

NEWSLETTER

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AIKIDO YOSHINKAN BRISBANE DOJO

Dojo: <http://yoshinkan.info>

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January Report					
New members 5		Total number of adults training 45			
Results of Getsurei Shinsa on 30th January					
Jun-3rd Kyu	Neale Windress	5Y5 step	Matt Carpenter	2Y3 step	Stephen Cuthbert
	Ross Macpherson	2Y3 step	Vladimir Roudakov	S4 step	Andrew Crampton
	Vaughan Gray		Janna Malikova		
Events in February					
1. Getsurei Shinsa			2. This Month's Holiday		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training starts, Friday 19th 7:15pm~• Steps, Friday 26th 7:15pm~• Shinsa, Saturday 27th 1:00pm~			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dojo's Holiday: 29th Monday		

Sharing the feeling of Black Belts

Thoughts on becoming Shodan

Wow, was that five years? It seems like it was only yesterday that I was wandering round the mat, dazed and confused, turning the wrong way, and struggling to distinguish between 60% and 70% bodyweight per foot (I didnt even know you could measure it...!). And how come everyone seemed to know what all the japanese words meant...?

I fell into Aikido by mistake as I had only started it because the 2011 floods had destroyed all the tennis courts where I used to play, so in February 2011 I joined up to the beginners course and was shocked at how hard it was. I couldn't believe how counter-intuitive Aikido was, I had learned to do break-falls years ago and thought I knew how to fall, but everything I knew was wrong! I found it very hard to unlearn everything, and even harder to handle seiza with my dodgy knees, so I wasn't really comitted over the first few months. In the back of my mind I imagined that once the tennis courts were repaired myself and Mary would go back to playing tennis tournaments at UQ.

The turning moment for me came when I walked on to the mat for the dress rehearsal of my first demo. I couldn't believe the energy and team spirit I felt running through me as we all prepared for the demo - I was hooked! I felt the same sense of teamwork supporting me during this shodan training, as every day in the last two weeks someone would ask if I was going to take shodan, or give me a thumbs up when they saw me turn up day after day, miraculously injury free! I think that is what got me through it, so I would like to thank you all for the support over the years, but especially Sensei and Shuko-san for providing us with such a fantastic place to train!

So how does it feel to be a Black Belt? For me, it feels as though I am ready to start learning Aikido properly. Osu!

Dean Jones