



# AUSTRALIAN KENDO RENMEI

*Kendo - Iaido - Jodo*

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT TO NATIONAL COUNCIL DELEGATES and MEMBERS, FOR ACTIVITIES IN 2016.**

Dear Delegates and Members,

I am happy to report to you on events and activities conducted, or facilitated by the Australian Kendo Renmei Incorporated, during the calendar year of 2016.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

A separate report, prepared by Ms Vivian Yung, the AKR Secretary is provided. In very short summary, AKR experienced membership growth again in 2016. Of interest is that the membership growth for females is 11.4% (8.7%), while the growth for male members was 8.4% (0.5%). Overall, the proportions are – male 971 (76.5%) and female 333 (24.0%). This is another increase in the proportion of women members.

### **FINANCES**

The AKR has separate finance accounts and budgets for each of - the Executive Committee, Kendo Board, Iaido Board, Jodo Board and the Australian Iaido and Jodo Championships event. The funds 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 in October, each entity is required to present an updated three year budget for approval by National Council.

The activities of the AKR have produced regular financial surpluses, or profits, for well over twelve years. This regularity of surpluses meant that AKR had also accumulated significant savings.

At the AKR National Council meeting in October 2015, it was decided by Delegates that we would no longer use the model which allowed a Board, the Executive Committee or sub-committees to accumulate savings from unspent income. The budgets for all AKR entities are scrutinised and may be adjusted by Delegates prior to a vote of approval.

This strategy was a guide to increase the funding available to subsidise various events, thereby lowering the costs to members of attending an event, while reducing our accumulated savings.

The 2016 finance report will show that the AKR operations have been within our means. AKR increased funding for events and reduced our savings by \$5000.00.

At the time of writing, the AKR Finance Report for 2016 has been externally audited. The Auditors Report will be available for Delegates to consider at our Annual General Meeting on 7 April 2017. Copies are available to members on request from state associations or from the AKR Secretary.

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL and INSURANCE**

The AKR co-ordinated player accident, instructor liability and public liability insurance scheme continued for the seventh 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.

### **EVENTS**

#### **25<sup>th</sup> AUSTRALIAN IAIDO CHAMPIONSHIPS and 16<sup>th</sup> AUSTRALIAN JODO CHAMPIONSHIPS**

18 – 24 January 2016.

Venues were The Rise in Maylands and Budokan Academy in Canning Vale, Western Australia.

As usual, this was the first AKR event for the year. Training was overseen by a Japanese delegation headed by Shigenori Namitome, Iaido and Jodo Kyoshi 8 Dan and Kuniaki Nagayama, Iaido and Jodo Kyoshi 7 Dan. With visitors Tetsuo Ohara, Mitsuhiisa Higashi and Emiko YAGUCHI also providing instruction. Australian sensei - Dr Ah Loi Lee, Iaido and Jodo Renshi 7 Dan, Tsukadaira Toshiaki, Iaido Renshi 7 Dan, Ramon Lawrence, Iaido Renshi 6 Dan and Janet Griffiths, Jodo Renshi 6 Dan also contributed to the teaching tasks for members.

#### **41<sup>st</sup> AUSTRALIAN KENDO CHAMPIONSHIPS, GRADING and SEMINAR 3 – 8 April 2016.**

Venue: The Gold Coast Recreation Centre, Tallebudgera, Gold Coast, Queensland. The AKR Kendo Board and the All Japan Kendo Federation jointly funded the attendance of Mr Yasuo Suzuki, Kendo Hanshi 8 Dan and Mr Shigehiko Fukumoto, Kendo Kyoshi 8 Dan, to attend for the third time 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> and 40<sup>th</sup> AKC.

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 45 trainees. Results are [here](#).

#### 4<sup>th</sup> OCEANIA WOMEN'S KENDO SEMINAR and TAIKAI, 2016.



The Fourth Oceania Women's Kendo Seminar was held at Victoria University, Footscray Campus, in Melbourne on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2016. The event attracted 88 female kendo practitioners from Australia, New Zealand, China and Germany. AKR Kendo Board funds were used to subsidise the costs of the seminar, thereby reducing the registration fees paid by trainees.

The participants at the Seminar were fortunate to have five experienced and highly respected Kendo Sensei and five students from our long time supporters at the Nippon Sports Science University (Nittaidai) to conduct the two day seminar. The delegation was led by Morimasa Okada Sensei, Kendo Kyoshi 8 Dan, Misao Okada Sensei, Kendo Renshi 7 Dan, Yoshiko Endo Sensei, Kendo Renshi 6 Dan, Chikano Shinzato Sensei, Kendo Renshi 6 Dan, Rie Hosokawa Sensei, Kendo Renshi 6 Dan. AKR women sensei also contributed to the instruction at the event, but very importantly – they made it happen! Thanks in particular to Kate Sylvester, Noriko Matsumoto, Hayami Aboutaleb for their advance work.



#### AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY GAMES KENDO COMPETITION

Saturday and Sunday 26 and 27 September

Venue: Perth, Western Australia

The Kendo Competition was the first major event of the 2016 UniGames and 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 AKR Kendo Board funds were used to assist with transport and accommodation.

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

#### OVERSEAS ACTIVITIES

The FIK usually conducts an Asia-Zone Kendo Referee Seminar each financial year. The 2016 Asia-Zone Kendo Referee Seminar was held on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 at in Taipei in Chinese Taipei. 82 trainees from the 8 countries of Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, China, Chinese Taipei, Australia, Malaysia and Singapore were attended to the seminar. Six Australians were assisted to attend with a subsidy from AKR Kendo Board funds.



#### ALL JAPAN KENDO FEDERATION FOREIGN KENDO LEADERS' SUMMER SEMINAR



The 43<sup>rd</sup> Foreign Kendo Leaders' Summer Seminar was held in Kitamoto City in Saitama prefecture 22<sup>nd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> of July 2016. Fifty-eight kendo leaders from 44 countries attended. The participants are Kendo 3-Dan to 6 Dan holders who are the current Kendo leaders or the leaders in the future of that country. The AKR members selected to attend were David Cunningham (ACT) and Will Rosenthal (SA). A subsidy from the AKR Kendo Board was provided to assist with the costs to attend.

#### EXAMS IN JAPAN and 2016 SHOGO and DAN AWARDS

During the calendar year of 2016, there were thirty-three applications made by AKR members to be examined in Japan for kendo, iaido or jodo from 1<sup>st</sup>kyu to 7 Dan and, Renshi and Kyoshi.

Some of the successful members were – Peter Szwarcbord, Kendo Kyoshi; Ramon Lawrence, Iaido 7 Dan; Takashi Itakura, Kendo 7 Dan; Hayami Aboutaleb, Kendo Renshi; Hiroko Tsukadaira, Kendo Renshi; Claire Chan, Iaido Renshi; Ben Sheppard, Kendo 6 Dan; David Kolb, Iaido 6 Dan; Russell Lawrence, Iaido 6 Dan; Andrew van Hamond, Kendo 5 Dan.

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 5 and 6 Dan as frequently as we would like. We ask for members understanding on this issue.

**BUDO DEMONSTRATION BY A DELEGATION FROM THE NIPPON BUDOKAN 9-16 November 2016**



Each year, the Nippon Budokan Foundation dispatches a Delegation to a different country to perform demonstrations, hold workshops, and facilitate greater international understanding of traditional Japanese martial arts. This is an event sponsored by Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This years event celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the “Basic Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation” between Australia and Japan. The 2016 International Budo Delegation consisted of 78 martial artists, visiting Sydney. Kendo was among 9 modern budo and 3 classical traditions that were demonstrated.

The AKR organised a venue for a goodwill keiko at Sydney University Sports Centre. About 55 AKR members attended, including 8 from Melbourne. We extended hospitality to the kendo members of the delegation for lunch after.



Budo demonstrations were held at UNSW on November 12 and to an audience of around 3000 on November 13 at the Sydney Showgrounds. AKR was asked at late notice to provide volunteer staff as ushers for the big event. Thanks to the Sydney kendo community, particularly UTS Kendo for their willingness to assist.

**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. AKR Announcements usually quickly also appear on the above social media.

**SOCIAL MEDIA 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 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 seek or advise how you can access them.

Managing membership and monitoring members eligibility is an increasing challenge. To address that we actively research and trial 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 2016 Annual General Meeting was held by teleconference and the annual AKR National Conference and General Meeting of National Council was held on Saturday 15 & Sunday 16 October 2016 in Sydney, NSW.

With policy and constitution reviews and a review of the function of the three art Boards; a focus of the 2016 meeting was to listen and to think about ideas for the future.

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

**CONCLUSION**

I would like to thank the various AKC, OWKS, AIJSC and AUG Championship and events organising committees, for their effective good work to achieve an excellent series of events in 2016. 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 2016 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 highly valued and appreciated.

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

Richard Ward  
President  
7 April 2017