



No.132 August 2006

AIKIDO YOSHINKAN BRISBANE DOJO

Report of July

New members 6 Total number of adults training 61 Total number of children training 69

Results of Getsurei Shinsa on 29th July

<u>Jun-Shodan</u>	Mark Frost	<u>9th Kyu</u>	Damien Berndt	<u>2Y 9</u>	Sam Gray
<u>4th Kyu</u>	Joseph Stuart		Ben James		Eagle Kao
	Jamie Baker	<u>3Y 6</u>	Albert Lu	<u>S1</u>	Aaron Stewart
<u>5th Kyu</u>	Vince Cubito		Eric Kwok		
	Helly Conroy	<u>2Y 10</u>	Vladislav Neklyae		

Events in August

1. 11TH ANNUAL DEMONSTRATION ON SUNDAY THE 20TH

- ◆ 9:00am Start packing up at the dojo
- ◆ 11:00am Adults' Rehearsal
- ◆ 12:00pm Children's Rehearsal
- ◆ 12:30pm Doors open and warming up
- ◆ 1:00 ~ 3:30pm The Demonstration
- ◆ 3:30pm Awarding ceremony and taking a photo
- ◆ 4:00pm Remove all the mats and clear the venue.
- ◆ 6:00pm Dinner Party at the evening

2. Adults' Rehearsal for the demonstration

- ◆ 19th August Saturday 1:00pm~ at the dojo
- ◆ Everyone is expected to attend the rehearsal.

3. Children's Rehearsal for the demonstration

- ◆ 19th August, Saturday 10:00pm~ at the dojo

4. Getsurei Shinsa

- ◆ 26th August, Saturday 1:00pm~
- ◆ Shinsa training starts on 21st Monday.

5. This Month's Holiday

- ◆ Dojo's Holiday 28th Monday & 29th Tuesday August

Aikido Demonstration Raffle

This year for the Aikido Demonstration raffle, the dojo students are fund-raising to help offset the remaining costs for the new extension at the back of the dojo. This area keeps the demonstration mats in good condition.

The raffle this year will have the following prizes:

\$100 of ASICS products, 8 Aikido Polo Shirts (drawn individually), 2 Japanese cushions with Japanese motifs, and a carton of Asahi beer. There may be more items available as prizes closer to the Demonstration.

Tickets will be available for purchase at the dojo from **Monday 10th July**. If every student or family group takes and sells at least **one \$5 book of tickets** we will be well on way to cover the remaining costs of the extension.

Thanks from the "Student Fund"

Sharing the feeling of Black Belts

Yondan

Well it's been a long time since my last instalment in the newsletter. I am writing this in response to a request from Sensei regarding 4th Dan.

Well probably not unlike most, I struggle with the "Do I deserve this? Am I good enough" syndrome. I guess the answer to that lays with Sensei, I would ascertain if I wasn't good enough he would have said so, or expected me to recognise that I just wasn't of that standard. I'm not sure of the answer, but I do know that I have tried very hard to be a good senior student, and the patience Aikido has taught me has assisted with this immeasurably.

The feeling, well I don't feel any differently except I feel under more pressure to perform, but that comes from within not from Sensei. I started practising Aikido with no expectation of rank, so I have not reached a goal intentionally, more so I have reached a milestone of effort. I don't see rank to be of great importance as everyone has something to offer, from those in the beginners class to the Seniors, it may be further knowledge on harmony or bettering a technique with a slight line change.



I believe Aikido has changed my life, I believe the people I am closest to have also changed my life, but because I have viewed their intent from an Aikido perspective, Sensei what more could I ever add? You are a true inspiration, not just from an Aikido perspective but as a person, you were brave enough to come from all you knew to something you knew little of, you are the epitome of Harmony. I know you came wanting to teach Japanese Aikido, but I also know you have tempered this to reflect the Western culture. You are to me the purest living Aikido practitioner I have ever seen, you have retained and passed on the knowledge of the great Kancho Sensei (Gozo Shioda), without falling to the temptation of adding your own touch. If my time in Japan recently taught me anything, it was that. The apple does not fall far from the tree, in this case it is almost like it has grown from the same tree. I keep saying this but all students must consider how fortunate we really are, I for one am overwhelmed but our fortune to have one of the greatest living Aikido practitioners impart his knowledge so humbly upon us.

To my brother Jason who so willingly puts his trust in me and has helped me in more ways than I could ever put in writing thank you, you have been a pillar of strength and the outreached hand that I sometimes needed. You do this without expectation, to that end you have learnt the greatest of the Aikido techniques. To the other Senior Students, Brendan you have always been an inspiration for your dedication and I have remembered that in my times of doubt. Richard, there is no one more committed to the Dojo, you are a great example for those starting out, remember they trust you and they trust that you will impart the knowledge with harmony and humility. I could go on, but I will leave it at thank you so much to the other black belts to mention a few, Brent, Jason(Williams), Eagle, Sam and Douglas thanks for your assistance in preparation of this milestone.

To my darling wife, in a time when we are so busy thank you for pushing me to train and supporting me to do so. Without you nothing is possible, you are part of my inspiration, for those who think you can not, talk to Dee because she knows no such boundary.

Last but not least, Shuko San, you are the support for Sensei and the translator of feeling, you have over many years now, explained my feeling to Sensei when I didn't have the words, you are also a true inspiration of unselfish assistance.

Thank you to all, now for the next challenge the Demonstration.

Osu

Emmanuel Economidis

Over 15 years ago I started training Aikido Yoshinkan and it has truly been an enlightening experience. For in this short time I feel I have changed so much from the brat I grew up being, to a more sophisticated person. One who takes the time to try and understand people rather than react and try and cope with the circumstances as I once did (I found Harmony). Aikido has really shown me a way to live, however initially I thought it never would, and infact I hoped to prove Aikido wrong by finding my own stubborn path but this can't work, not if you want to pursue Aikido forever as I do.

Training with Mori Sensei has been the last ten years of my life and I purposely have always tried to do as much Aikido as possible. Just immersing yourself in its tactful and skilful techniques can really drive you to want more and more out of life.

I had set my sights high wanting to have a dojo and being able to run it (with considerable help from my beautiful wife Miki). It is for those wanting to head up the same street as I did the most rewarding and fulfilling thing I had ever hoped to do. It provides me with a sense of accomplishment each time I attend (see the photos at www.aikidoyoshinkan.info).

This grading I just did the 4th dan it really feels like a milestone, in terms of personal accomplishments it can't be compared with anything else I have ever done. I need to thank you Brent Weston for an amazing display of your raw talents, Brent I still remember that first hajime class we did together. I



believe the technique was sawari waza yokomen-uchi yonkajo osae ichi, mate you have come so far so quickly since then you are a completely different samurai.

Thank you everyone at the dojo for being there, without you all there is no Aikido and thank you to Sensei Mori Shuko the children's teacher who has been a central role model for me in teaching kids. Finally, I will take this opportunity to sincerely thank the best Aikido teacher there is, Mori Michiharu Sensei a legend...! Who has been very patient with me over the years'.

Osu.

Richard Diehm

Shodan

My own Aikido journey started nearly seven years ago in a pre-fab hut in North London about a third the size of the Brisbane Yoshinkan mats. It is only right that the first thing I do is pass on some thanks for all the help I have had over those years.

Firstly, to Sensei for your teaching (and endless patience in my case). Also, to my first teacher: David Rubens at the Medokan dojo in London, who first inspired me with a love of training. Many thanks to Brent for partnering my Shodan grading. Richard for the jun-Shodan (at 10 minutes notice!) and Jason Economidis for considerable help since I came to Brisbane Yoshinkan. I could go on and list everyone that trains here.

The approaching Shodan grading made me cast my mind back to my first few classes in Yoshinkan Aikido. Watching a technique being taught from the unfeasibly uncomfortable (at the time) seiza position. Wondering if I'd ever be as gracefully, gymnastic as the Sensei's uke (no, so far!). Feeling very self conscious the first time I wore a dogi instead of track suit pants – as though the change in attire should somehow lead to improved technique. (Nothing like as strange as wearing a black belt for the first time.)

Without wishing to sound clichéd I can honestly say I feel far more of a novice now that at the time of my 9th Kyu grading. So I'll finish with a quote from the Dojo library that caught my eye. "Shodan literally means 'first level'". I will always try to train with the thought that each step is, just that, a foot-fall on the path, not a final destination.

Osu!

Alastair Wilkinson