



# AUSTRALIAN KENDO RENMEI

ACN: 062 504 778

ABN: 66 064 550 279

*Kendo - Iaido - Jodo*

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2021

I am pleased to present the Annual President's Report to the 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM). As I am unable to continue in my role on the National Executive (NE) due to family and work commitments, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the rest of the National Executive team for their efforts and support over these past three years. The past two years have been a difficult time, not only because of Covid, but also because of several issues within our organisation which required a lot of energy and time, making it difficult to realise some of the goals set by the present NE.

An overview of the achievements and events of the Australian Kendo Renmei (AKR) 2018 to 2021 follows:

- 1) 2018 World Kendo Championships – The AKR Women's Team came third. A big thanks to the Coaching/Management team and to all the competitors. Having the opportunity to observe our Men and Women compete was an eye-opener, and can attest to that the level of Australian Kendo is on a par with the rest of the world.
- 2) 2019 – The Australian Iaido and Jodo Seminar and Championship (AIJSC) was held in Tasmania at the Moonah Sports Centre, Moonah in January 2019, with approximately 50 members attending. The numbers, although low, are steady and both the Iaido Board and the Jodo Board are looking at ways to improve attendance and participation.
- 3) 2019 – The Australian Kendo Championships and Seminar (AKC) held in Western Australia in April 2019 at the Leisurelife Centre, East Victoria Park with 123 competitors attending for the competition and approximately 70 attendees. These are some of the best numbers for this event being held in Western Australia.
- 4) 2018-2019 – Several interstate Jodo seminars held during these years were successfully held and, given the number of members who practise this art were well-attended averaging around 20 members per seminar.
- 5) 2019 – Unisport Nationals Division 1 held in Queensland. Although not an AKR event, this has been a welcome event to allow all AKR University members to compete where some would otherwise not be eligible to be included in the AKR National events due to their citizenship status.
- 6) 2019 – Australian Masters Games held in South Australia. The first time that the AKR was invited to participate. This event was not only well-organised thanks to the efforts of the South Australia Kendo Association, but also well-received by the participants with many positive comments and that it could replace the Australian Kendo Championships Veterans' Event, albeit that it is held every two years.



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The advent of Covid and accompanying restrictions forced the decision to postpone and finally cancel all AKR events for 2020 and 2021. It looks likely that the AKC will be cancelled for 2022 as there is still great uncertainty regarding the opening of State and Territory borders regardless of the Federal Government's stance, and unless agreement can be reached to change the traditional date and format of this event this event looks likely to not go ahead.

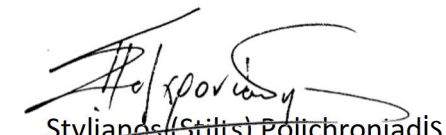
The Iaido and the Jodo Boards decided to separate the Australian Iaido and Jodo events this year, which now affords the AKR the opportunity to investigate the possibility of getting authorised All Japan Kendo Federation (AJKF) delegates to come to Australia. The AKR will need to clarify the AJKF's position on this.

There was a dip in membership numbers in 2020, but it seems that there is a rebound and there is a healthy trend in these numbers increasing. I expect and hope that this trend will continue, but it is up to us to nurture this from now and into the future.

In order to do this, I believe that the organisation, as a whole, needs to undergo a paradigm shift so that the members are aware that, although fundamentally we are practising Japanese Martial Arts based on the customs and precepts of Japan, there is a difference between the way that Dojos run (notwithstanding requirements of Australian Law, State and Federal) and the way that the organisation operates. I also believe that this would give members ownership of the organisation and would allow it to tap into the talent, knowledge and expertise which is available to the AKR via its members. This will allow the organisation to not only improve, but also to be seen as organisation which is up-to-date with modern practices. The flow-on effect could only have a positive affect on the organisation and the manner in which it is viewed by others.

In conclusion, I would again like to express my deepest gratitude to the NE team for the past three years' efforts, including Vivian who still looks after the registrations.

I wish the incoming committee all the best in the time to come.



Stylianos (Stilts) Polichroniadis  
President (2018~2021)  
Australian Kendo Remei Inc.