

Instructor Profile

David Dangerfield – Head Teacher



My martial arts training commenced in 1974 in Brisbane. The art was Shotokan Karate. The Sensei also taught what he called 'Jujutsu'. The Shotokan training was very traditional with lots of deep stances and basic patterns. The Sensei openly admitted that his approach was designed to 'separate the wheat from the chaff' in the early stages. I'm sure I did not study with him long enough to be considered 'wheat' in his eyes.

Like many young men, I gained experience not so much in a Dojo as in surviving and learning from the physical conflict that a somewhat wild life had to offer. This came to involve some experience in the Security industry which was also 'real world' instructional. During this time I practised on & off what was then referred to as Chinese boxing and I wouldn't say that I had a 'teacher'. Rather I trained for various periods with various small groups or very often just with one person. There wasn't much talk of styles or schools at that time in this art. I had done some boxing as a young teenager and the Chinese boxing seemed to me to be a very interesting variation on that. The Chinese boxing was somewhat separated into fast (kung fu) and slow (tai chi) training.

In 1984 I saw an Aikido demonstration and was very interested by it. The formal and structured nature of the art combined with its visual beauty and obvious potential for effectiveness intrigued me. Even so it wasn't until 1986 that the opportunity to practise Aikido arose. During the first 5 years I learned some very basic Aikikai and similar Aikido under people who really didn't have any great competency in the art. This was offset to some degree by my previous martial experience and I 'translated' what I was seeing into a more effective format where the philosophy and practice were a little more consistent. (The only real variation to the quality of instruction was occasional seminars with a very fine teacher, Takeda Sensei.)

In 1990 I was awarded Shodan and in 1991 commenced Yoshinkan Aikido. Many thanks to Joe Thambu Sensei of the Aikido Shudokan. In 1992 the Aikido Institute was founded as a full time Dojo and we began providing

Alternative Education programmes based on Aikido for young people in local schools. I received my Nidan in 1993 and around this time I also started travelling to Japan to further my studies. These trips would last up to a month and occurred twice yearly basically. During this time many of my questions regards the technical aspects of Aikido were resolved by excellent instruction and rigorous training. In addition to Yoshinkan Hombu Dojo, I also trained at Aikikai Hombu on occasion and travelled to Iwama 5 or 6 times to study with Saito Morihiro Sensei. Saito Sensei was an inspirational teacher and person who went out of his way to assist me even though I was not one of his students as such.

In 1996 I received my Sandan and had been teaching full time for 4 years however some questions remained for me about Aikido and Budo in general. In 1997 I met Nishioka Tsuneo Sensei of the Shinto Muso Ryu and over the next few years these questions were resolved and my personal direction and 'style' became clearer. Nishioka Sensei accepted me as his student in 2000. In 2006 I received my Yondan (4th degree) in Yoshinkan Aikido and Shomokuroku (traditional certification) in Shinto Muso Ryu.

Changes within the Aikido Yoshinkai Foundation resulted in my resignation from this body and in 2011 our organisation embraced its new direction under the banner of the Kenshinryu.

Many fine young people and adults have trained with our organisation since 1991 and some of these have become excellent teachers in their own right. It has been my privilege to share the mat with all of them.

David