

# NEWSLETTER



No. 129 May 2006

AIKIDO YOSHINKAN BRISBANE DOJO

## Report of April

New members 1

Total number of adults training 59

Total number of children training 54

## Results of Getsurei Shinsa on 29<sup>th</sup> April

<u>Jun 4<sup>th</sup> Dan</u>	Emmanuel Economidis	<u>4Y12</u>	Richard Diehm	<u>2Y7</u>	Vladislav NeklyaeV
<u>8<sup>th</sup> Kyu</u>	Helly Conroy	<u>4Y10</u>	Jason Economidis	<u>2Y6</u>	Eagle Kao
	Joseph Stuart	<u>3Y10</u>	Mathew Watson	<u>2Y3</u>	Greg Dickenson
	Brent Jones	<u>3Y3</u>	Eric Kwok	<u>S5</u>	Alistair Wilkinson
<u>9<sup>th</sup> Kyu</u>	Gregg Tutt				Heather Wood

## Events in May

### 1. Getsurei Shinsa

- ◆ Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm~
- ◆ Shinsa training starts from 20<sup>th</sup> Saturday.

### 2. This Month's Holiday

- ◆ Labour Day 1<sup>st</sup> May Monday
- ◆ Dojo's Holiday 29<sup>th</sup> May Monday

## Sharing the feeling of Black Belts

### Yondan

Thank you Sensei for allowing and encouraging me to do my 4th dan. I never initially intended doing it, but after thinking about it I realized if I wished to continue the art, it was inevitable. At first I felt uneasy about grading before certain senior students whose aikido I was in awe of, so this required me to examine ego. Ego is a projection of the mind. It can be building up or pulling down. The grading is about respect for the art as being revealed by Sensei, so I had to set this as a priority. I was blessed throughout training by help and assistance from San Dans to white belts. I found the whole process humbling but also uplifting. Underlying Sensei's teaching and the dojo as a whole is a very pure ethical foundation which is both a gift and also a challenge to live by. To do this grading I had to jump off the fence and embrace Yoshinkan in spirit and technique,

Thank you everyone.

Brendan Stuart

### Shodan

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who I have trained with..... especially Brent, Frank, Lee and the rest of the lunch-time gang. I would also like to pay my respects to Aubrey Bannah, who I had the privilege of training with in my first year at West End Yoshinkan. OSU!

During School, I learnt Karate for about 6 years. After that, my Sensei at the time stopped training and I went on to my music studies at University. Through out that period though, I always had the urge to train in Martial Arts again. My old Karate Sensei, Bernie, mentioned Aikido many times and we used Aikido-like concepts in our Karate. So, naturally, Aikido was the first Martial Art that caught my eye. Fortunately, I needed to look no further than the Yoshinkan Dojo.

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Bernie visited the dojo last month to see the Shinsa and my Shodan grading. I asked him the next day what he thought and I recall an observation he made regarding the black belts during the Shinsa...

He was so impressed by the way the senior grades were always involved in junior gradings. I guess it was refreshing for him to witness a white belt throwing a Black belt around the room, something that is quite normal for us. He commented on how the Black Belts would work to the speed of the junior, adjusting subtly if a junior made an error and apply his techniques with a measured force.

We all aim to create perfect harmony between Shite and Uke, after all, that is the essence of safe Aikido practice. But, there are so many other styles of Martial Arts that focus on strength and force... where some Black Belts are only there to assert their dominance over others. I'm proud of the fact our Dojo's culture is not like that and everyone is approachable and willing to help.

Having reflected on my training leading up to the Shinsa, I am incredibly grateful for all the assistance the senior black belts have given me in my preparation for Shodan. They are an integral part of our Dojo and their skills and conduct are testament to our Sensei and his instruction. I look forward to making the same contribution one day...

OSU!

Matt Carpenter