



AUSTRALIAN KENDO RENMEI

ABN: 66 064 550 279

Kendo - Iaido - Jodo

Life Memberships 2019

Ms Vivian Yung, Dr Kate Sylvester and Dr Brian Brestovac have been awarded AKR life membership at the AKR October National Council Meeting in Sydney in 2019. All three members have made significant contributions to the development and progress of Australian Kendo over many years and the AKR would like to thank them for their leadership.

Vivian Yung



Vivian Yung started practising Kendo at the Sydney Kendo Club in 2001. She has been an active member of the NSW Kendo community since and served as the secretary of the NSW Kendo Association between 2002 and 2008. In 2009, she commenced her decade-long service to the AKR Executive Committee as secretary and only recently stepped down as she embarked on a new journey of motherhood.

In 2006, she made her debut as a member of the Australian National Kendo Team in what would be the first of her four appearances at the World Kendo Championships. She came top 16 in the women's individual event at the 2009 and 2012 World Championships. Subsequently in 2018, she captained the history-making Australian Women's Team to win bronze at the World Championships.

Vivian enjoyed helping and giving back to the Kendo community who has given her so much joy, success and friendship. During her time as NSWKA and AKR secretary, Vivian took pride in ensuring the organisations' daily affairs operate effectively and efficiently, and that information was clearly communicated amongst all stakeholders in a timely manner. Vivian will endeavour to continue contributing to the Kendo community that she loves so much for many more years to come.

- NSWKA Secretary (2002 – 2008)
- AKR Secretary (2009 – 2019)
- John Butler's Contribution to Kendo Award Recipient (2007)
- Australian Women's Individual Champion (2009, 2012)
- National Team Member (2006, 2009, 2012, 2018)
- Australian Representative at World Combat Games (2013)
- Captain of National Team (2018)
- Top 16 in Women's Individual Event at WKC (2009, 2012)
- 3rd Place in Women's Team Event at WKC (2018)
- Fighting Spirit Award Recipient WKC (2012)
- Coordinator of Oceania Women's Kendo Seminar (2011, 2012, 2014, 2017)

Kate Sylvester



Kate Sylvester started Kendo in Japan as a high school exchange student in 1991. Kate became a member of the Australian Kendo Renmei in 1998 and has been a member of Melbourne Budokai, Fudoshin Kendo Australia and Victoria University Kendo Club. Kate has represented Australia at six World Kendo Championships (WKC). In 2004, Kate trained at Nippon Taiiku Daigaku (Nittaidai) which later inspired her to initiate the Oceania Women's Kendo Seminar (OWKS) to raise the level of women's Kendo in Australia. With Kate as head coach, the Australian Women's Kendo Team won the bronze medal at the 2018 WKC. In 2016, Kate completed her PhD titled 'Negotiating Kendo Capital and Gendered Identity in a Japanese Sports University Kendo Club' to better understand women's experience of Kendo in Japan. The data was collected from

various Japanese universities whilst training at Osaka Taiiku Daigaku in an 18-month period. Kate feels passionately about equal opportunity for women's Kendo and is currently part of the WKC Fairness Project petitioning for equal match time and competition days for women and men at the WKC.

- National Team Member WKC (2003, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015)
- Assistant Coach of National Team WKC (2015)
- Head Coach of National Team WKC (2018)
- Australian Representative at World Combat Games (2010)
- Australian Women's Individual Champion (2005, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2014)
- Australian University Games Open Dan Kendo Champion (2001)
- Head Coordinator of OWKS (2011, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2019)
- Vice-President of the Victorian Kendo Renmei (2011)
- Head Coach of the Victorian Kendo Team (2009)
- Assistant Instructor Monash University Kendo Club (2004-2010)
- Founder and Head Instructor of Victoria University Kendo Club (2011-2019)

Brian Brestovac



Brian Brestovac started Kendo in late 1977 with his brother Dennis and friend Robert Matlejan learning from a Japanese exchange student Owada Tsukasa (then a 2nd Dan high school student), taking their first lesson in his parents' backyard. After Mr Owada's return to Japan, they trained with Maeda sensei, a 5th Dan school teacher during his stay in WA. With the encouragement of Adrian Baird (a first Dan English visitor to Perth), Brian and Rob started a Kendo club. These were difficult times and they were only able to learn Kendo from Japanese visitors to Perth, and progress was slow. Brian is thankful to Ron Bennett sensei for all his help to WA Kendo, and Ogawa sensei who has visited WA many times to help all the Kendoka in WA. Brian has been involved in Kendo in WA for over 40 years and, together with Dennis Brestovac and Robert Matlejan, was the first person to do Kendo in WA.

Brian has been a member of the WAKR/AKR and has contributed to Kendo over many years both at state and national levels. He was a member of the national team at the Kyoto WKC in 1997, and was vice-captain at the Santa Clara WKC in 2000. In 2000 the Australian Men's team got into the top eight, and he is very proud to have been part of that team. Brian has attended almost all national Kendo Championships over many years. He achieved his 6th Dan in 2006.

Brian had been on the Kendo Board (KB) for over 15 years and served as its Chairperson for 6 years (two terms), till 2018. There have been some considerable achievements during Brian's term within the Kendo Board (KB). He is proud of the increasing AKR involvement in the University Games (now UniSport Nationals Div1 Kendo Competition) which has improved the event, making it the second biggest Kendo event in Australia. Together with Richard Ward, the then president of the AKR, Brian and the KB provided significant support to the event, ultimately supporting many of our Kendo members who started Kendo in university-based clubs. In addition, Brian is proud of the support the KB has given to the Oceania Women's Kendo Seminar which has been well attended by many women kendoka in Australia. Of note the Kendo Board increased its support for the national team for the WKC, and he is especially thrilled at the wonderful performance of the women's team in the WKC in Korea in 2018.

Brian is now serving the state of Western Australia as the president of the WAKR.