



P. 07 5445 9116
F. 07 5445 9116

3-5 Briggs St, Palmwoods
PO Box 185 Nambour Q 4560

E. info@martialartsaus.com
W. www.martialartsaus.com

SENSEI'S BLOGS:

April 2010

The Way

The following thoughts are as pertinent to junior members and parents as they are to adult members. I hope they help stimulate your enthusiasm for training in *Budo* at this *Dojo*. My experience is that enthusiasm can permeate our life in many ways, making us positive influences in the lives of those around us.

Let's start with some questions.

What does it mean to you to be a member of this *Dojo*? Do you feel pride in that? Or do you think it is simply a 'commercial right' to enter, pay a fee and to receive instruction? That's how it works in the rest of the world after all isn't it?

The problem is it isn't how it works in a traditional *Ryu* (martial arts school). The fee students pay each month includes membership and an 'Entry Fee' permitting access to the *Dojo*. The tuition is supplied freely by the teacher according to his or her own will and in accord with their estimate of the students' capacity.

It may seem even a bit corny in this day and age to feel and openly express a deep pride in ones associations. Even so, this is what I truly expect of people training at the AMAI. Aikido and Shinto Muso Ryu have long and proud histories as martial ways. There is a lineage in both arts that is evocative. If you know little about them it is your responsibility to learn. If you are not familiar with the *Dojo* etiquette and standards please ask for a Student Handbook from the office.

Spanning the past 18 years this *Dojo* has also developed a proud tradition... one of providing rigorous training with a sound technical base underlined by strong spirit. It concerns me greatly that the standards of the *Ryu* and the *Dojo* can be compromised by the expectations and performance of the students over time. Let me make it clear. The *Dojo* expectation is that adult and junior members will demonstrate minimum standards of **personal discipline** at all times. The *Dojo* expectation is that adult and junior members will always **do their personal best** when they train. My personal expectations are the same. Expectations are powerful things. We all know that low expectations will be met very quickly. I feel great embarrassment *on behalf of* people when they fail to do these simple things.

I believe it is a privilege to be a part of and to represent the *Ryu* and the *Dojo* during this time. I am deeply and quietly proud of both. My greatest goal is that all those who train here will also feel this pride. What I know is that **we can all only feel it if we all contribute to it** by training & behaving accordingly. Challenge yourself (or your children) to do the very best possible every time you step inside these doors. The rewards will be yours.





David Dangerfield

