

NEWSLETTER



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AIKIDO YOSHINKAN BRISBANE DOJO

Dojo: <http://yoshinkan.info>

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January Report					
New members 1		Total number of adults training 40			
Results of Getsurei Shinsa on 24th & 25th January					
Jun-3rd Kyu	Sandra Contreras	4Y9 step	Sam Gray	S3 step	Simon Nordon
5th Kyu	Laura Allen	4Y6 step	Lawrence Monforte	S1 step	Vladimir Roudakov
7th Kyu	Christian McFarland	3Y11 step	Kaido Mori		Janna Malikova
9th Kyu	James Thai	2Y8 step	Cameron Blake		Andrea Troncoso Salas
Events in February					
1. Getsurei Shinsa			2. This Month's Holiday of Adults' class		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training starts, Friday 14th 6:00pm~• Steps, Friday 21st 7:15pm~• Shinsa, Saturday 22nd 1:00pm~			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dojo Holiday – Monday 24th		

Sharing some thoughts of Black Belts

5th Dan

Being awarded the rank of 5th dan is a tremendous honour, and also a great privilege. It represents the culmination of 13 ½ years of training at the Brisbane Dojo with Mori Shihan. But, the rank also brings with it some important obligations. First, there is the technical element. I need to train hard and continuously in order to maintain and then exceed the level of 5th dan. Associated with this is trying to understand the techniques at a deeper level, including the mysterious aiki waza. Second, I need to maintain a high level of physical fitness to be able to train effectively. Third, there is the responsibility that comes with wearing such a rank. By that I mean the responsibility of conducting oneself as a senior student in the dojo and in Yoshinkan Aikido, of setting a correct example for junior practitioners to emulate, and playing an active role in dojo life. These are my challenges that come with being promoted to 5th dan.

During my training at our dojo, I have seen hundreds of people come and go. All those people, both junior and senior, have in some way played a part in raising the overall standard of Aikido practised by students in the dojo, which is so much higher than when I started. With so much talent coming through the ranks, it is critical to me that I work hard to improve my own level. So although being graded to 5th dan is an achievement which gives me great satisfaction, there is still so much work yet to be done, and there is no time to be resting on any laurels.

I owe all the students that I have trained with over the course of my Aikido life a debt of gratitude. I give particular thanks to the students with whom I trained during the intense lead up to my 5th dan grading, and who selflessly gave of their time during and after class (Joel, Joe and Cameron, to name a few). I must give specific thanks to a number of people though. First there is Richard, who was there on day 1 way back in June 2000 when I started this journey. Thanks for your technical guidance and your friendship mate. You are one of a kind! I take this opportunity to acknowledge my wife Tamaki (and little Aya) who happily supports my involvement with the dojo and the many hours I spend there. To the big Sicilian Lawrence, cheers for being such a fearless uke on grading day (and many other gradings). Thanks also to Kaido for your hard work during my preparation for Jun-Godan back in September, and for being my uke during that challenging grading. Finally, I give my sincere thanks and appreciation to Mori Shihan for leading the dojo with such great commitment, and for your dedication to continuously improving the Aikido that we practice which has helped to enrich the lives of so many students. Domo arigato gozaimashita.

OSU!

Brent Weston



4th Dan

It's hard to believe that I have now been training at the dojo just over 10 ten years (I thought it was 9!). I also find it a little funny and strange that I've kinda become the "unofficial senior" of lunchtime training over the past year or two. I think back to all the fantastic people I've met along the way and the great sessions I've had. I recall doing over-time with Ryan and Lawrence when they were just wee little white belts! (LOL) and now look at them!!!! I also had the great privilege of having trained with and received instruction from the late Aubrey Bannah (of whom the 4 man jiyu waza award at demonstration is named after). I would like to thank all those people who have trained with me to date especially Kaido, Ryan, Lawrence, Greg (Dickenson) and Lee...

I don't feel that I have any enlightening philosophy for any of you this time as I continue to meander (more like crawl on all-fours) my way towards life balance between a young family, professional life as a musician and an unrealistic middle-aged bucket-list. Let me just say that Aikido is for life and for me, a consistent (whatever number you can reasonably do) intense, disciplined and goal orientated approach to training is the key. I would rather like to express my observations about the evolution of Brisbane Yoshinkan Dojo.....

White and brown belts may be interested to know that techniques against head strikes (Jodan-zsuki) and Kicks (Shomen-geri/Yokomen-geri) weren't introduced until 2007. I see this time and interpret it as a kind of a turning point from the "Old-dojos style" to the "new dojo style". I've noticed from this point and especially at demonstrations, the improvement and technicality of jiyu-waza routines at all levels. In the past 3 years Sensei, has opened up all Tanto, Jo, Bokken and now Tanjo dori techniques to all levels at the demonstration (routines originally reserved for seniors only). Although achieving outright harmony across such a broad spectrum of students is extremely challenging, the "net" result is that the level of student at the dojo is far greater. I now see white and brown belt students performing techniques I didn't learn until 2nd dan. This is a true testament to the quality of training all students receive under Sensei and Brisbane Dojo and you all deserve congratulations. As someone who only gets to night classes occasionally, I get to notice more dramatic improvements in those I train with. This is one thing I always look forward to seeing on those occasions. (Apart from the hard training of course)

I cannot fail to mention the respect and awe I have for who I define the "old-dojos students" (Emmanuel, Jason, Jason, Richard, Brent etc). Even though I feel comfortable in my progression to 4th dan, I, in no way, feel even close to the level of these guys. Their expertise and skills in Aikido is a massive asset to the Brisbane Dojo. It is another new beginning for me and I hope I can one day achieve a similar level.

I would like to thank Kaido for all his assistance and Uke this past year, Shuko San for all you support (as always) and lastly, I would like to express my deep gratitude to Mori Sensei for his invaluable instruction, guidance and support through-out my progression towards 4th Dan.

I wish everybody a happy and healthy (no injuries!!!!) 2014 and I look forward to throwing and being thrown by you on the mats soon ☺.

OSU! & STRONG KAMAE!!!!

Matt Carpenter