

A P R I L 2 0 1 7



A.K.I Australia

Issue No. 2

Welcome to the Month of May



The year of 2017 has commenced with many exciting activities and gasshukus being held. Special thank you to Daiyu Takeda Sensei and Yasuyuki Suzuki Sensei for travelling a long way to Australia to share their skills and knowledge with us. We look forward to many more exciting gasshukus to be held in the coming months.

On the May 7th, five Australian AKI members (Jeffery James, Paul Reid, Tomoko Nishizawa, Ben Henwood & Veronica Clipsham) attended the annual Enbukai held at Hachimangu (Kamakura Japan). The trip also

consisted of celebrating the joy of Aikido and the wonderful friendships we have developed over the years.

May our friendships continue to grow in the coming years. Happy training everyone!



Upcoming Events

16-18 June:

Blue Mountain Winter Gasshuku

1st July:

Aiki Internals Seminar with Nigel Carruthers-Taylor at Newcastle

8-9 July:

Gasshuku with Ishii Masao Sensei (7th Dan) at Cook Dojo/ Canberra

6th August:

One day Seminar with Miyuki Kumazawa Sensei (6th Dan) at Balmain Dojo/ Sydney

16-17 September:

Spring Gasshuku with Yasuyuki Suzuki Sensei (7th Dan) at Bentley Dojo/ Melbourne

25-26 November:

AKI Annual Friendship Gasshuku In Mittagong

Women's Camp in Adelaide goes Swimmingly!

By Fiona Hawke

January



The first AKI Women's Camp was held in Adelaide on the weekend of the 21st and 22nd January 2017.

It saw 14 women from Sydney, Newcastle, Orange, Canberra, Adelaide and Melbourne gather together for a happy and successful camp. The teaching was led by Fiona (Orange), Assunta (Melbourne), Clare (Canberra) and Gaby (Newcastle).

Many of the participants arrived on Friday so we were able to have a pre-camp training session on the Friday evening with the full complement of Adelaide dojo members. The teaching of this class was shared by Tomoko (Adelaide), Gaby and Fiona and gave a taste of what was to come for the camp itself.

The weather for the weekend was warm and the mood for the camp was joyful, energetic and creative. The teaching focused on footwork, simplifying movements and using powerful imagery to help with extension. It also introduced us to the lethal 'bunny ears' technique – just ask your nearest camp attendee.

Many thanks to our hosts Tomoko, Malvina and Nikki for preparing the dojo, food and accommodation, including a very special dinner at the casino and the afternoon session beside the swimming pool. This was a masterstroke in camp entertainment and socialising! Thanks to Paul and Stephen for bringing us drinks as required. Thanks also to Natalia (Sydney City) for her organisational work and all those attendees who brought their curiosity, energy and generosity. Photos of the event are posted to various Facebook pages including the new AKI WG page.

We look forward to sharing the next Women's Gasshuku with you soon. Until then, happy training!

February



AKI Australia's 2017 Summer Camp with Daiyu Takeda Sensei

By Berin Mackenzie

We were very fortunate to have Daiyu Takeda Sensei return to Sydney to lead the 2017 AKI Australia Summer Camp from 10th-12th February! Students from all over Australia gathered at Sydney City Dojo for 3 days of engaging, dynamic and joyful training.

The movements Daiyu Sensei shared were incredibly sophisticated, poetic, warm and powerful. With each new visit, he brings something fresh and exciting to our practice; novel lines and angles liberate our movements, and innovative expressions of 'familiar' techniques remind us to keep an open and curious mind, and to continually experiment with, reinvent and expand our practice.

We are witnessing in Daiyu Sensei an exceptional master teacher hitting his absolute prime. I encourage Aikido people the world over to seek him out and experience first hand what he is offering. It is nothing short of sublime!



April

Easter Camp Report

By Laurie Nash
(President/ AKI ACT)

The annual Easter Camp in Canberra was again very successful. Yasu Suzuki Sensei led the camp and again gave us plenty of food for thought.

This year he was accompanied by Sugimoto San, Morito San and Kimura San who all train at Kamakura Gym. They were all at the Kamakura 20th anniversary Sydney camp last year, so we must be doing something right for them to return to Australia again this year.

We had 54 people attend representing dojos from across Australia including Adelaide, Aiki Centre Melbourne, Aiki Life Canberra, Balmain, Bowral, Cook, Erindale, Melbourne, Newcastle, Orange, Perth, Queensland, Sydney City, Tengoku, Tasmania and West Ryde.

There were a number of successful gradings with John Needham, George Bodilsen, Frank Wall, Jude Parker, and Zsolt Hary, all from Canberra achieving 1st Kyu, Andrew Ho from West Ryde doing his Shodan grading and Vadim Alkhimov and Steve Saulwick from Balmain doing their Nidan gradings. Suzuki Sensei and the panel were all impressed with the standard demonstrated throughout the grading tests.

The 3 day camp concluded with an Embukai which showcased what people are doing in their dojos and what people picked up from training over the weekend. I'd like to thank all those involved in making the camp a success and look forward to seeing you again on the mat at future events this year.

Upcoming event in Canberra

Ishii Masao Sensei (7th Dan) 8th – 9th July 2017

The Canberra Dojos are pleased to announce the return of Masao Ishii Sensei, 7th dan, to lead a gasshuku at the Cook Dojo in July 2017.

Ishii sensei shares a common tradition with our AKI teachers, having been a long time student of Yamaguchi sensei before his passing. Ishii sensei was last in Canberra in 1999, where he taught for several months. We fondly recall his clear descriptions, practical and concise technique, and generous nature.

Ishii sensei was nominated for his 7th dan by Takeda shihan.

Details:

Location: Cook Dojo, Cook Community Centre, 41 Templeton St Cook Canberra

Dates: Saturday 8 July (10.00am - 4.00pm)
Sunday 9 July (9.00am - 2.00pm)

Cost: See the AKI Canberra web site.

Go to aikidocanberra.com events for details and registration form

Masao Ishii Sensei (7th Dan) will arrive in Sydney on the week of 4th July and will probably teach a few classes in Sydney. Then we will take him to Canberra for the 2 day seminar. Ishii Sensei is a classic Yamaguchi-style aikidoist and demonstrates regularly at the annual Hachimangu Embukai in Kamakura. He stayed in Canberra for 6 months in 1999 where Canberra aikidoka greatly benefited from his tuition. He speaks good English, can explain complex Aikido concepts well and also tell you about Yamaguchi Sensei – we strongly recommend anyone interested in pursuing Yamaguchi aikido to attend.

Further enquiries:

Bruce 0407 705 430 or Laurie 0431 222 757

Registration before 1st July would be appreciated to enable us to make reservations for Saturday night dinner.

Additional Events

By Nigel Carruthers-Taylor

We look forward to many exciting upcoming events, most of which are posted on the [Aikido Sydney site](#):

May/June – 2nd Aussie invasion of USA

A number of us, including Steve, Nigel, Vadim, Rachael, and Don, as well as Bruce Lowes Sensei, Michael Dreyer from TAS and Mick Nash from QLD are heading off to the USA for our second aikido friendship tour. Training seminars will be held with William Gleason Sensei (7th Dan), Sato Sensei (6th Dan, who studied with Takeda Shihan for 6 months in the 90s), and a 5 day Aiki Internals intensive with Dan Harden. We should be well juiced up on Aiki after that! This is the second time we have done this tour, following on from Steve and other individual's efforts to train with Bill and Dan in Hawaii over the past 5 years.

1st July

Nigel is facilitating an Aiki Internals seminar at the Broadmeadow PCYC in Newcastle. If anyone is interested contact Gaby on gaby@posims.com.au.

6th August

Miyuki Kumazawa 6th Dan will run a one day seminar at Balmain Dojo. Kumazawa Sensei is an Aikikai Hombu member and is visiting Australia to run a camp with the Aikikai in Newcastle, but she is keen to run one in Balmain as well because she has strong links to the AKI Kamakura Gym dojo where she trains with Seino Sensei and Yasu Sensei. Should be great training – Aikikai Hombu style with a strong AKI influence.

16^h - 17th September

Yasuyuki Suzuki 7th Dan will grace our shores again. This time he is to be hosted by Simon Wong and Nati Harpaz from Bentley Dojo, Melbourne. Once again it promises to be an awesome camp that we highly recommend.

Some time in August/September/October we also hope that Mike Macgregor Sensei will hold another Jo Workshop in Sydney, so watch this space....



June 2018 (by Gaby den Hollander)

Newcastle will be inviting Yasuyuki Suzuki sensei 7th dan to conduct the **Bob Gibbon Memorial Seminar** at Newcastle dojo.

Congratulations to:

- Saul Ripoll Galvis (Sydney City Dojo)
- Natalia Pinello (Sydney City Dojo)
- Nikki Silverman (Sydney City Dojo)

for formally obtaining their 初段 (Shodan) after completing their grading at Daiyu Takeda Sensei's Gasshuku in February.

Balmain Dojo Happenings

by Nigel Carruthers-Taylor

Balmain has been rolling along well, and recently Steve Seymour Sensei released a new website for the dojo - <http://aikidosydney.com/>. Ayano Seymour did the design and has done an excellent job – very mobile friendly. Great work guys!

In the meantime training is progressing well – like all dojos we tend to have a small core group but sometimes numbers can swell to 12 or so on Saturday mornings. Thanks to Steve's good work promoting the club we get a flow through of senior Aikidoka from various styles who are interested in what we are doing, including Don Cleur from Aikikai (associated through Aikikai UK), and Tzi Ling Loh and Gregor Erdmann and Simone Sandoval from the Kokikai Group (an offshoot of the Ki Society). These guys are almost regulars now!

Our core Balmain group is getting stronger, with Vadim Aik and Steve Saulwick both being graded to Nidan at the Easter Camp, and recently Veronica Clipsham graded to 4th Kyu. All did excellent jobs of their gradings, and Veronica then went off to tour Japan in May with Jeffery James, Ben Henwood, Paul Reid and Tomoko Nishizawa to train with many of our Sensei and represent Australian AKI at the annual Hachimangu Embukai in Kamakura. Steve has also set up an Aiki Internals class on Monday nights at Rachael Crompton's Daito Ryu dojo in Castlecrag, which has good attendance of various people wanting to learn about connecting heaven, earth, fire and water!



Newcastle Dojo

by Gaby den Hollander

Here at AKI Newcastle dojo the PCYC has reduced our training sessions to one prime time slot at 7.30pm on Mondays to make room for big enrolments in mixed martial arts six days per week. The good news is three of us manage to train at 8am on Friday mornings as well. Also the PCYC has purchased new tatami, which are to be laid sometime soon.

Working out how to get more people on the mat without an effective web presence is challenging, however we're gradually building up a facebook site to help address this. As well, we are developing a program of **Moving Mindfully with AKI**, which is offering low impact aikido as a possible entry point for the more physically challenged participant, including people who self-select out of martial arts because of past injury from other activities.

In April Gaby, Chris, Mario and Amanda greatly enjoyed Yasu Sensei's Easter camp. Many thanks to Laurie, Bruce and all involved in organising it. In February Chris enjoyed a day's training with the exceptionally beautiful aikido of Daiyu Sensei at Berin's Dojo, despite 43 degree heat, whilst Gaby observed. Chris also brought back valuable learnings from Stephen Seymour's Melbourne seminar on internal power. Thanks to Simon and his crew for hosting this.

Gaby will be overseas from late August to mid-October to visit family in Nova Scotia and Europe. In the meantime you'll continue to see us around at forthcoming seminars on the AKI calendar.

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EDITED BY AKI ADELAIDE

Salisbury East, South Australia

Email: bitey@esc.net.au &

tomonish@hotmail.com

Ph: 0430 225 494

Deadline for the next newsletter:

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