

NEWSLETTER



No. 116 April 2005

AIKIDO YOSHINKAN BRISBANE DOJO

Report of March

New members 7

Total number of adults training 67

Total number of children training 63

Results of children's grading tests on 19th March

<u>Shodan</u>	Patrick Leitch	<u>5th Kyu</u>	Hugo Clifford	<u>8th Kyu</u>	Hamish McDonald
<u>2nd Kyu</u>	Kiichi McMahon		Marek Coleman		Isabella Shorthouse
	Kaido Mori	<u>6th Kyu</u>	Melissa Pope		Lucy Davis
<u>3rd Kyu</u>	Aimee Pennisi		Julian Moss		Kazahh Lopez
	Nellie-Mae Godwin-Welch		Alexander Hanley	<u>9th Kyu</u>	Adelaide Anderson
	Steven Bannah		Tim Pope		Oliver Caddie
<u>4th Kyu</u>	Cassie Carse	<u>7th Kyu</u>	Michael Austin		Sam Porter
	Josh Carse		Isobella Austin		Ben Macmahon
	Monica Davis	<u>8th Kyu</u>	Jasper Garland-Fyfe		Campbell Macmahon
	Ella Keys		Ashleigh McGregor		Nick Lewis
	Madeline Levi		Anthony Gillespie		Amanda Terry
	Karlee Pennisi		James Gillespie		Lydia Terry
			Taher Sadeghian		

Results of Sogo Shinsa on 19th March

<u>Sandan</u>	Frank Barletta	<u>Jun-3rd Kyu</u>	William Harper	<u>3Y11 step</u>	Lee Stemm
<u>Jun-Sandan</u>	Brent Weston	<u>4th Kyu</u>	Christopher Swinton	<u>3Y8 step</u>	Jason Williams
<u>Shodan</u>	Craig Sargent		Jack Goener	<u>2Y12 step</u>	Eric Kwok
	Nicholas Leitch	<u>5th Kyu</u>	Peter Read	<u>2Y11 step</u>	Daniel McDonald
<u>1st Kyu</u>	Myles Frost		Ben Glass		Matthew Watson
<u>2nd Kyu</u>	Chris Neucom	<u>6th Kyu</u>	Henry Yeh	<u>2Y8 step</u>	Albert Lu
	Matthew Jukes	<u>7th Kyu</u>	Jaime Bowtell	<u>2Y4 step</u>	Sam Gray
	Brett Hampson		Niko Duncan	<u>2Y3 step</u>	Rosie Bannah
	Kanako Yamaguchi		Layla Harrington	<u>2Y2 step</u>	Michael Bannah
	Lloyd Gainey	<u>9th Kyu</u>	Michael Emanuele	<u>S3 step</u>	Murray Davis
<u>3rd Kyu</u>	Mark Wilton	<u>4Y7 step</u>	Richard Diehm	<u>S1 step</u>	Greg Beerling
		<u>4Y1 step</u>	Miki Yoshida		

Events in April

1. Getsurei Shinsa

- ◆Saturday, 23rd 1:00pm~
- ◆Shinsa training starts from 16th Saturday.

2. This Month's Holiday

- ◆Anzac Day 25th Monday

A bit of knowledge for Aikido

Focused in mastering only one art

I've received another letter inviting me to attend a martial arts seminar. The origins of the invitation letters vary in styles from Aikido, Karate, Jujutsu, to weaponry arts and they usually hold three to four hour one day seminars. They encourage all the different martial arts instructors and their students to take the opportunity to learn from a highly advanced instructor invited from overseas. Instructors and students of other schools seem to participate in these seminars to learn different styles. It is very common not only in Australia but worldwide that they mix techniques from different arts like judo techniques in Aikido or other weapons in Aikido etc. when they teach, after they attend the various seminars.

Honestly talking, I have no interest in these seminars and therefore invitation letters and posters always go into the recycling box directly. I am not interested in learning other martial arts or training under



other instructors because I believe that I learned my art under the best martial artist of all that I know of, Master Gozo Shioda. I have no time to spare to study other arts or styles as I am busy enough spending my whole life training to get closer to my master's level. In fact, Japanese martial artists hold a way of thinking that only a person who has focused on mastering an art can produce the best techniques.

Being Japanese men, we are usually brought up with marital arts such as Judo and Kendo through our school life. I learned Kendo for five years through my primary and junior high school period and took Judo lessons for three years in high school, although I write in years, it does not show the quality of the training. If non-professionals of these arts ask me to show the techniques I can even teach them right now. I know quite a few techniques in other martial arts like a well-known technique in mixed martial art match, the arm lock inverted-cross hold (ude-gyaku-juji) originally from Judo. I certainly know many techniques. It is, however, the level of knowing but not the level where I have mastered them. For that reason, I never teach Judo or other martial arts and never write other marital arts experiences (5 years in Kendo, 3 years in Judo and 3 years in boxing) in our dojo's brochures, when other western instructors seem to be proud of adding their experiences to appear greater.

Well, we all know how difficult it is to master one technique through Aikido training. The reality tells us that it is very hard to achieve the level where we are totally satisfied with even one technique. I have been training Aikido for twenty years this year and I can say that I have no techniques I have mastered completely. That is why I find no interest in taking one day seminars as I know that I cannot master anything by studying new styles just for a few hours.

One of our students attended some classes in another Yoshinkan dojo. He came home saying there were so many techniques he never experienced in our Brisbane dojo. I asked him to show me what kind of techniques they were and found out they were not Aikido techniques. No wonder he never experienced them here. From my own opinion, my dojo is where we train Aikido, Yoshinkan style in particular, aiming to master Aikido techniques originally taught by Master Gozo Shioda, and that's enough. Say, if someone mixes Kung-fu at an Aikido dojo - Aikido practitioners may think "wow, they look great" as the Kung-fu techniques are new to them. But if Kung-fu practitioners see the scene they will probably scoff at the low-grade techniques from professional eyes in their own art. Some time ago I saw a Karate practitioner demonstrating Aikido techniques proudly at a Karate demonstration. He might've been impressed with Aikido techniques and simply added them into his Karate skills. But from my eyes, being a professional in Aikido, I could not help laughing at the poor level of his Aikido.

I therefore would like to stick to Yoshinkan Aikido only and learn this art deeper even though the current world of teaching martial arts tends to mix various arts. I wish to maintain the Brisbane Dojo as pure Yoshinkan Aikido style from anyone's eyes and where each student including myself is training hard aiming at the ultimate level demonstrated by Master Gozo Shioda.

OSU!

Michiharu Mori