



# AUSTRALIAN KENDO RENMEI

*Kendo - Iaido - Jodo*

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT TO NATIONAL COUNCIL DELEGATES and MEMBERS, FOR ACTIVITIES IN 2014.**

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 2014.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

A separate report, prepared by Ms Vivian Yung, the AKR Secretary is provided. In very short summary, AKR experienced membership growth again in 2014.

### **NORTHERN TERRITORY KENDO ASSOCIATION**

We were pleased to receive the news from Darwin, that Toshio Nishimoto, formerly of NSW, had early in the year started a kendo dojo in Darwin. Bernard Yehuda and Nigel O'Brien, both of WA, are also working in Darwin from time to time and have provided great support for Toshio.

In August we received an application from the NTKA to join the AKR as an affiliate. After some finetuning, we accepted the NTKA into the AKR and the decision was formalised at our meeting in October. Since then the members of the NTKA have conducted grading exams and their numbers have grown.

A big "thanks" to all of you, particularly Toshio Nishimoto for your efforts.

The AKR now has an affiliated association in each Australian State and mainland Territory.



### **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 presents 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 ten years.

Overall, the AKR operated well within our means during 2014 and produced a small surplus. From that surplus, the funds will be distributed to the three Boards, subject to approval by National Council and are to be used to facilitate activities that benefit the further development of the kendo, iaido and jodo skills of our members.

The AKR Finance Report for 2014 will be externally audited and is separate to this report. Copies will be available to members from state associations or from the AKR Secretary after our Annual General Meeting on 3 April 2015.

### **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 fifth 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.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> AUSTRALIAN IAIDO CHAMPIONSHIPS and 14th AUSTRALIAN JODO CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Brisbane, Queensland, 20 - 26 January 2014.

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 Tetsuo OHARA and Hisao TSUCHIYA also providing valuable instruction. The Championship results are recorded on the AKR website and show that all states were fairly represented across the placings.

### **39th AUSTRALIAN KENDO CHAMPIONSHIPS, GRADING and SEMINAR**

29 March - 2 April 2014.

Venue: Perth, WA

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.

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

#### AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY GAMES KENDO COMPETITION



Over the weekend of 28 & 29 September 2014, the Unigames kendo event was held in Sydney, NSW. It was again very well supported by an increasing number of university kendoka, again 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.

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



#### AUSTRALIAN KENDO TEAM



The Australian Kendo Team is led by the Coach; Arpad Maksay (Vic); the Assistant Coach; Kate Sylvester (Vic) and the Team Manager; Hayami Aboutaleb (SA). Coach Maksay facilitated numerous squad training sessions, held in various parts of Australia.

The culmination was the gruelling Team Selection weekend, held in Melbourne on 13 & 14 September 2014.



The final selection of Team members made at the Selection weekend was –

##### **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

On behalf of the AKR, I congratulate all the Team Members on their selection and wish the Team every success for their preparation for the 16th WKC, to be held in Tokyo, Japan on 29-31 May 2015.

#### OVERSEAS SEMINARS

##### **Summer School**

In most years, from the end of July, the All Japan Kendo Federation (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 assists our members attendance with a subsidy. The 2014 Summer School commenced on July 25, continuing to 1 August.





The AKR Kendo Board provided a seeded list of four candidates, from which the AJKF selected two, Dr. Khay-Lin Teoh and Ms. Noriko Matsumoto, both from Victoria and both kendo fifth dan. They joined about sixty other kendoka from around the world for the Seminar.

### International Kendo Federation (FIK) Asian Zone Kendo Referee Seminar, Sydney, Australia

On the 8 & 9 March, 2014 and following the previous hosting by Australia in 2007 of the annual FIK Asian Zone Kendo Referee Seminar, we once again hosted an event in Sydney, which was intended for senior kendoka from our region.

Chief Instructor IWADATE sensei made a speech, thoroughly, explaining the important points for kendo refereeing. The refereeing training sessions were led by SHIMANO sensei and NAKATA sensei on two shiai-jo.



The purpose of these seminars is to improve the skills of shinpan, which in turn leads to an improved understanding of correct kendo which filters down to all kendoka.



International Kendo Federation Asian Zone Kendo Referee Seminar  
Sydney, Australia. 8 & 9 March 2014



Importantly for us, forty AKR members participated as shinpan trainees, while another twenty plus AKR members who assisted as shiai-sha and volunteers also benefitted from the instruction. So that's sixty AKR members who would have received the benefit of instruction from the best shinpan trainers available.

Another seventeen kendoka from the south east asia and oceania regions also participated.

It took the AKR six years of regular reminders and conversations to attract this seminar back to Australia.

The event was subsidised by funds from the AKR Kendo Board.

### EXAMS IN JAPAN and 2014 SHOGO and DAN AWARDS

During the calendar year of 2014, twenty AKR members applied to be examined in Japan for kendo, iaido or jodo from 4 to 7 Dan and up to Kendo Kyoshi.

The following members were successful

#### 2014 SHOGO and DAN AWARDS

##### Kendo

Katsumi Kuramochi sensei (Qld) - Kendo Kyoshi.  
Gregory Nicholas sensei (Qld) – Kendo Renshi.  
Chiharu Fukumoto (WA) – Kendo 6<sup>th</sup> Dan.  
Hayami Aboutaleb (SA) – Kendo 6<sup>th</sup> Dan.  
Dong Yeol Lim (WA) – Kendo 6<sup>th</sup> Dan.

##### Iaido

Toshiaki Tsukadaira (Qld) - Iaido 7<sup>th</sup> Dan.

Congratulations to all!

### EXAMS IN AUSTRALIA

It is a continuing difficulty 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 and twitter, which are used for immediate updates of competition results and similar and. Announcements that are posted on the AKR website usually quickly also appear on the above social media.

The intent for the website, facebook and twitter presence is to be a useful source of updates and information for connected members and to also promote the AKR and kendo, iaido and jodo to the public.

The website log shows it received 24,685 unique visitors and a total of 49,914 (44,188) visitors during 2014. The facebook

page has (348) likes; posts on average reach 450 (200)+ people. The AKR twitter feed has 728 (620) 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

#### 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 2014 Annual General Meeting was held by teleconference on 14 April. The meeting was mainly 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 25 & Sunday 26 October 2014 in Sydney, NSW.



With policy and constitution reviews and a review of the function of the three art Boards; a focus of the 2014 meeting was to listen and to think about ideas for the future.

We considered two issues; "How to deal with change" and "What do we want from our structure for the future health and development of the members of the AKR?"

The conference also included a review of all the AKR Functions. Including all Boards and the Executive Committee. Other activity included considerable efforts on policy improvements, planning for future activities, budget planning and approval. The notes and minutes are available from state secretaries or the AKR Secretary.



Back row: L>R. Neil Wood (NSWKA); Jeri James (WAKR); Stelios Polichroniadis (VKR); Marcus Lee-Steer (Iaido); Damon Scheerer (ACTKR) Tom Johnson (QKR). Front row: L>R. Christine Cash (TSR); Russell Lawrence (Jodo); Joe Semmler (AKR Vice-President); Richard Ward (AKR President); Vivian Yung (AKR Secretary); Hayami Aboutaleb (Kendo). Malcolm Martin (AKR Treasurer) was absent for the photo,

#### 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 2014.

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 2014 and previous years.

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 for their advice.

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  
24 March 2015