

NEWSLETTER



No.106 July 2004

AIKIDO YOSHINKAN BRISBANE DOJO

Report of June

New members 5

Total number of adults training 73

Total number of children training 51

Results of Sogo Shinsa on 26th

<u>Sandan</u>	Jason Palmer	4 th Kyu	Joshua McCormick	4Y4 step	Richard Diehm
<u>Shodan</u>	Albert Lu		Jasmine Burge	4Y2 step	Jason Economidis
	Michael Bannah		Zikos Dodis	3Y12 step	Miki Yoshida
<u>1st Kyu</u>	Tyrone Whelan		Myles Frost	3Y7 step	Brent Weston
	Marc Linsdell		Matthew Jukes	2Y7 step	Daniel McDonald
<u>2nd Kyu</u>	Murray Davis	5 th Kyu	Tzen Paredes	2Y1 step	Vladislav NeklyaeV
<u>3rd Kyu</u>	Shingo Yamashita		Ryan Slavin		Sam Gray
	Matt Carpenter	7 th Kyu	Aran Dall		Julie Walsh
	Tadashi Oyaizu		Brett Hampson	S3 step	Craig Sargent
<u>4th Kyu</u>	Mark Frost		Lloyd Gainey		

Events in July

1. Getsurei Shinsa

◆24th Saturday, 1:00pm~

◆Shinsa training starts from Saturday 17th.

2.This Month's Holiday

◆26th Monday, Dojo Holiday

Dedicated to our precious senior student, Aubrey Bannah

The following prayer was read at the Funeral Service for the late Aubrey Bannah by Sensei. Sensei would like everyone to share the memory of Aubrey and the feeling for him.

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

Even now, I still cannot believe that I will not see you training at the dojo anymore. Among the many students training on the mats, I expect you to be there and to hear your strong voice saying "Shinzen ni Rei" at the top seat of the line. Even though the reality of having lost you hasn't hit me, I must deliver this prayer.

You came to join my dojo not long after I opened it in Brisbane back in 1995. I remember clearly the day you joined in, as if it was yesterday. You came in to sign up for a membership, you filled out the form, paid the fee over the counter and went into the changing room. All the way through, both Shuko and I did not realise that you were disabled, and your smooth movements in practice did not even hint at the fact that you only had one arm. When I finally realised and saw you going upstairs to the dojo with one arm, I as a Budo-ka (martial arts practitioner), felt as if I had been beaten by you.

You and I both, in the instructing side and the learning side, struggled to create one-arm techniques from over three thousands Aikido techniques, through a trial and error process. It was around the time you achieved Shodan, the black belt, that your one-arm techniques became natural for you and for us. The efforts you had to make is more than imaginable, and I truly admire your indomitable spirit that brought you to reach the high level as Sandan which requires a strong dedication to the long and constant hard training. I saw a dignified Samurai spirit in you, more so than anyone with no physical handicap.

Aubrey, you were genuinely our precious senior student at the Dojo, and there is no one who can take your place. Your demonstrations always amazed us, your grading tests always impressed us, and your spirited figure despite the handicap moved us deeply. Your life had a huge impact on not only Aikido practitioners but on other martial artists as well.

Your time was not long enough, but we all have received so much inspiration and strength from your spirit and dignity as a man. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to you on behalf of everyone from the dojo. Thank you, thank you very much indeed, Aubrey.

The one thing that I regret is that on the second of June during the afternoon class that became your last day of training, I did not offer you the Osazuke, the healing pray, even though I did notice something was wrong with you. It is my deepest remorse, as a servant of God, that I misread the sign that you were sending as mere fatigue and therefore made light of it.

However, I was taught that our souls never end, there is more than this current life. I believe that one day, you and I will cross paths when our reincarnated souls meet again in the Brisbane Dojo which has grown its roots in Brisbane forever. I am going to look forward to that day. And at that time, your children, Rosie, Michael, Tom and Steven might be teaching there and they shall train us heavily.

I am sure that you carry a great concern for your four children you left behind. I humbly give my word that my church and Brisbane Dojo will help your wife and their mother Jenni by any means to raise the children to become beautiful human beings who treasure the mind of harmony, unity, and the genuine mind of helping others.

I respectfully ask you to watch over the Bannah Family closely from the shrine of Spirits at our church, guide them and protect them for their bright lives based on the philosophy of Nature, the Universe and Aiki, forever.

OSU!

Michiharu Mori

Just a short note of say Thanks to all Yoshinkan members for their kind thoughts and wishes, through this time of need. You all have helped in Aubrey's search, for Spiritual Enlightenment. I feel that we all helped to achieve this with him, which was the best help of all. We are sad for his passing, but life goes on, Aubrey will not be forgotten in any way, shape or form. I Thank Mori Sensei and Shuko Sensei for being my strength and spiritual guide, that brought true understanding of life to me, I Thank with my whole heart, I Thank You both.

Jenni, Rosei, Michael, Tom and Steven