



Kyoukei Goju Ryu Karate Do

Glendenning, Quakers Hill, Hassallgrove and Ropes Crossing Dojo's

2012 started off slow , our first event was the Blacktown City Council Sports person awards, unfortunately we did not win any awards, it seems to be very hard to get recognition for Karate and we have been working tirelessly to raise the profile of our club and Karate in general.

With some of our members waiting to head off to Japan, the day finally arrived on the 17th March and our group of 13 were away, first we visited Osaka, staying at the New Osaka Hotel in Shin-Osaka, the rooms were small but we didn't spend much time in them with three days of sightseeing we visited Osaka Castle, Universal Studios, the Pokémon Centre and just trying out local foods and generally just walking around taking in the culture.

Then it was off to Okinawa, relaxation was in order that afternoon, the next day we all met on the back courtyard of the hotel after breakfast for some lite training. Then after lunch we headed off to the heart of Naha to sample the tourist shopping, we found a huge undercover market that went on forever. That night we had training at the Meibukan Hombu Dojo, it was fast paced old style Karate, the dojo was small and between our 8 and their 10 students we managed to just fit, three steps forward and three steps back. We were shown a lot of new moves over the next few nights of training. The first night we took taxi's to the Hombu, the next few nights we decided to walk to the dojo, it was only 20 minutes by foot and was a good warm up, highlights of the Meibukan training was the night the "Ossies" were all asked one at a time to do a kata relative to their grade, it was a very interesting experience and I do believe we showed them that we knew our stuff! A personal highlight was seeing Yagi Koyoshi take my 6yo son Guy aside in two of the training sessions and train him personally, he actually learned a few things (He never listens to me).

The next day it was off to the Kenshi Kai Hombu Dojo for some training in the morning with Hokama Hanshi. To say this training was hard would be an understatement, none of us had experienced anything like it, so much so that when Hanshi invited us to do a second training session after the lunch break we all jumped at the chance. Nearly 5 hours of real world karate training, lots of blood and bruises and everybody walked out with grins from ear to ear. Some of the sightseeing in Okinawa included a full day visit to Shuri Castle, a "Karate tour" hosted by Hokama Hanshi visiting important sites in relation to Karate. Before we left, our group was taken out to dinner by the Yagi family, tradition in Japan is the hosts pay for everything. After dinner, Sensei Scott and I were taken out for drinks by Master Metatsu Yagi and the head of Meibukan Akihito Yagi Kyoshi, that was a great night, we talked about a lot and got to know each other better.

After a week in Okinawa it was time to say goodbye and return to Osaka where we visited the [Kaiyukan](#) (aquarium), this place was absolutely huge, 8 floors high and some very big animals. After the aquarium we split into two groups, one group returned to the hotel and the rest of us headed off to Namba, we walked around the streets looking in a lot of the shops, we walked through the Namba markets, these were so big we walked past three districts (and tram stations), it made the markets in Okinawa look small, that also was a learning experience, there are some very interesting shops in Japan. The next day was a visit to Kyoto for most of the group.

We stayed 2 weeks in Japan, the food was excellent and very reasonably priced, the people were polite and very friendly, they would bend over backward to help you. The language barrier was almost nonexistent.

After a few weeks back home we had a team enter the Picton tournament, our team did very well, it was interesting that with our focus on Kata for our trip to Japan, our team did better in the kata events than the Kumite events.

Our next event was the Glendenning Neighbourhood Centre open day, we had a stall and also did a demo for the crowd.

A few weeks later we had a stall at the Blacktown City Festival and our group also marched in the main Parade.

Our movie night was at the start of June, this event was not supported by our members as much as I would have like but those that did attend had a great time with some members winning three raffle prizes.

Then we entered the Fushichou tournament and had great success kicking their butts in nearly all of our events!

Next was our tournament in August, as a part of the Blacktown City Games it was decided to drop the Koshiki event to avoid unnecessary injuries on the day, over the past few years there has been a slow decline in control in this event meaning that entrants were getting hurt more often.

This event was much smaller in participation numbers than we are use to, but it was probably the smoothest running tournament I have ever been to (or organised), there was great control from all participants, no blood or broken bones, the events run through very efficiently.

Our member came away with 12 x 1st, 15 x 2nd and 12 x 3rd, a total of 39 medals, well done guys.

September then saw us attending a seminar in Turrumurra with Hokama Hanshi whom we had trained with in Japan. Again, we had a great time training with Hokama Hanshi and made some new friends in the process

We also had a team drive to Melbourne to attend a tournament hosted by Paul Ceberano Kyoshi (Brother of Kate Ceberano), unfortunately the tournament was cancelled due to low numbers, so we did some sightseeing while there.

November saw a seminar at our own Dojo by the head of our style Akihito Yagi Kyoshi, all the way from Okinawa. We had invited our friends from Kenyukan Goju Ryu to attend and everybody enjoyed what was on show!

The end of November was Camp, we had 51 of our members (and parents) attend this great weekend, unfortunately the other club that had told us they had 25 coming pulled out after the final date and left us short on numbers and fees, this meant our club had to make up the difference.

I would like to thanks all of our members and parents for attending and supporting the camp, it was a great weekend.

At our camp grading we had Erinn Hagedoon and Matt White grading for Shodan-ho and both Matt and Elicia Symes have completed their testing to allow them to instruct. Incidentally, all three were a part of the team we recently took to Japan. Well done guys, you and everybody else deserved their grades on that day.

In 2013 we will be changing the way we are promoting **camp**, since camp 2012 was the best year to date, with only our member attending we will not be inviting any other clubs to future camps! We have 120

members there is no reason why we cannot get at least 70 people attending, remember that parents, brothers/sisters and even friends can attend as long as the permission slips are signed by parents. If you wish to attend, then a 50% deposit must be paid (with your form) by April 1st, then you have until June 1st to pay the remaining fees.

Remember, deposits are not refundable! (Unless we cancel)

On June 2nd, if we don't have enough to cover costs then the camp will be cancelled and all money (including the deposit) will be refunded.

Note, **if we do get the required numbers** then there will be no refunds after June 1st! This will form a part of the agreement on the form.

Your name will be added to the camp list once a deposit is paid and your bed reserved.

The cost for camp for all attending will be \$150pp for kids and adults or family of 4 or more \$480, this includes accommodation, and all catered meals, use of all facilities like the pool, tennis courts, games room and movie room.

Included in the price is all Karate training, events and seminars.

Day visits for students will be \$85 per person per day

Day visits for parents are \$70 per person per day

The only extra fee will be those grading, this will be \$40pp for those staying the entire weekend or \$60 for day visits. This can be paid in November once you have your grading form.

2013 will see a low activity year, we may attend the Picton and Melbourne tournament for those interested, we will probably run our own tournament, this will be mandatory for all colour belts and we might invite a couple of other clubs.

I am taking another team to Okinawa, Japan for 2 weeks of training in September, during that time all classes will be closed.

At this stage I am unaware of any demonstrations for 2013.

If you look on the web site in the next few weeks, you will notice in the 2013 timetable all classes except the Wednesday Glendenning class will be closed during all school holidays in 2013, this is due to the very low attendance rate during school holidays in 2012. All of our classes are within 10 minutes from the Glendenning dojo so all students should be able to make training as distance should not be an issue.

Starting in 2013, two weeks before each grading there will be a compulsory technical seminar for those grading, this class will cost \$20pp and will consist of – finer details of kata, bunkai of kata, sparring techniques and self defense applications (basics will not be taught in this seminar), there will be two weeks between this seminar and the grading to work on what you have been shown. These seminars will be open to all students even if you are not grading.

Important: Our fee structure will be changing, all new members will be placed onto a term payment system from the start of 2013.

Current members will still be able to pay by the class at current rates, but will be encouraged to pay by the term.

For paying by the term you will be given a FREE class (The first class of the term) each term for each person paid for.

Payment can be made to your instructor in cash form, please obtain a receipt. I may look into trialing a portable eftpos terminal in the future if demand requires it.

At the start of 2014 all members will be required to pay by the term, any member not paying by the term will be considered a casual attendee and will have to pay \$12 per class per person with no discounts of any type available.

Note that there is no rate rise in the term payment and in fact by paying by the term you will save money by getting 1 free class per person.

With the departure of Felicity from Hassall Grove Dojo, I would like you all to welcome Sensei Matt White and Sensei Elicia Symes, both have spent the last year training with me and learning how to run a class. So far, in the last 2 months they have grown the numbers and their skill in teaching our curriculum has proven a huge hit with their students.

As most would know, our Quakers Hill Dojo had a move from Barnier Public School to the Quakers Hill Community Centre, 7 Lalor rd, this venue is much bigger, air conditioned, has storage areas and easy parking for members.

Next year we plan to start to purchase equipment for both Hassall Grove and Quakers Hill.

All of the Sensei would like to wish our students and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, stay safe and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Class dates and times over the 2012/2013 holidays

<u>Class</u>	<u>2012 finish</u>	<u>2013 resume</u>
Glendenning Wednesday	19th December	23rd January 6:30pm
Glendenning Wednesday (Weapons)	12th December	23rd January 5:30pm
Glendenning Friday	14th December	1st February 6:30pm
Quakers Hill Tuesday	18th December	29th January 7:00pm
Ropes Crossing Monday	17th December	4th February 6:00pm
Hassall Grove Thursday	13th December	31st January 7:00pm
Stonecutters Ridge		31st January 4:30pm