

DEE WHY SHOTOKAN KARATE CLUB

March 2019

Term 1 has flashed by and what a great term it's been with the club continuing its steady growth trajectory. As you know, we do not actively seek members and prefer new members to seek us... as they do. Thus, not only do we have a couple of new faces 'trying out', but it's always a milestone for me whenever members undergo their first ever grading which requires them to join SKIA. This is a sign first that progress is being made and second of commitment to the journey that lies ahead.

Nothing gives me more pleasure than to see our karateka's advance, and while not the be all and end all, grading provides a technical yardstick against which to measure your progress. In this light, the most recent grading was especially nice insofar as we saw three 'first-timers' very competently cross this initial threshold alongside solid showings by the more senior grades. The smiles say it all!

As previously discussed, grading for 3rd kyu (first brown) is for me one of the most relevant and important grades in a karateka's lifetime. The required increase in standard from purple to brown belt is significant and being blunt, I am not going to hand out 3rd kyus very easily.

You will really have to earn and justify tying this belt around your waist, since as far as I am concerned, once you have 3rd kyu you have well and truly signed onto the Shodan journey. The latter not just in your own right, but also in terms of your instructors and fellow-karateka's commitment to **your** journey. Those of you who have experienced or witnessed this element at DYSKC, know exactly what I am talking about.

The above thinking dovetails with the high technical standard that we aspire to as a club and this will once again be evident as we prepare two of our members for Nidan and two for Shodan this year, injuries permitting!



It's also great that many of you train twice a week and irrespective if its once or twice, I urge everyone to practice at home. Our website is rich in resources and you can facilitate learning your next kata and kumite syllabus by referring to the demonstrations we have online.

Meanwhile, keep up the good work!

Sensei Jon

Term 1 Events

- The annual Narrabeen Gasshuku was attended by a few of us and this is an event well worth keeping in mind for next year.
- **W**ell done to our five new belts!
- The 3rd of our *Master Class Series* was held with Sensei Brian Cox, again excellent tuition and not to be missed if you are eligible.

Term 2 – 2019

- Another grading is planned for this term so if you have the hours and are prepared to put in the work ...
- The 4th Master Class lesson will be held this Sunday, 31st March, for Dan grades and 1st kyu's by special invitation. Four hours of pure gold from our most senior SKIA instructor!
- NSW State Champs, 8th June. Details TBA.