

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello all,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the quarterly AKA newsletter. This is an initiative implemented by Gavin Downs from the Victoria Kyudo Association.

I personally think this is a fantastic vehicle for the distribution of information and ideas amongst the Australian kyudo community and I would ask everyone to support it.

I have attached two pdf's – the shahokun and the raikishagi. All members who are attending the New Zealand shinsa need to print them out and take copies to New Zealand with them. This is a request from the IKYF. Even if you are not attending, you should keep a copy for your records.

Regards

Nev Browning  
President - Australian Kyudo Association

## QUEENSLAND KYUDO ASSOCIATION

### BRISBANE KYUDO KAI

#### Training at Blacksoil

Well I don't know if you can really call it Blacksoil, as you can see from the photo it should be called RED SOIL or RED CLAY really. Brisbane Kyudo Kai (BKK) has been training at Blacksoil on and off for the past 3 years. Their normal training is carried out on Saturday mornings, and now that they have relocated their Matoba to Blacksoil, in the near future they will start building a shooting platform that will allow for up to 5 people to shoot at the same time. BBK is also looking for a suitable hall where they can shoot into Makiwara and practice Taihai, at least one night a week.

### ATHERTON KYUDO KAI

The AKK is situated in the picturesque Atherton Tablelands about an hours drive from Cairns in Far North Queensland, which makes it the closest Australian dojo to Japan. The AKK has now been operating for a little over two years, with about 8 regular Kyudojin practicing together, they train weekly with quarterly visits from BKK sempai, and they are also lucky to have two halls where they can practice Taihai.

In 2016 they held two Takai (see the pictures) The AKK members have really improved over the past two years, which sees three of them travelling to Auckland in April, to challenge for their Shodan grading... Gambate-masho (which translated to English means – May we all do our best, together!!!).



## NEW SOUTH WALES KYUDO ASSOCIATION

### SYDNEY KYUDO KAI

Greetings from New South Wales! On behalf of the NSWKA, I'd like to share with the rest of the AKA our excitement and small successes in the recent months that have really made us proud as a state group.

### 2016 Nippon Budokan Demonstration and Workshop and Seminar



Miike-san and the Sensei at the Budokan Demonstration and Workshop



Receiving instruction at the Budokan Seminar



To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the basic treaty of friendship between Japan and Australia, the Japanese Budo Delegation conducted a demonstration and workshop of both modern and traditional budo disciplines. NSWKA was honoured to host the kyudo delegation of 5 Kyoshi 7-dan sensei and Miike-san, representing the IKYF, for a seminar and informal dinner on the Saturday beforehand. We were lucky to have many of our AKA colleagues visiting from interstate as well as a delegation from New Zealand, who all contributed to make the workshop a success. The sensei were impressed with our dedication and drive to improve our kyudo and I think I can safely say on behalf of all attendants that the instruction we received was invaluable and to have such experienced sensei share with us was a privilege in itself.

The Demonstration and workshop the following day included a taihai demonstration, as well as a 'come and try' workshop where the sensei estimated that 300 people tried their hand at kyudo! It was exciting to see that kyudo was one of the more popular activities and sported a healthy line for the duration of the workshop.

To echo some of the sentiments Aden has shared previously as NSW Secretary, I'd like to thank Stuart and Klara for lending us their azuchi which the sensei found very impressive; all participants in both the workshop and demonstration, thank you for travelling far and wide to help make the weekend such a great success; and while many others contributed, I'd also like to, on behalf of the NSWKA, thank Erell, one of our newer members, who coordinated and organised behind the scenes (all while 8 months pregnant!).

#### New Members and old



Peter and some of our newest members preparing their bows



Sharing dinner after training

NSWKA have been welcoming a small number of newcomers recently and the ongoing commitment and interest in kyudo that they are showing is exciting and refreshing for our small group. Our last 'batch' of newcomers have grown so much in the last year that we can't help but be excited about the promise of every new person who steps into our dojo. Erell, Lee and Yuki have been with us for almost a year now and we are very happy to see Lee and Yuki off to New Zealand for this year's Shinsa (hopefully Erell will join us next year when her newborn is a little less newborn). All three have become quite established in our group and we welcome all new and future members to follow suit and feel free to become as involved as you want with our club!

We've also welcomed a few experienced kyudojin, who have moved to the area from overseas for work and study. It is always a fantastic to be able to share with and learn from kyudojin from different backgrounds. We've recently welcomed Amy and Ron who both have 2-3 years' experience in kyudo and hail from China. Hopefully they will join us long enough to give us some pointers! We also farewell Kyoka, a 3-dan from Japan who joined us for half a year, who has returned to Japan for studies. Thank you for your contributions to our club and you are always welcome back!

I'd like to close by wishing luck to everyone grading next month. Do your best and show them how serious Australia is about it's kyudo!

#### WEST AUSTRALIAN KYUDO ASSOCIATION

##### BUDOKAN ACADEMY DOJO

Hello from the West Coast. On behalf of the WAKA I would like you update you all on our progress over the summer months.

##### The 2nd WAKR Kyudo championships

Held on the grounds of the Japanese Gardens at Willow Pond in intense 40 degree heat. A challenge to be sure, but well met by Mr Greame Wan who shot consistently well on the day. Not only in the WAKA championships but also in the interstate challenge.





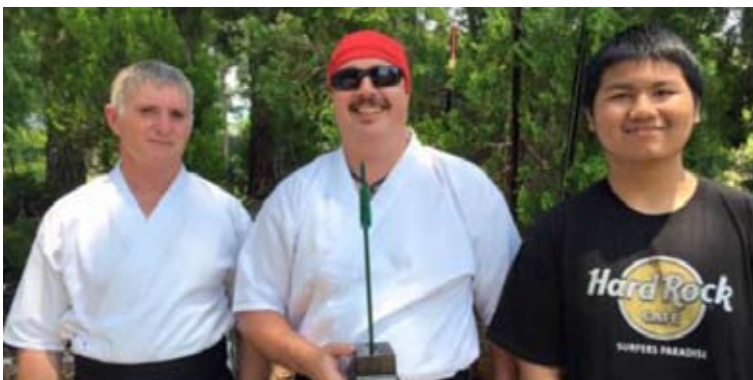
#### State Individual Championship Event (Gold Arrow Trophy)

1st Place: Graeme Wan  
2nd Place: Sean Koh  
3rd Place : Peter Carr / Toby Stewart



#### State Individual Double Hit Championship Event (Black Arrow Trophy)

Winner: Moe Schoknecht



#### State Team Championship Event (Green Arrow Trophy)

Winning Team: Peter Carr / Azrid Badawi / Neville Browning

#### Finishing touches to the target range

The safety barriers are up, and the impressive 12 mato range at Willow Pond nears completion. This is a fabulous resource allowing WAKA students to train at 28m any day of the week. Although currently exposed to the elements it's a rare occasion we are unable to get in some range practice at least a few times a week.





### The final WA vs Victoria Taikai for 2016

A fun event with WA taking the honours by a narrow margin of 12-7

### Hatsuya 2017

At dawn on New Years Day we performed Hatsuya (the first arrow of the new year) followed by breakfast and sake.



Here we see Nev Browning, Rachel Carr and Peter Carr shooting towards the rising sun (indoors)

### First 2017 Taikai

Sadly, for WA the first Taikai for 2017 did not mirror the last for 2016. We were soundly defeated by the Victorians 17 to 8. Well done Victoria. Unfortunately, timing for this event left us short on attendance so there were no pictures from WA (however, I'm sure Victoria have some).

### New students

The WAKA holds numerous training programs for new students throughout the year. Welcome to our recent intake, we hope you enjoy Kyudo and stay with us for many years to come. Currently we have 29 active and support members.

Finally the next big challenge on the calendar is the NZ shinsa and seminar in April. WAKA have 5 members attending and challenging for their next grade. We wish them and all attendees success in the event.

Sincerely

Peter Carr

WAKA – Treasurer; AKA - Treasurer

## VICTORIAN KYUDO ASSOCIATION

### MELBOURNE KYUDO KAI

#### Club spirit award 2016

Our annual 'Club spirit' award was awarded as part of our end of year events. This award is presented to club members who show outstanding commitment to their training and the running of the club. 2016 proved to be a special year as it was the first time we have presented two awards.

The first was presented to Kaori Taniguchi and the second to Rachel Fisher. Both have set a great example in their efforts during the year. Well done to you both and thank you on behalf of all MKK members.



Club spirit award 2016 - Rachel Fisher (left)  
Kaori Taniguchi (right)



Club spirit award 2016



### End of year fun shoot

As part of our end of year celebrations MKK held a fun shoot where members were invited to shoot at novelty targets such as fans and balloons. Competition was hot for the fans as the first to hit was given the fan as a prize. Members were also encouraged to don Kimono for the shoot if they had them.



### WAKA v VKA Taikai

As part of an ongoing initiative to build connections between our state groups WAKA and VKA have initiated a series of 'Internet Taikai's' where both states shoot at their respective dojo's on the same day and upload the scores to facebook.

These events are an important stepping stone for the AKA to have its various states come together in the spirit of friendship to test their Kyudo skills against each other. The goal being that the event can and will be expanded into a national events schedule and WAKA and VKA would like to encourage other state dojo's to be a part of the fun in 2017.

### Duncan Bullock Seminar

MKK runs several seminar per year, and was fortunate enough to have Duncan Bullock (Yondan) once again give of his time and experience and come down to Melbourne for a one day seminar.

The event was organised to assist our members going to NZ for shinsa to get some final tips and advice on their Kyudo. It was also designed to help those not going to NZ by giving them access to higher level teaching than they normally get.

In either case all participants worked hard over the course of the day taking on board the valuable advice and experiences Duncan was able to offer. We would certainly like to thank him for his time and guiding hand in helping us all on our Kyudo journey and look forward to having him visit again in the future.



### NZ seminar and shinsa 2017

The big event is fast approaching and MKK has nine members attending both the seminar and shinsa, some for the first time some as return participants. This event will be the culmination of much hard work and commitment to our training. It will also be a huge learning opportunity of everyone attending.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish every member of the AKA attending the very best for the event and trust you will all come back with plenty of ideas on how to improve your Kyudo.

I'd also like to congratulate our good friends in NZ on being honoured to be chosen to host the first Asia Oceania seminar outside of Japan.

### New equipment

MKK recently purchased a 10 metre wide archery net for use as a backstop for the dojo. The high grade material is a much better construction than the previous one and has been a great addition to the 28m shooting part of our training.

We also just took possession of two brand new makiwara from Japan, taking our total now up to 4. With this purchase we can retire our hardworking archery blocks that have served us well up until now. The makiwara certainly make the dojo feel much more like those in Japan.

### Visiting Kyudojin from Japan and Sweden

MKK has had a number of Kyudojin from other countries visit us to train while they are in Melbourne. The spirit of friendship that Kyudo training brings is a fantastic vehicle for bringing people from all over the world together. MKK is very happy to be a part of this and counts itself lucky to have made many new friends in the process.

Regards

Gavin Downs - Victoria state representative / MKK President

## AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY KYUDO ASSOCIATION

Hi all, we're the ACT Kyudo group. We train at the Canberra Archery Club which is an outdoor shooting club on Sundays so the weather comes into play a lot of the time. Training outdoors presents some challenges to what we can do within our training sessions. We try to have some fun during training as well.

A stop at Oliver Brown (a chocolate place like Koko Black or San Churro) and dinner is also a must (though Oliver Brown before or after dinner is always debatable).

We've also travel down to Sydney for their Sunday training sessions once a month too! So you'll see a few of us in their training photos as well as dinner photos.

We've finally been able to procure a ground level target that we can use instead of the western targets so yay for that. We are still in the middle of looking for a relatively cheap hall for taihai practice. We are a relatively new and small group (4 active members) with limited resources at this point in time.

ACT Kyudo will be conducting a kyudo session on the June long weekend (Queen's birthday).

We may not be a big club and are still trying to find our way but we love kyudo so bare with us as we sort out our teething problems and try to get on our feet. We do however tend to adopt stray kyudo practitioners (a friend of ours from Japan) or from other states (like Adrian) though. They may not be on our official list or count but unofficially they're members of ACT Kyudo all the same.

Good luck for those who are grading in April!

Irene Chua - ACT state representative



***Don't forget to check out the AKA website. It is updated regularly and is the place for us all to connect and be informed about everything happening with Kyudo in Australia.***

***The website is: [www.kyudoaustralia.org](http://www.kyudoaustralia.org)***