



AAMA

Otagai Ni!



AAMA

Newsletter of the Australian Academy of Martial Arts Pty Ltd (AAMA)

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*An Affiliate of the Australian Karate Federation (AKF) and International Karate-Do Shobukai (IKS) Japan
Dojo - Cnr Stackpole Street and Mt Gravatt Capalaba Rd, Wishart, 4122*

The AAMA is the Technical Advisor to: Kazenkan Karate-Do - West Logan
Kodokan Karate-Do - Alexandra Hills
West Moreton Academy of Martial Arts - Redbank

March 2004, Volume 1; Edition 1

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2004 and what a wonderful, exciting and huge start to the year we have had! This newsletter will keep you updated with past events and fun that was had by all, articles of interest to our club members in tournaments, social events, member achievements and much, much more!

For our club members, family and friends, this newsletter has been 'revamped' and renamed to mirror this letter's mission! 'Otagai Ni' is a Japanese phrase that all members hear each time a karate class is attended! During our ceremony, the last command is 'Otagai Ni Rei'. It means 'Together'. This newsletter will bring our karate community together that little bit more keeping you updated and keeping our Karate spirit growing, together!

There are many exciting events to speak of in this March Edition! Please enjoy March's 'Otagai Ni'!

Bryony Keleher

(Editor)

... In this edition! ...

- Club Committee Introductions
- Success Breeds Success
- Christmas Party Praises
- Kagami Baraki Celebrations
- Childrens' Amusement Night
- Kumite Plus!
- Welcome Note to New Students
- Member of the Month
- AAMA Merchandises
- Text of The Month:
Poem - "Slow Dance" ~Author Unknown
- Website Wonders
- Personal Detail Forms
- Annual Calendar
- Branch Reports:
- West Moreton
- Kodokan Karate-Do, Alex Hills
- Sensei Keleher's Word
- Newsletter Articles
- Contact Details

Club Committee

Each year our club holds numerous social and other events for the benefits of members. To name a few there was the Adult and Children's Christmas parties, Sensei FUJIMOTO (Sensei KELEHER's Teacher) and his members' visit to our dojo, monthly barbeque's, battle of the sexes ten pin bowling night etc.

The club committee works so effortlessly towards the enjoyment of our members. Thanks for doing such a great job; we all appreciate your dedication to our club and we wish you every success in your endeavours!

President

Bruce Lynch

Vice President

Vesa Pekkarinen

Secretary

Sherryl Musch

Treasurer

Alan Burnett

Other Committee Members:

Karyn Allen
Lesley Bowden
Michelle Exton
Judith Macey
Annette Pekkarinen
Kimberley Ries

Success Breeds Success!

Like Rolls Royce's tag says, "Success Breeds Success"!

Did you know that the majority of our instructors have represented *Queensland* and/or *Australia*?

Success in 2004 is assured from this analogy if you consider that in 2003:

The AAMA were AKF Q Club Champions!

Our Chief Instructor, **Graham KELEHER**, was 2003 **Karate Coach of the year!**

Our member, **Zac NATH**, represented Australia and won Bronze in the Kumite Event at the Malaysian Championships!

Andrew CARR won a National Gold Medal in the Australian Junior Kumite Event!

And how can we forget Sempai Murry BURROW's, coaching his Laidley State High School team to win Gold Medal at the 2003 Queensland A.K.F School Championships?

There were many other members that won medals at State and National Championships to compliment the above performances!

Congratulations to all for their efforts in 2003 and let us trust the above, *'Success Breeds Success!'*

Adult Christmas Party

The music started... the crowd grew.. Exquisite food emerged and the games began! The Sunnybank Hotel was home to our Christmas Party on Friday 12 December, 2003 and will be memorable in the most delicious of ways.

Some may remember hustling around taking pictures of other tables' answers for tests and SWEAR it's not cheating! Many will remember spontaneous dancing on our designated dancing, carpet spaces and all will remember Sensei Graham Keleher, Bob Scott and Glenn Irvine's cross dressing game – all thanks to Karyn and Michelle's "Kinky Games"... VERY stunning! ☺

This night was yet another successful, fun and exciting party for 2003!

Find photos on our Website!
www.aama.com.au ☺

Kids' Christmas Party

The Kids' Christmas Party was a great day for those who attended on Saturday 6, December, 2003 at "The Plantation" in Gumdale.

Many can not remember a Kids' Christmas Party that involved rain; Unfortunately, the rain came helping many to miss a great day; however, there wasn't much rain and what there was the kids did not notice and were still as persistent and impatient to get inside and swim like every year at the water plantation! ☺

Kagami Baraki Celebrations

- First Training Session Of The Year

January 7th, 2004, was the day for AAMA's "Kagami Baraki", which we were all overjoyed to celebrate together as the first training session of the year.

All students persevered through the class filled with plenty of group engagement, enthusiasm and spirit.

As a great reward towards ourselves and each other, a relaxed post "Kagami Baraki" barbeque took place! ☺

For the full article and PICTURES, visit our website: www.aama.com.au

Children's Amusement Night

Our first social event for our AAMA children went off with a blast!

"Challenging yet rewarding" are our words of summary! 43 kids in total attended the 3 ½ hour event on the VERY hot and humid St Valentine's night (14/2/04).

Students aged between 5 and 13 attended the event and all left satisfied, enjoying and having fun playing group games!

Visit our website to see pictures of the Kids having fun!

www.aama.com.au

Kumite Plus

Kumite Plus went off with a tremendous bang on Saturday 29th February, 2004 at Sempai Murry BURROW's Redbank Dojo with furious matches and spirited celebrations.

Congratulations to Murry and members of West Moreton Academy of Martial Arts on the occasion of their 10th year Formation Celebration!

For the full story and pictures.. Visit our website in the 'Sports Karate and Self Defence' section!

Welcome! Welcome! Welcome!

The majority of people who are attracted to the discipline, do so because they have a strong, deeply felt, motivation to improve themselves, mentally, physically and spiritually. They often have an intuitive sense that the martial arts offer far more than just a physical pastime or fitness activity. I believe that it is the unique combination of self-improvement, exciting physical activity and attention to mental qualities that makes the martial arts so attractive and so fulfilling; additionally, there is the very important life skill of Self Defence.

We have been given a body, a mind and a spirit. The martial arts are a vehicle to learn and grow in all these areas. Every time you move your body, you also move your mind and spirit. Every physical quality has its mental counterpart. That is why there are mental "diamonds" to be found on the way to being a black belt, physical/mental insights and ideas that I hope will strike a chord with you and be of enduring value to you personally, like it has been with current and past students at AAMA!

Welcome to our club and each member along with the AAMA staff wish you well on your new journey towards becoming a black belt!

New Members in 2004:

(at time of printing)

Children

AKERS, Jessica
ALLEN, Chantelle
BATCH, Damien
BATCH, Matthew
MOORE, Josh
PHILLIPS, Jack
PHILLIPS, Tom
SCODELLARO, Anthony
SCODELLARO, Christopher
SCODELLARO, Michael
TALJAARD, Johan
TIERNEY, Lewis
WILDMAN, Alex

Adults

ALINCIC, Tanya
BRADFORD, Kirsty
BROKEN-BROW, Julie (Bayside)
CARRIGG, Renae (Bayside)
DOIG, Andrew
HALL, Kirsty
HORN, Tony
MITCHELL, Lloyd
SMITH, Tony
WILLIAMS, Danica

Member of the Month

Each month, 'Otagai Ni' will 'star' our member of the month! The member may contribute some thing special to our club during this time or has had an all over commitment or specific commitment to the Australian Academy of Martial Arts!

Sensei FUJIMOTO, our world head, always says "The most important quality of a Karate student is his/her commitment to training." It is with this in mind that...

January's member of the month is **Rolando Manoy!** During the month of January, not to mention his training from his commencement at our club, Rolando trains with perseverance, dedication and determination. While having the capability to remember information given in class and answer questions asked of him, he is always inquisitive asking questions to satisfy curiosity.

Many questions Rolando asks are beyond his grade at the club (6th

Kyu - Green belt). He is also congratulated on being assertive when asking these questions! Well done, Rolando - Continue to persevere on your rewarding journey to black belt!



AAMA Merchandises

Are you proud to be a member of the AAMA? Be ready to show your pride! New AAMA Merchandises will be in stock soon!

Order forms will be out in the near future for Track suits, polo shirts, carry bags etc!

Text of the Month

Slow Dance

Have you ever watched kids on a merry-go-round
or listened to rain slapping the ground?

Ever followed a butterfly's erratic flight, or gazed at the sun fading into night?

You better slow down; don't dance so fast; time is short; the music won't last.

Do you run through each day on the fly?

When you ask, "How are you?" do you hear the reply?

When the day is done, do you lie in your bed, with the next 100 chores in mind?

You better slow down; don't dance so fast; time is short; the music won't last.

Ever told your child, we'll do it tomorrow,
And in your haste, not seen his sorrow?

Ever lost touch and let a good friendship die, 'cause you never had time to call and say "hi"?
You better slow down; don't dance so fast; time is short; the music won't last.

When you run so fast to get somewhere, do
You miss the fun of getting there?
When you worry and hurry through your day, it is like an unopened gift thrown away.
Life is not a race, so take it slower, and hear the music before the song is over!

~Author Unknown

Website Wonders

Our club website is frequently updated and contains much information relevant to each member of AAMA!

Why not hop online and check out articles and photos from the Christmas parties, Kagami Baraki and our Kids' Amusement Night!

Did you know we also conduct self defence classes in schools? Check out our photos from our Corinda State High School Self Defence Workshop! This workshop has been running for the past 8 years and has become very interactive educating students on becoming more assertive, confident and trusting of their instincts!

We were also active in Moreton Bay College (Wynnum West) and Carmel College (Birkdale).

All can be found at our website: www.aama.com.au !!

Personal Detail Forms

All members are urgently requested to submit their 'Personal Information Forms' if they have not done so. We intend to communicate to you, in the main, by email, which will enable us to update you quickly when necessary.

We do not want you to be missed on our mailing list so please attend to this important request immediately. Please complete the form online or obtain one from the office at the Club and return as soon as possible. Also please notify us promptly if your email address is changed!

Annual Calendar

-Key Events-

- * CPR/1st Aid Course
- * Children's Video Night
- * AKF Q Open Karate Championships
- * AAMA Karate Kid Tournament* Adult Match Practice
- * Adult Social Dinner
- * Adult and Senior Children's Kumite Camp
- * Altered training timetable during Children's holidays

See the Calendar of events on our website – print your own copy for your ready reference!
(www.aama.com.au)!

BRANCH REPORTS

The West Moreton Academy of Martial Arts (WAMA) Report

I would like to start off this report with a big thank you to all the members from other branches and Honbu Dojo for participating at our recent **Kumite plus** event. I would also like to once again thank Sensei's Keleher and Hamilton for the big effort they put into instructing at this event. I think a great time was had by all and it left us waiting impatiently for the AAMA Kumite camp to renew acquaintances and continue the great training.

It is hard to believe that we have just past our 10 year mile stone. We started with just one adult member, a red belt and five in children's class (3 of these were Burrows girls). Now 10 years later we regularly train with classes of 20 to 30, 11 of these being black belt. Over the years there have been many milestones, 4 different halls, the start of the first Karate course in a senior high school curriculum and over the 10 years

there have been 20 West Moreton students graded to Black belt. Yet I am happy to report that I still get the same thrill now as when I taught my first lesson, and I am just as excited about training, under Sensei Keleher, as I was when I started with him at Ipswich. I suppose that is the true beauty of Karate that one just keeps on training, never reaching an end only hoping to understand more each time you train.

- Murry Burrows, West Moreton

The Kodomon Karate Do, Bayside Report

Hello to everyone from the members of the Kodokan Dojo –Bayside! We have a number of exciting events happening this year.

First of all, we are going to build a Dojo on Finucane Road this year, and all the members are excited with the news! This will mean we will also be increasing our training nights from two to four nights each week. Watch this spot, or check out our website on kodomon.com.au for news on the construction. All things going to plan, the Dojo should be constructed by November this year, and we will be leaving the Church Hall after seven years there.

We will also be holding our Annual Training Camp for the Kodokan Dojo in October at the Ewan Maddock Dam Camping Site near Landsborough. Each year we have an exciting event on the Sunday of the camp. In previous years we have had a flying fox, high ropes, a giant slingshot, and a rope swing. All run by qualified YMCA Instructors. We've found it adds a nice adrenaline rush at the end of each camp!

This year we would like to extend our invitation to other members of the AAMA Karate-Do Club and look forward to anyone who would like to attend. The camp will be held on the weekend of October 8th through 10th. Please see Glenn Irvine on glenn.irvine@kodomon.com.au or on mobile 0401 989 587 if you are interested.

Also congratulations to our two recent Shodan Grading recipients late last year! Both from the same family – Martin and Jacob Hinchy. A great result for both, and a testament to family training. Father and Son (and younger daughter Ashleigh) have been training at the Dojo since early 1998.

- Glenn Irvine, Kodomon Karate-Do

Sensei Keleher's Word

(Sensei's word on this occasion is very short and sincere)

“He climbs highest who helps another up’.

It is my promise that I will do everything possible to assist you to attain black belt with its many rewards.”

Graham KELEHER

Newsletter Articles

You have the STORIES, GOSSIP, INFO on PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS, and UPCOMING EVENTS, which we need for our newsletter!

You can assist in making this newsletter a sought after, priceless source of updated information for our karate community!

Please assist by having final submissions for the next edition of Otagai Ni in by **Saturday 10 April**.

Please Contact me regarding articles for our next Edition and enjoy perusing our website!

Bryony KELEHER

Contact Details

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