

SENSEI'S BLOGS:

December 2009



Another circle soon to be completed and a new one soon to begin. At this time of year I like to express my gratitude to all those who have assisted in the Dojo - teaching classes, helping new students, sweeping mats and the many other tasks, large and small, that keep the Dojo alive and vibrant. Thank you also to the parents who have taken time to bring the junior students to their classes – I hope this has been a worthwhile investment for you. Well done to all those who have successfully taken a grading this year. The new syllabus has been well tested and modified slightly as we have learned more about it.

As for milestones... this month has seen our 18th Anniversary as a full time Dojo and the 7th year as a disability service provider. We also celebrated the 10th anniversary of our branch dojo in Armidale NSW.

Highlights... Jonathan and Gary from Armidale made their first trip to Japan and attended the IJF Gasshuku. Amy and I also travelled to Japan later in the year reconnecting with Suezawa sensei, demonstrating at Chida sensei's Renshinkan Embu and spending a few days walking in the footsteps of Muso Gonnosuke in Kyushu. The wonderful 'against the odds' birth of Olivia to Paul (staff member in the Compass Education & Training service) and Tanya. Another great Restraint & Removal seminar with Joe Thambu sensei. The inaugural Compass Awards Night – dinner and dance for 220 people at the Crowne Plaza with Wayne Bennett (Australian sports legend) as guest speaker. A total of 7 successful seminars taught in Sydney, Armidale and Bundaberg.

Another year full of achievement, events and memories. And now? Let's be happy and celebrate what has been achieved..... however let's not be satisfied – let's look ahead and gently stretch ourselves to embrace new opportunities for personal growth and the development of this fine ideal and tradition.

The last day of training for adult members in 2009 will be Friday 18th December after which the Dojo will be closed for 2 weeks. Please accept my best wishes for you and your family over the holiday season. It has been my great privilege to share many wonderful moments with you all throughout the year and I look forward to many more in the New Year.





Enso - "The Circle of Enlightenment" or the "Infinity Circle". The meanings of the two Kanji that make up the word "Enso" can be read as "Mutual Circle" or "Circle of Togetherness". I believe the Enso symbol can simply mean different things to different people. Therefore, perhaps you can let it have the meaning that you perceive.

David Dangerfield

