

## **President's Report**

2011 was an eventful year for MUKEN. This year we saw visits from Terry Holt sensei, Shiina sensei. And last but not least, Fujiwara sensei came back for 2 sessions to show us good kendo. Our club has performed well in competitions, and the members have made some strong progression in their kendo. However, training numbers have been a little lackluster due to a large amount of seniors who have graduated over the year and gone back to their respective countries, as well as some going overseas on exchange.

### **Year Overview:**

#### **Competitions**

##### **AKC 2011 April 23rd -27<sup>th</sup>**

- Richard Loi 3<sup>rd</sup> place in individuals
- Richard T'en Kyu team came 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

##### **MUKEN TAIKAI, 28th of May**

Following from last year's success, MUKEN Taikai was once again held to provide the various Victorian clubs a chance to compete with each other. With the presence of multiple divisions, the event allowed kendoka of varying grades and skills to have a chance at playing against similarly skilled opponents. This provided a better experience for all participants, and also saw certain competitors who climbed through the divisions while putting on an impressive show of skill.

- Results:
  1. Beginners  
1<sup>st</sup> – Yan Ling  
2<sup>nd</sup> . Michael Yeung  
3<sup>rd</sup> Joanna Ting
  2. Up to 3<sup>rd</sup> Kyu  
2<sup>nd</sup> Takeshi Hartono  
Dhanish Dangkomen and Richard Ten came Equal Third.
  3. 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kyu  
2nd - Takeshi Hartono
  4. 1- 2nd Dan  
Equal Third: Tham Kin On, Takeshi Hartono

Fighting Spirit Award

Joanna Ting, Dhanish Dangkomen, Takeshi Hartono

### **Otsuka Memorial Taikai, Nagae Taikai (16th of July 2011)**

Held at The Kenshikan Dojo, it celebrates the founding of Kenshikan Dojo, and it is held in honour of Mr Kenshiro Otsuka, who was the primary benefactor of the Kenshikan Dojo. This is a goodwill competition open to all Victorian Kendoka from 6<sup>th</sup> Kyu – 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan. It is a team event which consists of mixed teams of three picked at random from the kendoka registered.

The team that came in 1<sup>st</sup> place included Kin-On Tham (MUKEN) and Richard T'en (MUKEN) along with Keegan Almeida (Monash)

The team that came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place included Alvin Ng, Mony Sak, Viet Le.

### **Victorian Kendo Competition, 27-28 August 2011**

Held as usual at Victoria University. However this year MUKEN was delegated to organize the event by the VKR. Fortunately all went smoothly thanks to the guidance of sensei, Kenji, Andrew, Kevin. Special thanks to the committee members who helped with organizing the event as well.

#### Results:

- Kyu Team – Takeshi Hartono, Richard T'en, Yan Ling, Dhanish Dangkomen and Vincent Laiwin for coming first.
- Kenji Sugimoto and Andrew Lam for winning the Kata competition
- Takeshi Hartono, Yan Ling and Richard T'en for coming second and equal third in the Kyu Individual.
- Meera Chandrananth for equal third in the Women's Kyu Individual.
- Meera Chandrananth and Takeshi Hartono for Fighting Spirit Awards.

### **Australia University Games, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2011.**

Held in Gold Coast once more.

Team consisted of :

- 1) Tham Kin On ( Team Captain)
- 2) Jeffrey Khor ( Vice Team Captain)
- 3) Chang Wei Qi
- 4) Park Min Suk
- 5) Richard Loi
- 6) Ben Tran
- 7) Takeshi Hartono
- 8) Vincent Lai
- 9) Dhanish Dangkomen
- 10) Joanna Ting

Congratulations to Ben Tran who came 2<sup>nd</sup> after defeating Nick Chan in the Semi finals. Also congratulations to the Kyu Team (consisting of Takeshi Hartono, Dhanish Dangkomen, Ben Tran, Richard Loi, Vincent Laiwin) for coming first after having to fight past Monash and UNSW.

Sadly the event was marred by some controversy when we ran out of time, and the Open Teams was shortened into a competition where each team would field one representative.

### **Mumeishi 3's, November 5th**

Held at Beacon's Hill college, run by the Mumeishi Kendo Club.

Due to poor participation due to being the weekend before the exams begun. As such we only sent a team there consisting of Dhanish Dangkomen, Richard T'en and Kevin Kapusi-Starow.

### **Club competition, November 26<sup>th</sup>.**

**Last year saw the 18<sup>th</sup> club competition. The turnout was initially low, but however we got reasonable numbers.**

#### **Beginners Individuals:**

1. Slavco Dragan Jovanoski
2. Brian Luo
3. James Jiang

#### **Womens Individuals:**

1. Joanna Ting
2. Meera Chandrananth

#### **Kyu Grade**

1. Yan Ling
2. Richard T'en
3. Vincent Laiwin  
Takeshi Hartono

#### **Dan Grade**

1. Kenji Sugimoto
2. Kevin Chin
3. Thomas Mendelovitz  
Andrew Lam

#### **Fighting Spirit**

1. Yan Ling
2. James Jiang
3. Thomas Mendelovitz

### **Monash 20th Anniversary Taikai (Sunday 4 December 2011)**

Monash held a "Tozai Taiko Sen", East vs West style competition, in which there were 35

participants on each side, leading to a grand total of 70 competitors. MUKEN had 17 competitors in the competition, in which all but 2 won their matches.

The competition saw the West side gaining an early lead by winning most of the matches in the beginner and kyu section (coincidentally, most of the MUKEN players in these divisions were playing on the West side). However the East side slowly clawed back towards the latter stages with a strong performance by the senior Kyu and Dan players (also notably most MUKEN players in these divisions were on the East side). The East side eventually emerged victorious.

### **AKC 2012 (Canberra, ACT, 7-11 April 2012)**

- Richard T'en was on the Kyu team, which managed to clinch first place.
- Kenji Sugimoto fought with the Dan team, which also managed to come in first place.
- Richard T'en was awarded the Fighting Spirit award.

### **Other events**

#### **Ballarat Camp 2011**

This year the camp was run from the 6-8<sup>th</sup> May at Ballarat as usual. Participants included 32 from Melbourne Uni, and 15 from Monash. The numbers this year were lower than in previous years, mainly due to the smaller beginner pool. For once there was actually more seniors at camp than the beginners. Nevertheless the bonds that developed were obviously well done, with good bonding occurring between the MUKEN and MUKC beginners.

Despite the lack of David, the kitchen managed to operate at the expense of Daniel Tee's health.

### **Visits by foreign sensei**

2011-2012 saw the visits of Takizawa sensei, Chiba sensei, Oda sensei, Terry Holt sensei, Fujiwara sensei. Their visits to Melbourne, and MUKEN provided our members with a great opportunity to learn from these experienced sensei.

### **Increased Social Event**

In line with the Gotanda Project, the club has increased the amount of social activities. They have so far been successful in allowing newer members of the club to be better acquainted with the more senior members. I strongly recommend that the initiative is continued on for the upcoming years.

### **Gradings**

- September 2011 Gradings: Uncertain on the number of people who attempted gradings. However all members went for grading passed.
- March 2012 Gradings: 3 People attempted grading at the 6 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Kyu gradings, 3 People attempted grading at 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu – 3 Dan gradings, everyone from our club successfully graded.

- AKC 2012 : Kevin Chin achieved 4th Dan.

First and foremost, I would like to thank Yakov sensei. Being the founder of the club, Yakov sensei continues to pour in his time and effort to getting the club to the stage it is today.

A word of thanks to the committee, including both the members of the executive committee who have graduated and left, as well as the interim members. I would like to thank Vincent and Viet for handling the club emails, and the various administrative tasks, as well as constantly reminding me about the various things I may have forgotten. Joanna and Kevin, for keeping track of our club accounts, and always being there when I needed help with getting a transaction done. Takeshi, for being the ever present armourer, tending to broken himo straps, or misplaced bogu. Tony for keeping our website updated, and managing our growing emailing list. Vi, for the occasional publications that she has published. Daniel Tee, for taking charge our food needs during the VKC, and camp. Richard Loi, for dealing with all bulk purchases done by the club. Extra big thanks to the general reps, who have always been there when an extra hand was needed, and getting the job done.

The club has seen some changes over the past few years. In particular our numbers have seen a decline over the years. While some say this is a normal trend, we can not ignore the fact that the pool of members being active students has shrunk. However I am confident that the steps taken by the club to address the problem will help with the situation. I strongly urge all members to continue training hard, and inspire any future members to continue treading down the path, that we call, Kendo.

Jeffrey Khor

President

April 2012