



# AUSTRALIAN KENDO RENMEI

*Kendo - Iaido - Jodo*

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## **PRESIDENTS REPORT TO NATIONAL COUNCIL DELEGATES and MEMBERS, FOR ACTIVITIES IN 2017.**

To be presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Kendo Renmei Incorporated, 30 March 2018 and to download [here](#).

Dear Delegates and Members,

I am happy to report to you below, on events and activities conducted, or facilitated by the Australian Kendo Renmei Incorporated, during the calendar year of 2017.

But first, I must mention that at the conclusion of this term of office, I will retire from the Executive Committee. While I was a very reluctant recruit, the former President and Founding Member, Ron Bennett eventually convinced me to join the AKR committee as Secretary, in 2000. I then served as Secretary for two, three year terms and as President for four, three year terms. I did my best to present and improve the harmony, operation, governance and reputation of the AKR during that time. I have also been extremely grateful to meet and train with many keen and dedicated members. Whenever I attend an event, I was and remain very happy to see many dedicated kendo, laido and Jodo people assembled to compete or learn.

I must thank every AKR affiliate member for their interest and support. Their support makes our federation stronger and able to do more for members every day while also making the efforts of volunteer administrators feel worthwhile.

There are many, many, people who I would like to personally thank for their support and help, but space only allows me to specifically mention a very few people here.

I must thank in particular, the late Ron Bennett a founder and multiple term President, mentor and a good friend; former VP, an Australian Women's Kendo Champion, adviser and counsel, Catherine Hallgath-Jolly; former Treasurer and later as a Kendo Board Chair, Khay-Lin Teoh; former Treasurer Andrew Tan; former VP Dean Hawthorn; Board Chairs – Yakov Macak for Kendo, Ramon Lawrence for laido and Jodo and Kevin Humphrey. I say a very special thank you to my current Executive Committee colleagues, the two term VP Joe Semmler; Secretary since 2009, Vivian Yung and to two term Treasurer Malcolm Martin. I must add that the working relationship with the retiring two term Chairperson of the Kendo Board, Brian Brestovac, has been particularly productive. Working together was a mutual aim and a pleasure. Together we had two major achievements. We negotiated to add an additional second day and also to add two extra Women's events to the Australian University Games kendo competition. We also achieved full cost retrieval for the event. Secondly, the Oceania Women's Kendo Seminar was an idea introduced by our women members. We realised that this was a great suggestion and were very keen to support the event model, which we hoped would lead to an increased unity amongst women members.

Thank you all and I look forward to seeing you in a dojo.

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### **MEMBERSHIP**

A separate membership report, prepared by Ms Vivian Yung, the AKR Secretary will be presented at the AKR 2018 AGM and is also available to download [here](#). In summary, the AKR experienced a membership drop from 1376 in 2016 to 1360 for 2017. Of interest, is that membership growth for females continued a trend of a higher percentage of membership retention. For 2017 that was 0.9% (11.4%), while the growth for male members was negative at -2.8% (8.4%). Overall, the membership proportions are - male 1024, 75.3% (1053, 76%) and female 336, 24.7% (333, 24.0%). This is another, albeit small, increase in the number of and proportion of women members.

Amongst our membership, we now have more who are quite senior grades. For example, AKR has seven Kendo 7<sup>th</sup> Dan sensei; three laido 7<sup>th</sup> Dan sensei and one Jodo 7<sup>th</sup> Dan sensei.

This is a sign of healthy skill development, member retention and growth.

### **FINANCES**

The AKR has separate finance accounts and budgets for each of - the Executive Committee, Kendo Board, laido Board, Jodo Board and the Australian laido and Jodo Championships event. The funds are intended to be used to achieve the plans of the Committee and Boards in support of the further development of our members' skills. At the AKR conference held in October, each entity is required to present an updated three year budget and activity plan for approval by National Council.

The activities of the AKR have produced regular financial surpluses, or profits, for well over thirteen years. This regularity of surpluses meant that AKR has accumulated significant savings.

The 2017 finance report will show that the AKR operations have been within our means.

At the time of writing, the AKR Finance Report for 2017 has been externally audited. The Auditors Report will be available for Delegates to consider at our Annual General Meeting on 30 March 2018. Copies will be available to members on request from state association or AKR secretaries.

#### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL and INSURANCE**

The AKR co-ordinated player accident, instructor liability and public liability insurance scheme continued for the eighth year. Since we introduced the national insurance scheme, the savings to members have been significant, with the 2011/12 premium alone producing a saving to members of \$11,000, compared what was paid in 2009. Those savings have all been received by the various state associations, which have contributed to their financial good health as well.

#### **EVENTS**

##### **26<sup>th</sup> AUSTRALIAN IAIDO CHAMPIONSHIPS and 17<sup>th</sup> AUSTRALIAN JODO CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Friday 17 to Monday 20 February – training in both Iaido and Jodo at Victoria University, Footscray Park Campus

As usual, this was the first AKR event for the year. Training was overseen by a Japanese delegation headed by Shigenori Namitome, Iaido and Jodo Kyoshi 8 Dan and Shiiya Mitsuo Kyoshi 7th Dan Iaido and Hanshi 8th Dan Jodo. With visitors Tetsuo Ohara, Mitsuhsa Higashi and Emiko YAGUCHI also providing instruction.

Australian sensei - Dr Ah Loi Lee, Iaido and Jodo Renshi 7 Dan, Tsukadaira Toshiaki, Iaido Renshi 7 Dan, Ramon Lawrence, Iaido Renshi 6 Dan and Janet Griffiths, Jodo Renshi 6 Dan also contributed to the teaching tasks for members.

##### **42<sup>nd</sup> AUSTRALIAN KENDO CHAMPIONSHIPS, GRADING and SEMINAR. 3 – 8 April 2017.**



Venue: David Cocking Sport and Recreation Centre  
Australian National University.

The AKR Kendo Board and the All Japan Kendo Federation jointly funded the attendance of Tsuneshi OKAJIMA, Kendo Kyoshi 8 Dan and Shigehiro IIDA sensei, Kendo Kyoshi 8 Dan. Masayuki MIYAZAKA, Kendo Kyoshi 7<sup>th</sup> Dan a Founding Member of the ANU Kendo Club and now a Director of the FIK, also attended. With the excellent instruction from Okajima sensei and Iida sensei, the inclusion of Miyasaka sensei was a great bonus.

The Championships were well attended as usual, with over 110 members competing. At the following two day seminar, provided excellent instruction to more than 55 trainees. The Championships Results are [here](#). The last remaining event was a Kendo Dan Exam for 1-5<sup>th</sup> Dan. The exam attracted 35 applicants. The exam also was a test run of a new and improved format to manage the exam and applicant movements in the dojo.

##### **5<sup>th</sup> OCEANIA WOMEN'S KENDO SEMINAR and TAIKAI, 2017.**



The 5th Oceania Women's Kendo Seminar & Taikai 2017 was held on Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 July 2017, in Sydney, NSW.



AKR women sensei were entirely responsible for instruction at the 5<sup>th</sup> women's event, which was attended by women kendoka from Australia and New Zealand. Thanks in particular to Hayami Aboutaleb, Kate Sylvester and Vivian Yung for their advance work and instruction.

##### **AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY GAMES KENDO COMPETITION**

Saturday and Sunday 23 and 24 September, 2017.

Venue: Carrara Stadium, Nerang Broadbeach Rd, Carrara, Queensland.



The Kendo Competition was the first major event in the 2017 UniGames and was again very well supported by an increasing number of university kendoka.

The AKR Kendo Board supported the event by facilitating the attendance of Australian sensei and senior members for shinpan and other duties. Some AKR Kendo Board funds were budgeted to assist with transport and accommodation. If required.

The overall winner was University of Sydney, 21 points. Second, the University of Technology Sydney, 10 points. Third, The University of Melbourne and Monash University, both with 3 points. Full results of the 2017 event are [here](#).

#### **OVERSEAS ACTIVITIES**

The FIK usually conducts an Asia-Zone Kendo Referee Seminar or occasionally two in each calendar year.

18 and 19 February 2017 was the first, conducted at Lei Yue Mun Sports Centre in Kowloon, Hong Kong.

The Instructors were - Mr. Yuji NAKATA, Kendo Hanshi 8 Dan; Mr. Kunihiko TERASAKI, Kendo Hanshi 8 Dan; Mr. Yasuo SUZUKI, Kendo Hanshi 8 Dan.

101 trainees from 9 countries attended the February seminar.



A second seminar was held on October 27 - 29 at Incheon, South Korea. The Instructors appointed by the FIK were - Mr. Masami MATSUNAGA, Kendo Hanshi 8 dan, FIK Vice-President; Mr. Takao FUJIWARA, Kendo Hanshi 8 Dan and Mr. Kazushi MIYAKE, Kendo Hanshi 8 Dan.



65 trainees from 7 countries, attended.

For both FIK Seminars, many of the Australian members who attended received a supportive subsidy from AKR Kendo Board funds.

### ALL JAPAN KENDO FEDERATION FOREIGN KENDO LEADERS' SUMMER SEMINAR

The 44th Foreign Kendo leaders' summer seminar was held in Kitamoto City in Saitama prefecture, 21 -28 July 2017.



62 Kendo leaders from 45 FIK affiliated organizations attended.

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

each country. The AKR members selected to attend were Vivian Yung and Bernard Yehuda.

A subsidy from the AKR Kendo Board and was provided to assist them with the costs to attend.

The AJKF provide a local travel supplement and all accommodation needs for the duration of the seminar.

### EXAMS IN JAPAN and 2017 SHOGO and DAN AWARDS

During the calendar year of 2017, there were over forty applications made by AKR members be examined in Japan and other overseas countries for Kendo, Iaido or Jodo, from 1<sup>st</sup>kyu to 7<sup>th</sup> Dan.

Some of the successful members were –

Clement Guo, Kendo 4 Dan; Daniel Strenger, Kendo 6 Dan; Arpad Maksay, Kendo 6 Dan; Peter Woolmer, Jodo 5 Dan; Ramon Lawrence, Jodo 6 Dan; Russell Lawrence, Jodo 6 Dan; Christina Trevillion, Iaido 5 Dan; Douglas Trevillion, Iaido 5 Dan.

Congratulations to all!

### AKR TEAM FOR THE 17th WORLD KENDO CHAMPIOSHIPS



Team selection was held 2-3 September 2017 in Melbourne. Aspirants were invited and travelled from Darwin, Sydney, Cairns, Adelaide, Perth and Kumamoto in Japan!

Whilst all squad members attending showed a very high level of commitment, enthusiasm and skill, only seven women and seven men could be selected.

Dr Brian Brestovac, the AKR Kendo Board Chairman announced the selection of the Australian Kendo Teams.

#### WOMEN

Vivian Yung (NSW), Captain  
Daseul Chun (NSW), Vice Captain  
Julie Feng (NSW)  
Jenny Song (NSW)  
Alexandra Paukovits (QLD)  
Bonnie Lai (NSW)  
Dale Padoin (QLD)

#### MEN

Taek Yang (NSW), Captain  
Dwight Park (NSW), Vice Captain  
Duy Pham (NSW)  
Luke Lee (NSW)  
Kelvin Tran (NSW)  
Trent Reeve (VIC)  
Richard T'en (VIC)

Congratulations to all of the members selected and best wishes for the big event in Incheon, South Korea in September 2018.

The Team Coaching and management are –  
Coach: Kate Sylvester; Assistant Coach: Daniel Jeong;  
Manager: Rob Reid; Assistant Manager: YaYa Bonggotgetsakul.

### EXAMS IN AUSTRALIA

It is a continuing challenge for AKR to be able to assemble panels for an examination above 4 Dan. The AJKF also have a

strong view that, particularly for 6 Dan and above, such grades should be only examined for in Japan. So even with their support, AKR may not be able to examine for 5 and 6 Dan as frequently as we would like. We ask for members understanding on this issue.

**SOCIAL MEDIA**



AKR has a website plus a presence on facebook, instagram and twitter. These are used for immediate updates of competition results and to promote kendo, iaido and jodo in Australia. AKR Announcements usually quickly also appear on the above social media.

**SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS**

- [kendoaustralia.asn.au](http://kendoaustralia.asn.au)
- [facebook.com/KendoAustralia](https://facebook.com/KendoAustralia) & [facebook.com/akrteam](https://facebook.com/akrteam)
- [twitter.com/AustralianKendo](https://twitter.com/AustralianKendo) user [@AustralianKendo](https://twitter.com/AustralianKendo)
- [instagram.com/akrkendoteam/](https://instagram.com/akrkendoteam/)

**WEB BASED TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS**

The AKR has virtually all of our archives and records stored on a web server. All policy documents are also accessible on the AKR website. Our other records are behind a password protected entry, but are generally available to any member. Your State Secretary will be able to either provide the information that you seek or advise how you can access them.

Managing membership and monitoring members eligibility is an increasing challenge. To address that we actively research and trial various web based options for membership management and related tasks.

All our keeping of finance accounts is facilitated on xero, a cloud based accounting system.

**AKR NATIONAL COUNCIL**

The governing body of the AKR is National Council, the members of which include the four Executive Officers, plus a Delegate from each state and each of the Kendo, Iaido and Jodo Boards.

While the Executive, Board Chairpersons and Delegates are in contact frequently on various issues, we also meet formally twice a year.

Our 2017 Annual General Meeting was held by teleconference on 6 April 2017 and the annual AKR National Conference and General Meeting of National Council was held on Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 October 2017 in Sydney, NSW.

With policy and constitution reviews and a review of the function of the three art Boards; a focus of the 2017 meeting was to listen and to think about ideas for the future. One of the most exciting topics that was discussed was the prospect of national level kendo competition for junior members. National Council decided to trial a Juniors Kendo Competition to be conducted as part of the competition programme for the 43<sup>rd</sup> Australian Kendo Championships, due to be held in Sydney from 31 March 2018.

A copy of the minutes of any meeting is available on request from your State Secretary.

**CONCLUSION**

I would like to thank the various AKC, OWKS, AIJSC and AUG Championship and events organising committees, for their dedicated and generous donation of their time and energy to achieve an excellent series of events in 2017. I would also like to thank all Delegates and members of the AKR National Council for their input, suggestions and efforts to improve the activities of kendo, iaido and jodo in Australia during 2017 and previous years.

Integral to the activities of the AKR is the Kendo, Iaido and Jodo Boards. I would like to thank the Board members for their contributions.

Lastly, I would like to sincerely thank my colleagues, Vice-President Joe Semmler; Secretary Vivian Yung and Treasurer Malcolm Martin for their contributions, which are highly valued and appreciated.

All the above named are diligent and work very hard in their spare time, solely to improve the opportunity for our members.



*Richard Ward*

Richard Ward  
President  
30 March 2018