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**The Academy**  
2008



**Peter Morton Academy of  
Judo Jujitsu Karate**  
Non-profit organisation  
Founded 1962

## **The Academy**

*Volume 21*

An annual publication of the Peter Morton Academy of Judo Jujitsu Karate Incorporated containing reports and news items for members of the Academy.

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# As I See It

Renshi Alan Maconachie, Editor

In my younger days, a couple of centuries ago according to my juvenile children, back in BC (Before Children), I looked upon the offspring of the human race as something akin to pets. I had an attitude of 'who in their right mind would acquire, let alone create, something that needs constant attention, needs feeding, makes a mess and drains one's physical, mental and social resources'. These pet-like things were alien to me and were, at all costs to be shunned.

My, my, how my outlook has changed; offspring of mine still do all of the above, even though they are out of nappies and all but into the singlet and pimple stage of their lives.

Upon reflection, my metamorphous started after my first born decided that he had had enough of his cramped apartment and, as his nine month lease was up, decided that he would move into our house and demand that we accommodate him with full board and lodging for some unspecified time, something akin to possible decades. How dare a new-born be so demanding!

So it came to pass that I actually found myself enjoying my offspring, well, most of the time, and that I could not only tolerate other human children but I also caught myself actually enjoying teaching them, well, most of the time. Man, who am I? This is not the me, me, me of years ago in another life.

As time rocketed by, I came to the realisation that these pets were not such a bad part of the world. They actually serve a function in the grand scheme of things and that although one has trouble at times living with them, one can not exist without them. Well, most of the time.

Those of you that do not have kids have no need to fret as the Academy has enough to loan to everybody. A few hours with our on-loan kids at a training session will definitely help you to decide if you really want your own to hug and kiss and call Fred. Otherwise they might just be what you need; you can play with them then give them back. Best of both worlds. Well, most of the time.

Now for the part where the Academy comes in.

One must remember that our Founder created the Academy for the benefit of children and that its foundation is children with a framework of adults. Each supports the other. Children are not, as I once thought, aliens to be shunned. Well, most of the time.

I think that it is a good idea that every Sensei experiences that part of the Academy that is children. The younger Senseis of you may not think much of this part of the Academy at this time of your life but further on down the track you may well, and hopefully you will, discover, as most of us ancient ones have, that these junior members have more to offer than just a pain in the neck. They can be very inspiring with their hunger to learn and



their out-of-the-box thinking. Well, most of the time.

Speaking of the acts of children, have you had a go at the new mental therapy aids that the Academy has purchased recently? If you have not I highly recommend that you do.

Of what do I speak you may ask? I speak of the San Ryu Do equipment that the Academy has purchased. This encompasses well-padded swords, gloves and helmets. If you have not seen these things in action then get yourself to a seminar, they are usually on the agenda and I think that every couple that are more than just friends should have a set. In fact, even friends should have some.

San Ryu Do bouts are certainly a good way to relieve aggression while having fun and not physically hurting a body, although I don't know if being beaten by a junior is classed as not being hurt. Try it, as it is a great physical and mental workout, especially when it turns to controlled rule-breaking.

Speaking of which, I don't know what they do down there at Batemans Bay on the South Coast with their San Ryu Do gear but so far they have managed to break a couple of swords.

# Principal Overview

Shihan David Rowley, Principal

I would like to thank Frog and Laraine for all the support that they offer to everyone and all the things that they have done throughout the year for the club.

Ed and I travelled to Queensland in November to finish John Mosley's Shodan grading after his dislocated knee had mended. John had to finish his two man attack section and defence against a boxer. John's knee did not give him any trouble and he gave us a workout in these areas.

I would like to thank all those members who attended the black belt grading to support their Canberra and Batemans Bay comrades on the day and to David Clayton for coming over to the grading and participating on the day even though he had no one grading from Adelaide.

Techniques were of a very high standard right throughout the grading. It was unfortunate that the defence against a boxer let some gradees down, but these trainees came back in February and certainly showed what they were made of.

The panel was very impressed with James's techniques as well as his defence and David Clayton and Craig Swingler must be commended for their work in training James to such a high standard.

A big thank you to our paramedic, Scott Kelly, who gave up his free time to attend our 2008 black belt grading. I rang up Scott hoping he would be able to attend the regrade and full grade of James in February; I didn't know that Scott was holidaying in Dubai until he told me where he was. I could not talk him into coming back for the grading; I am not sure why but I thought he would have jumped at the offer. Hope you enjoyed your holiday "the curse of mobile phones".

Our Sydney branch now has a new black belt, Damon Taylor. I must say how impressed we are with Damon with all the travelling from Sydney to Canberra each week to train for his black belt. It goes to show that if you want something bad enough that you will go to great lengths to achieve your goals.

On behalf of the Academy I would like to congratulate Dave Burgemeister on his induction into the Australian Martial Arts Hall of Fame. The demonstration put on by Dave and Ian Scamp was very professional.

The junior seminars at Kaleen and Bateman's Bay went off well and once again I would like to thank all those who organised and turned up on the day to support it.



Darbs and his many helpers organised the 2008 Annual National Seminar with a number of special guests demonstrating their particular styles, which interested us all and we all gained from this experience.

The Kaleen branch will be organising the 2009 Annual National Seminar, so make sure you become a part of this team, support this major event and help make it a success.

As I have mentioned before it is easy to turn up and enjoy the events of the day but fail to see all the hard work and running around by the people behind the scenes who usually don't get the recognition and thanks due to them.

Congratulations to all those loyal members who have been promoted in 2008.

It is good to see that Craig Swingler is improving after his accident. Every time I see Craig I notice further improvement, his rehabilitation has been quite miraculous. It's amazing what the body-mind can do when one is determined to recover.

I might just remind every one that Alan and Gail are updating the Academy's web site all the time and they are always looking for articles to add to the site throughout the year, so if you have something you would like included please send it to them.

On a final note I would like to thank all chief instructors for their continued hard work in running their branches to such a high standard. My thanks also go to all the other black and brown belts that help with training and organisation, as well as the many other helpers in all the branches that do all those extra jobs. Lastly, of course, I wish to thank all our members that make up our school.



# Message From Soke

*Soke Peter Morton BEM, Founder*

Congratulations to all new Black Belts and all Black Belts who were promoted this year. These were very well-deserved.

I would also like to say a big thank you to all Chief Instructors and to all the people behind the scenes that keep our wonderful club going.

Particular thanks must go to Dave Rowley and Eddie Scharrer for all the time they give to our club and to me.

I hope the coming year is a great success and great fun for all our members.

Finally, I must also thank Laraine for all the help she gives me.



---

## Black Belt Bit

*Our newest black belts*  
**November 2008**

John Mosley                      Sunshine Coast, QLD

**December 2008**

Paul Dalla Costa              Erindale, ACT

Dante Mavec                    Hughes, ACT

Damon Taylor                  Castlecove, NSW

Shae Walshe                    Batemans Bay, NSW

Tom Wells                        Kaleen, ACT



# Treasury Notes

Renshi Alan Maconachie, Academy Treasurer

The 2007–2008 financial year saw the Academy run at a small overall shortfall.

While income was pretty much on a par with last financial year, spending was up almost fifty per cent. While this does not look good on paper, there is no need to panic.

The shortfall was caused by the fact that the Academy decided to outlay a rather substantial sum of cash on the purchase of promotional items and martial arts equipment and the fact that one branch had not paid their 2007 Academy membership fees.

There was also an increase in reimbursement to the Principal and Deputy Principal to cover increased visits to interstate dojos to hold training sessions for both ordinary members and Shodan trainees, and a slight increase in advertising costs.

## Equipment purchase

Approval has been given to purchase San Ryu Do equipment for all branches in early 2008 or, if this is not possible, at least purchase enough equipment so that every branch can have access to this gear. This will definitely happen and it will involve a substantial outlay in the low \$thousands early in 2009.

## Branch responsibilities

Once again I unfortunately have to remind branch Chief Instructors that it is their duty that they must submit, when called for by the Treasurer, all Academy membership fees that they have collected from members. Even

though I do not like to, I still have to hassle some Chief Instructors for their branch contribution and to date there are still some branches that are outstanding in this regard.

As membership fees are the Academy's primary source of income, and without them the Academy could not function, I will relentlessly pursue this obligation and I would be neglectful in my duty as Treasurer if I did not. So if there is a problem with a branch paying, contact me and I will sort that problem out. I am, after all and contrary to popular belief, very approachable and it is part of my job to sort out Academy money affairs.

## Overview

As a not-for-profit organisation, the 2007–2008 financial year has remained stable with no financial abnormalities, equipment purchase aside, in either money in or money out.

It has been very pleasing for both the Board of Directors and branches to have the Academy in a stable financial position. This position has enabled an increase in the Academy's ability to give back to members, mainly in the form of equipment.

Through the efforts of the Board of Directors, the 2008–2009 financial year will see these benefits increase even further.



## Annual National Seminar

14–16 August 2009  
Canberra, ACT

**The Annual National Seminar in 2009 will be hosted by the Kaleen branch and will be held at the Gold Creek Tourist Resort in Canberra, ACT.**

**More information will be available on the Academy's web site and forwarded to branches as the event approaches.**

# Promotions, Awards & Appointments 2008



## Promotions

<b>Name</b>	<b>Branch</b>	<b>Promoted to</b>
Simon MacNab	Hughes	5th Dan
Scott Tey	Queanbeyan	5th Dan
David Tuckfield	Hughes	5th Dan
Alan Maconachie	Radcliffe	4th Dan
Rod Patrick	Batemans Bay	4th Dan
David Clayton	Walkerville	3rd Dan
Petra Pieren	Sunshine Coast	2nd Dan
Mark Humphris	Sunshine Coast	2nd Dan

## Awards

### **Peter Morton Perpetual Trophy**

#### **Basic Steps Kata**

Walkerville, SA

### **National Self-Defence Trophy**

#### **Two-man attack**

Castlecove, NSW

### **Leonie Corey Trophy**

#### **Most outstanding Academy junior member**

Rong Min, Kaleen, ACT

## Appointments

### **Elected positions**

Academy Secretary	position vacant	5 September 2008
Academy Treasurer	Alan Maconachie	5 September 2008

## Leonie Corey Trophy 2008

The Leonie Corey Trophy is awarded annually by the Academy for the Best and Fairest Junior Member of the Year.

Chief Instructors are asked to nominate one of their junior students for consideration for this trophy by submitting their name for selection at the Annual National Seminar.

All nominees have shown to their respective chief instructors that they have the qualities of character that make them stand out as worthy nominees for this honour and the judging panel recognises that all junior members nominated for this award are worthy of congratulations.

The *Leonie Corey Trophy* for 2008 was awarded to Rong Min from the Kaleen, ACT, branch.



# Club Matters

## Events calendar 2009

### South-east region

#### Junior Seminar

Sat 28 Mar	Kaleen	9:00am
Sat TBA Oct	Batemans Bay	9:00am

#### Combined Senior Grading

Mon 6 Apr	Queanbeyan	7:30pm
Tue 30 Jun	Radcliffe	7:30pm
Thu 17 Sep	Kaleen	7:30pm
Wed 2 Dec	Isabella Plains	7:30pm

#### Black Belt Forum (all meetings start 7:30pm)

Fri 27 Feb	Kaleen Sports Club
Fri 26 Jun	Kaleen Sports Club
Fri 13 Nov	Kaleen Sports Club

### Annual National Seminar 2009 (incl AGM)

21–23 Aug (Fri–Sun)  
Canberra, ACT  
Venue Gold Creek Tourist Resort

*Note: Timetable subject to change, check web site for up-to-date details.*

## Membership

For an individual to participate in or provide the Academy martial art and associated services, that individual **MUST** be a registered full or temporary member of the Academy. This includes all juniors, seniors and instructors. Yes—this means all Dan Belts as well.

All members (except Life Members) **MUST** pay an Academy membership fee and all members (including Life Members) **MUST** annually complete a membership form. This is required so that the Academy has a proper record of its members, as required by law and for insurance purposes.

It is the responsibility of a branch Chief Instructor to ensure that every active member in their branch, including themselves, has completed a membership form and has paid the appropriate Academy membership fee.

### Branch membership list

By law, a register of members must be maintained by the Academy and provided to authorities upon request. When called for, all branches must provide a list of members on the approved *Branch Membership List* form.

A list of members by branch has to be submitted to the Academy's insurer every year. The insurer requires that these names be provided for each branch on the approved *Branch Membership List* form and no other format is acceptable.

### Academy membership fee invoice

When Academy membership fees are due, an invoice is forwarded to a branch Chief Instructor and prompt payment is required.

A Chief Instructor must ensure that their branch has sufficient funds to pay these fees when they are called for.

So plan ahead chief instructors, you have plenty of warning when these monies are due and called for. It occurs every year.

### Academy membership fee structure

#### General

- Membership period: 1 January to 31 December inclusive
- Membership fee is called for during August
- Membership fee is a flat rate per member, both junior and senior
- Membership fee is reviewed annually

#### Membership fee

Membership fee for 2009 is:

- \$40 Dan and Purple Belt Membership
- \$40 Ordinary Membership
- \$20 PCYC discount membership
- \$00 Life Membership

#### Notes

1. The \$40 membership fee includes an insurance component and branches will not be required to contribute a separate insurance levy.
2. To qualify for an Academy discount membership fee an individual must be concurrently:
  - 2.1 an Ordinary Member only of an Academy branch that operates at a PCYC
  - 2.2 a PCYC member
3. Because Dan and Purple belts are able to train and teach at any Academy branch or event, all Dan and Purple Belt Membership is charged at the full rate. The Academy has to cover these members. This is a requirement under the Academy's insurance.

### Academy membership card

An Academy membership card is available for any student that wants one. These can be obtained from any chief instructor on request.

It's a very good idea to get one of these cards as it contains a record of your grading dates for each kyu belt. It's also proof of grade and identification if you transfer to, or want to train at, another branch.



## Academy items for sale

### Badges

Contact Peter Wilson

- *Academy badges*: \$10.00
- *Chief Instructor badges*: \$10.00
- *Assistant Instructor badges*: \$15.00
- *Merit badges*: Branches to order directly from England or the USA. Orders can be placed online with a credit card and they generally arrive within 7 days.

### Belts

Contact Peter Wilson

- *Black belts*: New or replacement dan belts. \$70.00 approx

### Books

Contact Alan Maconachie

- *Many Mountain Summits*: 40th anniversary Academy history book. \$15.00

### Merchandise with Academy logo

Contact Alan Maconachie

- *Sports bag*: \$50.00
- *Sling bag*: \$40.00
- *Key ring (metal)*: \$10.00
- *Drink bottle*: \$8.00
- *Pen (blue ink)*: \$3.00

## Communications

[www.petermortonjjujitsu.org.au](http://www.petermortonjjujitsu.org.au)

The academy web site is a major form of communication. **Please help us to keep the web site up-to-date.** All people in charge of branches and information need to develop the habit of regularly using the web site and keeping the information about their branch up-to-date. It doesn't have to be the CI of the branch, as long as someone does it!

All branches are encouraged to send information regularly on any subject, particularly for the Events & Gradings section of the site.

It would also be appreciated if people would send articles or write-ups, local or national, after events throughout the year.



**We  
Want  
Your  
Words!**

Articles  
Reports  
Write-ups  
Photos  
Keep them coming  
throughout the year  
Email them to  
[info@petermortonjujitsu.org.au](mailto:info@petermortonjujitsu.org.au)

# Branch Reports



## Australian Capital Territory

### Charnwood

*Sensei Julie Streeter, Chief Instructor*

I was very fortunate to commence as Chief Instructor for the Charnwood Branch after Sensei Danielle Woods left at the end of Term 2 to start her family. On 31 October 2008 we were delighted to hear that Danielle and Rob welcomed the arrival of Sarah Maree. Congratulations and best wishes.

Congratulations to all new Black Belts. The grading and dinner were memorable and all new belts were well-deserved.

Three juniors attended the San Ryu Do tournament held on Saturday 16 August 2008 and achieved the following results for their respective divisions:

*Short Swords Gold Medal:* Billy-jack

*Short Swords Silver Medal:* Jinneecka

*Long Swords Silver Medal:* Jinneecka

*Long Swords Bronze Medal:* Selena

*Dual Swords Gold Medal:* Jinneecka



*Charnwood Juniors at San Ryu Do Tournament*

A big thank you to Shihan Eddie Scharrer and Shihan David Rowley who organised the tournament; it was enjoyed by everyone who attended from Charnwood (parents included).

Congratulations to the following students who graded to yellow belt in 2008:

Selena	Jayde
Alexander	Sandeep
David	

Congratulations to the following students who graded to orange belt in 2008:

Jinneeka	Laura
Mila	Annalise
Emily	

Many thanks to Sensei Dave Dalla Costa who has been helping out regularly at Charnwood and also a thank you to Kate Townsend (blue belt) and Thomas Ellwood (blue belt) who have also been helping on a regular basis.

Thank you also to Renshi Cameron Owers, Shihan Peter Wilson and Shihan Eddie Scharrer who have assisted during the year and also helped with grading.

I hope you all had a great Christmas and safe holidays. Good luck to everyone for 2009.

*Contact:* Sensei Julie Streeter

*Dojo:* Charnwood Police & Citizens Youth Club, Tillyard Dr, Charnwood ACT

*Training:* Thu: Jr/Sr 6:00pm-7:30pm

### Erindale

*Sensei Ian Scamp, Assistant Instructor, on behalf of Renshi David Burgemeister, Chief Instructor*

Hello all, and welcome to another year's update. Erindale branch remains one of the newest branches, born at the same time as Charnwood branch after the Turner PCYC building was closed. Our small and cosy dojo continues to offer benefits such as a spring-loaded floor (actually the structurally-dubious ceiling of the room downstairs), having a dedicated boxing room right next door (sometimes coming equipped with dedicated boxers), and the ability to set up mats in the main hall on nights where we exceed the room's maximum capacity. On those nights, our mats also provide extra landing space for patrons who fail their attempts on the indoor climbing wall.

Erindale seniors has maintained its core attendees, also holding steady as an extra night of training for Queanbeyan and St Edmunds branch members. Additionally, a sudden closure at Isabella branch meant we're spent the past several weeks as a combined branch, and everyone has experienced the benefit of having 'new blood' to train with. Our original senior, Mario, successfully graded to both senior yellow and orange in 2008, and is proving to be a force to be reckoned with in most aspects of our training.

Erindale has had a steady supply of juniors coming through the doors, with our original members, Stef and Matt, both grading to junior orange last year. As of this year, the boys have graduated to the seniors class, providing a welcome boost to numbers. It's been a reasonable trade, as their two junior places have been filled by about 6 very small kids.

Erindale was proud to host the last Shodan training class, run by Renshi Burgemeister, and

assisted by Senseis Michalas and Townsend. It was a large class of 7 (Sam, Kris, Damon, Andy, Paul, Dante and Tom), who showed fairly consistent determination towards their goal. There's no doubt that every Shodan class struggles with their share of time conflicts, injuries and fatigue, but I believe it was a credit to this group's attitude to have got through the course as they did. I confess that I thought I'd heard of most injuries that impact a trainee's life, but the night Andy was forced to miss the session due to slipping over on soup at work (Andy works as a chef), I was forced to open my mind to a whole new level of reasons.

Anyway, that's all from me. We're looking forward to 2009 as a chance to continue teaching and training with as much energy as we can muster, each with the minimum goal of not being thrown through the PCYC office ceiling.

*Contact:* Renshi David Burgemeister  
*Dojo:* Erindale Police & Citizens Youth Club, Wanniasa ACT  
*Training:* Wed: Jr 6-7pm, Sr 7-8pm

## Evatt

*Sensei Adam Duke, Assistant Instructor*

Here at Evatt we have had a thunderous year, hosting the extremely successful (if we may say so) Annual National Seminar, increasing member numbers and generally having a jolly old time in the process.

One of the year's greatest successes was the Annual National Seminar. We modestly took on the challenge of hosting it and were pleased to see the fabulous event we created go off without any hitches. Even the famous Saturday night dinner was shenanigan free...wasn't it?

The seminar included a range of brilliant sessions, including San Ryu Do, in which everyone managed to learn something new. That is, if they were able to stand after the gruelling warm-up led by Darby's super-fit, super-crazy, super-daughter, Emma.

As usual, the Peter Morton Perpetual Trophy for the best basic steps kata and the two-man attack competition were hotly contested by Academy members and branch representatives. All competitors enthusiastically applauded the superior skills of Walkerville branch for moving like a well-oiled snake during the basic steps and Clare from Sydney for taking out the two-man attack trophy by thumping the attackers with great skill and the grace of a gazelle.

Another great success was seeing Andy Wright grade to black belt. As we like to say down here on the north side, "*Wright is the new black!*" Andy has since returned to Evatt, where he has continued to train juniors and seniors in grappling and course techniques. We must say, we are pleased to have him and his 'ninja' breakfalls back! Congratulations must also go out to all the other newly crowned Black Belts.

Their tenacity and finely-tuned skills were a credit to their and their instructors' hard work.

We have seen an influx of juniors and a spattering of seniors over the past months, and would like to welcome all the new members to the branch. They have been training extremely well, learning to respect their partners, keep their guards up at all times and to breakfall rather than just falling and breaking. Overcoming initial shyness, most have learned to 'give as good as they get' in two-man attacks and to good-naturedly endure stories from us seniors about the good old days.

Thanks to all members and black belts, including Adam Duke, Sarah Luck, Andy Wright, Wayne Duke and occasional visitor, Tom Wells for their amazing efforts over the year.

*Contact:* Renshi Graham Darby  
*Dojo:* Evatt Primary School, Heydon Cr, Evatt ACT  
*Training:* Wed: Jr 7-8pm, Sr 8-9:15pm

## Hughes

*Renshi David Tuckfield, Chief Instructor*  
*Renshi Simon MacNab, Chief Instructor*

Another year gone, however this was a rather special year for the Hughes branch. We have reached a milestone of 30 years. We believe we are the longest running branch that has stayed in the same location, and we're very proud of this achievement. The Hughes branch was started up by Mr Barrie, well Renshi Barrie (he is Mr Barrie to us), in 1978. This was after moving the Yarralumla branch, where he started in 1974. Mr Barrie passed the briefcase (full of syllabi) across to Maca and Caroline in 1992 when he moved up north to live in the sunshine. Maca took control of the senior class and Caroline the junior class. In 1994 Caroline passed the junior class over to Tuck when she went to Pommyland, and Maca and Tuck have been running the Hughes branch ever since.

Late last year we had a little dinner to celebrate our longevity; Mr Barrie and his son, Adrian, came down from Brissy to celebrate with us. We had about 40 people all up, from various periods of the branch's 30 years. There were people that helped Mr Barrie out from the start, including Peggy O'Malley, and a range of Mr Barrie's former students, including friends that trained with Maca and Tuck as they were going through their belts, and a bunch of current seniors and juniors. It was a good relaxing evening, with lots of catching up, and a night that was enjoyed by all. Mr Barrie also showed up to training the following Wednesday night, and within 5 minutes was sorting out the junior blues with their hold-downs.

The junior class has been quite successful this year with 25 to 30 kids showing up most weeks, dropping off to about 15 at the end of 4th term. This is a bit of a reverse from other

years, usually we get less through winter. At one point there were 35, with 12 of them being white belts! There are students in all coloured belts apart from brown, but we're hoping to have a few browns later this year. Unfortunately, all with busy lives, none of the kids were able to attend the junior seminars in Kaleen or Batemans Bay. It was a little bit of a challenge running the juniors without our senior brown assistant instructors, as they were off training for their black belts. We really appreciate the efforts of Craig (senior blue) and Denise (senior green) in coming along and assisting instruction of the juniors this past year.

Junior awards for 2008 were:

<i>Excellence in Tsuki &amp; Keri:</i>	Beth Vincent
<i>Excellence in Basic Steps:</i>	Alexander McAlister
<i>Excellence in Breakfalls:</i>	David Luong
<i>Excellence in Techniques:</i>	Alex Luong
<i>Most Improved:</i>	Ojas Jyoti
<i>Renshi's Award:</i>	Molly Vincent

It was a bit slow again this year for the senior class; about 10 on the books with usually 4 to 5 showing up each night. We had a few with niggling injuries, some with TAFE courses which were inconsiderate enough to run on Wednesday nights, and 1 with the usual 'Hughes Exodus' trip overseas. Come to Hughes Jujitsu—see the world! Denise, who graded to green last year, has just left us to move to the sunshine and she'll be greatly missed. We had 6 people attend the Annual National Seminar this year, which was well hosted by the Evatt branch. The mix of having other styles come and present, along with different components from our style that we normally don't get to focus on, was excellent. We're sure that everyone enjoyed it.

Last year we had 3½ nominees training for their black belt—Sam, K and Damo, all true Hughes students, and Dante who we're proud to claim part of. Due to their training commitments (and Damo living in Sydney) we've been deprived of their assistance at Hughes this past year. We've missed them, but we're more than pleased that Hughes Jujitsu has finally been able to have a few more people on the 18-month black belt course. Tuck was the last one that came from Hughes, and he graded in 1991, so it's been a long time between drinks! The grading was coming up in November, and all was looking good, probably too good. Unfortunately two months before the grading K damaged his knee, requiring surgery and 12 months off the mats. He's a very determined individual, and we're confident he'll be in shape again soon and will tackle his black belt grading in late-2009.

So we had 2½ Hughes representatives grade for their black belts in late-2008. The quality of the grading was exceptional, all were sharp and precise, as you would expect from a black belt. They all did us proud. Unfortunately, not all managed to get through, with 3 of the 8 grading

failing on the 2-minute boxing component—the very last component of what is a very gruelling full-day grading. Sam was one of the three, but she was more determined than ever to beat the crap out of a boxer at the re-grading in February—and she did!

So Hughes Jujitsu can now attest to 6½ home-grown black belts, with Sensei Taylor (Damo), Sensei Godwin (Sam) and Sensei Mavec (Dante) all joining us at the top of the mat. Well, Damo will now be at the top of the Hughes II mat at Castlecove. After 18 months of driving from Sydney to Canberra 3 times a week for training – a most deserved promotion. He can also now concentrate on making Castlecove one of the Academy's biggest branches. Meanwhile, Sam and K are getting married in March and then heading overseas for a few months. From all at Hughes Jujitsu we wish them all the best on the big day and for their future together.

We hope that everyone had a great 2008, and 2009 brings even better.

*Contact:* Renshi Simon MacNab

*Dojo:* Hughes Primary School, Kent St, Hughes ACT

*Training:* Wed: Jr 6:30–7:30pm, Sr 7:30–9pm

## Isabella Plains

*Sensei Danny Ramsden, Chief Instructor*

Despite some of our longer term members being out of action for various periods throughout the year, we have consistently averaged good numbers in both the junior and senior classes. This year we have had members walk the Kokoda Trail, work on fishing boats in Alaska, travel to Germany and move interstate. Others have undergone rehab for long term knee, feet and shoulder complaints. Hopefully we will see everyone back from their various adventures and in good health in 2009!

Due to the increasing size of the classes, the call went out early in the year to muster some additional instructional support. The call was answered and we were very appreciative to have the assistance of the Black Belt trainees (thanks Burgy!) who provided an excellent level of support and enthusiasm throughout the year. The senior class particularly benefited from the extra attention, with our blue belts—Craig, Chris and Scott—learning some valuable boxing lessons. Chris (having just moved up to the senior class) was particularly grateful for his lesson in humility and gaining an understanding of the term 'what goes around comes around'. During a sparring session, Chris managed to land a good punch on Paul Dalla Costa. Let's just say the feeling of achievement Chris experienced was brief!

Members from the branch attended the Kaleen Junior Seminar, the inaugural San Ryu Do tournament and the Annual National Seminar at Gold Creek Village. All events were well attended with members enjoying their experiences and



*Isabella Plains junior class 2008*

walking away with newfound knowledge, friends and skills.

The branch also ran a Women's Self Defence Course in the later half of the year. Demand for this course proved so popular that two courses ended up being run on different days to accommodate the numbers. Feedback from the groups was very positive, with many of the women requesting a follow on course. Thanks to Mat for helping out over the seven weeks and for keeping his sense of humour whilst techniques were being trialled on him. Some of the group were particularly zealous and had a tendency to ad lib some techniques. I was particularly found of the impromptu elbow to Mat's head, which was delivered by a young lady named Des.

There were a number of notable achievements from our junior class this year, however

two individuals were deserving of special recognition:

*Best and Fairest:* Kurt Muschialli  
*Most Improved:* Ocean Barnwell

Kurt and Ocean have demonstrated an excellent attitude to training, actively listen to instruction and always strive to do the best they can. Well done guys and keep up the good work in 2009.

All in all 2008 was a good year for the branch. A good energy has been established and everyone is keen to carry their enthusiasm and commitment into the New Year. Based on the level of commitment and effort demonstrated this year, I am confident we will see many more achievements from the group in 2009.

*Contact:* Sensei Danny Ramsden  
*Dojo:* Isabella Plains Primary School, Ellerston Ave, Isabella Plains ACT  
*Training:* Wed: Jr 6:30-7:30pm, Sr 7:30-9:30pm

## **Kaleen**

*Shihan Peter Wilson, Chief Instructor*  
 Welcome to the start of the new year.

The Kaleen branch had quite a successful year in 2008. The new year started with good numbers in both junior and senior classes.

At the start of March we hosted the Junior Seminar and had about 50 children attend. As usual, Shihans Rowley and Scharrer did a good job in the teaching of techniques, and various other instructors did segments as the day went



*Ocean and Kurt, awarded Most Improved and Best and Fairest*

on. We also had Shihan John Bear in to do his usual segment on his art and that was great as usual and I am sure the children enjoyed his stick workout.

The branch had two junior gradings during the year and all students passed with flying colours; our thanks to Shihan Rowley for coming over to do the gradings.

In October, we decided to have a fundraising evening to raise money for the Starlight Foundation and it was quite an evening. All the children came to training plastered with stars and some were really covered top to toe. We raised \$300 that night and we thank all the Kaleen members for a great effort and the Starlight Foundation people were quite impressed with our effort.



*Kaleen juniors fundraising for the Starlight Foundation*

Talking about fundraising, we also had a fundraising night for all the bushfire victims down in Victoria. We collected a great sum of \$427 that evening, which is quite amazing. We are very proud of our branch for wanting to get in and help those people who are less fortunate than us in these trying times. The one thing that



is very noticeable is the children who always are willing to do their bit when they are asked to help out in such circumstances.

Towards the end of the year we were graced with the company of Sensei McKell for a few training sessions, so we made sure he had plenty to do on the sessions and I have no doubt he felt it the next morning. During his last session we had all the children do British Bulldog on him alone, so you can imagine how it went 30 kids to 1. He looked a bit frazzled at the end of it. Good going away present for him.

The Kaleen branch has been charged with running the Annual National Seminar in August 2009 and we need some volunteers to help us out. So if you can help please let us know ASAP.

Debby and the girls have already started fundraising for the Annual National Seminar which is on in August. They have been flogging off a good selection of wines at a good price and have done well so far; mind you on one evening a senior went home and left his wine at training, Julie and Cameron could not find who owned it and gave quite a few bottles of it away, then Jeremy asked if any one had seen his wine, so Renshi Owers had to make a few calls to get the wine back and over the next couple of weeks Jeremy got his wine back. Oops, Jeremy, I will try and remember to bring that last bottle back on the next session.

At the end of the year we awarded some trophies to the juniors, details below:

- Best boy:* Lachlan Dwyer  
*Best girl:* Tiki Pereira  
*Most Improved Boy:* Corey Goodberg  
*Most Improved Girl:* Lisa Sokolovic

The Chief Instructor's trophy went to Shayne Boys and the Leonie Corey trophy went to Rong Min.

Well done kids. You all should be proud of your efforts throughout the year.

There were a couple of our seniors who went for their black belt in November: Tom Wells and Andy (sorry Andy I don't remember your surname) [Andy's surname is Wright. Ed.]. Anyway, Tom passed the grading and Andy had to regrade for his boxing, well Andy kicked a... and went well on the 21st of February 2009. It takes a very special person to go back and regrade on one specific part of their course after being disappointed on the first grading. So, well done guys; it's great to see students so fit and focused on martial arts.

Remember the 28th of March is the Junior Seminar at Kaleen branch, so don't forget to come along, it will be a great day.

Well, I have rambled on for long enough, have a great year and keep well.

Contact: Shihan Peter Wilson  
Dojo: St Michaels Primary School, Tyrrell Cct,  
Kaleen ACT  
Training: Thu: Jr 6:30–8pm, Sr 8–9:30pm

## St Edmunds

Report not submitted.

Contact: Shihan Eddie Scharrer  
Dojo: St Edmund's College, Canberra Ave,  
Griffith ACT  
Training: Wed: 4:45–6:30pm

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## New South Wales

### Batemans Bay

Report not submitted.

Contact: Sensei Rod Patrick  
Dojo: Batemans Bay Primary School, Mundarra  
Way, Surfside NSW  
Training: Tue: Jr 5.30–6.30pm, Sr 6.30–8pm

### Castlecove

Report not submitted.

Contact: Sensei Jennifer Thomas  
Dojo: Castlecove Golf Club, 65 Deepwater Road,  
Castle Cove NSW  
Training: Thu: Sr 6.30–8pm, Sun: Sr 10.30am–  
12.30pm

### Durras

Report not submitted.

Contact: Renshi Ben Innes  
Dojo: Durras Hall, South Durras NSW  
Training: Fri: Jr/Sr 5.30–7.00pm

### Queanbeyan

Report not submitted.

Contact: Renshi Scott Teys  
Dojo: YMCA Centre, Karabar  
Training: Mon: Jr 6:15–7:15pm, Sr 7:30–9pm

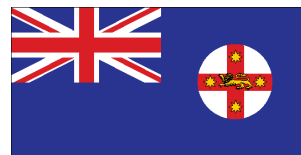
### Radcliffe

*Renshi Alan Maconachie, Instructor*

Some people say that the Radcliffe dojo is too far from civilisation to visit. Some people say that the Radcliffe dojo is a figment of the Principal's imagination. And some people even say that the instructors at the Radcliffe dojo are not... human!

All we know at Radcliffe is that we take all kinds of bodies from the human race into our dojo, work our bush magic on them and throw them back to where they come from. The strange thing is that these bodies, year after year, just like the barber's cat, keep on coming back.

We have students that have been with us for such a long time that they have grown to such an extent physically that the Radcliffe dojo tatami area needs to increase in size. This is so that a domino effect is not set off every time a



front kick is executed and accidentally connects with the student in front. Ever seen a Mexican Wave, set off from a kick, that travels from the back of the tatami to the front?

As a result of very close quarters, the Radcliffe Chief Instructor, what's his name? That's it, Shihan Dave "the Master" Rowley has made a decision to purchase another 14 mats early in 2009, thereby bringing our total tatami area to 77 mats. This is quite an increase considering that 10 years ago Radcliffe had a grand total of 25 mats.

2008 has been kind to Radcliffe with a core body of junior students relentlessly turning up week after week and leaving all four elder instructors tired and sore for the next couple of days, especially after a total of around 28 two-man attacks on more than the occasional night.

Our total of 1 senior student became pretty lonely for a while until we managed to convince a junior Brown Belt that he should start the bridging course to becoming a senior student. This gave our lonely Blue Belt senior some company and a bit more education.

Our junior students did the usual things, like attending both the Kaleen and Batemans Bay junior seminars, the San Ryu Do tournament and bringing home quite a few medals, and grading to the next level of their training with, as one would expect, a 100 per cent pass rate.

As for the Radcliffe instructors, they just keep on keeping on and try out new and cunning plans to keep the interest and enthusiasm of students.

Ah, yes, 2008 has been an interesting year. Now if I could only convince our Chief Instructor to vary his routine, then 2009 would be a ripshorter.

## Radcliffe

*Visit us and experience the bush magic*

Contact: Shihan Dave Rowley  
Dojo: Stoney Creek Hall, 16 Gathering Place,  
Radcliffe Estate NSW  
Wednesday: Jr 6:30–7:30pm, Sr 7:30–9:30pm

## Queensland

### Sunshine Coast

*Renshi Mark Tomasich, Chief Instructor*

Firstly, I would like to congratulate Sensei John Mosley on completing his Shodan grading. Last year John tore his anterior cruciate ligament in his knee in the last 6 minutes of his Black Belt grading. He put a lot of effort into overcoming the injury and whilst unable to train for a full 8 months, he devoted a lot of time to training our juniors. Well done John! I would also like to thank Shihan David Rowley and Shihan Edward Scharrer for coming up to the Sunshine Coast for the grading.

Sensei Dave Pointing has moved on from the Sunshine Coast to greener pastures at Nanango, south-east of Kingaroy. We wish him lots of luck as he was an excellent instructor and a wonderful friend. We will miss him at training. Who knows he might start a branch out there?

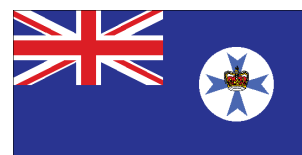
I would also like to thank our sponsor PASCOE Plumbing who helped us with our trip to this year's Annual National Seminar. Attending the seminar is a major expense for our branch and it takes a lot of fundraising each year for us to travel down to enjoy the training and fun. We are hoping to take down a couple of our more junior grades next year to the seminar so they can meet some of the other students from New South Wales, South Australia and Canberra branches.

Lots happened at this year's seminar, with Senseis Petra and Mark being promoted to the rank of second Dan. Linda and Petra also showed the academy they are multi-talented by getting up on stage with the band as the backup singers and dancers. Lucky they are good at jujitsu.

I would like to thank Shihan Graham Darby and all his hard workers for all the efforts they have put into the seminar. I know the seminar does not just happen and it takes a lot of hours organising and preparing for each session. It was also great to see Shihan Swinger back at the seminar. He has a lot to offer the Academy with his experience and knowledge of Jujitsu.

I would like to also thank our instructors Senseis Petra Peiren, Mark Humphris, Michael Caskin, Justine Tomasich and John Mosley who put a lot of time into training our students.

A special mention must be made about Mark and Petra who have put a lot of effort into the branch and



training both Justine and John on the weekends and after class. They have also helped organise and participated in the junior camp, gradings and the general running of the branch.

We held our end of year Christmas Party and grading, congratulations to all students who passed their gradings. Our Senior of the Year was awarded to Peter Lutz, a brown belt student who is always willing to help out with odd jobs and organise a fund raising event. He always gives 100% at every training session and is also currently training for his Shodan.

Junior of the Year has been awarded to Shon Lee. Shon is 11 years of age and holds a junior green belt. He has been a member of the academy for approximately 6 years. He is always well mannered and polite and helps with the training of lower grades. He rarely misses a training session and will be making the big move into the seniors training sessions soon.



Linda Rossiter, Peter Lutz, Matthew Farrell and Crispian Pascoe have started extra training sessions for their Shodan. All are very dedicated students who have been training with the academy for approximately 5 years. They are all very excited about having the opportunity of grading for their Shodan.

I would also like to thank Ian Leigh (blue belt) and Sensei John Bennett who come to our training sessions and help us with our judo. Sensei John is an International Judo Federation accredited 5th Degree black belt and Level 1 NCAS coach since 2004. John regularly travels to the Kodokan in Japan, the home of judo, to further his own judo education and is very active within the Australian Institute of Sport as Team Manager and Coach for international events.

On an ending note I would like to thank all the members of the Academy, Soke Morton, Shihan David Rowley, Shihan Edward Scharrer, Shihan Peter Wilson and Renshi Alan Maconachie who devote a lot of time and effort to the organisation.

*Contact:* Shihan Mark Tomasich

*Dojo:* Sunshine Coast PCYC, Youth Ave, Nambour QLD

*Training:* Tue: Jr 6-7:30pm, Sr 6-8pm



## South Australia

### Walkerville

*Sensei David Clayton, Chief Instructor*

2008 has been a rather eventful year in South Australia—2008 marking our 21st year of operation in Walkerville. Craig's recovery and rehabilitation has been inspirational to my students and to me. We started the year watching him shuffle around with a walking frame, progressing to crutches, then sticks and eventually walking unaided. It was at the first grading of the year (April) that Craig shuffled on to the mats to demonstrate a technique. The students were blown away seeing the man from the sky was now on the mats—an incredible display of inner strength and determination. As inspirational as it was for my students, it was the beginning of the road to recovery and return to training for Craig. Throughout the year we watched as he was able to stand for longer, regain mobility, do a short kata, hold his own in self defence, box a black belt candidate, and now perform a shoulder roll.

Throughout 2008 I have been training James for his black belt. With access to the dojo limited to class time only, I laid out mats in the shed and made best use of what was available. It has been years since I graded myself and leading a black belt class of one largely on my own has been a challenge. I have watched the maturation of James over the 18 months of training, and watched him develop as a fine instructor who enjoys a great deal of respect from our students.

We've had a few small 'events' during the year. One particular outing as a class was to see Kung Fu Panda. If you haven't seen this movie, I encourage you to do so as it contains many lessons that will assist you in your journey as a martial artist.

A number of 'old' faces have turned out this year too. I have enjoyed back up support from Paul Arnold, Martyn Gabb and Tom Atterton. We've had guest visits from Mark Sorgini, David Chen, Martin Clarke and Paul Jurkowski.

In September a small contingent from SA attended the Annual National Seminar. We all had a fantastic and tortuous time. Whilst skinny dipping at 2am in an icy pool wasn't to everyone's taste, the boot camp exercises from Emma provided us all with a world of pain. We were honoured with the presentation of the Peter Morton Perpetual Trophy for basic steps. Significant to me in that Walkerville won this trophy in 1994 in the year I commenced jujitsu. Fourteen years later it has returned 'home' to Walkerville. I take great pride in enforcing the principles of fundamental training—our tsuki, keri, kata and breakfalls. I train with the principle: if you can block and strike, all other technique comes from the head and the heart.



I look forward to bringing a team to Canberra in 2009 to challenge this title once more.

In December I managed to score cheap flights to Canberra and attended the black belt grading. I enjoy coming to jujitsu events, it always feels like 'coming home'. There are no cliques to break into and I always am made to feel welcome. The instructors of those who graded must be commended on the technical excellence of their students, and I was privileged to attack and help put them through their paces. Reflecting on my own grading in 2001 where I was unsuccessful, I was pleased to see the motivation and enthusiasm of those students who had to regrade.

Like all years, we celebrate in the successes of our students and share in their pain. I am always encouraged by the motivation, dedication and enthusiasm that my students show. I thank them for the energy they bring to classes and their willingness to learn. Even when some had to regrade for their belts—I was proud to see such positive emotion, commitment and dedication, striving to earn what they believed in. I must thank the loyal help of my Sempais—James Melhuish, Stephen Newman and Ben Jeffries who train without fail and give so much of themselves.

I must also thank the Inner North East of Adelaide Young Men's Christian Association who have hosted us for so many years. Many of my students are involved with other programs within the 'Y' and we continue to enjoy a strong relationship here.

We are now into 2009 and we commenced training in a heat wave. Whilst we modified our training, 41 degrees still makes for a draining session. This was compounded with the final training of our Black Belt trainee James. I must commend James for his dedication to training. I have been proud to teach him and watch him grow. I thank the efforts of Craig Swingler in particular for stepping in the last 3 months to provide assistance in training him for black belt, for boxing him and driving his fitness development. On 21 February 2009, I was very proud to see 'my' student, one of the first that I have taught, reach this height and earning a black belt. I now look forward to James joining me at the head of the mats as my assistant instructor, and training him as my successor over the next few years so that I can slowly step back and pursue my next challenge.

I must also thank my wife Fiona, who holds a blue belt in my class. I train her harder than anyone else and she has put up with my training schedule for the branch. At home she

may be the 'master' but on the mats she still bows to me. Across the Academy we all have strong partners behind us who put up with the demands of training, injuries and who share in our excitement and our woes.

I wish to encourage all students and instructors of the Academy to pursue activities outside of jujitsu. We all give so much of ourselves as volunteers that we need to pursue other hobbies that inspire and motivate us. When you give so much of yourself, you must ensure that what you give is true.

Contact: Sensei David Clayton  
Dojo: Walkerville YMCA, 39 Smith St, Walkerville SA  
Training: Sat: Jr/Sr 9-11am

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## International

### Kinloss, Scotland

Renshi Jamie Sumsion, Chief Instructor

Report not submitted.

Contact: Renshi Jamie Sumsion  
Dojo: RAF base, Kinloss, Scotland  
Training: TBA



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# Bits 'n' Pieces

## Craig's story

*Renshi Craig Swingler is a long-time member of the Academy. Late in 2007, he had a parachuting accident and he's lucky to be alive.*

*Craig has been instrumental in the formation and promotion of South Australian branches and has played a major role in the management of the Academy.*

Family and friends can never be thanked enough for their support and they mean more than ever since my accident.

Whyalla, SA, is basically my second home. My mother, Barbara, had been running the Alexander Motel since 1990 and I have since taken over the role.

I have always been a committed worker and am driven by the things life has to offer. And family is one of those commitments, as I have been married for 20 years and have two teenagers.

I hold many achievements within my career, including diplomas in building and design. Sport has also played a big part as I have coached netball, basketball, badminton, tai chi and self defence.

I'm a sixth degree black belt in Jujitsu, training black belts for over two decades and was inducted into the Australasian Martial Arts Hall of Fame in 2000.

I have travelled the world twice and it has given me an insight to many philosophies. Life had been adventurous and successful and there never seemed a sign that would put my life on hold. But I was yet to realise that 30 seconds of my life would return me many years of recovery.

It was 10 November 2007 when I went on what I thought would be the ultimate adrenalin rush... parachuting. Having been in Jujitsu for 30 years, my class and I decided to do the daring activity 20 years ago. But with a commitment to teach self-defence, I had classes to take on the scheduled day.

Twenty years on I decided to go solo and complete the parachute training. Again I was faced with another setback because the plane was too full. It seemed signs were stopping my fate, which I was yet to realise.

On my next attempt the wind was too strong and would be too dangerous. With all the complications at that point, I was happy to say "I don't need to do it".

Two weeks went by and I was asked to come back and give it another shot. I had a barbecue organised for 16 people that night, but this wasn't going to be another excuse. I thought I would be jumping at 8am and would have plenty of time to be back for the barbecue.

By this point I had completed my training to perfection, scoring 100 per cent in my theory exam. I wasn't afraid; I wanted to get it over

and done with as I had done double the normal training. I was more worried about the door being left open on the flight up and it was awfully cramped. At this stage I knew the training had been done and it seemed more of a procedure to follow rather than jumping for fun. "Ready let's go," I thought before jumping.

At 10,000 feet I took the plunge I had anticipated for so long. Because I had been doing martial arts for so long I learned to control the adrenalin. I was finally completing what I started quite some time ago, something that would be over in less than a minute.

After checking my watch for the correct altitude and following procedure, I pulled my chute. Complications with my chute saw the most dramatic change and take the biggest spiral in my life. Plummeting through the Adelaide skies at a rapid rate, everything was over in 30 seconds.

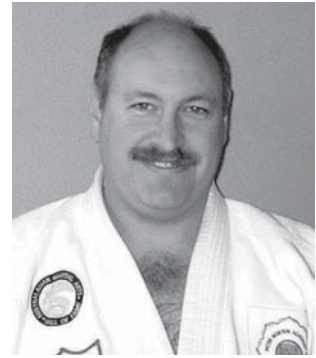
I fell to the ground in an open paddock. And though this day was far from lucky, my luck hadn't run out just yet.

I don't remember much after this but the damage was there to remind me. By chance, an empty ambulance just happened to be driving past and saw me land hard. They called for the Royal Adelaide chopper and airlifted me to Royal Adelaide Hospital to be stabilised.

I had suffered a tear in the aorta valve (to the heart), bleeding compound broken left femur, broken right femur and a broken jaw. I also had 8 broken ribs, a punctured left lung, internal bleeding, fractured neck, back and foot and left collarbone separation.

In such a critical condition, I may not have seen past that day. Three heartbeats would have been fatal if the tear were any bigger, according to the doctors. After a very long night for my family, my wife finally got the call at 5am to say "we have put your husband back together and placed him into an induced coma". There I lay for almost 3 weeks, with steel rods placed inside my femurs and a stent inside the aorta, along with an external sheath in case it collapsed, and I had to have a trichoma to maintain breathing.

I finally came out of my induced coma after 21 days, 2 days before my son's birthday. When I woke up from the coma, and upon seeing my



family's faces, I thought someone was dying and had no idea the emotion was to do with me and the ordeal that had transpired. I then realised how I made such a difference to their lives. It's not what you do but the effect it has on others that matters.

In total, my recovery in intensive care was 28 days. I was then moved to a general ward for a further 7 days before a bed became available in a rehabilitation hospital with a hydrotherapy pool that was critical to help my recovery and my goal of being home for Christmas.

Right from day one, I made it clear I would do what ever it took to get home. I exercised in bed every hour. The staff enjoyed my enthusiasm to get better while encouraging other patients, as I would run around in my wheel chair building my upper body back up while waiting for my legs to heal.

I did get home for Christmas, with some fast talking to the doctor, but only on day release and in a wheel chair, which has become the most memorable day of my life, arriving home for the first time after almost 7 weeks in hospital and seeing a 2m wide banner across the door "Welcome Home Dad".

Family means everything and a sense of humour helps. I am still healing, but getting better every day. While released home earlier this year from hospital, I have, with the help of staff at rehabilitation, been able to progressively move from being wheel-chair-bound to walking frame, elbow crutches, two walking sticks, one stick and I now walk normally again.

I look at life differently, as in rehab I realised there is always someone worse off than you and to be grateful. And one thing I am grateful for is the tremendous amount of support from my wife, children, family, friends, workers and acquaintances that have asked how I was doing and even strangers that have said prayers for my recovery.

I still go to rehab once a week and have only recently been able to go back to Whyalla fortnightly and most of all I have the opportunity to spend treasured days with family and friends again.

*Be Master of Yourself*



## **Member profile: Renshi David Burgemeister**

*Renshi Burgemeister was inducted into the Australasian Martial Arts Hall of Fame (AMAHOF) and the World Karate Union Hall of Fame (WKUHOF) as 2008 – Instructor of the year – PMAJJK.*

David was born in Norwich, England, in 1971 and currently lives in Gordon, ACT, with his wife and 3-year-old son.

With his wife, David has lived in a number of places and has travelled extensively throughout Australia, the United Kingdom and Europe.

In 1987, at 16 years of age, David commenced training with the Academy for two reasons. His main reason: because of his short stature, he was insecure about his ability to defend himself if the need arose; and his second reason: he had a mate whose father was an instructor with the Academy.

So David enrolled with the Evatt branch of the Academy and, under the instruction of Sensei Graham Darby, over the next 5 years progressed from 6th Kyu white belt through to 1st Kyu brown belt.

In 1992, David was invited to undertake the Academy's 18-month Shodan (1st Dan Black Belt) course, which he commenced in mid-1993. Under the instruction of Shihans David Rowley and Edward Scharrer, he successfully graded to Shodan in December 1994.

Also in 1992, David started regular training in the art of boxing at the Police & Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) in Turner, ACT, and in 1995 he had his first Amateur Boxing fight.

In 1997 David took on the role of Chief Instructor, opened the Turner branch of the Academy at the PCYC Turner and began coaching junior boxing at the same venue. It was in that same year that David felt honoured to be chosen by the Academy as the Shodan Chief Instructor for the Shodan course in ACT region.

Never one to be idle, David started training with the PCYC Wrestling Club during 1998 to enhance his judo grappling skills and, after representing

the ACT in numerous local and interstate wrestling competitions, David competed at the Australian Wrestling Championships (2000 Olympic tryouts) in Melbourne.

With a hunger to further enhance his judo and jujitsu skills, David commenced training with the Judo Federation Australia at the Marist Judo Club, ACT, where he gained a brown belt in judo and still trains and competes.

David has represented ACT Judo at local and interstate competitions, including the 2002 and 2004 Australian Judo Nationals, and attended various Australian Institute of Sport, National Judo training camps.

With the closure of the PCYC Turner in 2007, the Turner branch was relocated to the PCYC Erindale and renamed as the Erindale branch.

David followed the move and is currently the Chief Instructor of the Erindale branch where he is an instructor and involved as Shodan Chief Instructor in the overall running of the 2007–2008 ACT-region Shodan course.

After 21 years of involvement with the Academy, to quote David, "I am still as excited, passionate and motivated as I was when I walked into my first martial arts class when I was 16 years old. I am deeply committed to being the best I can be and always ensuring that the people around me get nothing but the best from me!!"

This is the stuff that legends are made of and with his wealth of knowledge, experience and commitment, David is much, much more than just an asset to the Academy and its members.

It is no small wonder that David has risen to 5th Dan Black Belt within the Academy, and rightly so.

