

# Gambaru Gazette

**Official News Letter of the New Zealand Kendo Federation**

**Issue #3 October 2001**

## **Editorial**

*Alex Bennett*

Christchurch/Kyoto

Hi all. First of all, let me say how great it was to catch up with everybody at the Auckland camp in August. Judging by the correspondence I have received from participants, most everybody gained something from attending.

I have known Tanaka Sensei for many years now. In fact, he was one of the Sensei who looked after me when I was at the International Budo University in 1989. Since then many New Zealanders, Andrew Pedersen, Hamish Robison, and Loreena Bradley have had the chance to train at the university, so it was good to be able to show Tanaka Sensei what the NZKF is all about. The poor guy was completely stuffed at the end of it all, but told me how inspired he was upon seeing the determination to learn demonstrated by all the participants. Let's hope he and his legion become regular participants at NZKF events!

By the way, next years August camp will be held in Christchurch, so we hope to see the same great turnout that we had in Auckland in the South Island as well.

Speaking of the camp, those who attended will remember the various

things discussed at the AGM. The main item on the agenda was the official inauguration of the newly formed Hutt Kendo Club into the federation. Well done and good luck Hutt! It was also suggested that the NZKF set up a homepage to advertise our existence to the world. The Waikato team offered their expertise in getting the project started, and with this in mind I asked each club to send profiles that could be used on the website. They are located at the end of this issue of Gambaru Gazette. If you feel the need to make changes, please contact the Waikato people directly.

Finally, I did receive these comments from a participant at the recent camp; *"I was disappointed in it as I felt we sat around to much - not enough action. I'd like to see a camp that started hard and then tapered off, not a morning's seminar at the beginning when everyone is restless and then into it when we're cold and stiff. I believe that's why I graded badly - I just never got into it and my muscles cramped on the first afternoon and never recovered. - Just a thought."*

Indeed all thoughts are welcome, and these are fair comments. But let us not forget that the point of Kendo is to learn how to overcome adversity, not succumb to it. Just a thought.

Alex

## Message from El Presidente

**Graham Sayer**

Auckland

Greetings all,

Lots of positive events to touch on this issue.

### 1. The August camp 2001 in Auckland

\* **Participants** 84

\* **Venue** Split between the Auckland Dojo and St Peters Collage gym.

\* **Visiting Sensei.** Tanaka sensei from the International Budo University Japan.

\* **Assistant instructors** . Ken Wells , Liz Dutton , Alan Stephenson , Alex Bennett and Gerard Egerton

\* **Grading** Largest ever in NZKF history , 9 new dan grades !!!!

**Result** Fantastic success

Special Thanks to

\* Alex Bennett for all his work in coordinating Tanaka Sensei

\* Kirk Doron for computer data base organizing (made the whole admin thing happen with ease )

### 2. Poneke Rembuden Challenge Shiai

\* **Participates** : 63

\* **Venue** Victoria University Wellington

\* **Visiting Sensei** Terry Holt (Mumeshi dojo in London , main instructor)

\* **Result** high level of shiai displayed, a

great all-round success. Bigger and brighter than last year, this shiai is going places ! Well done Wellington.

Can't wait for next year's!

### Other highlights of the past few months

\* Hutt Kendo club accepted into the NZKF

\* Gerard Egerton graded to 5th dan

\* Planning underway for the World Kendo Champions 2003 campaign.

\* In the very near future our very own Alex Bennett and Hamish Robison will launch their biggest project to date. The Kendo World magazine. A high quality English Language Kendo magazine (with articles on Iaido, Jodo and Naginata) This very noble undertaking deserves our total support. I would expect every dojo in New Zealand to subscribe to the magazine. To be honest everyone that is serious about their Kendo should look at subscribing, at a mere US\$10 per issue(4 per year) plus a little postage this represents amazing value. Apart from value added CD rom there will be articles about our art(s) that to date have only been available to Japanese language readers .

Come and visit the site-

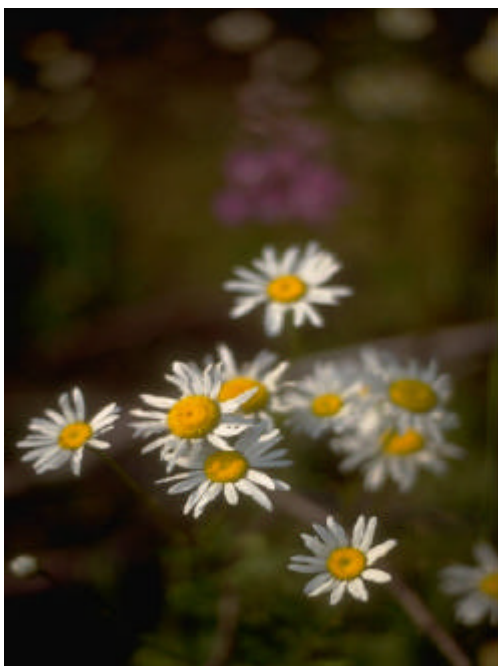
[www.kendo-world.com](http://www.kendo-world.com)  
and subscribe now! Support these fellow kiwi's.

### A sad note to finish

Recently New Zealand Kendo lost a close friend and supporter **Shoji Fujimura Sensei** died from a sudden heart attack Fujimura Sensei's generosity and wisdom has been felt by many of us .

The Sensei has personally supported New Zealand Kendo teams upon their visit's to Kyoto (1988 and 1997) . For myself and Chikae the sensei has been a mentor in both business and personal life . His intense Kendo, razor sharp mind, sparking eyes, and keen sense of humour will be sadly missed .

Mrs Fujimura has thanked the NZKF for the flowers and also asked me to thank the members who sent condolence cards .Thank you.



### Club Reports



#### **Update from the *Auckland Kendo Club***

The Auckland Kendo Club hosted the 2001 National August Camp, which since its inception has been hosted by the Rembuden club in Wellington.

The event was attended by a very large contingent of Kendo practitioners from all over the country. Truly memorable was the attendance of Tanaka Sensei (Kyoshi 7<sup>th</sup> Dan) of the International Budo University, Chiba Japan. Alex Bennett was the principle organiser with regard to the Sensei's attendance, and as always it was a pleasure to get reacquainted and train once again with Alex.

The camp commenced on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August with registration and a friendly Jigeiko. Prior to this was a grading which was held for Graham's class of young Kendo practitioners. This was a special occasion for them with the Sensei giving them some very positive and encouraging remarks at the conclusion of the grading. Congratulations to all the members of Graham's class on an excellent effort.

Tanaka Sensei's main focus during his instruction was the use of seme and a

greater understanding of what it is. The Sensei reiterated on several occasions the importance of seme and how a person Kendo would improve through continual practice of this.

On Sunday the biggest grading in the history of the New Zealand Kendo Federation was held. It was a most successful event with the Federation having several people advance in their respective Dan gradings, congratulations to them all.

In conclusion, the camp was an extremely memorable occasion, with the opportunity to renew old friendships, practice Kendo with people you don't see very often and the chance to socialise over a drink and talk Kendo. I would like to acknowledge the input of Alex Benett, without whose assistance would have meant a camp without Tanaka Sensei, Graham Sayer and the team at the Auckland Kendo Club for organising the event, each and every participant for making it the remarkable event it was.

Alan Stephenson  
Auckland Kendo Club



## Update from the *Christchurch Kendo Club*

The Sei Tou Ken Yu Kai was formed 13 years ago. And like many other clubs we have had our ups and downs. But at the moment we are on the way up. With Blake (me) and Andrew making a return from Japan, the club has a brand new feeling of enthusiasm. Andrew and I have had an opportunity that not a lot of New Zealand Kendoists have had, training with a Japanese university. We are both looking forward to getting back into training and passing on what we have learned to the rest of NZ Kendo. Although keeping some secrets in the Christchurch club means, the rest of the country should beware of the Sei Tou Ken Yu Kai at the next Poneke Challenge!

**MEMBERS:** Currently we have 15 members attending trainings. With 4 Japanese, 5 Koreans and 6 Kiwis.

**DOJO & TRAINING TIMES:** At the moment we are in the process of moving into a building called Crichton Cobbers. It is place used by many other Martial Art clubs in Christchurch, and it will be nice to share a Dojo with people who share similar interests. At this stage we are only able to train once a week on Saturdays

from 10am 'til 12 noon, but are looking forward to increasing that to 3 trainings as membership grows.

FORMAT: A Saturday training for us involves Kata for 30 minutes to 1 hour. And the remaining hour is Kihon, Jigeiko, and Kakarigeiko...we love Kakarigeiko! Instructors vary occasionally depending on what we want to cover. Etiquette is Miki Sato's (2<sup>nd</sup> Dan) forte, Karl Hitchcock (3<sup>rd</sup> Dan) takes Kihon and Kakarigeiko trainings...well come and see for yourselves!



### **Update from the *Hutt Kendo Club***

Sue sent you Hutt profile but that if you look included the dojo news too. We are only a young club and our news is small in comparison to perhaps other dojo's who have been longer established.

If you want some other news:

Terry Holt (UK 7th dan) came to Wellington over Poneke Challenge and ran two seminars. He came to Hutt Kendo Club first so it was great for us to have Liz's sensei as first visiting VIP to the dojo, he was accompanied by Ron Bennett and Brent Gazzaniga. They were

all impressed by the spirit shown by the dojo members. Much kihon waza was learned as well as some focus on various uses of 'seme', thus working on techniques both useful for beginners and senior members present.

Terry's visit inspired a news article in the local paper that has now created enough interest to start yet another beginners course. We will be starting this week having had around eight enquiries. So watch this space for a further increase in membership.....

Cheers,  
Liz



### **Update from the *Nelson Kendo Club***

Our main news is that next year we are 10 years old.

To mark this significant event we will be hosting our usual Camp at Waitangi weekend and we are hoping, as has been verbally indicated, that a large number of NZ and hopefully overseas kendoka will be attending- we would like to be able to attract enough Dans for 2/3 Dan grading and want to make this camp this biggest and best Nelson camp ever. Venue may be Ngawhatu Hall but if larger numbers will move to Hope Hall, which would be

an excellent venue. People should be planning now as billets may be limited but we hope to offer enough accom.

Nelson continues to plough its own furrow in NZ Kendo- still a little isolated and under visited, but we seem to train hard by many people's standards and our visiting Japanese kendoists seem to approach kendo more lightly? Do other clubs notice this?

We now have 5 Dan grades and up to 10-15 kyu grades, with a strong group of 'lads' 14-15 yrs old building up- all of our young members are very good and committed kendoists, and this personally gives me great hope for the future of the club.

Whilst Nelson may be one of the smaller clubs, we are certainly proud of the standard of our kendo and are looking forward to doing well (again) at the Poneke Challenge.

If you need more info Alex let me know so I can follow up our winning of the poneke....

Pete Rees, Nelson.



## Update from the *Rembuden Kendo Club* (Wellington)

In 2001 the Rembuden Kendo Club has had a large influx of new members. These have been predominantly people completely new to kendo. It has been a pleasure to introduce them all to the joys of suburi, kihon and uchikomi geiko.....and blisters. They have all taken up the challenge and shown themselves to be made of stern stuff.

### AUGUST CAMP

Eight of the beginners were able to travel to Auckland for the August camp. Despite the inevitable and unavoidable nervousness of their first grading, the weekend was an experience enjoyed by all. The grading results were as follows:

- Richard Hawkes (6<sup>th</sup> kyu)
- Cyntheia Lim (6<sup>th</sup> kyu)
- Dion Lee (6<sup>th</sup> kyu)
- Natsuki Hasegawa (5<sup>th</sup> kyu)
- Vicki Chun (5<sup>th</sup> kyu)
- Hoon Kim (5<sup>th</sup> kyu)
- Antony Fake (5<sup>th</sup> kyu)
- Nicola Webb (4<sup>th</sup> kyu)

There was also good news (and relief) for some of the "older hands" of the club:

- Eun Jik Kim (shodan)
- Martin Lee (sandan)
- Marianna Leung (sandan)

Congratulations to everyone who graded and a big thanks to those who provided invaluable support behind the scenes with transport and accommodation – a great team effort.

Everyone came back to Rembuden training after the camp full of energy, enthusiasm and kiai. Thanks to the Auckland Kendo Club for organising the camp this year. We all look forward to traveling down to Christchurch next year.

#### **GERARD EGERTON**

It's been a very successful year for the Rembuden Club grading-wise, topped off by Gerard. Congratulations to Gerard who participated in the Kitamoto summer camp in Japan and successfully grading to the level of godan.

#### **YOSHIOKI TAKE**

For the last couple of months Rembuden has been joined by Take-san, a godan from Kyoto. Take-san has only been with us a short time but he has already made an impact. Take-san recently donated some brand new shinai from Japan to the Rembuden club. THANK YOU.

#### **REMBUDEN PONEKE CHALLENGE**

Following on from this year's successful New Zealand Champs, Rembuden is proud to be hosting the second Challenge. Last year we enjoyed great success with this competition, which was attended by kendoists from throughout New Zealand, and provided some thrilling displays of skill. We hope this year's competition will be even better, with even more competitors from New Zealand and abroad. Our thanks go to Sue Lytollis, Liz Dutton and members of the Hutt Kendo Club for their support with this event. We also look forward to the development of competitive events at other kendo clubs.

#### **WELLINGTON GOSSIP**

It seems Wellington's burgeoning kendo population will have no end of choice of dojo with new clubs mushrooming. It was great to see a good showing from the Hutt Kendo Club in their first August Camp, and now there are whispers that yet another club is being formed by Mark Daniels, based at the Newtown School Hall - we wish this new club all the best for the future.

Martin Lee  
Rembuden



## Update from the *Waikato Kendo Club*

1. Probably to most clubs, passing the Shodan grading is not big news. However, to an only 2-year-old club, we are proud that we have four shodan members now. We would like to use this opportunity to say congratulations to: John Lee, Jeffrey Ke, Michael Potroz and Kenji Sakimoto. And hope they understand the meaning of 'sho' as 'beginning' and keep training hard.

2. After the National Camp in Auckland, the NZKF web-developing team was formed. I am pleased to see this group of young people applying the same enthusiastic attitude of Kendo training to the web site proposal preparation. I appreciate the NZKF for giving them this wonderful learning opportunity.

3. Adopted from British tradition, the University of Waikato has an annual award (21 September) named Blues Award for cultural and sporting excellence. We are pleased that 'Sports Team of the Year 2001' went to us and John Lee won the 'Sport Blues 2001.'

That is all for now.

Kind regards,

Sam & Marleen

Waikato



## Upcoming NZ Events

Below are the minutes of the recent NZ Dojo meeting held in Wellington. If you require more detail on these items please speak to your dojo rep. All dojo were present at the meeting. (Copy of the selection criteria is available from your club rep)

### WEB SITE PROPOSAL

- Proposal presented by Sam Tsai (Waikato Kendo Club)
- Discussion of content and purpose of the site.
- May have the use of domain name kendo.org.nz (provided by Gerard Egerton)
- The site will provide links to each individual clubs web sites.
- If needed, Waikato will provide a template to assist in a kendo clubs web presence.
- Maintenance of the website will be provided by Waikato with input from individual clubs.
- The future development and long term web presence will include future upgrades and higher functionality.
- The site will have a degree of multi language capability i.e. Japanese, Korean,



Chinese.

### **2003 WORLD KENDO CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- Each club will make nominate kendoka for the national squad.
- The nominations must be received as soon as possible. (nominees must have NZ passport or citizenship).
- A squad training event is to be scheduled before the end of this year (early December 2001)
- The venues discussed were, Palmerston North, or Wellington.
- The criteria for squad acceptance was discussed and detailed in the 'Guidelines for selection of the New Zealand Kendo Squad for WKC 2003' as provided by Gerard Egerton.

### **BUDGET FOR WORLD KENDO CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- A campaign funding of \$2,500 was discussed, Gerard to provide an estimate on possible costs etc.
- Individual clubs are expected to assist and support individuals selected for the NZ Squad.
- Nominated individuals must be checked by the clubs for NZ residence criteria.

### **NELSON ANNUAL CAMP**

- Date yet to be advised (possible February 2002)

## Shiai in Oz

To Australian and New Zealand Kendoka.

The Victorian Kendo Renmei is very proud to be hosting The 27th Australian Kendo Championships in Melbourne, Victoria, during Easter 2002, over the weekend of 30<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> of March.

A three day Seminar will be held on the prior Monday to Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of March.

The Kendo Championships will be held at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre in Albert Park and the Seminar will be conducted at The Kenshikan Dojo in West Melbourne.

The Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre is a recently built venue that is located in Aughtie Drive, on the edge of Albert Park. MSAC is easily accessed from most of Melbourne via freeways and public transport; it is close to the CBD, Southbank, St Kilda and accommodation.

At this stage we plan that the seminar will include 2 Kendo Sessions each morning, with an Iaido and Jodo session each in the afternoon, with optional Kendo and Iaido training sessions at various local dojos in the evening. There is a possibility of an Iaido and Jodo grading at the seminar.

We expect to have the assistance of

Japanese Senseis up to 8<sup>th</sup> Dan for the Championships, Gradings and Seminar. Details of the delegation will be sent to all and included on the website when they are confirmed.

A Kendo Dan grading will be conducted, on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> of March at the Kenshikan, possibly up to Kendo 6<sup>th</sup> Dan. A Kendo Kyu grading is available, but only for South Australian and Tasmanian members.

The Championships will include the following competitions -

- Open Team
- Kyu Team
- Open Individual
- Kyu Individual
- Womens Individual
- Veterans Individual
- Kata Team

Application details and forms will be sent out to AKR affiliated State and Territory Associations in the next few weeks, for distribution to their members. A web page at [www.kendovictoria.asn.au/kendo2002](http://www.kendovictoria.asn.au/kendo2002) is to be developed that will contain information and downloadable application forms.

Current IKF competition rules will apply, including the new shinai regulations, white or red men and do himo are not permitted and competitors will wear personal or club zekken, not state zekken whilst competing in the individual

competitions.

The competition and gradings are open to all adult affiliate members of the AKR. The Kyu grading for SA and Tasmania only, is also open to junior members. Applications for the championships and grading will be only received from members who were also financial on 31 December 2001.

Dojo accommodation will be available at the Kenshikan for those who wish to stay there. To defray the costs of hosting, we suggest that people who stay at the Kenshikan make a donation to the Kenshikan Dojo.

We will intend to compile a list of accommodation options and will distribute and publish that information on the web site. We are not able to provide or book accommodation.

We expect that the registration fees will be approximately -

- Combined Registration for the Championships and the Seminar \$ 220
- Competition entry - per category \$ 10-20
- Registration for the Championships only \$ 130
- Registration for the 3 day Seminar only \$ 130
- Registration for the Seminar per day or part thereof \$ 50

- Grading fees as per the AKR schedule.

Regards,

Richard Ward

for the organising committee

[secretary@kendoaustralia.asn.au](mailto:secretary@kendoaustralia.asn.au)

The 27th Australian Kendo Championships to be held in Melbourne, Victoria on 30-31 March, 2002 are hosted and organised on behalf of The Australian Kendo Renmei, by a sub-committee of The Victorian Kendo Renmei Inc., (ABN 60 252 737 207) Kenshikan Dojo, 91 Rosslyn Street, West Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, 3003.  
[www.kendovictoria.asn.au](http://www.kendovictoria.asn.au).

## Reflections on the August Camp in Auckland 2001

**John White**

Nelson

Despite the fact that the traditional Wellington August Camp was held in Auckland did not make any difference to the energy and enthusiasm created by the kendoists who attended the seminar. I have yet to be disappointed by the content, spirit and general all round atmosphere of an August Camp yet. I think that a beginner or the most senior person at the camp would have taken away something to learn about and

ponder over. And if that happened then the camp served its purpose.

Tanaka sensei was really good at explaining the meaning and importance of seme and he was right when he said that seme has a different meaning for everyone. After the camp we have practiced seme much more often than we normally do at our dojo. Also I enjoyed moving around from lecture to lecture it was well organised so that you were never waiting around for things to do. It was funny to see the look on passersby's faces as you walked down the street from the St Peter's College to the Auckland dojo in your keno uniform!

All up the camp was very enjoyable and laid a good foundation for the up coming Poneke Challenge II. Look out for the infamous twins from the Nelson Kendo Club (truly a force to be reckoned with!) Also a big thanks goes out to Paul Frazer for putting up the Nelson contingent and also to Kirk Doran for driving us about and giving us some info on the local attractions. And congratulations to everyone who passed their grading. Cheers!

John White

Nelson Kendo Club.

## Waikato Ponderings

I asked our members write some ideas about 'what is Kendo to you' and below is the response I got.

### **Article 1: by Emily Drake**

What I think Kendo is:

*Kendo is friendship*

*is physical and mental health*

*is aspiration*

*is learning*

*is purity of heart and intention*

*is acceptance*

*is strength*

*is struggle*

*is serenity*

*is the expression of your character through actions*

Kendo makes me a better person.

Kendo is a means of improving ones character and hence quality of life.

### **Article 2: by John Lee**

For me, the definition of kendo is pretty similar to the meaning of life. You know why you are living but you cannot well express it.

For me, kendo is not just a technique of sword fighting. Kendo is part of what I am. If we treat our life as a novel, kendo surely will be the most excited part. However, what is the most excited part about? It is still about ME. From the interact with teachers and members,

I started to realise "Myself". I understood I have to try my best on everything I choose to do. I learned to appreciate others' contribution. I know that "I" exist because of the club. Because of the club, I have a chance to learn from others, to perform myself, to contribute to others.

Kendo like a mirror reflects my weakness and strength. Kendo gives me friends and teachers who help me realise my weakness and strength. In addition, they give support to me at the time of my confusion. They give support to me to conquer my weakness and grow my strength.

I really like kendo a lot. I couldn't really well present whole my feeling about kendo. I understand only very little about kendo. However, I am sure I will learn more, practice more. For myself. For thanking friends and teachers.

### **Article 3: by Peter Derrick**

An e-mail regarding 2001 NZKF Camp

Hi there. I remember on Tuesday (28/08) we were asked to write about our experience at Kendo Camp.

I came away from it realising how much my Kendo reflects my overall state of mind. The Sensei from Japan pointed out to me that I withdraw or pullback before I

cut. Psyching myself up I guess. He wanted me to simply leap forward and cut him.

Thinking about it afterwards I realised it's a habit I have in other areas of my life. I think this is where the 'Do' part of Kendo comes in, taking what I learn in the Dojo and applying it to other parts of my life.

After camp I now see Kendo more as a way of learning about myself rather than simply learning to cut people. See you all on Tuesday,

### Poem Based on the Auckland Camp

**Kirk Doran**

Auckland

*The heavens opened and the rain fell.*

*Bogu wet & starts to smell.*

*Auckland in August is wet and damp its  
time for a national kendo camp.*

*Kendoka arrived from far and wide for  
swords to cross and battles to wage.*

*Another piece of New Zealand Kendo  
history is written on the page.*

*Made pain our friend and in this end,  
strived hard to overcome.*

*The things that made us forget that we  
were having so much fun.*

*The training is hard and so it must in  
order to succeed. As every mighty*

*Kauri once started as a seed.*

*The study of waza and semei and form  
were challenges for all to meet.*

*While steadily the rain continued,  
now flowing down the street.*

*With hearty meals our stomachs filled  
with sustenance to fight.*

*We drank and sang made friends and told  
stories through the night.*

*And then so quickly it seems  
the camp comes to an end.*

*The journey continues the road is long.  
God speed to all my friends.*

Thanks to Tanaka sensei for sharing his knowledge and especially his deep insight in the application of seme.

Kirk

### Recent Grading Results

Due to space restrictions (and the incredible number of people who sat and passed gradings) the editor has decided to only include those who passed **1<sup>st</sup> Kyu** or above in each of the arts represented by the NZKF. This is not to detract from the wonderful progress and results achieved by the lower grades. Well done to all those who sat and passed their gradings recently. The editor apologises in advance for any mistakes in spelling or any names left out. Please mail me if this is the case.

#### **Kendo**

**1<sup>st</sup> Kyu**- Seung -Ho Choi CHCH

John White NLS

**Shodan**- Andy Lee AKL

David Nelson AKL

Eun Jik Kim AKL

Jeffrey Ke WKT

John Lee WKT

Kenji Sakamoto WKT

Michael Potroz WKT

**2<sup>nd</sup> Dan**- Miki Sato CHCH

Toshiharu Kamei AKL

**3<sup>rd</sup> Dan**- Marianna Leung AKL

Martin Lee WGN

**5<sup>th</sup> Dan** Gerard Egerton WGN (in Japan)

### **Iaido**

**1<sup>st</sup> Kyu**- Steve Ma Chin AKL

**2<sup>nd</sup> Dan**- Eddie Sides AKL

**4<sup>th</sup> Dan**- Alex Bennett CHCH (in Japan)

Hamish Robison CHCH? (Japan)

### **Jodo**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Dan**- Alan Stephenson AKL

Eddie Sides AKL

Nick Segerberg AKL

## Poneke Challenge

### Winners and Highlights

#### *Lizz Dutton*

Hutt Kendo Club

Women had the upper hand in many of the fights held in the second Poneke Challenge Kendo Championships (Japanese sword fighting) held in Wellington this weekend.

In one of the first events of the weekend, pint sized Mariko Koyanagi from Palmerston North, took on six foot

Martyn Walker (Hutt Kendo Club) in a closely fought final in the kyu (beginners) event and won with a hiki kote cut (backwards striking wrist cut) in the final seconds of play. Miwa Takagi, from the Auckland club, beat many male fighters to gain not only third equal place in the senior event, but also to take out one of three fighting spirit awards awarded this weekend.

The Challenge attracted 70 competitors from four countries and seven New Zealand Kendo clubs and announced at the weekend was the selection process for finding a New Zealand team for the next world Kendo Tournament to be held in Glasgow, Scotland 2003.

For the first time, the Wellington/Sakai Goodwill trophy event was held but New Zealand was firmly defeated by an all women team from the Osaka Prefectural Dojo, Yayoi Yamada, Junko Matsubayashi, Terumi Sugano and Que Liu.

New Zealand was represented by Marianna Leung (3rd dan), Ralph Maddison (1st dan), Ron Walker (1st dan) and Eun Jik Kim (1st dan), Maddison being the only Kiwi to win his match.

A Premier event, the Poneke Cup, was fought between Martin Lee (Rembuden,

Wellington) and Shunsuke Kaminohara from the Auckland Kendo Club. Mr Kaminohara won decisively with head and wrist cuts.

Auckland B team cleaned up in the teams event taking both first and second placings. One of its toughest fights actually happened in the quarter finals. Auckland B, after a match marked by rapid cuts and rear cutting techniques, came to a point draw with the Palmerston North A team.

The last fight of the match between Mitsutaka Nishimura (PN) and Shunsuke Kaminohara (Auckland B) drew the match and in a team fight off between representative players, stood again in a one point fight off to determine the winner. Kaminohara took a kote (wrist) cut in the first 20 seconds to secure the match for Auckland.

Mr Terry Holt, the VIP for the match and a 7th dan teacher from London, said he was impressed with the overall standard on the weekend. The Ponake team event is modelled on Mr Holts famous Mumeishi 3's international Kendo tournament now in it's 28th year.

"I hope to see a full mens and womens team from New Zealand at the next World Kendo Championships fighting with the spirit demonstrated this

Weekend" he says.

The fighting spirit awards, for outstanding effort in the Kendo matches were won by Andy Garard (Mumeishi Kendo Club, Melbourne) for the Kyu event; Miwa Takagi (Auckland Kendo Club) for the senior grade; and Yuki Hoshino for women.

### **Event Results**

#### ***Senior Grade Open:***

S.Kaminohara (Auckland) 1st place  
M. Lee (Rembuden Wellington) 2nd place  
G. Egerton (Rembuden), M. Takagi (Auckland) 3rd equal

#### ***Kyu Grade Open:***

M. Koyanagi (IPC, Palmerston North) 1st place  
M. Walker (Hutt) 2nd place  
A.Fake (Rembuden), M. Kuggeleijn (Waikato) 3rd equal

#### ***Womens Event***

S.Lee (Rembuden) 1st place  
M.Takagi (Auckland) 2nd place  
Y.Yamada (Sakai), M. Leung (Rembuden) 3rd equal

#### ***Team Event***

**Auckland B** M.Takagi, D.Tate,  
S.Koshinohara 1st place

**Auckland A** T. Kamei, B. Daley-Roberts, M.Koroda 2nd place  
Sakai A Y. Yamada, Y. Huang, J.

Matsubayashi 3rd equal

Wellington A - M. Tsukamoto, R.Allen,  
G.Egerton 3rd equal

**Wellington/Sakai City Goodwill Trophy**  
Sakai Team

### **Kata**

Nelson A S. Hopkinson and M. Biggs

1st place

Wellington M. Leung and M.

Tsukamoto 2nd place

### **Fighting Spirit Awards:**

**Kyu event:** Andy Garard (Mumeishi,  
Melborne)

**Senior Open Event:** Miwa Takagi  
(Auckland)

**Women:** Yuki Hoshino (IPC)

Special mention: Beau Daley-Roberts  
(Auckland)



## Guidelines for selection of the New Zealand Kendo Squad for WKC 2003

Preparation for the next WKC (Glasgow June 2003) begins with the development of a NZ National Squad, from which the final women's and men's teams will be selected; Each team will be made up of seven kendoists. This note provides a

brief description of the criteria the selection committee will be applying over the next year and a half to make the final selection, and asks for nominations from club instructors for membership of the National Squad.

### **Selection Criteria**

1. Attendance at Squad Trainings. These trainings are proposed to be quarterly and will consist of weekends dedicated to squad preparation. Minimum requirements for consideration in the final team are (a) 75% attendance for NZ/Australian resident candidates, or, (b) 50% attendance for overseas candidates. The timing of Squad trainings will be set around competitive events to minimise travel (ie Some squad trainings will be immediately after competitive events).
2. Participation and performance in competition. While not compulsory participation and performance in competition will receive a heavy weighting from the selection committee. There are three main events that will be used in the selection. These are:
  - NZ Champs 2002
  - Poneke Challenge 2002
  - NZ Champs 2003



3. Commitment to a preparation programme. The campaign is starting with time to allow squad members to engage in training to not only develop their kendo specific skills, but also to improve physical condition – fitness, flexibility, and strength. Commitment to this programme work when away from the squad is critical. Some form of fitness testing will be incorporated into the preparation programme.
4. General coachability. The performance of the team is largely dependant on how it works together and follows the directions of coaches and selection committee. A willingness to contribute in a constructive manner to the campaign will be an important criterion for the selection committee.

### Squad Nominations

The selection committee welcomes nominations for membership of the NZ National Kendo Squad from club instructors. Please send nominations to Gerard Egerton at:

PO Box 10 840

Wellington

Tel. (04) 381 1265

**Gerard.egerton@meridianenergy.co.nz**

## Diary of a Kendo Bum

*Blake Bennett*

Christchurch



### PART 2

Part one of my experiences in Japan ended with my trip to Miyazaki City and beginning trainings at Kyoto University. Not forgetting the Budo Seminar held in Tokyo. And like I mentioned in part one, I had no idea what was install for me for the following months.

At the beginning of May 2001, I attended my first training at the Kyoto Riot Squad...A training I thought would also be my last! Going to the police trainings in the morning turned my day into *NIBUREN* (2 trainings per day)! I also continued with my trainings at Kyoto University in the evenings. Something I thought I could never do, but managed to achieve...by the skin of my feet!

Police trainings started with an intense warm-up, with stretching and *SUBURI*. The next part was *KIHON* for 30 minutes, finished with 30-45 minutes of *JIGEIKO*. Of course my first training with them was very nerve racking. But as time went by, I became more and more confident turning up. Only to have that confidence shattered every now and then by an angry riot policeman! As it is uncommon for people to go to police trainings EVERY

day, none of them thought I would stick around for the long hall. Because of this, the police gave me a few “fatal beatings” to start with. (I found out later that “fatal beatings” are normal!) Possibly just intimidation methods!

One thing I will always remember, happened one day in August. Mid-summer, 40° C and 80% humidity. I was fighting a person named Kudo, and as per usual I couldn't touch him! At one point I glanced over towards the other side of the padded Dojo, to see one of the others signalling for me to do *KATATE TSUKI* (one handed Tsuki). I thought to myself “why not, I can't do anything else!”...and with that I executed a weak Tsuki that missed completely and hit his shoulder. Not the best decision I ever made!

The next thing I knew I had flown across the floor, to land with a thud and a Shinai coming down on the back of my head. My attempts to stand were foiled time and again as my legs gave way to that horrible jelly feeling. Not to mention the 100 kilo+ riot squad member bearing down on me with his Shinai...or should I say whacking stick!

The Sensei saw what was happening and stopped the *JIGEIKO* early, as the situation was getting a little out of control. When he banged the drum and my

beating was over, I turned my head back to where the others were standing to see tears of laughter streaming down their evil faces!

I toyed with the idea of doing it again next training to *try* and prove something, but was strongly advised against it.

That story however is just one horror story (one of many) from my experiences with the Kyoto Riot Squad. Although it may seem that these experiences were fraught with pain, there was plenty of gain.

Thanks to the Police trainings and Kyoto University trainings, I sat and passed my 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan in Japan. Looking around the Gymnasium I noticed that 90% of the people grading 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan were about 15 to 16 years old. With styles all resembling a “typical” high school student's Kendo. Reasonably difficult to fight in a Shiai, but makes *straight* Kendo look pretty impressive to the grading panel. (If I do say so myself!) While in Japan I witnessed quite a few gradings of all levels. I found the general standard shown in a Japanese Kyu grading and gradings up to 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan, are noticeably different to those in New Zealand. I felt in many cases, the attitude towards gradings in Japan (up until the point of 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan) is approached with a “half hearted” attitude. i.e., they are young and there will be plenty more chances.

Whereas in New Zealand, people grading seem to take on a much more serious point of view, as climbing the Kendo ladder is an important part to many New Zealand Kendoists. This, in my opinion, is what makes New Zealand a strong-minded Kendo nation. And is what will help us bring home a medal at the next world champs!

Kyoto University holds memories of the best trainings, the hardest drinking parties and some of the most incredible people I have ever met. The students have a passion for their studies that develops a discipline in their trainings. No matter how hard, no matter what time (some morning trainings meant getting up at 5 am,) they would make the dojo come alive with an amazing atmosphere. An atmosphere that makes training so intense, you push yourself that little bit harder to find yourself getting so much more out of it. It's a feeling that comes from people that train with injuries just because of their passion. Not the best idea, however it shows the incredible dedication they *all* have.

Kyoto Uni.'s *SHIHAN* (head teacher) has 9<sup>th</sup> Dan. I was always first in line to fight him in *JIGEIKO*. With every time seeming like a blur, he was untouchable. It appeared like he knew what you were going to strike, before you even bowed in! At the end of my fight, I would

usually take off my *MEN* and stand on the sideline. Just to watch him take even the fastest players to pieces over and over again. My "claim to fame" one training was when I managed to hit his Kote. Lucky strike as it was, to hit someone of that stature never feels 100% right. The control he has and the aura around him makes one feel about 2 inches tall! Its an encounter that one has to experience for themselves to fully appreciate.

All in all, my trip to Japan has been a memorable, enlightened experience. Both for my Kendo, and for myself personally. With many more trips planed in the near future, I hope to learn more and train more, in order to "poor" it all back into New Zealand Kendo. With the past eight months of Kendo under my belt and plenty more to come, watch out for the KENDO BUM!

## CLUB PROFILES

These profiles are for use with  
the soon to be constructed  
NZKF Homepage.

### REMBUDEN KENDO CLUB

#### Introduction

Rembuden Kendo Club originated at the Honbu Dojo of the Rembuden Institute of Martial Arts, in Newtown Wellington, run

by Sensei John Jarvis. After Sensei Jarvis' retirement the club reformed at Victoria University in 1986, and has continuously trained at the University since then.

Rembuden has a strong work ethic and we take personal and collective responsibility for pursuing opportunities to improve our Kendo. We strive to support each other in the way we work together, and are proud of our achievements and contributions to New Zealand Kendo.

Examples of these contributions include our hosting of the NZKF "August Camp" for a number of years, and our creation of a successful annual open competition, currently in its second year. Both of these events have attracted over 60 competitors from around New Zealand and abroad. Our membership includes both male and female New Zealand representatives, and the coach of the national team. A number of our members have trained and competed extensively overseas.

While the club is primarily student-based, a considerable proportion of our members are non-students, and we welcome visitors to our training. For those interested in beginning Kendo we offer introductory courses – please contact any of the people below for further details.

If you are coming to Wellington please make the time to visit us – and bring your bogu!



#### **Postal Address**

Rembuden Kendo Club  
C/- VUW Student's Association  
Victoria University of Wellington  
P.O. Box 600  
Wellington

#### **Training Location**

Dance Room  
Recreation Centre  
Victoria University of Wellington

#### **Training Times**

Tuesday  
7.30pm-9.30pm  
Thursday  
6.30pm-8.30pm  
Saturday  
12.30pm-2pm

#### **Committee members and Contacts**

Gerard Egerton ph. (04) 381 1265  
(Work)  
Gerard.Egerton@Meridianenergy.co.nz

Motokiyo Tsukamoto ph. (04) 382 8830  
(Home)

Tsukamoto@scs.vuw.ac.nz

Sachiyo Lee ph. (04) 499 6678 (Home)  
Sachiyu@Hotmail.com

Martin Lee ph. (04) 499 6678 (Home)  
MartinLeeNZ@Hotmail.com

### Nelson Kendo Club - SeiTou Ken Yu Kai

**Members** - Currently around 17, including 8 youths, one girl, one Japanese exchange student (female), one adult female. Kids class is growing quicker than the adults group. From time to time our numbers rise as Japanese and Korean students at Nelson language school join us for a while.

**Dan Grades:** 1x 4th Dan; 1x 3rd Dan; 2x 2nd Dan; 2x Shodan.

**Meet:** Tues, Thurs 5.30-7pm - Ngawhatu Hospital Hall.

Tues - Advanced class, Thurs – Kids class.

Most kendoka arrive at 5pm and some practice Naginata and Iaido before class. As well as training we have lots of social events and fund raising including yearly stock-taking at Supermarket, security at Santa Parade and other events,

demonstrations at local events and schools, and sausage sizzles.

Main event of the year:- Nelson camp held every Waitangi Weekend. 2002 is Nelson clubs 10th anniversary. Nelson club was begun as a part of Christchurch club and we still share events and support each other whenever possible. We also have good contact with members in Wellington. We also have a Christmas break up and go out together or meet at someone's

### Waikato Kendo Club

Waikato Kendo Club (WKC) has been established by Sam K. Tsai & Marleen Y. Charng in March 1999 and now is the fifth club member of All New Zealand Kendo Federation (NZKF). "Friendship through Kendo" is WKC's basic philosophy.

Sam and Marleen started their Kendo training from 1983. Both of them are experienced athletes and coaches. Their coaching philosophy is through Kendo to help youth exploring their limitation in physical and mind. Through team works and various activities to develop and form his or her character.

Most of WKC members are university students and Kendo beginners. The WKC

is proud of her members can manage study, Kendo training and friendship very well.

### **Club History**

- 12 Aug. 1999, the third place team in the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Kendo World Cup came to visit the WKC. The vice president of All New Zealand Kendo Federation (NZKF) Ken Wells and members of the Auckland Kendo club also visited the WKC at the same day.
- 30 Aug. 1999, the WKC became the fifth club member of All New Zealand Kendo Federation.

### **Institution of the WKC**

President: Marleen Y. Charng

Treasurer/Secretary:

Wei (John) Lee

Coaches: Sam K. Tsai (4<sup>th</sup> Dan); Marleen Y. Charng (4<sup>th</sup> Dan)

### **Training Timetable**

Tuesdays, 6.00pm to 9.00pm @ Gym,  
The School of Education

Saturdays, 3.00pm to 5.00pm @ Mirror  
Room, The School of Education

### **Annual Training Camp**

Since most members are university

students and they are busy in the semester time, we have two training camps a year. The first training camp runs in the end of B semester. The second training camp runs before the beginning of A semester. Namely, the date of camp depends on the calendar of the University of Waikato. We welcome people from the world to join in our camp.

### **Policy of visiting**

WKC is proud of her friendly and enthusiastic atmosphere and would like to welcome all Kendoists come to train and to share their Kendo experiences with us. If you are planning to visit us, please send e-mail to Sam (kt16@waikato.ac.nz) to get the updated timetable. Thanks and welcome!

Sei To Ken Yu Kai  
Christchurch Kendo Club

The Sei Tou Ken Yu Kai was formed 13 years ago by Alex Bennett, following his 1 year Rotary Exchange to Chiba, Japan. Alex attended a Japanese high school, at which he began Kendo and reached the grade of 1<sup>st</sup> Dan. After he returned to Christchurch New Zealand, he made the decision to start one of the first ever Kendo clubs in New Zealand. With increasing interest among members, Alex went back and forwards to Japan to learn as much as he could about Kendo, in order to teach back home. The name of

the club "Sei Tou Ken Yu Kai", comes from the Chinese characters that made up the name of Alex's high school. Ruffly interpreted, the characters in the club's name refer to rice plants; When a rice plant is young it shoots up from the ground full of life, but as it gets older it appears to bow down and becomes humble.

**MEMBERS:** Currently we have 15 members attending trainings. With 4 Japanese, 5 Koreans and 6 Kiwis.

**DOJO & TRAINING TIMES:** At the moment we are in the process of moving into a building called Crichton Cobbers. It is place used by many other Martial Art clubs in Christchurch, and it will be nice to share a Dojo with people that share similar interests. At this stage we are only able to train once a week on Saturdays from 10am 'til 12 noon, but are looking forward to increasing that to 3 trainings as membership grows.

**FORMAT:** A Saturday training for us involves Kata for 30 minutes to 1 hour. And the remaining hour is Kihon, Jigeiko, and Kakarigeiko...we love Kakarigeiko! Instructors vary occasionally depending on what we want to cover. Etiquette is Miki Sato's (2<sup>nd</sup> Dan) forte, Karl Hitchcock (3<sup>rd</sup> Dan) takes Kihon and Kakarigeiko trainings...well come and see for yourselves!

**Contact:**

Blake Bennett 03-3859-223

kendobum@hotmail.com

Auckland Kendo Club

**Dojo address** 22 Mccoll St Newmarket  
Auckland

**Practice times**

***Monday***

5pm~6.15pm Kids Kendo (7years ~12 years)

6.30pm~7.30pm Kendo beginners

7.30pm~9pm Kendo seniors

***Wednesday***

6.30pm~7.30pm Kendo beginners

7.30pm~9pm Kendo seniors

***Thursday***

6.30pm~7.30pm Iaido

7.30pm~9pm Jodo

***Friday***

6.30am ~7.45am Kendo(any level)

**Instructors**

Graham Sayer- Kendo 6th Dan

Ken Wells- Kendo 5th Dan Iaido 3rd Dan

Jodo 1st Dan

Alan Stephenson- Kendo 5th Dan Iaido

3rd Dan Jodo 2nd Dan

Brent Hansen- Kendo 4th Dan Iaido 3rd

Dan Jodo 2nd Dan  
Kirk Doran-Kendo 4th Dan  
Paul Frazer- Kendo 3rd Dan

### Contacts

Graham Sayer 021 274 2415 email  
graham@saycoholdings.com  
Ken Wells 021 924 972 email  
kawells@clear.net.nz

## Hutt Kendo Club

The Hutt Kendo Club was opened at Naenae Primary School on May 4 this year.

Since then it has consolidated and now has 14 regular members. Ten members took a 'thelma and louise' trip in a mini van up to Auckland in August to participate in the Winter camp and declared it a great success. The club was presented to the AGM of the NZKF and accepted as a member.

Hutt has been forming an important relationship with its Sister City Minoh (near Osaka). The Mayor of Minoh, Mr Hataya, and his officials, have been trying to find bogu for the club and in July, a group of Minoh school students presented the Hutt with several bogu - several adult size and several for children.

Hutt, although a young club, was able to feature two teams for the Poneke Challenge. These were Sue Lytollis, Jason Wong and Martyn Walker and Charles Gillespie, Colin Daniel and Scott Duncan. Although knocked out in the first rounds, the two teams fought well and for most of them, gained their first formal shiai experience.

Two other members fought at poneke, Stephanie Roulieu (in the Kyu grade and women's divisions) and Dan Tate in the kyu grade and also as a last minute addition to the Auckland B team in the Teams Event. This was a great place for Dan, as he fought boldly with Ms Takagi and Mr Kaminohara to make it into the semi and then the finals. Auckland B then took this title in a fight out with the Auckland A team and Dan, after 5 months of kendo, took a gold medal (so you can imagine how happy he and the Hutt Kendo Club are).

Hutt Kendo Club meets on Wednesday evenings and has plans to meet two times a week in the new year - Monday and Wednesday. The club plans to attend the 10th anniversary camp of the Nelson Kendo Club in February and stage a 'cut-a-thon' fundraiser in the new year. Members welcome visitors so please pop up to the Hutt.

**email** [huttkendo@hotmail.com](mailto:huttkendo@hotmail.com)  
or call Liz or Sue 04 971 5080.