

NEWSLETTER

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AIKIDO YOSHINKAN BRISBANE DOJO

Dojo: <http://yoshinkan.info>

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March Report					
New members 1		Total number of adults training 35		Total number of children training 38	
Results of Getsurei Shinsa on 24th & 25th February					
4th Kyu	Cassandra Baptist	4Y11 step	Murray Booth	2Y8 step	Danielle Gravalin
9th Kyu	Tsunehiro Nonaka		Cameron Blake	2Y3 step	Martin Fernandez
		3Y9 step	Duong Thai		
Events in April					
1. Getsurei Shinsa			2. This Month's Holiday		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training starts, Thursday 20th 7:15pm~• Steps, Friday 28th 7.15pm~• Shinsa, Saturday 29th 1.00pm~			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Easter Holiday: Friday 7th – Monday 10th• Anzac Day: Tuesday 25th		

FROM MORI SENSEI

Senseis from the Brisbane Dojo

This article is a sequel to the last month's article. By the way, I am not retiring yet! I am sorry if I left an impression of me retiring soon from my last article. I will be instructing Aikido in the Brisbane Dojo or wherever I am needed as long as I can physically do so. Please put up with this old man for many years to come and enjoy training with me!

I was absolutely happy to hear how successful the first joint training of the Sunshine Coast Dojo, the Southside Dojo and the Brisbane Dojo called *Shochu Geiko* (Summer training) went, which was held in February. I enjoyed watching videos and photos of the classes and evaluated highly the ways of teaching by three instructors, Richard Diehm 6th Dan, Ryan Slavin 5th Dan and Lawrence Monforte 5th Dan. Students looked happy too, training hard in a fun environment, which is the style I always aimed to spread in Australia. This event meant a lot to me because it was evidence that the seed of Aikido I planted with my wife twenty-eight years ago surely grew and spread. The spirit and techniques of my Aikido which I have been cultivating for the last thirty-eight years are passing on to the local people through those born locally. I could not be happier.

Sensei Richard 6th Dan joined the Brisbane Dojo in August 1996. His Aikido history began even before he joined our Dojo, starting at the Aikido Institute Sunshine Coast in 1991. So, he has been training for as long as 32 years. No wonder he appears to be natural in Aikido as if he was born with it and he is well respected as a Sensei. His growth is something quite special for me. Since I know what he was like when he joined my dojo back in 1996. He was simply young and liked bossing people around. I was troubled with a fact that some students left because of his disrespectful behaviours. Yet, he was just naïve and had a good heart. We had lots of discussions to improve his attitude. Once, I even had to take his black belt away from him out of my wish for him to be humble. Thanks to his persistence, he never quit and kept coming to the dojo. He worked hard to mature himself spiritually and he has gained a personality who is loved and respected by many people. I respect him highly for all these reasons.

Sensei Ryan 5th Dan joined the Brisbane Dojo in January 2002. His martial arts life began in 1994 in the Korean art of Tae Kwon Do where he acquired a variety of accomplishments. Since then, he kept his journey in the traditional Japanese martial arts such as *Yagyu Shingan Ryu Taijutsu (Jujutsu, Kenjutsu, Bojutsu)* and *Shinto Muso Ryu*

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Jojutsu. I remember when he showed up for the first time at my dojo, for he was a very good looking man with a pony tail hairstyle! He is still good looking, of course, now with shorthair which suits him well as a great martial arts Sensei. I could tell that he had long years of various martial arts training in his background right from the beginning. Despite his intense knowledge and experiences in martial arts he was humble and absorbed the skills of the new art very fast. It was about the time when I added the kicking program to our training, and I asked Ryan to be my uke at a demonstration because of his high standard kicks, appropriate to show for the public. I was explaining how to block kicks in my style to the audience. As my eyes were turned on the audience, I did not focus on Ryan's kick which hit my little finger. The sharp pain suggested it was broken, or so I thought (actually it was just a jammed finger), but we kept demonstrating. He dedicated himself to kick hard and I responded to him with my hard techniques in the Jiyu-waza style. As the flow continued, Ryan could not stop himself from smiling because he was having such a pleasurable time - the experience of being thrown hard as a result of him kicking hard! I, too, could not stop smiling from looking at him smiling, and then the whole audience began laughing as well from us smiling! I felt it was as if we were demonstrating Master Gozo Shioda's words, "Becoming friends with an enemy who has come to kill you is the secret of Aikido." It was a very precious experience for both of us as Aikido practitioners. Ryan will build his dojo into a significant place for the community where people will gather with high respect to Sensei Ryan.

Sensei Lawrence 5th Dan, the newest of all, joined the Brisbane Dojo in October 2006. He was only a teenager when he joined. He did not have a concrete vision for his life and he was lost. He did not know what he wanted to do or what he wanted to be. He was desperately looking for something to find meaning in his life. He enjoyed the training and its disciplined environment as he knew that was something he needed to grow him spiritually. Since he wished to have a certain period of intense training in a disciplined lifestyle we agreed that he should move in to live with us at the dojo/temple. He earned confidence through this one-year uchi-deshi life, and his spirit was lifted. This was his turning point to be independent and he gained the dream of opening a dojo in the future. Since he had a dream of becoming an instructor to open a dojo his training gave him a different purpose, more than just enjoyment. He studied and learned my Aikido earnestly and I approve that he is one of the best at mastering my movements. In Aikido, it is said that the small conquers the large, and some people mistakenly understand that the small has an advantage over the large. No, it means that even a small force can be powerful using Aikido skills. Thus, a strong person can be even dangerously stronger with Aikido! So, Lawrence who is still steadily growing in size has a huge potential to become an amazingly strong Aikido-ka, as a matter of fact!

Well, I am truly looking forward to seeing how these three awesome Senseis will develop Aikido more.

Osu!

Michiharu Mori