



# AUSTRALIAN KENDO RENMEI

*Kendo - Iaido - Jodo*

## PRESIDENTS REPORT TO NATIONAL COUNCIL DELEGATES and MEMBERS, FOR ACTIVITIES IN 2015.

Dear Delegates and Members,

I am privileged to report to you on events and activities conducted, or facilitated by the Australian Kendo Renmei Incorporated, during the calendar year of 2015.

### MEMBERSHIP

A separate report, prepared by Ms Vivian Yung, the AKR Secretary is provided. In very short summary, AKR experienced membership growth again in 2015. Of interest is that the membership growth for females is 8.7%, while the growth for male members was 0.5%. Overall, the proportions are - male 971 (76.5%) and female 299 (23.5%). Without research, it is hard to pin-point why this is, but the AKR and affiliated clubs might be providing an environment that promotes the technical development and recruitment of women.

### FINANCES

The AKR has separate accounts and budgets for each of - the Executive Committee, Kendo Board, Iaido Board, Jodo Board and the Australian Iaido and Jodo Championships event. The various accounts are intended to be used to achieve the plans of the Committee and Boards, to facilitate and support the further development of our members skills. At the AKR conference held each October, each entity is required to present an updated three year budget for approval by National Council.

The financial activities of the AKR have produced regular surpluses, or profits, for well over eleven years. The 2015 finance report will show that the AKR has operated within our means during and again produced a small surplus.

At our National Council meeting in October 2015, it was unanimously decided by Delegates that we would no longer use the model which allowed a Board, the Executive Committee or sub-committees to continue to accumulate savings from unspent income. We decided to move to a more familiar system, where each entity would present a budget of expenditure to facilitate the conducting of planned events.

This would allow us to reduce our accumulated members funds, over time for the benefit of members. This also means that some entities might expend more than they would have under the now abandoned method.

The budgets for all AKR entities are scrutinised and often adjusted by Delegates prior to a vote of approval.

At the time of writing, the AKR Finance Report for 2015 is being externally audited. It is expected to be completed and available for Delegates to consider at our Annual General

Meeting on 17 April 2016. Copies will be available to members on request from state associations or from the AKR Secretary after our AGM.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL and INSURANCE

Membership renewal time is in June each year, when memberships and insurance premiums are due to be paid by the 30<sup>th</sup>. The AKR co-ordinated player accident, instructor liability and public liability insurance scheme continued for the sixth year. Since we introduced the national insurance scheme, the savings to members have been significant, with the 2011/12 premium alone producing a saving to members of \$11,000, compared what was paid in 2009.

### Recognition of the Australian Kendo Renmei, by the Australian Government



Australian Government

Australian Sports Commission

On 6 October 2015, the AKR was advised that the Australian Government, through the Australian Sports Commission recognises the Australian Kendo Renmei as the National Sporting Organisation to develop kendo, iaido and jodo in Australia.

This was a very big task to achieve for a volunteer managed federation. A few of the major tasks included the development of – a strategy plan; a drugs in sport policy that met various national and international regulatory requirements and an update to our member protection policies. These are all available to members to view or download from the AKR website.



## ELECTIONS

Elections were held during 2015 for the four committees that manage the AKR through to 2018.

The results were –

<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b> President: Richard Ward Vice-president: Joe Semmler Secretary: Vivian Yung Treasurer: Malcolm Martin	<b>KENDO BOARD</b> Ms. Hayami Aboutaleb, SA Dr. Brian Brestovac, WA Mr. Ho Young Choi, NSW Dr. Takashi Itakura, QLD Ms. Noriko Matsumoto, Vic
<b>IAIDO BOARD</b> Damon Schearer, ACT Les Elliot, TAS Tom Johnson, QLD David Kolb, QLD Christina Trevillion, NSW	<b>JODO BOARD</b> Tom Johnson, QLD Peter Woolmer, WA Stuart Owens, NSW Brendan Kee, ACT Rick Berghuis, WA

## EVENTS

### 24<sup>th</sup> AUSTRALIAN IAIDO CHAMPIONSHIPS and 15<sup>th</sup> AUSTRALIAN JODO CHAMPIONSHIPS

Canberra, ACT, 19 - 24 January 2015.



As usual, this was the first AKR event for the year. Training was overseen by a Japanese delegation headed by the AKR Technical Advisor for Iaido – Katsuo ODA sensei, Iaido Hanshi 8 Dan and our Technical Advisor for Jodo - Kuniaki NAGAYAMA sensei, Iaido Kyoshi 7 Dan and Jodo Kyoshi 7 Dan, with Tetsuo OHARA and Hisao TSUCHIYA also providing valuable instruction. The Championship results show that all states were fairly represented across the placings.

During and just after the event, Oda sensei and Nagayama sensei announced that would retire as Technical Advisors. The AKR has sincerely thanked sensei for their highly valued contribution since 2000.

### SECOND TRANS-TASMAN KENDO TAIKAI, 14 and 15 FEBRUARY 2015.



This event, held in Sydney, was an opportunity for both the Australian Kendo Team and the New Zealand Kendo Teams to participate in shiai as a pre-cursor to the World Kendo Championships, to be held in Tokyo.

In our remote part of the world, we don't have many such opportunities. This event was created by Brett Smith of Victoria and the NZ Coach, Alex Bennett, we thank both for making the idea happen.

### 40<sup>th</sup> AUSTRALIAN KENDO CHAMPIONSHIPS, GRADING and SEMINAR

3 – 8 April 2015.



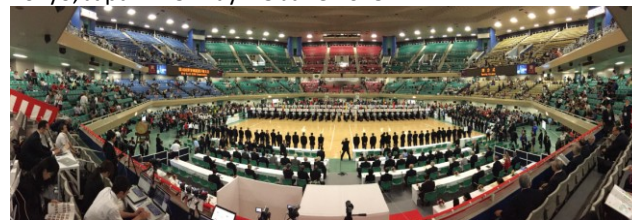
Venue: Melbourne Sports & Aquatic Centre (MSAC), Albert Park, Melbourne, Victoria.

The AKR Kendo Board and the All Japan Kendo Federation jointly funded the attendance of Mr Yasuo SUZUKI, Kendo Hanshi 8dan and Mr Shigehiko FUKUMOTO, Kendo Kyoshi 8dan, to attend as Seminar Instructors, Advisors for the Championships and as Chief Examiners for the Kendo Grading Exam that followed. Both sensei also joined us for the 39<sup>th</sup> AKC held last year in Perth, Western Australia.

The Championships were well attended, with over 100 members competing. At the following two day seminar, Suzuki and Fukumoto sensei provided excellent instruction to more than 40 trainees.

### 17<sup>TH</sup> WORLD KENDO CHAMPIONSHIPS

Tokyo, Japan. 29 May – 3 June 2015



For many kendo members, this event had a very high level of interest.

The AKR Team and Squad were led by -

- Team Coach; Arpad Maksay (Vic).
- Assistant Coach; Kate Sylvester (Vic).
- Team Manager; Hayami Aboutaleb (SA).

### The Team



#### Men

Bernard Yehuda  
Trent Reeve  
Jayson Chaplin  
Anthony Tilbury  
Luke Lee  
Taek Yang  
Duy Pham

#### Women

Alexandra Paukovits  
Jenny Song  
Chiaki Kobayashi  
Julie Feng  
Kate Sylvester  
Jinny Lai  
Bonnie Lai



The Team were accommodated at the guest house of the Nippon Sports Science University (Nittaidai). Nittaidai have been very strong and generous supporters of kendo in Australia for over 40 years! Nittaidai also provided an excellent training venue and strong training partners for the Teams final preparation.

#### Reception in Tokyo, 27 May 2015



A kendo keiko session, preceded a Reception to celebrate the Teams arrival and to say a big THANK YOU to our fabulous Japanese supporters!

The AKR, with assistance from attending members and Nittaidai shared the funding for the reception in Tokyo. The function had multiple purposes - Introduction of the 2015 Team to many long term Japan based supporters; assemble the fifty plus Australian Team Supporters with the Team, prior to the event and importantly, to thank Nittaidai for their generous assistance and to welcome the Team to Japan were the reasons.



The AKR has since expressed our utmost thanks to Professor Makoto Yagisawa, kendo Hanshi 8 Dan, the leader of the Kendo programme at Nittaidai, for the assistance provided.



A kendo keiko session, preceded the Reception. This must have been the biggest Australian kendo event outside Australia – ever! Approximately 14 Team members and coaches, 40+ Supporters playing, with another 15 or so watching, 40+ Nittaidai students and 12+ sensei!

On behalf of the AKR, I congratulate and thank all the Australian Kendo Team Members on their performance and for their contribution.



#### AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY GAMES KENDO COMPETITION

Saturday and Sunday 26 and 27 September



In 2015, the Australian University Games returned to its spiritual home – the iconic tourist and sporting destination of the Gold Coast. Major event partners, Tourism and Events Queensland, City of Gold Coast and Bond University welcomed over 8,300 student athletes from 42 universities to take part in sport over seven days.

The Kendo Competition was the first major event of the UniGames. The 2015 AUG kendo competition was again very well supported by an increasing number of university kendoka. The AKR Kendo Board supported the event by facilitating the attendance of Australian sensei and senior members for shinpan and other duties. Some Kendo Board funds were allocated to assist with transport and accommodation.

The overall winner of the event for both men and women was the University of Sydney. Full results are [here](#).

#### OVERSEAS SEMINARS

The FIK usually conducts an Asian Zone Kendo Referee Seminar in each financial year, but as the World Kendo Championships were held in May/June and had a specific training seminar, no zonal seminar was conducted in 2015.

#### EXAMS IN JAPAN and 2015 SHOGO and DAN AWARDS

During the calendar year of 2015, twenty-four AKR members applied to be examined in Japan for kendo, iaido or jodo from 4 to 7 Dan.

Some of the successful members were -

- Mr. Toshiaki Tsukadaira (Qld) - Kendo 7 Dan.
- Mrs. Hiroko Tsukadaira (Qld) - Kendo 6 Dan.
- Mr. Ken Okamoto (Qld) – Kendo 6 Dan.



Mr. Tsukadaira is now both Kendo and Iaido 7 Dan, having received Iaido 7 Dan on 11 July 2014.

Congratulations to all!

## EXAMS IN AUSTRALIA

It is a continuing challenge for AKR to be able to assemble panels for an examination above 4 Dan. The AJKF also have a strong view that, particularly for 6 Dan and above, such grades should be only examined for in Japan. So even with their support, AKR may not be able to examine for 6 Dan as frequently as we would like. We ask for members understanding on this issue.

## SOCIAL MEDIA



AKR has a website plus a presence on facebook, instagram and twitter. These are used for immediate updates of competition results and to promote kendo, iaido and jodo in Australia. Announcements that are posted on the AKR website usually quickly also appear on the above social media.

The website log shows it received 28,084 (24,685) unique visitors and a total of 48,123 ( 49,914) visitors during 2015. The facebook page has 811 (348) likes and some recent posts have reached 2366 people. The AKR twitter feed has 852 (728) followers.

## LINKS

[kendoaustralia.asn.au](http://kendoaustralia.asn.au)  
[facebook.com/KendoAustralia](https://facebook.com/KendoAustralia) & [facebook.com/akrteam](https://facebook.com/akrteam)  
[twitter.com/AustralianKendo](https://twitter.com/AustralianKendo) user [@AustralianKendo](https://twitter.com/AustralianKendo)  
[instagram.com/akrkendoteam/](https://instagram.com/akrkendoteam/)

## WEB BASED TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

The AKR has virtually all of our archives and records stored on a web server. All policy documents are also publicly accessible on the AKR website. Our other records are behind a password protected entry, but are generally available to any member. Your State Secretary will be able to either provide the information that you may seek or advise on how you can access the archive.

Managing membership and monitoring members eligibility is an increasing challenge. To address that we are actively researching and trialling various web based options for membership management and related tasks.

## AKR NATIONAL COUNCIL

The governing body of the AKR is National Council, the members of which include the four Executive Officers, plus a Delegate from each state and each of the Kendo, Iaido and Jodo Boards.

While the Executive, Board chairpersons and Delegates are in contact frequently on various issues, we also meet formally twice a year.

Our 2015 Annual General Meeting was held in Melbourne on 3 April. The meeting included an election and other procedural matters, such as to consider the finance report.

A follow up meeting to consider the Audited Finance Report was held by email in June. The report was accepted.

The annual AKR National Conference and General Meeting of National Council was held on Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 October 2015 in Sydney, NSW.

With policy and constitution reviews and a review of the function of the three art Boards; a focus of the 2015 meeting was to listen and to think about ideas for the future.

The conference also approved a slight change to the method used to fund the activities of the Boards and Executive Committee.

A copy of the minutes is available on request from your State Secretary.

## CONCLUSION

I would like to thank the various AKC and AUG Championship and Seminar Organising Committees, for their effective good work to achieve an excellent series of events in 2015.

A special thanks to the Australian Kendo Team Coaches, Manager and Team members for their outstanding contribution at the 16<sup>th</sup> World Kendo Championships.

I would also like to thank all Delegates and members of the AKR National Council for their input, suggestions and efforts to improve the activities of kendo, Iaido and jodo in Australia during 2015 and previous years.

Integral to the activities of the AKR is the Kendo, Iaido and Jodo Boards. I would like to thank the Board members for their contributions.

Lastly, I would like to sincerely thank my colleagues, Vice-President Joe Semmler; Secretary Vivian Yung and Treasurer Malcolm Martin for their contributions, which are valued highly and appreciated.

All the above named are diligent, work hard in their spare time, solely to improve the opportunity for our members.

Richard Ward  
President  
5 April 2016