



Inside this issue:

Japan visit	1
Training requirements	1
Kobudo class	1
Japan trip	1

Hello members,

Welcome to all of our new members in 2012!

This year has started fast and has not slowed for our club, we have seen a rise in new members, this is always a good thing. In less than a week our team will be in Japan for some sight seeing and a week of training at the Meibukan Hombu Dojo in Okinawa and also a day of training with the worlds foremost expert on Karate/Kobudo and owner of the Karate Museum, 10th Dan Hokama Hanshi. Our team should bring back a wealth of knowledge and new techniques to share with the club.

While we are away the Wednesday class at Glendenning will be the ONLY class running, since the next grading is getting very close (5th May) it is highly recommended that all of our members attend this class during that time! The instructors teaching that class represent me personally, they should be afforded every respect as if I was there!

Purple belt and above NOTE - the Saturday advanced class is compulsory for ALL purple belt and higher, if a student does not attend these classes then they **WILL NOT** be allowed to grade! Your instructors invest a lot of personal time for these classes, not turning up to them is a show of disrespect to them. If you do not turn up to your required classes, do not ask for extra time from your instructor to catch you up, If you have not learnt something and are struggling then you should arrange a private lesson (Rate is \$60 per hour). If any student does not meet the minimum requirements for grading (attendance, improvement, tournaments etc) then they also will NOT be invited to grade. Remember, do not ask to grade, you will be automatically refused! Any student not training

regular classes will not be allowed to enter tournaments for safety reasons. If you are 7th Kyu and above and are not permitted to enter tournaments then you will not be permitted to grade until you attendance improves and you meet the minimum requirements.

Remember, brown belts and above are require to know some Meibukan Kata and some weapons Kata, there is no excuse for not knowing these.

This year we will be trialing an open grading in late August, this means all students will be given a form for the grading, you will be allowed to attend the grading and try out without the approval of your instructor. Be aware that if you fail the grading there will be only a 50% refund of the fee.

As a student, you will know if you are ready and have been training on a regular basis and meet the usual criteria to grade..

A Blackbelt is a white belt that never gave up!

We have had a **Kobudo (weapons) class** running each Wednesday at 5:30pm since 2nd term of 2011, this class is for any graded student 8th Kyu or higher, it explores the use of Sai, Bo, Boken basics and kata. Places are limited and no new students will be accepted to the class after week two of any term as it is too hard to catch up. Classes are \$5.00 each and must be paid by term in full prior to the term starting. Later this class will explore the Katana (sword) as an extension of the Boken component. Note that this class does not contribute towards the Karate grading's until the student reaches Brown belt (3rd Kyu) therefore it is advantageous for all 3rd Kyu and above to participate in this class. For orange to purple belts this is an excellent way to get head start on your Brown belt criteria. (hint: From 2012, no student will be able to grade for Brown belt or higher without knowing their Meibukan and weapons component's.)

We recently attended the Blacktown City Sports awards, among hundreds of sports persons. Max Walker was the guest speaker for the night. The atmosphere was electric and everybody was very friendly. Although we did not win, we had a great night with great company and a first class three course meal, we represented our club with pride. Congratulations everybody, your all champions.

Most of our member should have seen the latest **Risk Assessments**, these are always included with newsletters and are soon to be posted on our website. These Assessments are to be read and understood by all members as it is a condition of membership.

Remember that term and monthly **fees** are available, they make classes cheaper and choosing this method of payment allows you not to worry about fining that fee each week.

***From March 1st 2012 your yearly **memberships MUST BE PAID BEFORE THEY EXPIRE**, all graded students will have their anniversary date on their grading card if they do not have a membership card. If you are not a current financial member then you will not be allowed to train. This is to cover you, the instructors and the club from any legal liability.

The first tournament of the year will be held at Picton on Sunday 22nd April, forms will be given out as soon as they are available.

I am in negotiations to have our annual tournament become a part of the Blacktown City Games in 2012, if this happens it will mean great exposure for us and more support from Blacktown Council and local businesses. I will keep everybody informed.

We will be performing a demonstration at the Glendenning Neighbourhood Centre Open day in 6th May, any members interested in doing what would be basically a 20 minute class please register their interest with their instructor, the sooner we have numbers the sooner we can put it together and get some practice in.

Facebook and email - If you want the latest information, ensure you are a member of our Facebook page, this is our first priority when getting information out, email is a lower priority as we have trouble with people changing their email addresses all of the time, it got so bad with returned emails last year that I was blocked by Yahoo as they thought I was spamming. SMS is a last resort, again this list is way too hard to keep updated.

We will not chase members to ensure they have the latest information, please ensure you subscribe.

Also note that newsletters will not be printed, we only email them and post them on the website.

The club calendar is attached to this newsletter, any changes will be posted on Facebook and the next newsletter.

The club camp form is also attached, again it will be first in that secures their place. The end of year grading will be held at the camp, you have two options if you wish to grade, weekend stay or day visit. Note that there is a fee for parents/friends attending for the grading day. This is a required fee from Bluegum Lodge.