

# Kyoukei Goju Ryu Karate

## The Kicker



2012 #2

Glendenning, Quakers Hill, Ropes  
Crossing & Hassall Grove Dojo's

[www.kyoukeikarate.com](http://www.kyoukeikarate.com)

Hello members,

Firstly, A very big congratulations to Elicia and Aaron on the birth of their son Zac, both Elicia and Zac are doing well and are now home.

Also, welcome to our newest members.

2012 has been the busiest year on record for our club, it started with our **trip to Japan**, our members and their families started their trip in Osaka, where we stayed at the New Osaka Hotel, we marveled at the amount of drink vending machines that were absolutely everywhere.



We visited Universal studios, the 2 hour wait to get in was phenomenal, the massive amount of people there blew us away, and that was a weekday. Ride waiting times were 2 hours, and I lined up for 1 hour just for popcorn.

The weather was cold in Osaka, not snowing, but it must have been very close.

We also visited Osaka Castle, a massive impenetrable fortress, the walls were massive and we wondered how the warriors ever managed to gain entry with the huge moats and tall walls while donning heavy armor and weapons?



While visiting Osaka Castle we stumbled upon what appeared to be a Judo grading at the Jundokan right outside the front entrance of the castle. After our tour of the castle everybody stopped for lunch nearby, most enjoyed some variety of Squid, I had omelet squid and instantly became of all things strange, it was one of the nicest meals I had on the trip, all of the food was great!



While in Osaka we visited the Pokémon Centre, this place was huge and was packed full of Pokémon toys and people.

The third day, and it was time to leave for Okinawa, a short plane ride and we finally arrived to the home of Karate, this was the place all forms of Karate originate from regardless of style.

After a good night sleep we started the day with a 2 hour training session on the grass area outside of the hotel we stayed at. Then off to the main shopping district to see what was available, very touristy, snakes in sake, kimonos, food and so on.

That night was our first session at the Hombu Dojo, we all felt like white belts again, what a great feeling! In all we spent four nights there training, one night Master Yagi paid us a visit, sat on his chair and directed the "Australians" to individually perform various Kata starting at the beginning with Gekisai Ichi and finishing with me doing Sesun, an advanced Black belt Kata. I do believe that they were all impressed by our showing of traditional kata.



One of the fun highlights of the training in Hombu Dojo was Guy (trained two nights with the adults classes) who was taken aside by Akihito Yagi Kyoshi, now the Head of Meibukan, he actually taught Guy how to Kick properly and even do Mawashiuke block (not easy to learn).

We were lucky enough to be able to train with a living Karate legend, Tetsuhiro Hokama Hanshi (10th Dan), we did a full day of training in two sessions, this was without a doubt the hardest training session any of us had done, nobody escaped the bruises or blood, it was a day we will never forget. As luck would have it Hokama Hanshi is visiting Australia in September this year, we have been invited to participate in his seminars, our group (so far about 20 members) will be attending the Friday seminar.



While in Okinawa we visited a lot of Karate related sites, tombs and shrines on our Karate tour with Hokama Hanshi. We also spent a full day at Shuri Castle.

One of our free nights in Okinawa saw our entire group as the guests of the Yagi Family to dinner at a nice family restaurant, then after dinner Sensei Scott and myself were taken out for coffee and then to a Karaoke bar (near our Hotel), by Master Yagi and Akihito Kyoshi, we talked about club business and were entertained by Master Yagi's excellent Karaoke

singing (in four languages).

It was then time to return to Osaka, we visited the Kaiyukan, one of the world's largest aquariums, after that the group split into two and half returned to the hotel and the rest went to Namba, the technology district, this place was an eye opener. The rest of the group met us later for dinner and we walked through the Namba markets, we walked past three subway stations and we still couldn't see the end, this place was massive!



The last trip on this visit was to Kyoto, Sensei Scott led this and all had a great day.

We enjoyed it so much that there are already plans for another visit in September School holidays (2013), so far there are around 25 expressing interest in going, please see your instructor if you wish to come along, family members are welcome.

April saw us enter a team in the Sanchinkai **tournament in Picton**, we came away with 1<sup>st</sup> – 5, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5 well done everybody.

May saw our first **grading** for the year with impressive results, well done to those that passed, keep up the good work, hard training and high standard.

We also attending the **Glendenning Open day**, our members performed a demo and late in the month our club was a part of the Blacktown City Games and marched in the Parade (the Only Karate/Martial arts club to do so). Both of these events helped to raise our clubs profile. I want to personally thank those members that made the effort to come along and help out at the stalls and even to just say high.

We are performing a demo on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August at the new Community Centre at **Stonecutters Ridge**, on site at the new Greg Norman Golf course, the demo will run from 12:15pm to 12:45pm, those interested should accept the invite on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/events/299199203509834/> we will also be starting a new class at this location in the near future, (Thursdays 4:30pm-6:30pm).

At the start of June we held our annual **movie night** fundraiser, it was a bit disappointing to see the low participation rate, but those that did attend had a great time, congratulations to the raffle winners. The Ice cream and tiramisu was a nice addition. Again, thanks to DJ Dave for you support on the night. Anybody wanting a great DJ for a party, we highly recommend DJ Dave. Contact us for details or find him on Facebook as our friend.

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.

**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).

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

**Weapons class:** Those wanting to attend this class must register with Sensei Marty before the start of each school term, and the full term of fees must be paid in advance for this class. Term 3 fee is \$60pp, this is for 12 weeks.

Forms for the upcoming **Fushichou tournament** on July 29th are included with this email or available from your instructor, please get this in ASAP.

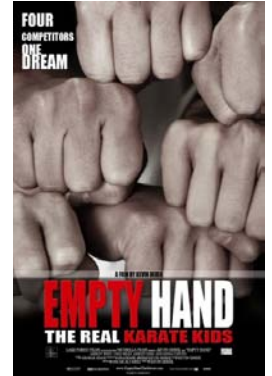
Next year we are closing all classes except the Glendenning Wednesday class and the new Stonecutters Ridge Thursday class during school holidays due to the lack of attendance this year during the holidays. Please talk to your Sensei if you have concerns. Also note that the minimum number of classes needed to attend your grading's has NOT changed, you will have to make them up during the school term. We will reassess this decision if we see an increase in attendance for the rest of this year.

Our own [tournament](#) is being held on 26<sup>th</sup> August, the form for this is also attached to the email, this year we are a part of the Blacktown City Games, this shows that all of the hard work we put into the quality of our club and training is being recognized, as far as I am aware, no other Karate club has ever been a part of the Blacktown City Games.

If any parents can help out on the day as a score/time keeper, please advise your Sensei.

Coinciding with the games, I have negotiated the rights for the premier screening of the movie "[Empty Hand, the Real Karate Kids](#)", this screening will take place on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 4pm at Blacktown Library Function Centre, the cost is only \$10 per person, it would be great if all of our members could attend, bring friends and family to help make this a great night. This is the only screening of this movie in Australia, don't miss it.

**Your contact details** – It is your responsibility to keep us updated with the correct information, if an email bounce back I will delete you from the contacts in the email list. Remember, all events are on Facebook, if you would like to be invited, friend the club and message me to be invited.



The club **calendar** can be downloaded from our website at [www.kyoukeikarate.com](http://www.kyoukeikarate.com)

First Aid Course 21<sup>st</sup> July  
Fushichou tournament 29<sup>th</sup> July  
Stonecutters demo 4<sup>th</sup> August  
Open grading 11<sup>th</sup> August  
Empty Hand the movie 25<sup>th</sup> August  
Kyoukei tournament 26<sup>th</sup> August  
Advanced class 8<sup>th</sup> September  
Hokama seminar 14<sup>th</sup> September  
Melbourne tournament 7<sup>th</sup> October  
Instructor development day 20<sup>th</sup> October  
Waterfall training 4<sup>th</sup> November  
Meibukan Sensei Yagi (from Okinawa) seminar November (Date TBC)  
Karate camp (and grading) 30<sup>th</sup> November (Xmas party also being held on Saturday night at camp)

We have worked very hard to bring a lot of **club events** to our members this year, the Japan trip, movie night, our tourney, Empty Hand Australian movie premier, Melbourne trip, Camp not including other tourneys and festival/open days and those above not mentioned, (Thanks to those members and volunteers that do help on a regular basis) for these to continue I need our members to start showing a bigger interest in them or they may not happen in the future.

\*\*\*Members are reminded to pay for each class before the class starts.

Please ensure your **membership** is up to date, members that do not have a current financial membership are NOT covered under our insurance, if you get injured then this may cost you a lot of money. If you are unsure, check you grading card or send a message via Facebook or email asking for your expiry date. When you renew, make sure you get a member card, this will have your date on it.

Our 5<sup>th</sup> Karate **Camp** is being held at Bluegum lodge again this year, it falls on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November, members arrive at approximately 5pm onwards. Like last year we are holding the end of year grading at the camp on Saturday afternoon. We will have a couple of our members testing for their Shodan-ho grades, this will be another big grading, if you wish to grade then you MUST meet the minimum criteria. The criteria have been posted on our Facebook group and also in the clubs training manual. Visit <http://www.kyoukeikarate.com/campmain.html> and use "gojucamp" for the password. Remember that the FINAL date for forms and fees is the 24<sup>th</sup> October.

Last year we had poor attendance from our members, if participation is down this year then sadly this may be our last camp.

Can all new members please read our **Safe Work Practice sheets** attached to this newsletter email, it is important for yours and the safety of others that you understand them. Parents, please ensure your children have a basic understanding of them. If you need help, please see your instructor.