



AUSTRALIAN KENDO RENMEI

Kendo - Iaido - Jodo

PRESIDENTS REPORT TO NATIONAL COUNCIL DELEGATES and MEMBERS, FOR 2012 ACTIVITIES.

Dear Delegates and Members,

I am privileged and happy to report to you on events and activities conducted or facilitated by the Australian Kendo Renmei Incorporated, during the calendar year of 2012.

2012 started sadly with the passing of one of our prominent members, Mr. James Fennessy. Sadly he was followed a few months later by a founding member and past President, Mr. Ron Bennett. Shortly before this report was prepared, albeit in 2013, another senior member, Mr. Michael Payne also passed away.

VALE: Ron Bennett



Ron Bennett, Kendo 5 Dan, passed away on 7 May 2012. Ron, as he liked to be known, was a founding member of the AKR and a multi-term President. First in the 1960's and since then, Ron continued to be a driver of the development of kendo in Australia. His efforts and interest was consistent, strong and supportive over all those years.

Ron was a mentor, a supporter and a very good friend to many, many of us and will be sadly missed.

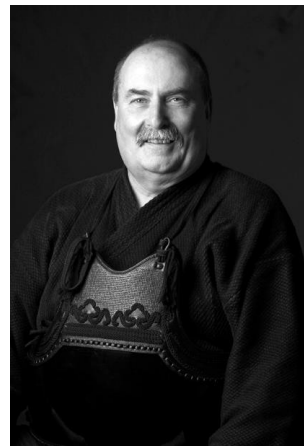
VALE: James Fennessy sensei, Kendo 7th Dan



James Fennessy sensei, Kendo 7th Dan, passed away on 22 January 2012. Fennessy sensei, or to

many of us - Jamie, was an inspirational and charismatic leader in the Australian kendo community and he will also be sadly missed.

VALE: Michael Payne.



Michael Payne sensei, Kendo Renshi 6 Dan, passed away on 18 February 2013. Payne sensei was the Chief Instructor of Sydney Kendo Club for many years. Over the years, Payne sensei taught and encouraged many kendo players and champions. His passing was a major loss to the AKR and the New South Wales Kendo community.

MEMBERSHIP

The AKR concluded 2012 again with a stable membership, and similar numbers to 2011. At the end of 2012, we had a membership total of 1059. Of those, 827 were registered for kendo, 271 registered for iaido and 133 registered for jodo. We had 102 juniors in our midst and the gender mix was 224 women and 835 men.

21st AUSTRALIAN IAIDO CHAMPIONSHIPS and 12th AUSTRALIAN JODO CHAMPIONSHIPS

23 January - 29 January 2012.

Venue - Brickpit Sports Stadium, Thornleigh New South Wales.

As usual, the first AKR event for the year was the combined Australian Iaido and Jodo Championships, Seminar and Grading Exam. 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 sensei Tetsuo OHARA and Hisao TSUCHIYA also providing valuable instruction. Attendance was, as would be expected, very strong, with sixty-three members training in Iaido and thirty-five in Jodo. The Championship results are recorded on the AKR website and show that all states were fairly represented across the placings.

37th AUSTRALIAN KENDO CHAMPIONSHIPS

7 April - 1 April 2012

Venue: David Cocking Sport and Recreation Centre

Australian National University, Canberra

The AKR Kendo Board and the All Japan Kendo Federation jointly funded the attendance of Mr. Shigemi YAMAMOTO, Kendo Kyoshi 8 Dan and, Mr. Hiroshi MOTOYASHIKI Kendo Kyoshi 8 Dan, to attend as Seminar Instructors, Advisors for the Championships and as Chief Examiners for the Kendo Grading Exam.

The Championships were well attended, with 104 members competing, 37 being Dan holders and 67 Kyu grade holders. At the following Seminar, Yamamoto and Motoyashiki sensei provided excellent instruction to more than 40 trainees over two days.

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY GAMES KENDO COMPETITION and SEMINAR:

24 and 25 September 2012.

Venue: Nazareth Catholic College, Flinders Park, SA.

The Unigames kendo event was again very well supported by university kendoka, with more competitors than at an AKC! 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.

SHOGO

The award of a shogo level is an important development in the career of any kendo, iaido or jodo player. The attainment of a Shogo award in Australia requires a number of AKR and other organisations criteria to be met, including being 6th Dan for at least a year and other stringent requirements. The final step is for an examination paper to be then assessed as successful by an examination panel.

The AKR was pleased to announce that Ho Young Choi, of New South Wales, was awarded Kendo Kyoshi during 2012. Choi sensei has also since been awarded Kendo 7 Dan.

Congratulations to Choi sensei on his awards.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL and INSURANCE

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

SUMMER SCHOOL

In most years, at the end of July, the AJKF host a Summer Seminar for Foreign Kendo Leaders. The trainees travel to

the Gedatsu-kai Centre in Kitamoto City, Saitama Prefecture, a short trip north of Tokyo. Once there, the AJKF provide trainees with a local travel subsidy, all accommodation and food, plus an excellent modern kendo dojo for 10 long days of very intense kendo learning. The AKR Kendo Board also provides a subsidy to assist our selected members to attend. The 2012 Summer School commenced on July 27, continuing to 3 August. The 2012 Summer Seminar was attended by Darren Boyd (ACT) and Duy Pham (NSW) who were selected by the AJKF from a list of 4 candidates submitted from the AKR. Darren and Duy joined about sixty kendoka from around the world for the Seminar. Yamamoto sensei was awarded Kendo Hanshi in Japan, later in April 2012.

EXAMS IN JAPAN

During the course of 2012, twenty-nine AKR members were examined for kendo, iaido or jodo from 4 to 7 Dan in Japan. The AKR Iaido and Jodo Boards provided a subsidy of \$400-500 to some members, to assist with their costs to attend iaido and jodo exams.

EXAMS IN AUSTRALIA

It is increasingly difficult 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.

FINANCES

The AKR has separate accounts and budgets for each of – the Executive Committee, Kendo Board, Iaido Board, Jodo Board and from 2011, the Iaido/Jodo Championships. The various accounts are intended to be used to achieve the plans of the Committee and Boards, to be used to facilitate and support the further development of our members skills. At the AKR conference held each October each Board presents an updated three year budget for approval by National Council.

The financial activities of the AKR have produced regular surpluses, or profits, for over ten years.

Overall, the AKR generally operated within our means during 2012 and once again we have produced a surplus. These surplus funds will be distributed to facilitate activities to benefit the further development of the kendo, iaido and jodo skills of our members.

The AKR Finance Report for 2012 has been successfully audited and is separate to this report. Copies are available to members from state associations.

IT and SOCIAL MEDIA

The AKR has virtually all of our archives and records stored on a web server. All policy documents are publicly accessible on the website. Our other records are behind password protection, but are generally available to any

member. Your State Secretary will be able to either provide the information that you may seek or advice on how you can access the archive.

The AKR website continues to develop. Contributions of content are always welcome, so don't hold back. We also have a presence on Facebook and twitter, where updates and information are also provided.

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 Delegates are in contact frequently on various issues, we also meet formally twice a year.

Our 2012 Annual General Meeting and Executive Committee election was held on 6 April in Canberra, ACT, and we met again in Melbourne, for our annual conference on 20 and 21 October.

Integral to the activities of the AKR is the Kendo, Iaido and Jodo Boards. I would like to thank the respective Chairpersons, Kendo; Dr. Brian Brestovac (WA), Iaido; Dr. Ah-loi Lee (WA) and Jodo; Russel Lawrence (WA) for their efforts, support to members activities and their advice.

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

ELECTIONS

During 2012, all four major AKR committees were due for election.

In January, a new Iaido Board and Jodo Board were elected and in April 2012 the positions of both the AKR Kendo Board and the Executive Committee were vacated, with elections for both of those committees held.

The results of those elections were announced and are also listed below:

Iaido Board 2012-2015

Chairperson: Dr. Ah-Loi Lee.
Vice Chairperson: Mr. Marcus Lee-Steere.
Secretary: Dr. Robert Brown.
Member: Mr. Tom Johnson.
Member: Mr. Damon Schearer.

Jodo Board 2012-2015

Chairperson: Mr. Russell Lawrence.
Vice Chairperson: Ms. Janet Griffiths.
Secretary: Dr. Robert Brown.
Member: Ms. Christine Cash.
Member: Mr. Damon Schearer.

Kendo Board: 2012-2015

Chairperson: Dr. Brian Brestovac
Member: Dr. Khay-Lin Teoh.
Member: Mr. Colin Minter.
Member: Dr. Takashi Itakura.
Member: Mr. Yuji Sano retired in February 2013 and was succeeded by Ms. Hayami Aboutaleb.

AKR Executive Committee 2012-2015

President: Mr Richard Ward.
Vice-President: Mr. Joachim Semmler.
Secretary: Ms. Vivian Yung.
Treasurer: Mr. Malcolm Martin.

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

In closing, while our members all behave respectfully to each other, on the odd occasion there are difficulties that provide a challenge. I am confident that such difficulties can be overcome and as food for thought, I reproduce below Article 1 of The Objective of Budo from the Nippon Budokan and the Concept and Purpose of Kendo from the All Japan Kendo Federation. These principles cover the kendo, Iaido and jodo that our members practice.

ARTICLE 1 :OBJECTIVE of BUDO

Through physical and mental training in the Japanese martial ways, exponents seek to build their character, enhance their sense of judgement, and become disciplined individuals capable of making contributions to society at large.

CONCEPT and PURPOSE of KENDO.

Concept:

Kendo is a way to discipline the human character through the application of the principles of the katana.

Purpose:

*To mold the mind and body.
To cultivate a vigorous spirit,
And through correct and rigid training,
To strive for improvement in the art of Kendo.
To hold in esteem human courtesy and honor.
To associate with others with sincerity.
And to forever pursue the cultivation of oneself.
Thus will one be able:
To love one's country and society;
To contribute to the development of culture;
And to promote peace and prosperity among all peoples.*



Richard Ward
President