



AUSTRALIAN KENDO RENMEI

Kendo - Iaido - Jodo

Life Membership Awards 2017

Mr. Richard Ward and Mr. Russell Lawrence have been awarded AKR life membership at the AKR October National Council Meeting in Sydney this year. Both members have made significant contribution to the Australian Kendo Renmei over many decades and the AKR would like to thank both life members for their leadership and contribution.

Richard Ward

Richard Ward started practicing Kendo in 1989 and Iaido in 1996 in Australia. He has been an active leader to the local Victorian Kendo, Iaido and Jodo communities since then. In 2000, he commenced his service to the AKR Executive Committee as Secretary and was subsequently elected as AKR President in 2006, stepping into the very big shoes left by Ron Bennett Sensei. He continues to hold the position and serve the Kendo, Iaido and Jodo communities both locally and across Australia to this day.



During his many years of service Richard has provided excellent leadership and foresight to promote and grow Kendo, Iaido and Jodo at local, state and national levels. Richard has applied his professional experience and management skills to advance the Australian Kendo Renmei as Australia's professional peak body that represents its membership at state, National and International forums.

His dedication and hard work have supported a number of key initiatives that have led to some significant achievements which include:

- Recognition by the Australian Sports Commission of the Australian Kendo Renmei as the National Sporting Organisation representing Kendo, Iaido and Jodo.
- Championing Kendo to become a successful, professionally run event within the Australian University Games calendar.
- Tripling of the AKR membership.
- Ensuring the Australian Kendo Renmei is financially viable and administered in a professional manner.
- An annual increase of women participating in Kendo 12% on average over the past four years.

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National Executive Committee: President: Mr Richard Ward
Secretary: Ms. Vivian Yung

Vice-President: Mr. Joe Semmler
Treasurer: Mr Malcolm Martin

Russell Lawrence

Russell Alan Lawrence has been on the WAKR State Committee since it commenced in 1986. He has just commenced his 31st Year as the WAKR State Treasurer with continuous service. Russell has held a position on the WAKR Technical Board responsible for all three arts in WA since it was founded. He has recently taken over co-ordination of all gradings in WAKR. He formulated and continues to maintain the database records for the WAKR and does an excellent job.

Russell is now one of the driving forces behind the WAKR and is a credit to the WAKR and the AKR for his long and continuous service and is highly respected by all members.



Committee & Board Positions

- Part of the founding team of the WAKR in September 1986
- Inaugural WAKR State Treasurer 1986
- WAKR State Treasurer 1986-present
- AKR Iaido Board committee member 2006-2009
- AKR Jodo Board Steering Committee member 1999-2000
- AKR Jodo Board Secretary 2000-2003
- AKR Jodo Board Secretary 2003-2006
- AKR Jodo Board Vice-Chairperson 2006-2009
- AKR Jodo Board Chairperson 2009-2012
- AKR Jodo Board Chairperson 2012-2015
- AKR Jodo Board Chairperson 2017-present
- AKR National Council Member, Jodo Board representative 2000-2015