

# Meeting Minutes



**NEW SOUTH WALES KENDO  
ASSOCIATION INC.**

## NSWKA Annual General Meeting

Location:	USYD HK Ward Gymnasium	Date:	02/07/2008
Chair:	Andrew Tan	Time:	6pm – 7pm
Present:	46 NSWKA Members		
Apologies:	Michael Chao		

Agenda Item	Agenda Item
1.	<b>Apologies</b>
2.	<b>2007 AGM Minutes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report accepted by Ted Rixon, and seconded by Ron Bennett.</li></ul>
3.	<b>President's Report</b> – presented by Andrew Tan <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Refer to Appendix</li><li>• Report accepted by Douglas Stouffers, and seconded by Paul Rixon.</li></ul>
4.	<b>Treasurer's Report</b> – presented by Suradet Thiyavutikan <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Refer to Appendix</li><li>• Report accepted by Ron Bennett, and seconded by Michael Henstock.</li></ul>
5.	<b>Kendo Board's Report</b> – presented by Paul Rixon <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Refer to Appendix</li><li>• Report accepted by Andrew van Hamond, and seconded by Douglas Stouffers.</li></ul>
6.	<b>NSW Kendo Dan &amp; Women Team's Report</b> – presented by Paul Rixon <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NSW Women's Team won the Australian Women's Team Championships 2008 for the first time in about ten years, and will defend the title in Adelaide next year.</li><li>• NSW Dan Team came second in the Australian Dan Team Championships 2008.</li><li>• Adelaide will host the 2009 Australian Kendo Championships. All NSW members are encouraged to try for a spot on the state squad.</li><li>• Report accepted by Michael Henstock, and seconded by Jayson Chaplin.</li></ul>
7.	<b>NSW Kendo Kyu Team's Report</b> – presented by Ted Rixon <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NSW won both the Kyu Team and Kyu Individuals titles in the Australian Kendo Championships 2008.</li></ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Good mateship was built up amongst members of the Kyu Team, which made a big difference in the success of the team.</li><li>• Report accepted by Ephragm del Prado, and seconded by David Banbury.</li></ul>
8.	<b>Iaido Board's Report</b> – presented by Dean Hawthorn <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Refer to Appendix</li><li>• Report accepted by David Dingelstad, and seconded by Colin Minter.</li></ul>
9.	<b>Jodo Board's Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overall, Jodo in NSW has been going well in 2007-08.</li><li>• Report accepted by Paul Rixon, and seconded by Colin Minter.</li></ul>
10.	<b>Direction of Founders' Cup</b> – presented by Ron Bennett <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Founders Cup was originally started with the idea of having kendo instructions on waza given to the members, as well as involving members in shiai. And since then, grading has also been included as part of the Founders Cup. In the 2008 Founders Cup weekend, shiai is held on the first day, and grading and seminar are held on the second day. It is probably not a good idea to change what has been happening.</li><li>• The Founders tournament involves commemorating those who founded kendo in Australia, such as Tajima Sensei, Takeuchi Sensei, Yoshida Sensei, Shoji Sensei. Yoshida Sensei was responsible for Australia to be admitted into the FIK as a chartered member. If we were to invite Sensei to come over to our dojo and teach us, I firmly believe that Yoshida Sensei and Shoji Sensei, who are excellent teachers in kendo, should be invited to come to Australia as a mark of respect from us. Tajima Sensei is also an excellent teacher, and so is Tanaka Sensei who taught us judging skills in several previous Founders Cup seminars. Bennett Sensei would like to point out that the Founders Cup is responsible for having those who founded kendo to participate in what we do.</li><li>• Sydney Kendo Club expressed concern that as their club grow in size, and the population of dan members in their club grows, they are many members who would like to participate in the competition miss out as each club is allowed only one team to participate.</li><li>• The NSW Kendo Board suggested that if NSWKA is to invite Sensei from overseas to attend Founders Cup, it would be ideal to have the relevant Sensei to attend the Founders Cup. And this will really reflects the idea of the Founders Cup. Additional ideas on having these Founding Sensei to travel and visit individual clubs after the Founders Cup tournament have also been raised.</li><li>• The NSW Kendo Board also emphasised the reason of having the team competition in the Founders Cup is that it is the NSW state team competition.</li></ul>

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	<p>The Founders Cup used to have both the individuals and team events hosting all in one day. As the tournament grows in size, the Individuals and Team competition separated into two events, where the NSW Individuals Championships is held in the first weekend of December, and the NSW Team Championships is held during the Founders Cup. This is the reason why the NSW Kendo Board is party against the idea of having lots of teams in the Founders Cup Team competition, because it should be the best team from each club competing. Within the club, the club can host their own internal competition to involve all their club members to participate and be part of the selection process to try for a spot on the club team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• From Bennett Sensei's point of view, the Founders Cup Tournament is expanding very well, and he is very pleased with that. There are, Korean dojos, different university clubs. It has been a long way coming. Bennett Sensei pointed out that we are very lucky, that we have each other, that we have the wonderful spirit that belongs to us.</li></ul>
11.	<p><b>NSWKA Executive Committee Election</b></p> <p>2008 is the election year of the NSWKA Executive Committee, which is held every two years. The NSWKA Executive Committee of the NSW Kendo Association (NSWKA) consists of a President, Vice-president, Secretary and Treasurer and is responsible for the administrative aspects of the NSWKA. The following members have been elected and accepted unanimously to form the new NSWKA Executives Committee for 2008-2010.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NSWKA President – Andrew van Hamond</li><li>• NSWKA Vice-president – Jackson Yoon</li><li>• NSWKA Secretary – Maowei Cheng</li><li>• NSWKA Treasurer – Edman Tam</li></ul>
12.	<p><b>NSW Kendo Board Election</b></p> <p>2008 is the election year of the NSW Kendo Board, which is held every two years. The Kendo Board of the NSW Kendo Association (NSWKA) consists of five elected members and is responsible for the technical aspects of all kendo related matters of the NSWKA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Apart from the resignation from Takashi Itakura, all members of the existing NSW Kendo Board are re-standing.</li><li>• Kirby Smith has been nominated as a new member of the NSW Kendo Board. NSW Kendo Board is currently awaiting his acceptance on this role. Paul Rixon accepted the move of having Kirby Smith on the NSW Kendo Board if Kirby Smith decides to accept this nomination. Motion seconded by Andrew Tan. All</li></ul>

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	<p>in favour.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NSW Kendo Board members for 2008 – 2010 are:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Ho-Young Choi</li><li>○ Michael Payne</li><li>○ Paul Rixon</li><li>○ Yuji Sano</li><li>○ Kirby Smith (awaiting Kirby Smith's acceptance on this role)</li></ul></li></ul>
13.	<p><b>Founders' Cup</b></p> <p>Discuss on the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Motion:</b> Should Kata Team competition event remain in future Founders' Cup? Motion accepted unanimously.</li><li>• <b>Background:</b> There have been great interests in expanding the number of teams per club participating in the Founders Cup. The rationale is to allow more NSWKA members to take part in the competition. Due to time constraint, this suggestion could not be action immediately, however, if the majority of members are in favour of lifting the one team per club per event limitation, future Founders Cup will need to be rescheduled to fit the extra time needed for running a larger competition during the Founders' Cup weekend.</li><li>• <b>Meeting Discussion:</b> To maintain the quality of the Founders Cup competition, it is important that only the best team from each club competes at the Founders Cup, which is the NSW State Team competition.</li><li>• Suggestions have been made that each club can host their own club competitions to provide their members with more competition experience, and not relying to use the Founders Cup, which is the NSW State Team Championships as the only resource to give their members the competition experience.</li><li>• Similar to other sports, kendo needs to be built up from the grass-root club level. Each club has the responsibility to conduct their own club competition. From there, the club can form a team to represent at the State competition. And from the state tournament, a state representative team is formed to compete at the national level. And from the national championships, a national team is formed to represent Australia at the World Championships. However, all this must start from the club level.</li><li>• A suggestion has been made that only members who are Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia can compete in the NSW State Individuals Championships and NSW State Team Championships. This is in-line with the</li></ul>

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	<p>participation requirement of the Australian National Championships. The rationale behind this is that the NSW State Championships are the selection ground for selecting eligible members to represent NSW at the national level. Those competing in the State Championships must be eligible to go to the next level. Members who are not eligible to compete at the next level should not be selected by the club to represent at a State Championships as they are taking up spots from those who are eligible to participate. Members who are not Australian citizen or permanent resident are still welcome to participate at all club level competitions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The NSW State Team Championships can possibly add a special goodwill competition event where the winners of the NSW State Team Championships compete with a team comprising of members who are neither Australian citizen nor permanent resident. So non-Australian citizen / non-permanent resident members can also be involved in the State Championships.</li><li>• <b>Motion:</b> Should the Founders Cup increase more team per club per event? 4 in favour; 42 opposed. Motion is opposed.</li></ul>



# New South Wales Kendo Association President's Report Financial Year 2007 - 2008

Dear Members,

As you are all aware, the 2007/08 year has been an incredibly exciting year filled with a mirage of activities! In addition to our "regular schedule" – which is already quite a list with 2 club competitions, 2 state level competitions and 6 gradings (3x kendo + 3x iaido) – we also hosted the 33<sup>rd</sup> Australian Kendo Championship which saw more than 100 participants from each part of Australia converging in Sydney to cross swords on the shiai-jo. We've had our hands well and truly full this year that's for sure.

Here's a quick recap of what has happened this year and a few words of thanks:

**Founders' Cup 2007** – many thanks to University of Wollongong Kendo Club for hosting this event. It was beautifully done and the venue was fantastic. It was a great opportunity for a road trip and a stay-over. We also had the pleasure of inviting Mrs Betty Lawley and Mr Steve Lawley to present the inaugural Rex Lawley Memorial Cup to the winning Dan Team.

**Visit of Chiba Sensei & Oda Sensei** – cheers to Sydney Kendo Club for hosting sensei's visit to Sydney. In fact, they will be back to give a series of seminars during the Founders' Cup weekend.

**Meitoku Gijuku High School** – in August 2007, we had a joint kendo training session with the kids from Meitoku Gijuku High School (one of the top kendo high schools in Japan) at Presbyterian Ladies College who invited us to practise with them.

**NSW Kendo Championships** – the last Championship was held at a new location (same venue as Chiba Sensei & Oda Sensei's seminar) which was the Sydney University sports centre at the Cumberland campus. The venue is easy to get to and there is plenty of parking.

**End of the Year Keiko + BBQ** – many thanks to Sydney University Kendo Club (and Duy Pham for organising the rolls and esky) for hosting this event! We even had a couple of visitors from Queensland! There were plenty of sausages and rolls to go around and the weather was just perfect! Who could forget the sun, gentle breeze, great tucka under shade and a cricket match in the oval right in front of us? Simply classic.

**Picton 2008** – thanks again to Wollongong University Kendo Club for hosting our annual sojourn to Picton!

**Club Competitions** – many thanks to both Han Rim Won and Moo Doo Kwan for hosting their respective club competitions!

**33<sup>rd</sup> Australian Kendo Championship** – an event that took months of planning and involving loads of sacrifices. A big ‘shout out’ to all involved – the members of the AKR and NSWKA executive and technical committees, Mr Doug Stouffers the event Organiser, the official volunteers (the men and women in black...t-shirts), UNSW Kendo Club for helping us secure the venue, members of Shinbukan and many many others who have contributed directly and indirectly toward the successful running of this event. Our thanks also go to Shigeoka sensei from Queensland for his role as the AKC shinpan-cho and for teaching us at the seminar.

**Founders’ Cup 2008** – thank you Sydney University Kendo Club once again for your enthusiasm. Your interest and excitement is contagious indeed!

Last but not least, I’d like to thank Michael Payne sensei for helping us organise a first-rate NSWKA first aid kit at a reasonable price!

Administratively, it has been a big year for us also. Work done at last year’s National Delegates’ Meeting in Melbourne (which I participated as NSW delegate), as eluded in my email to you all in November last year, is far-reaching and we continue to feel its effects. In short, we have achieved consistency in some key issues and we have improvised the AKR constitution in reaching that objective. We have also reinvigorated the issue of a national insurance policy (finally completed just last month) and the national coaching accreditation scheme which will involve any AKR members with a rank of 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu and above. There are some issues left over to sort out but much has been achieved in streamlining and expanding certain operations.

### **The Future and Challenges for NSWKA: A Reflection on the Past 2 Years**

As the executive committee is up for election (with all but one member stepping down), it might be prudent to outline what I think is the future and key challenges for this organisation. I’ll also outline what we have achieved and what we have failed to accomplish in this section.

Kendo, Iaido and Jodo, like any other arts, are subjected to, to a certain extent, unpredictable influx and outflow of members. Our membership base was nearing 300 two years ago, and that has since dropped to the mid-200s – volatility is quite normal and is expected. With that in mind, when we were elected in August 2006, we considered what we’d like to achieve in the next two years as well as any possible challenge that maybe present.

The first issue we noticed is money and several money-related issues. No we’re not in the red and yes we do have a healthy bank balance (as our Treasurer will testify). The

issue here is about the annual cash flows, particularly how much we're getting in and how much we're paying out. Not to put too fine a point on this, but if we spend more than we earn in revenue, our balance will decline. This is not in itself a bad thing, as certain expenditures are \*worth\* incurring for the sake of the promotion of the arts in NSW – we're not money hoarders per se. The constraint however is this: every 5 years (4 years even sometimes), we're expected to fork out at least \$25,000 \*upfront\* for the hosting of the Australian Kendo Championship. This necessarily means that when the time comes, we must make sure that we have enough to cover for this event.

We do have enough in the bank for that, but our current buffer (any amount additional to \$25,000 in the balance) is not something we were comfortable at all two years ago. During the term of our office, we have expanded that buffer from about \$27k total in the bank two years ago to about \$37k – it's no small feat I can assure you that.

To compound the issue, what we earn in terms of membership revenue per financial year is never stable. It is safe to say that we expect X number of permanent members per year and base our budgeting on that – any number above X is just icing on the cake. Still, from the budgeting point of view, there is a significant difference between actual revenues earned for 250 members versus 300 members keeping in mind also that part of the membership fee (about 50% all up) goes to AKR and our insurance policy per member. Therefore, we have to be pessimistic in our budgeting out of sheer necessity.

So how do we gain a bigger membership base? One good approach is of course to make sure that each practitioners are fully paid members of the NSWKA. That in itself is very problematic as we had to chase the numbers – it'll be much more efficient to make sure that encouragement/enforcement takes place at the club level. Beyond that, the only approach to grow in numbers is to increase the exposure of the arts by expanding the number of available kendo/iaido/jodo clubs but we're short on instructors at the moment. That is the position as elucidated by Yakov Macak sensei, Chairman of the AKR Kendo Board.

Regardless of membership numbers, it is expected that the organisation expends good money for the sake of its members and it is our intention to do so as well. Accordingly, we have evaluated many of our expenditures and have questioned their intended purposes and inherent value. Even though all of these expenditures have been value-adding, we have culled those which we considered to be not 'bang-for-the-buck' and opted instead on a financial strategy in which we would spend a chunk of good money for good value activities but still has some money saved each year for the purpose of expanding that buffer so that in the long term, with better financial security, we can focus on more and better activities. Accordingly, we determined that it makes more sense to spend money to get instructors to come over and teach ALL of us instead of just sending a select few overseas. Also, the quality of 'shimpan-ing' is important to the development of kendo in this state – therefore we have also offered to our instructors additional monies as travel subsidies additional to the AKR ones so as to encourage and to enable them to travel to highly-rated FIK shimpan seminars overseas. This balancing act – between the need to save money and the need to spend money on value-adding activities – is a key challenge to NSWKA and will in turn define our future through the development of kendo/iaido/jodo in NSW.

The second key challenge relates to staffing levels and time constraints. Administratively, it is just the 4 of us working on a voluntary basis, as is the case for the members of the various committees. We have sought to streamline many of the administrative processes to reduce inefficiency (read: time-wasting), and I'm proud to say, as an example of that endeavour, that we held our meetings over the net (via Skype) and over email of course. Still, we're short-staffed at various points depending on the event, and some of us might be bogged down with work or family matters further reducing the number of available helpers.

One of the things which we wanted to do, started doing it but never got around to completing it is the proposed new NSWKA website which will feature several membership services. Lack of time and the IT skills are the main reasons. On the plus side, we did find a much cheaper web host to host the current NSWKA website.

We started the Club Delegates initiatives as a way to keep members informed of what we were up to and to collect feedback. We had several meetings right after competitions which were well attended, but ultimately the initiative did not performed as we'd hoped as we'd received only very few feedback from the clubs.

With staffing and time constraints in mind, I'd like to encourage members to offer assistance even when not requested. We need people with various skills to step up to the plate and bat one for the team. If you think that you can make a difference then step forward! Every little bit counts.

To compound matters even further, these key issues as mentioned above in turn challenge our ability to meet and to improve on our performance as defined and measured by the Key Performance Indicators (as mentioned in last year's AGM).

The future is bright nonetheless – we are blessed with good instructors and practitioners all committed to the development of the arts. Our ability to keep things that way will ultimately depend on how effectively we manage our key challenges namely: membership base, cash flow budgeting, staffing and timing issues.

As a closing note, I'd like to thank you for your faith and support these past two years and I invite you to extend the same to the next NSWKA executive committee which will be elected at the upcoming AGM. It has been an honour to serve.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Tan  
President,  
New South Wales Kendo Association



# New South Wales Kendo Association Treasurer's Report Financial Year 2007 - 2008

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## Financial Report

### Revenues

Total revenue for the financial year was \$51,661. The majority of this income (54%) came from registration fees for the 2008 Australian Kendo Championships we hosted earlier in the year. The event was a great success. Thank to careful budgeting, sponsorship and price negotiations with suppliers, we were able to run the event at a better than expected financial outcome.

The other main sources of revenues are NSWKA Membership fees, grading fees and competition entry fees. As of 30 June 2008, the association has \$39,336 deposited in the bank account and no cash on hand.

### Expenses

As can be expected, the large proportion of expenses this year was in relation to the 2008 AKC. This included the venue hire, official welcome dinner/cruise, trophies and fist aid costs. Please refer to Statement of Financial Performance below for more details.

Other usual expenses are AKR membership fees, grading fees and insurance. It should be noted that we decided to adopt the AKR's proposal to collectively have all its members insured by one company so that we can get a better deal. To date we have only paid the public liability portion of this cost. We expect to pay away another \$4k to cover the sport injuries part of the policy.

Absent from this year's expenses are sponsorships grants that NSWKA used to provide to its members to compete at overseas or interstate events.

### Net Profit

The association made a net profit of \$13,083 for the financial year. As stated above, we expect to pay \$4k of insurance costs shortly. If the collective insurance approach

hadn't been adopted then this cost would have already been paid during the course of the financial year. Taking this into account, the profit for the financial year is \$9,083.

## Summary

NSWKA is in a very sound financial position. We have built up a substantial cash reserve which should be prudently utilised by future Executive Committees to further develop of Kendo, Jodo and Iaido in this state.

I have decided not to seek re-election to the Executive Committee due to personal reasons. It has been four years since I took on the position of Treasurer and it gives me great pleasure to look back and see how far we have developed and forward to the possibilities of the future.

There are many people to whom I owe a debt of gratitude for their help during my time as the Treasurer. However, I would particularly like to thank Vivian Yung for her help, support, encouragement and gentle prodding over the past 4 years. She has done more for NSW Kendo than most will ever know. Many thanks also to Andrew Tan and Jackson Yoon for their enthusiasm and passion for kendo development within NSW over the past 2 years.

## Membership

Club	2008	2007	Change
Amaterasu Omikami Iaido	4	0	4
Byron Bay	1	1	0
Central Coast	0	3	-3
Crookwell	1	1	0
Gilroy College	11	14	-3
Han Rim Won	14	22	-8
Hwa Rang Kwan	0	1	-1
Kingscliff	1	0	1
Macquarie Uni	0	6	-6
Milton	3	3	0
Moo Do Kwan	17	18	-1
Seidokan	1	1	0
Shinbukan	29	19	10
Suigetsu	9	6	3
Sydney	50	50	0
Sydney Iaido Club	9	8	1
The King's School	28	0	28
UNSW	47	47	0
USYD	27	18	9
UTS	0	2	-2
Wollongong	29	30	-1
Total	281	250	31

## Statement of Financial Performance

For the year ending 30 June 2008

### Revenue

AKC Registration fees	\$ 27,660.00
NSWKA Membership fees	\$ 17,710.00
Grading fees	\$ 3,581.24
Competition entry fees	\$ 1,720.00
Other income	\$ 990.00

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Total Revenue	\$ 51,661.24
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### Expense

AKC Cruise costs	-\$ 7,830.00
AKR Membership fees	-\$ 7,105.00
Other AKC costs	-\$ 6,200.34
Venue Hire	-\$ 5,749.00
AKR Grading fees	-\$ 4,535.00
Insurance	-\$ 2,001.29
Miscellaneous	-\$ 1,305.54
Trophies	-\$ 1,263.25
AKC Refunds	-\$ 1,085.00
AKC First Aid	-\$ 500.00
State Zekken costs	-\$ 420.00
First Aid Kit	-\$ 217.62
Sensei Accomodation	-\$ 216.15
AKR Cost Equalisation	-\$ 150.00

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Total Expenses	-\$ 38,578.19
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Profit / Loss	\$ 13,083.05
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## ***NSW Kendo Board Report 2008***

The only change to the Tournament & Grading schedule in the last 12 months was the cancellation of the Kumdo Association Tournament which we hope will make a comeback next year.

As NSW was the host of the Nationals this year it was the Kendo Boards responsibility to ensure that the competition and gradings ran in accordance with AKR and Kendo Board directives. The Committee wishes to take this opportunity of thanking both the NSW Kendo Executive and in particular Doug Stouffers for project managing a successful competition and seminar.

Our results were outstanding in some areas predominantly due to the dedication and input of most of the senior grades at the club level and the support of the coaching staff.

Most results whether they are in competition or grading begin and end at the club level which is why the Committee members endeavour to travel to as many clubs during the year as possible.

I would also personally like to thank the Kendo Board members for their input into a number of technical issues that have arisen over the past year and in particular Takashi Itakura who is standing down as Secretary of the Technical Committee.

Over the next 12 months it will be imperative for the Technical Committee to support the NSW Executive as they move into a new management team structure and once again be the sounding board for the members of the Renmei.

Signed



Paul Rixon  
Kendo 6<sup>th</sup> Dan Renshi  
NSW Kendo Technical Committee President.

## ***NSW Kendo Board Report 2008***

NSW Iaido continues to grow with additional members coming on board during the 2007-2008 year.

NSW held 3 successful grading events over the year, with thanks to Bob Brown and Ruth Franklin for their assistance in the grading panels.

The Nationals were held in Brisbane this year and were well attended by a good contingent of NSW Iaido-ka. Many were successful in their grading attempts at this event.

NSW Iaido-ka also attended other out of state events, in Canberra & Perth.

Congratulations to Ruth Franklin on her successful 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan examination.

NSWKA Iaido-ka provided demonstrations of swordsmanship at a variety of venues during the year and will continue to do so in the future to promote both Iaido and Kendo.

Agreement was reached between Senior NSW Iaido instructors to conduct senior level workshops across the 2008-09 year to consolidate knowledge and give state wide consistency with training technique and Iaido checking points.

On behalf of the NSW Iaido Technical Committee, I would like to thank the out going NSWKA Board members, with a special thanks to Vivian for her years of selfless effort in covering a range of positions and going that extra mile.

Dean Hawthorn  
Iaido 4<sup>th</sup> Dan  
NSW Iaido Technical Committee President