

Instructor Profile

Steve Denning



I started training in Judo at the age of five under my uncle in Jersey C.I. This training was only for a couple of years and although I do not remember which style (or much else in regards to techniques) I do remember doing the basic throws, ukemi and a lot of running around and games; the classes were run very similar to our Aikido kids classes. We immigrated to Australia in 1989 when I was 11, and after some travelling around we settled on the Sunshine Coast. I wanted to start up a martial art but could not find a style or dojo that suited me (or my parents). Once I had turned 21 I decided to try Pray Mantis Kung Fu, but after about six months I decided it was not for me. My friends, who did different styles of martial arts, had all suggested for me to do Aikido, so I made some calls and found The Aikido Institute in Palmwoods. Once I started the beginner's course I knew that I had found the right martial art for me.

As most people who start a martial art I wanted to become confident in holding my own in a fight and climb the ranks ASAP, but as I trained more I realised that there is more to Aikido than just turning up and learning how to defend yourself; there is 'Budo'. I have since learnt that a true martial art isn't something in which you just learn and keep inside the dojo, but to take what you have learned in each class and apply it outside the dojo and to the way in which you live your life.

Within three months of starting Aikido I was fortunate enough to travel down to Sydney with Sensei David and co. to do a three day Seminar with Saito Sensei. That was an eye opener in itself. This would be unfortunately the last seminar in which Saito Sensei would teach in Australia and I am glad and honored to have seen and trained in his style first hand. As to the after training activities I shall

leave those stories for another time. I have since traveled with Sensei David to Gladstone to do a seminar and numerous times to Armidale to train with Sensei Martin. Along the way of training in Yoshinkan Aikido I have been fortunate to train with Sensei Joe from Melbourne (and survived quite a few of his restraint and removal courses) and Sensei Robert Mustard from Canada.

I have managed to start Shinto Muso Ryu Jodo, although not as much as I would like to but enough to engage a path between Jodo and Aikido and to want more. I have also been fortunate to train with Nishioka Sensei quite a few years back when he would come to Australia and am hoping to train with him again in Japan next year. I achieved my Shodan in June 2007 and I am currently one of the instructors for the teens classes and also started taking some adult classes and instructing beginners who come to the dojo.

I would like to thank Sensei David for all his teachings and opportunities he has given me and to all the senior instructors who have helped and guided me to this present moment. I look forward to passing on what I have learnt from them to other people. Now with the way we are approaching Aikido and combing Shinto Muso Ryu Jodo into the Aikido classes it is a very exciting time in being a part of what is to become.

Steve