

NEWSLETTER

No.331 March 2023

AIKIDO YOSHINKAN BRISBANE DOJO

Dojo: <http://yoshinkan.info>

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

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/YoshinkanAikido>

February Report					
New members 4		Total number of adults training 39		Total number of children training 35	
Results of Getsurei Shinsa on 24th & 25th February					
Jun-Nidan Tom Bannah		3Y8 step Duong Thai		3Y6 step Dean Jones	
Events in March					
1. Sogo Shinsa			2. This Month's Holiday		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training starts, Friday 10th 7:15pm~• Steps, Friday 24th 7.15pm~• Shinsa, Saturday 25th 1.00pm~			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dojo's Holiday: Monday 27th		

FROM MORI SENSEI

Find myself elderly

This is the 28th year since we opened the Brisbane Dojo in 1995. My original plan was to create branch dojos and expand them as we went along, but I have been struggling to maintain running just one dojo. Especially during the past three years, the circumstances created by Covid have made it difficult for people to gather as our training involves physical contact, I was concerned if the dojo was going to survive. Although it is still not easy in the present situation to manage, I am always truly grateful and happy for being able to run my dojo.

Last November when we held the six Shihan Seminar in Melbourne, I was glad to see many of the Brisbane Dojo's students participated and seeing their beautiful smiles in the seminar photos on YouTube reassured me how wonderful my job was. After all, Aikido does not have matches which allows all of us, regardless of which dojo you belong, to train, learn and improve without the need to compete with each other. Since we gather for the purpose of training and learning, we can only be grateful to each other. I feel it is wonderful to have this kind of culture where we can build such relationships.

I was young obviously when I opened the dojo as it was nearly 30 years ago. Now, I am getting to the age where people say I am an old man (though I did not realise this fact until I was mentioned so...) Previously, I was thinking about spreading Aikido more, but I realise that it is about time to think how to preserve this invaluable art on this land. I need to train the next generation of instructors in order for them to pass down Aikido to the following generation. Two dojos, the Southside dojo by Richard Diehm 6th Dan and the Sunshine Coast dojo by Ryan Slavin 5th Dan, were born from the Brisbane dojo, and the ability of these instructors are not inferior to that of the instructors in Japan. Or rather, their levels are higher than that of the current uchi-deshi at the Headquarters (don't tell anybody!!!) from my eyes as I naturally judge my students with unconscious bias (or because it is simply true!)

Well, I need to think of my dojo, the Brisbane dojo, too. Fortunately, Lawrence Monforte, who graded to 5th Dan in December last year agreed to my wish of him succeeding to the Brisbane dojo. He has been training under my instruction for 16 years and in those years, he underwent an uchi-deshi life with me living at the dojo for one year. I taught and nurtured him with stern discipline and great care as if he were my son. He took my uke the most in those years and he is well-liked by the dojo's students for being a trustworthy and loving person. I believe that he is the right man to carry out the Brisbane Dojo's Style of Aikido, where we all help and respect each other through training hard in a happy environment. The only a concern I've got about him is how big he will keep growing...well, a giant Aikido master will be a distinctive Sensei in the Aikido World!!!

Aikido is a precious art which people should not lose. The art to teach people how to harmonise physically and mentally with others is purely beneficial for anybody and we should preserve it for future generations. Please everyone, work and train cooperatively with Sensei Lawrence for this reason. I thank you all deeply for your understanding and devotion to the dojo.

Osu!

Michiharu Mori