



AUSTRALIAN KENDO RENMEI

ABN: 66 064 550 279

Kendo - Iaido - Jodo

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2018

I am pleased to present the President's report to you covering the events and activities for the Australian Kendo Renmei Incorporated (AKR) for 2018.

This is the first year that a new executive team has been put in place to coordinate the affairs of the AKR, and although we are effectively two members short (Vivian Yung has stepped in as interim AKR Secretary until a replacement is found), we have found the positions both challenging and exciting. This is not to say that Vivian has not fulfilled her role at her usual peak efficiency, and both David and I would like to thank her for her dedication.

Membership

A separate membership report has been prepared by Vivian Yung, interim AKR Secretary, to be presented to the AKR Annual General Meeting (AGM).

In summary the AKR has had an overall increase of 7.5% (1360 in 2017 to 1462 in 2018). Of note the newest member of the AKR, the Northern Territory Kendo Association (NTKA), has more than doubled its membership (28 in 2017 to 60 in 2018). This year we have added the breakdown adult and junior memberships and it is heartening to see that the number of juniors is also increasing (up by 4.1% from last year). This bodes well for the future of the AKR.

Finances

At the time of writing this report an external audit has been prepared and finalised, a copy of which has been distributed to delegates. This shows a deficit \$35,140 which is a result not only of previously approved spending for the World Kendo Championships in September 2018, but also in the shortfall for the Australian Iaido and Jodo Championships in January 2018.

Although the AKR is still in a strong financial position, this result underpins the need for the AKR Treasurer position to be filled as a matter of urgency so that the AKR's cash flow and trends are monitored by someone dedicated to this task

Elections

In 2018 there were elections held for the AKR Executive Committee, the Iaido Board, the Jodo Board and the Kendo Board.

The results were:

Executive Committee

President: Stylianos (Stilts) Polichroniadis

Vice-President: David FitzGibbon

Secretary: TBC*

Treasurer: TBC

* Vivian Yung agreed to stay on as interim AKR Secretary until the position is filled



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Election results for Boards

Iaido Board

Russell Lawrence
Peter Carr
Christine Cash
Tom Johnson
Mark Szalajko

Jodo Board

Tom Johnson
Peter Carr
Brendan Kee
Russell Lawrence
Christine Cash

Kendo Board

Ho Young Choi
Yoichi Yano
Takashi Itakura
Noriko Matsumoto
Bernard Yehuda

EVENTS

27th Australian Iaido and 18th Jodo Seminar, Grading and Championships

This event was held in New South Wales at the Valentines Sport Complex, Glenwood from January 20 to January 24.

The visiting delegation from Japan included Mr Mitsuo Shiiya, Jodo Hanshi 8-Dan/Iaido Kyoshi 7-Dan, Mr Yasunori Matsumoto, Iaido Kyoshi 8-Dan/Jodo Kyoshi 7-Dan, Mr Fumio Tsubaki, Jodo Kyoshi 7-Dan/Iaido Kyoshi 7-Dan, Mr Mitsuhiya Higashi, Jodo Kyoshi 7-Dan/Iaido Renshi 6-Dan, and Mr Keiji Igarashi Iaido 5-Dan/Jodo 5-Dan.

This event was attended by 52 members.

43rd Australian Kendo Championships, Seminar and Grading

The event which was held in Sydney at PCYC Auburn on 31st March to 4th April, was attended by 146 competitors during the competition days (Saturday and Sunday), which was then followed by a two-day seminar at the same location attended by 90 participants. It was the first year that a junior competition was introduced, in which 24 competitors participated.

The All Japan Kendo Federation (AJKF) Delegation, Mr Yasuo Suzuki, Kendo Hanshi 8-Dan, and Mr Katsuo Endo, Kendo Hanshi 8-Dan observed the competition and instructed during the two-day seminar held after the days of the competition, with a grading held on the third day for shodan to 5-Dan.

Jodo Seminars

It is heartening to see the Jodo Board taking the initiative to create interest and opportunities not only for participation, but also a forum where practitioners of Jodo can hone their skills and build rapport within this group nationally.

This year saw the first two seminars held in Canberra (15 participants) and Melbourne (20 Participants) of such an event. Each seminar was a two-day event which were led by three of our own 'home-grown' sensei: Dr Ah Loi Lee, Jodo Renshi 7-Dan, Ms Janet Griffiths, Jodo Renshi 6-Dan, and Russell Lawrence, Jodo Renshi 6-Dan.

Relative to the number of registered Jodo exponents these were very well attended, and I look forward to seeing more of these kinds of events not only for Jodo, but also for Iaido and Kendo.



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UniSport National Division 1

Previously known as the Australian University Games, the AKR was once again involved in this competition which was held in the Gold Coast, Queensland on September 22 to September 23, 2018

This event attracted 88 competitors from 14 universities. The Kendo Board facilitated the attendance of Australian shinpan. All costs associated with this event were recovered from UniSport.

17th World Kendo Championships (WKC)

The WKC is a triennial international event that is held in different host countries. Australia has a proud tradition of being one of the only countries which has competed in this competition since its inception in 1970.

This year was no different. Our dedicated coaching (Kate Sylvester, Coach, and Daniel Jeong, Assistant Coach) and management (Rob Reid, Team Manager, and Yaya Bonggogetsakul, Assistant Manager) teams took our competing teams to Korea after three years of preparation that required dedication and sacrifice from all involved.

I was privileged to have been there to see the fruits of their labours. The results both in the individual's and teams' events were very inspiring.

Individual results:

Jenny Song – top 32

Richard T'en – top 64 (International debut)

Luke Lee – top 32

Dwight Park – top 16 and Fighting Spirit Award

The pinnacle of their efforts was when we saw our Women's Team come third in the WKC. A first-time for such a great result for Australia.

Women's Team (in fighting order):

Senpo – Jenny Song

Jiho – Julie Feng

Chuken – Daseul Chun (Vice-Captain)

Fukusho – Alex Paukovits

Taisho – Vivian Yung (Captain)

Reserves:

Dale Padoin

Bonnie Lai

At this point I would like to acknowledge the immense contribution of supporters for the 17th WKC, with particular mention of Richard Ward, past President, AKR, and Brian Brestovac, past Chair, Kendo Board.



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Conclusion

I would like to thank all members of all organising committees for their efforts in helping to organise and facilitate the various events held throughout 2018.

A special thanks to the Australian Team Coaches, Managers and Team members for their extraordinary efforts in the past three years culminating in exceptional results at the 17th World Kendo Championships.

The Boards for Iaido, Jodo and Kendo are also to be commended for their efforts throughout the year in contributing to the development and progress of their particular art.

Thank you also to the members of the National Council for their input, suggestions and efforts to improve our organisation and to help the AKR move forward.

A special mention to Vivian Yung who, despite all other commitments and intention to step down, has volunteered to stay on until a replacement can be found.

A very big thank you to David FitzGibbon. He has been a reliable and excellent partner in the executive committee on whom I have been able to rely and to bounce ideas off.

Everyone mentioned above are diligent, hard-working members of our organisation, putting time and effort into improvement of opportunities for our members.

Stylianos (Stilts) Polichroniadis
President
27th April 2019