



Even if the Australians hold their *Jō* upside down, it doesn't show too much!

Summer end in the East

Report on my trip to Australia and Singapore

In all cases, *Jō* is well alive “down under”, I could make sure of that during a week in Cairns, in the North, in Sydney during 6 days, and in Alexandria, near Melbourne, during 3 days.

Not only I have been warmly welcomed, taken care of as in a four-star hotel and wonderfully fed, but I had the great pleasure to meet again with old acquaintances, some of them dating of the beginning of the 70s. *In seiza*, from left to right: Mike Yates, Addo, Andy Poulos, Arai San, “hunch-backed-bent-arms”, Paul Maloney, Gabriel da Fonseca, Glenn Henry and Bruce Harris.

Technically, I had the great satisfaction to be of some help in solving a few basic problems, but, generally, there are very

few differences between the *Jō* in Australia and what we practise in Europe. That is why the theme of the seminar was: “Dai-Dō-Sho-I” (many similarities, a few discrepancies). After having gone over most of Shintō Musō Ryū series and the parallel weapons, we concentrated on the *Ken* principles as taught by Tiki Shewan Sensei.

One of the reasons for that Eastern trip was to reassure myself about the IJF being still alive after the defection of the North American group directed by Relnick Sensei. Looking at that Sydney seminar picture,

Pascal Krieger's visit down under
Cairns – Sydney – Alexandria
September 2013



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Above, a T-shirt commemorating my trip «down under».

Left, top, in Cairns where Han Barkmeyer (far right) took good care of me and drove me around the beautiful seashores of the region.

Left, bottom, the Alexandria group directed by Gabriel de Fonseca (2nd from left), with Paul Maloney.

Below, the participants to the Sydney seminar.





With Gabriel, near the Sydney Opera. Gabriel has successfully passed his Nidan of Jô in Alexandra.

Below, Guillaume Demesy performing his examination for Nidan in Musô Shinden Ryû in Singapore. A grade that will be taken into account as soon as his EIF booklet is up to date. His Ken work already contained the previous day's corrections.



Singapore, a very clean city with plenty of trees.



I have no more doubts. I have always thought it was our duty to do all we could to keep alive this Federation created by Shimizu Sensei and Draeger Sensei at the end of the 60s. Kuroda Sensei, Kaminoda Sensei and, later, Nishioka Sensei have also contributed to keep IJF alive through their seminars in the West. And, as these 5 persons have all been my Masters, I definitely feel responsible to ensure that it continues to stick together.

In Summer 2015, we will revive our traditional International *Gasshuku* in Penang,

In Singapore, I rather concentrated on *Iai* and *Kenjutsu*. In fact, that stop of some 10 days in that city was aimed at helping Guillaume Demesy, one of my ancient students of the SDK in Geneva (*at my left in the picture below*) to refresh his memory. Since his establishing in that very green city some 5 years ago, Guillaume participated in the creation of a group to which he teaches *Musô Shinden Ryû Iai* and some *Ken*. Charming people, motivated, and more used than me to that terribly humid and

The participants to the Iai/Ken seminar in Singapore.



As for Singapore

Malaysia, to which some fifteen Australians including 2 practitioners from New Caledonia plan to participate. Adding some Brazilians from Shikanai Sensei's group, maybe Chambers Sensei, a quite subsequent group of Europeans and the local Malaysian groups, we will come back to a true International *Jô* dimension. And it will be with pride that we will be able to bow to the *Shômen* in 2015, with a "*Sensei ni Rei*", showing them that they did not waste their time in teaching us for so many years.

warm equatorial climate. Johnny Seow came down from Penang with a student to refresh his *Iai*, his *Ken* and we took some time to train on *Shintô Musô Ryû Jô*, while making plan for the 2015 International Jodo *Gasshuku* of which he will be the main organizer. In Australia as in Singapore, several evenings were spent on calligraphy, an art unanimously appreciated. It has been a wonderful trip, full of experiences and friendship...

Pascal Krieger



In Alexandra, birds came to eat in my hand, which did not prevent me from eating chicken that evening... how incoherent! **Right**: the famous Harbour Bridge of Sydney, a very large city, but a city I liked a lot.



I managed to take part to a calligraphy lesson in Singapore, just to make sure that Chinese calligraphy and Japanese calligraphy were not so different at all.

Below, one of my daughters, Marion, who was with me during this trip, smiles to the famous Singapore Lion.

