



AUSTRALIAN KENDO RENMEI

Kendo - Iaido - Jodo

PRESIDENTS REPORT TO NATIONAL COUNCIL DELEGATES and MEMBERS, FOR ACTIVITIES IN 2023.

To be presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Kendo Renmei Incorporated, 21 Oct 2023

Dear Delegates and Members,

The following is a report on events and activities conducted, or facilitated by the Australian Kendo Renmei Incorporated, during the calendar year of 2023.

As always, the Presidency has continued to be very challenging. However, help and support comes from the places you least expect it.

My ongoing focus has remained on the most important topic whom without them we cannot continue to practice and play what we all have in common that brings us together, our members.

The Executive committee have been kept very busy, Amanda Rust with the **CLG** Company Limited Guarantee however due to other pressing matter her resource has had to be used elsewhere and she will talk more on this throughout the annual general meeting. Sioh Yang Tan has been very busy keeping up with all the admin demands from the states arranging the meetings this demanding role should not be underestimated. Richard Ward who has been amazingly supportive and very active with our accounts and getting things paid will stand down from his role following the end of the 2023 Annual General Meeting. Richard's involvement over the many years has been invaluable he has been the constant within the AKR for as far as I can remember and will be missed, we all wish him the very best in his retirement from Kendo administration and encourage him not to change his mobile number.

What's NEW?

Zoom meetings, one of the biggest requests from members was that the AKR had very little contact with the members, therefore we introduced the Meet and Greet for all states and Territories and then this was turned to Town Hall meeting every quarter but the attendees started to reduce and then we had no one attending, they are now only on request.

New Positions within the Committee

Harry Chow: Antidoping Officer, and now Chief Medical Officer

MEMBERSHIP

A membership report, prepared by Ms Sioh Yang Tan, the AKR Secretary will be presented at the AKR 2023 AGM,

FINANCES

A membership report, prepared by Mr Richard Ward, the AKR Treasure will be presented at the AKR 2023 AGM,

EVENTS

MELBOURNE 2023 OTSUKA TAIKAI

My very first event for 2022 was the Melbourne Budokai Taikai and I was very grateful to be invited by the President Paul Bserani sensei. The event was super amazing watching the new members participate in the competition.

Mr and Mrs Shimada, Mr Shimada the Consul-General of Japan was very encouraging with his kind words.

Thank you to Richard and Janet Ward who took great care of me while I was attending this event.

AUSTRALIAN 26th Sep IAIDO CHAMPIONSHIPS in Perth and 30th July AUSTRALIAN JODO CHAMPIONSHIPS in Brisbane.

I will ask the Chairmans of these boards to give us an update on the past events for 2022/23

2023 AUSTRALIAN KENDO CHAMPIONSHIPS, GRADING AND SEMINAR.

Victoria hosted the AKC in 2023 which was an amazing event. Following the massive restraints they had to deal with they overcame and produced the goods. I hope this has inspired NSW to bring an event that is just as good.

UNISPORTS NATIONAL KENDO COMPETITION

Saturday and Sunday 23 and 24 September, 2023.

Venue: Gold Coast



This UniGames did not disappoint yet again, the number of university kendoka and volunteers was amazing. Eric Jeffrey sensei and David Fitzgibbon managed this event with the help of a great team. The feedback from the shinpan and the competitors was positive and one of excitement. Thank you all for what was a great weekend.

OVERSEAS ACTIVITIES

I am glade to say that the AKR continues a great relationship with the FIK and the AJKF. This makes conversations regards Australian Kendo and the AKR objectives and how the AJKF could help more open and frank.

International KENDO LEADERS' SEMINAR 2023

The Kendo leaders' seminar was held in March 2023.



The participants are generally Kendo 3 Dan to 6 Dan holders who are current or prospective future Kendo leaders from each country.

DAN EXAMS IN AUSTRALIA

It is still a continuing challenge for AKR to be able to assemble panels for an examination above 4th Dan. However, I am encouraged by the number of 5th Dan within Australia that are now 6th Dan. Congratulations to them all as this will eventually lead to more opportunities in the future.

CONCLUSION

It's been another busy year and the transitions required to remain the NSO for Kendo has introduced a large amount of extra administration on executives and other team members. However I like to think that moving forward things become easier for us all, I would encourage everyone to remember that everyone elected are volunteers, diligent and work very hard in their spare time, work long hours and offer their time at home and at events which are long days solely to improve the opportunity for our members. With open communication, respect and a vision for a bigger future I do believe the Australian Kendo Renmei can and should aim for the stars, make good of all the opportunities that come our way as this is what good leaders do and the National Council is full of great leaders.

Andrew van Hamond

President

20/10/2023