

The BJMA Victorian Leadership Team would like to thank you for being part of today's grading and tonight's awards dinner.

Our host for tonight's dinner is Soke Billy Manne.

Our Master of Ceremony is Peter Smedley.

We would like to welcome our special guests and interstate visitors

Richard Norton	Brad Ross	Adam Wright
Judy Green	Peter Rowe	Rhett Junker
Simone Manne	John Leondaris	Carol Junker
Wayne Spear	Eddie Woodford	Steve Furmedge
Sandy Spear	Sarndra Woodford	Jo Pearson
Jim Friis		Steve Newton

These events take many hands to organise and the list of people to thank would require us to list every member of BJMA Victoria.

However, we do have a few people that need special mention.

Soke Bob Jones	Hamish Preston	Michael Clark
Soke Billy Manne	Peter Smedley	Matthew Mellington
Sam Cardaci	Matthew Ball	
Chris Mendonez	Tania Rowan	

We would also like to thank our photographer **Red Butson** for his photos through out the year and today, he gives his time freely for our enjoyment.

Please enjoy your night and take the chance to relax and get to know your martial arts family from all around the country.

We are here to celebrate the achievements of those who graded today, the outstanding achievements throughout the year and our shared passion of Bob Jones Martial Arts.

Today's gradee's and a message from the co-ordinators.

Black Belt – Shodan Ho

Caitlin Mibus, Jackson Pangbourne, Jessica Duffy, Jack Nye

This year's group attempting black belt is a smaller group, but in many ways, that has put some added pressure on them. There's no hiding behind anyone, they're all going to be front and centre, on show to the grading panel.

We have had a large focus on building their sparring skills for this grading and at the last training day they showed they have the intensity and fitness level to do extremely well. They will be tested on all their foundation skills.

The last 3 to 4 years training has been devoted to the physical aspects of strength, fitness, footwork, striking, self defence and it's practical use via sparring. Mentally they have had to push through many barriers, anxieties and even failures. They have learnt 4 forms to develop a deeper meditation on martial arts and human movement. They present themselves today to show they are worthy to wear the iconic black belt and to show the Zen Do Kai hierarchy that they are willing to truly begin their martial arts journey. –

Renshi Tania Rowan

1st Degree – Shodan - Sempai

Carl Callaghan, Vikki Porter, Karl Hornsby, Dylan Walker, Michael James, Autumn Lee, Helge Haun, Jaxon DiConza, Spencer Nolan, Patrick White and Neil Coulter

*The successful completion of the 1st Degree grading will mark the transition from student to instructor. The title of Sempai, gives the responsibility to pass on the teachings of Zen Do Kai to others. A Sempai should always endeavour to make their students a higher standard than themselves. This outlook combined with improving their own standard of martial arts will ensure the future advancement of Zen Do Kai. It all starts today. – **Kyoshi Mike Quin***

2nd Degree – Dai Sempai

Megan Porteous, Diana Dow, Lisa Ciccone, Colin Occhipinti, Rod Larfield, Kris Kent, Mark Meyer, Luke Callaway and Darren Scott

We would also like to congratulate those that graded at our modified grading in Shepparton on October 6th – **Megan Birks, Ian McKenzie, Adrian Beddall**

These students have been training for over 5 years. The journey to this point has been extremely hard not only have they learnt how to punch, kick, knee, elbow and defend, they have learnt to perform 7 forms, one of which they have created to reflect the skills and techniques that have inspired them as a student.

All gradings up to this point have been progressively more challenging and technical having to break through many barriers mentally and physically. Their fitness has reached a point that most have never had before in their life, skills have been sharpened to have them fighting fit and mentally fit not unlike a pro fighter.

*Many hours have been spent training alone and with their pad holder, working on combinations, building strength and endurance. One more barrier is in front of them, but they have worked toward this day and they will “WIN THIS FIGHT”. – **Shihan Mick Clark***

3rd Degree – Sensei

It has been a long journey for for Dai Sempai's Brenton and Trevor to reach this point and attempt their 3rd degree today. Sometimes physically painful and many times mentally taxing.

3rd Degree in ZDK is the 3rd step of a 10 step process, and in many people's eyes one of the most important as it's the initial stages of multiple attack scenarios, otherwise known as Deltas, and it's also the accepting, should the student be successful, of the teaching title "Sensei".

Both Trevor and Brenton with consultation from their instructors and myself are aware of the responsibilities and expectations by them in being awarded and accepting the teaching title, and although its daunting in the initial stages, time allows you to fit the mould of what you think a "Sensei or teacher" means to you. The title has different meanings to different people. Hanshi Brad Ross will expand on the Sensei teaching title after today's 3rd Degree grading.

Trevor and Brenton today will demonstrate 3 grade forms or katas as well a personal freeform that they have created. These forms link in with the 4 delta or multiple attack scenarios, to highlight techniques from the forms. Some techniques will be obvious, some will be not as obvious, but please make no mistake, the higher ranks present here today, especially the Hanshi's will be casting a close eye on the techniques displayed in the delta's and their effectiveness in combat. Although the deltas are rehearsed and choreographed for the safety of the helpers in mind, the mindset and intent of Trevor and Brenton are likened to a multiple attack scenario to which they are under duress. In summary as Soke Richard eluded to at the last training day to Trevor and Brenton – you must make me believe that this scenarios or deltas are real.
– **Kyoshi John Rizzo**



Brenton Rock



Trevor Graham

4th Degree - Renshi



Cam Pizzo



Julian Conte



Simone Mitchell

*The day we start training in Zen Do Kai our aim is to emulate our peers. As the years progress we start to develop our own thoughts, we compile them together and after decades of research and practice we can stand alone. This is the journey to lower level master. In this grading they must learn 3 weapons, the iconic Katana and 2 of their own choosing. The mediation behind this grading is to put the student out of their comfort zone, to extend and change their natural reach and extension, to have control beyond their own body and understand the possibilities of movement when utilising different weapons. This grading is a homage to Zen Do Kai and the stepping stone from teacher (one who teaches) to lower level master (one who creates). As 4th Degrees and with the title of Renshi they will now have the right to wear a white gi showing the expertise in not only in open hands but also in weapons. – **Kyoshi Sam Cardaci***

BJMA VICTORIAN CLUB LIST

We would also like to recognise the clubs and head instructors that have worked tirelessly throughout the year. They have supported the BJMA in Victoria, participated in training days and run events to help all BJMA clubs and build a strong martial arts community. Many have prepared students for today's grading.

Albury - John Mee / Simon Ward

Balnarring - Peter Smedley

Bayswater - Mike Quin

Benalla - Mick Clark

Bendigo - Kelly Warren

Canberra - Steve Newton

Castlemaine - Jim Moran

Cobden - Craig Davis

Cobram - Darren Withers

Corowa - Peter Wilson

Eaglehawk - Simon Ryan

Echuca - Craig Bernotti

Echuca - Matt Wickham

Epping - Marc Toussaint

Forest Hill - Adam Wright

Frankston - Billy Manne

Hastings - Brenton Rock

Heathcote - Kelly Warren

Horsham - Matt Mellington

Howlong – Rohan Matthews

Huntly - Steve Ryan

Keon Park - Joe Sutera

Korumburra - Clare Stainsby

Langwarin – Simone Khoury

Mornington - Nigel Kendall

Mulgrave - Sam Cardaci

Nathalia - Steve Tomlinson

Numurkah - Simon Hutchins

Pakenham - Chris Mendonez

Point Cook – Mark Connell

Red Hill - Peter Smedley

Reservoir - Peter Shannon

Reservoir - Joe DeFrancesco

Reservoir – Julian Conte

Rowville – Alex Sanguine

Seymour – Barry O’Connel

Shepparton - Mick Clark

Somerville - Matthew Ball

Stawell - Percy Walsh

The Basin – Thomas Balkin

Tocumwal - Steve Tomlinson

Torrumbarry - Darran Scragg

Venus Bay - Grant Starr

Wangaratta - Thomas Young

Wangaratta - Timothy Jones

Werribee - Mark Connell

Whealers Hill - Sam Cardaci

Yarrawonga - Sharelle Vella

2018 BJMA Victoria Award nominations

Congratulations to the following people who were nominate and voted on by their peers, instructors, club and community.

Bushido Award 2018 - presented by Hamish Preston (Vic)

Awarded to a male who represents the ideals of martial arts. This person has a strong desire to learn and we can all look to and say they have something special. This person embodies our image of what it means to be a BJMA martial artist. Bushido represents a code of ethics and path for life. In BJMA we have also connected it to our core relationships, being accepted into a family and accepting others who wear the same symbol.

Alex (Alejandro) Sanguine -
Mulgrave

Bruce Smith – W.M.A.C.

Ben Ellul – Kaizen Shepparton

Ben Hicks - SMAC

Connor McLaughlin - SMAC

Craig Gardiner - SMAC

David Camilleri

Dylan Walker - SMAC

James Lee - Amphibian Dojos

Josh Franke – Amphibian Dojos

Nathan Clark CBMA Echuca

Trevor Graham - Pakenham

This award is sponsored by Hamish Preston on behalf of Kobushi Dojo's

Ishoa Award 2018 - presented by Jo Pearson (WA)

Awarded to a female who represents the ideals of martial arts. This person has a strong desire to learn and we can all look to and say they have something special. This person embodies our image of what it means to be a BJMA martial artist. One of the most powerful symbols of BJMA and recognised around the world as being worn by our female warriors.

Diana Dow - Kaizen Shepparton

Jess Duffy - Amphibian Dojos

Josie Franco - Cobram Thaiboxing

Megan Birks - Kaizen, Shepparton

Simone Mitchell - SMAC Gym

Instructor of the year 2018 –

presented by Steve Newton (ACT)

This person demonstrates great teaching skills, patience and understanding. They have a strong community attitude and go out of their way to give time to their students.

This award is Sponsored by Adam Wright and Matthew Ball, the winner receives flights and a attendance at the 2019 BJMA East Coast camp Qld.

Barry O'Connell - Ryu Senshi Dojos

Ben Hicks - SMAC Gym

Brenton Rock - Hastings

Cam Pizzo – All-Active, Epping

Darren withers - Cobram Thai Boxing

Dylan Walker - SMAC Gym

Elizabeth Cardaci – Cardaci Dojo's

James Grant - Firestorm Dojos

Joshua Franke - Amphibian dojo

Josie Franco - Cobram Thaiboxing

Matt Eade - Smac Gym

Michael Devlin - Firestorm Dojos

Nathan Clark - CBMA Echuca

Simone Mitchell - SMAC

Steven Tomlinson - Nathalia/Tocumwal

BJMA Competitor of the year 2018

presented by Adam Wright (Vic/NSW)

BJMA Competitor of the year 2018 - Male or female of any age. Must have competed in one or more of the following fields. Sparring or forms

tournament, XMA, BJJ, Ring sports, professional or amateur. Based on

performance as well as giving back to BJMA community via motivation,

assistance and promotion of BJMA. Dylan Walker SMAC Gym, Somerville

This award is Sponsored by Adam Wright and Matthew Ball, the winner receives flights and a attendance at the 2019 BJMA Thailand Tour.

Frankie Ferraro, XMA

Matt Eade - SMAC Gym, Somerville

Tarli Hughes – Kaizen, Shepparton

Tim Davies - SMAC Gym

Mitchell Wickham - WMAC

BJMA SPIRIT Award 2018 - presented by Richard Norton & Sam Cardaci

Awarded to a person who embodies the spirit of martial arts in all they do in life. The reasoning for each nomination was sent in by their nominee.

This award is sponsored by Sam Cardaci on behalf of the Cardaci Dojo's

Dylan Walker - I believe Dylan shows all the attributes of a true martial artist. His knowledge of Muay Thai and his ability to explain in detail is awesome.

BJMA SPIRIT AWARD Con'd

They way he greets everyone no matter who they are into the club makes everyone feel welcome. His out of club activities with him being a metal health ambassador is amazing for someone his age. With the set backs he has also had to his fighting career with injury etc. he still has the positive attitude we have all come to expect from him. The influence he has had on Hamish is enormous. Ange and I are so impressed with him and what he has brought out in Hamish. And also helping an old bloke like me try harder to achieve my best. -**SMAC Gym, Somerville**

James Woods - James has been a part of the Kaizen (Shepparton) family for many years, he shows great determination and respect for his martial arts family and not only pushes himself to learn more but teaches others how to do the same.

His commitment to the kaizen and BJMA family has grown into a teaching role and he set himself a goal to complete and proudly represented with a skilful display at a recent inter club event. - **Kaizen Dojo, Shepparton**

Jamie Bullows - Jamie has been training in Krav Maga for a number of years. Jamie has had a constant battle with the black dog but rarely misses a training night, state training day or even international training camp. Although you can see his battle is constant he works extra hard at being jovial to new members, making other students comfortable while assisting in their training and is always prepared to assist in demonstrations and other extra task. - **SMAC GYM**

BJMA SPIRIT AWARD Con'd

Jaxon DiConza- Jaxon is always ready to teach and provide additional knowledge of various techniques and movements, always aiming to improve his own forms and skills as well as that of others, and is always providing a friendly and welcoming presence for everyone at the dojo. He is a true martial artist, both in and out of the dojo. - **Amphibian Dojos, Balnarring/Redhill**

Rueben Blok - At only 8 years old he has reached Black Belt. He has a very mature head on his shoulders. Helps everyone he can. Is very supportive and a real team player. He tries his best in everything that he can and uses

everything everything thing he learns at the Dojo in his everyday life. - **SMAC Gym, Somerville.**

Simone Mitchell, I love the fact that Simone is always seeing the good in others and understanding of everyone's differences. She has taught me a lot about thinking things through from other angles and her dedication to everything she does is inspiring. She is a great example! **Smac Gym, Somerville**

Simone Khoury, it has been a tough 18 months for Simone with her first class back in ZDK seeing her knee injured and requiring surgery which she had to wait quite some time for, this put her attempt to enter the police force put on hold and recently she was told she would be ineligible due to her injury. During this time she had come into Thai classes and helped instruct, her optimism in the face of hardship is inspiring, she is now in the process of starting a kickboxing club of her own, she hasn't let adversity knock her down she continues to strive and stay positive she truly embodies the spirit of a martial artist and warrior - **SMAC Gym Somerville**

Stan Potts - 3 Nominations. #1 Always supporting the BJMA and all of its members. He stands by all on their journeys as martial artists. #2, Stan is a great guy, he saturates himself in the broader BJMA community, as well as SMAC Gym his club. Stan is an Instructor, Motivator and supporter of his peers and students alike and is a deserving recipient of this award. #3 Stan is at many of the events including Thai tours, training days, Krav weekends and

BJMA SPIRIT AWARD Con'd

brings his sons along to the kids training days as well. He is very supportive of everyone's martial arts journey.- **SMAC Gym Somerville**

Trevor Graham - for his effort to over come challenges in life.- **Pakenham Dojo**

Zoe Hickey. Zoe always try's very hard in class. Comes to class every week. And is so committed to her forms in class. Zoe is a brown belt teen in kids karate - **WMAC, Echuca**

New Club's in 2018 - presented by Billy Manne (Vic)

Opening a new club is an exciting step. This person will have taken a big leap of faith in their own abilities and the support of BJMA, to give other people the life changing experience of training in Bob Jones Martial Arts. This can include opening a new club or going from a part time training hall to a full-time centre.

Kyoshi Adam Wright – Forest Hill (Zen Do Kai)

Simone Khoury – Langwarrin *opening 22nd October*- (Kickboxing)

Darran Scragg – Torrumbarry (Zen Do Kai)

Alex Sanguine – Rowville (Zen Do Kai)

Thomas Balkin – The Basin (Zen Do Kai)

Awards and certficiates presented at today's Senjo ceremony.

Perpetual Trohopy – The Robe Rode award for determination and attention to detail. *This award is presented by the Rode family in memory of Shihan Rob Rode and the attributes he held at the core of his martial arts training. The recipeint was selected by a panel of our International leadership group.*

The Rob Rode Award
for determination
and
attention to detail



Zen Do Kai

Continued -

Best on Grading Day Award -*This award was selected by the audience and grading panels. Each person present at today's grading was asked to vote on who they felt was the person that stood out with presence, technical ability and had the "Wow factor". This award was sponsored by Dave McDermott of ClubShop, the winner received a \$100 voucher for equipment.*

Certificate of Recognition of Years of Service

Julianne Harris 10 Years

Josie Franco 10 Years

Stan Potts 15 Years

Jim Moran 15 Years

Thomas Balkin 15 Years

Garry Wakefield 15 Years

Kelly Warren 15 Years

Grant Starr 20 Years

Simon Ward 20 Years

Joe DeFrancesco 25 Years (2017)

Tania Rowan 25 Years

John Rizzo 30 years (2016)

Brett Ritchie 40 Years

Adam Wright 40 Years

Graeme Loison 45 Years

Peter Shannon 45 Years

Meet your Grading Co-ordinators

Kyoshi Craig Bernotti – 6th Degree

Echuca, Victoria

Moto Meru Dojo's

Coloured belt co-ordinator

What Craig brought to this year's training days-

Craig formatted a great training program all levels, white to Green belts. He covered grading requirement as well as teaching new skills and drills to enhance everyone's martial arts training.



This year with my group...

I worked with a lot of different people during the year. It was great watching them develop as the year progressed, many changing rank during the year. I tried to impart an understanding of fundamental skills, whipping techniques and formulated drills. I appreciated the effort all students put in and their obvious passion for martial arts.

Renshi Tania Rowan, 4th Degree

Cobden, Victoria

Cobden Martial Arts

Black Belt Co-ordinator



Background info –

My journey into martial arts began 25 years ago in Camperdown. I often joke that I started martial arts for the wrong reasons, but I stayed for the right ones. Over the years as I've travelled around the country (training with whoever was willing to teach me), the reasons I stay become clearer. Using my knowledge and experience from my day job, I get to help students with human movement and fitness, and my interest (ok, some may call it obsession!) with human behaviour has me nearing the end of a psych degree. With that, and the opportunities martial arts has presented me with, the next 18 months is taking me on a different journey, developing and delivering workshops here and in developing countries, empowering women and youth. I get to take what I've learnt from many people in this room to help those who have never had the opportunity to learn self-defence or martial arts. Once again, being reminded that I'm here for the right reasons.

A message to our new Black Belts...

To our new ZDK Black Belts, congratulations to each of you, and well done on your efforts leading up to today and for what you achieved in this grading.. Every-one in this room who attends and teaches at a training day remembers how daunting it can be to learn from someone other than your own instructor as we prepare for a grading, and we never forget how challenging that can be. You all took in new and sometimes different information to what you have been taught, and you stepped up to the challenges asked of you. You did yourselves and your club proud and I can see you all being valuable instructors in your clubs. Now is time for you to step up and share your knowledge. In doing that you will learn so much more.

The next part of your journey has just begun. I look forward to seeing the path it takes you on!

Kyoshi Mike Quin – 7th Degree

Bayswater, Victoria

Firestorm Martial Arts

1st Degree (Shodan) co-ordinator



Some background information-

I began training in Zen Do Kai in 1984, my first 2 instructors were John Shepherd and John Buttigieg.

Over the years I have been privileged to be able to train with some of the best martial artists in the world both from within and outside our style. My current passion is to the development of my students and our club. My specialisation is getting the best out of people.

This year with my group...

This year, my main aim was to highlight the issue of the Shodan grading as being the start of the student's life as an instructor as well as to hone a better understanding of our forms. To receive the rank of Sempai, is an honour as it engages the student into a dual role of instructor and student.

My main focus was to bring them together to form a cohesive group of confident martial artists in order for them to build on their skills in the future and thus promote better skills in their students. This year's group of potential shodans have demonstrated that they realise their responsibility and are willing to contribute to the future benefit of our style.

A message to our new Shodans...

This year's group of students are a credit to their instructors and will be a valuable asset to our system in both the instructor and students' realms.

**Shihan Michael Clark, 5th Degree
2nd Degree Coordinator
Shepparton, Victoria
Kaizen Dojo's**



Some background information-

My name is Mick Clark I have been training since 1984 under the guidance of Steve Ryan and John Lewis.

Instantly enjoying everything about Zen Do Kai.

Apart from my first grading I have had the pleasure of the Chief (Bob Jones) watching all of my gradings.

I train in Zen Do Kai, Muay Thai, AEK (Philippine Martial Art) and I am enjoying the Krav Maga training that I am doing when I get the opportunity.

Martial arts has taken me to many parts of the world and given me so many fantastic memories, meeting some of the worlds most renowned martial artists, training with them, learning from them so I can put these experiences into my own club so my students benefit.

This year with my group...

This is my first year as a coordinator and it has given me the opportunity to give back to students who have a passion in martial arts as I do. My aim this year was to lift these students to a new level of fitness, help them break through barriers that may have been in front of them, to bring out the best in them.

A message to our new 2nd Degrees...

Now I look forward to watching you develop into instructors of the future.

I hope you all enjoy what is ahead of you as much as I am.

Yours in Bushido

Shihan Mick Clark.

Kyoshi John Rizzo – 7th Degree

Victoria.

3rd Degree co-ordinator

A bit about me-

I started Zen Do Kai in 1986 under Kyoshi Noel Kuhnd at the Hadfield Dojo under the Wildcat Division headed by Kyoshi Raff Lanciana. My training over the years was primarily based around the sporting elements of karate such as tournaments, both sparring and Kata. This was my main desire and focus at this point until about 1993, to which it then shifted towards combat, kata and bunkai, which is still my passion to this day, with a slight twist to the softer aspects of the internal martial arts. I love dissecting kata, exploring bunkai both obvious and hidden techniques as well as learning and understanding other martial arts styles kata and techniques.

I continue working to explore opponent's weaknesses, body auto kinematics and fight/combat psychology both mentally and physically.

This year with my group...

My group has been great to work with. As with last year's group, we have created a great rapport with each other and mutually set out to plan and achieve 3rd Degree, but most importantly created a relationship that will continue every time we cross paths on the dojo floor.

The focus for 2018 was to set a goal at year's end. Be open to new voices, ideas and thought processes, and enjoy the journey leading up the 3rd Degree grading.

My hope is that the students gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of BJMA, and what it takes to achieve and succeed in a 3rd Degree grading, both now and in the future, and to understand and appreciate the importance of the Sensei teaching title, the responsibilities and expectations that come with being a Sensei.

A message to our new 3rd Degrees

I / We had a great time sharing, exchanging and passing on information in a mutually respectful way. I wish them all the very best in their future endeavours in BJMA and I look forward to seeing them on the dojo floor in the future.

I leave with them 3 points;

- 1. Never forget what has got you to this point.*
- 2. Train Diligently*
- 3. Don't accept mediocrity*



Kyoshi Sam Cardaci – 7th Degree

Mulgrave, Victoria.

4th Degree co-ordinator

My journey...

At the age of 15, my appreciation for the Martial Arts began at 'Clayton Dojos'.

It was here I was guided by the chief instructors Shihan Dave Berry and John Lewis.

They inspired me to persevere and to this day have taught me the value of learning and developing in my abilities.



Training objectives

To achieve a sound knowledge and understanding of the katana (Sword)

To Demonstrate advanced skills in martial arts training and weapons.

To extend the understanding of the freeform.

To attain probationary (Ho rank) through set requirements and level of practicality.

Ability to have increased awareness.

Define specific grading requirements to receive full 4th degree.

Balance, coordination, timing, focus, speed, strength, power, awareness, distance, relaxation and structure will be the focus of the grading.

I believe we achieved all of this and more.

Advice....

To our new Renshi's —be recognised in your teachings by maintaining a positive attitude. You may have started with a destination in mind, however, you will find yourself at the start of an amazing journey of appreciating new experiences. Your learning has not come to an end but a whole new beginning, you only have 5 years to prepare for your next rank, don't waste a moment of it.

Kyoshi Hamish Preston, 7th Degree
Murrungee, Victoria
Kobushi Martial Arts
5th Degree Co-ordinator



The focus in 2019 for our 4th degrees journeying to 5th degree will be;

To enhance structure for multiple situations, to consolidate on previous grading ranges and adapt these to any environment.

To learn the meditation side to form work before battle.

Soke Billy Manne - 9th Degree
Frankston, Victoria
Billy Manne Martial Arts
6th, 7th, and 8th Degree Co-ordinator



A little bit about myself...

I started training with Bob Jones in August 1970, I was member number 58 of the organisation. I received my black belt after 20 months training, 7 days a week, up to three classes a day.

During this period, I was working nights as part of the Bob Jones boys security team. I was personal body guard to Paul McCartney and Boy George as well as security for some of the world's biggest bands. My martial arts journey began as a 6 year old but it was when I found Zen Do Kai that I knew I would be doing this forever. I was a fulltime instructor from 1971 and have had a club in Frankston since 1972. My passion for training has not diminished and along the way I have earned instructor ranks in BJJ, Aikido, Krav Maga, Systema, Boxing, Muay Thai.

My current drive and passion is Ki extension. How to be stronger by being softer and how I can pass this knowledge to others

This year with my group...

This year we didn't have anyone grading so I was able to spend time working on the form but also explaining some of the deeper meaning and skills of advanced martial arts.

Meet the Victorian Leadership Team

In April of 2017 the events team was formed at the request of Soke Billy Manne to assist him in the running of training days, state gradings, the awards nights and the continued support of our members, instructors and clubs.

In 2018 Soke Billy changed this group to the Victorian Leadership Team, VLT.

His vision was for a representative team from all regions of Victoria and clubs of different sizes to come together to give direction and guidance for BJMA in Victoria.

In 2018 they have run 5 State training days, 3 Coordinator training days, created and rolled out the CTP, assisted clubs and the International leadership teams. They have also assisted many club instructors.

It is hard to understand just how much behind the scene work is done by this team and all the other committees and groups that came before them.

**Renshi Tania Rowan, 4th Degree
Cobden, Victoria
Cobden Martial Arts**

Since our gradings last year the Events team has transitioned to the Victorian Leadership Team (VLT).

We've been trusted with some added responsibilities which for me has been a great learning experience.

Once again, I've enjoyed learning from others on the VLT, and this year we've all contributed to find more productive ways to implement and organize events and meetings, such as using voice conferencing to save time and travel for each team member. We've continued to work on some administrative changes (such as the CTP, changes to the website, adding resources and sharing the work) so everyone has input, and also adding in more efficient payment systems, such as online payments and card facilities for training days to run smoothly.



I've enjoyed learning from the various leadership styles and am continuing to find ways to build on that for my own growth personally, in martial arts and my business.

Soke Billy has put together a group with a great collective knowledge and expertise in different areas and he has encouraged everyone to put forward suggestions which has allowed this team to work well together. There has been a lot of work behind the scenes as we've continued to move BJMA in a new direction and I'm extremely grateful to be part of it. Plans for 2019 are already underway and its looking set to be another big year for everyone!

Sensei Matt Mellington, 3rd Degree
Horsham, Victoria
Horsham Allied Martial Arts

A little bit about myself...

I started training in 2008 with Kyoshi Percy Walsh at Horsham West in ZDK, I started training when I was about 12 in Kempo and also in my 20's in Tae Kwon Do. I have travelled with BJMA members to Thailand, USA and the Philippines to gain further knowledge in Martial Arts. My current passion is weapons, more specifically Eskrima



My year on the VLT...

The VLT is a diverse group from both Metro and regional areas with a wealth of experience, everyone pitches in and works well together to achieve the best result possible for all events that are organised and run. From an events team perspective I want to see high quality events ran to further cement the Brotherhood and Sisterhood of all the BJMA family. Events are a massive amount off work currently organised by a few dedicated people, more hands make light work so feel free to contact your regional representative to find out how you can assist in making future events bigger and better than ever.

**Shihan Peter Smedley, 5th Degree
Balnarring & Redhill, Victoria
Amphibian Dojo's**

A little bit about myself...

I started training under Kyoshi Nigel Kendall at his Somerville Dojo in 1987, and the freedom on mixed martial arts through Zen Do Kai has driven me ever since. From studying Okinawan Kara'te to practicing Systema and Muay Thai, then getting out of my comfort zone with BJJ, Zen Do Kai has kept me hungry as a martial artist for most of my life.

My year on the VLT...

After being a part of BJMA for so many years, and looking up to the higher ranks and leaders in the organization, it gives me great honor to be invited to take on a role in the Victorian Leadership Team. It took a bit of adjusting, but now I realise what part I play, and I am happy to lead by example and help pave the way for our future leaders.

**Kyoshi Matthew Ball, 6th Degree
Somerville, Victoria
Jukko Dojo's- SMAC Gym**

A little bit about myself...

My training started in 1986 at the Somerville Dojo. I had a number of instructors but always under the guidance of Kyoshi Nigel Kendall and Soke Billy Manne. From my first year of training I had the good fortune of taking part in camps and seminars. This introduced me to the amazing skills of my fellow students and instructors. I have been working to gain those skills ever since. In 1996 martial arts instruction became my profession. My current drive is to help emphasise the importance of what we bring to our communities and the lives of our students. To help instructors understand that what they do has great value.

Why I joined the VLT...



I believe in taking an active role in what is important to me. It's an honour to be even a small part in running great events for our members.

My year on the VLT...

This year we have really worked as a cohesive team. We have implemented some great programs that will continue to develop over the coming years. The instructors around Victoria have been extremely supportive and I hope this bond and commitment to mutual development will continue.

**Renshi Chris Mendonez, 4th Degree.
Pakenham, Victoria
Zen Do Kai Pakenham**

A little bit about myself...

I started in 1993 under Sempai Phil Gregory and Ron Mulligan. Since then I have trained under different instructors. I still love training in every aspect of martial arts. I mainly train in Zen Do Kai and I still love it.



How I joined the VLT...

I became part of the events team as i wanted to make a difference to the organisation that I believed need assistance with. I am passionate about the system and want it to grow bigger and better.

My year on the VLT...

This team is dynamic and wants to create positive change for the future. We are working to create new ways to develop Individuals through training and better ways to organise gradings.

Shihan Michael Clark, 5th Degree
Shepparton, Victoria
Kaizen Dojo's



A little bit about myself...

I started training in 1984 in Shepparton under the guidance of Steve Ryan and head instructor John Lewis from Clayton. Training back then was hard but fun at the same time, training 2 nights a week for 90 min each session, we didn't have kick shields or forearm or focus pads then so all training was body contact, many bruises, fat lips, black eyes, sparring was hard but that was how we learned.

Now with equipment to help, the training is still hard but with fewer bruises, I believe that over the years my knowledge has improved through training with so many people and systems that I can now offer my students so much in all aspects of martial arts.

Kyoshi Hamish Preston, 7th Degree
The Basin, Victoria
Kobushi Martial Arts



I am currently a 7th degree in ZDK and a coordinator for people progressing from 4th to 5th degree.

I like working with the people on the committee and seeing the outcome of the work achieved. Our goal is to make life easier for our members while adhering to the set requirements.