistently explaining it was our tradition and therefore the boots were not accepted. He,

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unwillingly, took his boots off. Here, I saw what I did not expect! Both of his big toes were clearly out of his socks which had large holes...I understood why he was so reluctant to take his boots off. A splendid and smart police uniform but big holes in his socks...I felt so sorry from the bottom of my heart.

I learned a lesson there. If a person with a high position or a great man refuses something, there is probably a good reason behind it. I should have harmonised with his thought and wish. Looking back now, I can recognise my youthful inconsideration.

Well, he appreciated the class highly and left the dojo happily. Soon after his visit when I needed to apply for a permanent visa, he wrote a letter of recommendation to Immigration for us in which he mentioned how much I contributed to the Queensland Police and Brisbane society. Thanks to his letter, I believe, I was granted my permanent visa unusually fast. I am still very grateful for the support I received, and in obligation I am glad that I was able to contribute something to Australia in return.

OSU!

Michiharu Mori