



## A Year In Aikido Shinryukan 2008

- by Sarah Baker Sensei

2008 seems to have flown by and the aikido year for Hombu dojo is almost over. This year has seen many events take place at Hombu dojo and around the country. Training numbers at Hombu have been strong and the kids' classes have grown to expand into three classes in 2009.

2008 began with a visit to New Caledonia by Simon Puffet Sensei extending the warm relations that the New Caledonians and New Zealand Aikido practitioners share. Simon has since relocated (temporarily we hope) to England, where he continues to teach, train and fortunately for us, maintain the website. More of his travels as well as other people's experiences can be seen on the aikido abroad section of the website. February saw another important milestone with the celebration of Alan Wade Sensei's fortieth anniversary of aikido training with many people attending the Gasshuku in Gisborne.

March saw the 38th Gasshuku taught by Masuda Shihan and a large contingent attended from New Caledonia led by Marc Cessio Sensei, in what was another highly enjoyable Gasshuku. This continues a strong reciprocal relationship that now exists between New Zealand and New Caledonia. In April the inaugural Kids Event day took place where hordes of enthusiastic young aikidoka descended on Mission Bay to train and promote kids aikido. The event was supported by other Shinryukan kids and instructors from Waitakere dojo, Brent Beaumont Sensei and Denton Perry Sensei from Kawhia. Ellerslie aikido instructor Greg Mayo Sensei also participated in the event which we aim to repeat in 2009 with even greater numbers.



Victor George Sensei with Malcolm Johnston Sensei and students in Samoa.

This also helped in record numbers of kids grading in June 08 as well as the adults grading at the midway point this year. Another special event this year was the winter Gasshuku held in June taught by both Sawada Shihan from the Kimori dojo Nagoya, Japan and our own Nobuo Takase Shihan. July also saw Sawada Shihan visit Wellington dojo for a wonderful seminar there.

In August Takase Shihan returned to New Caledonia to teach for a week and in October Takase Shihan and a large number of people travelled to Japan to attend the IAF conference. November saw Victor George Sensei visit Malcolm Johnston Sensei in Samoa and enjoy teaching and sharing his experience with all the students. It is now December and the Hombu dojo gradings (for kids and adults) have taken place and thoughts turn to 2009. 2008 has seen the arrival of a number of new people training at

Hombu dojo which adds strength and variety to the club. Sadly, however we also lose some long time trainers overseas and we wish them well in their future endeavours.

The first major event for 2009 is the February Gasshuku which will be held on the 21st and 22 at the Howick Recreation Centre. There are a variety of instructors booked for the weekend, including, Masuda Shihan 8th Dan, Osawa Shihan 7th Dan, Takase Shihan 7th Dan, Alan Wade Sensei 6th Dan and Andrew Williamson Sensei 6th Dan.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas with family and friend and we look forward to seeing you all in the new year...

A year of many more enjoyable events for all.

**Aikido Shinryukan New Zealand**

Hombu Dojo - 16 Aberfoyle Street, Mt Eden, Auckland New Zealand  
P.O Box 11241 Ellerslie Phone 0064 09 379 3777 A/hrs 0064 021 779 179  
[www.aikidonewzealand.com](http://www.aikidonewzealand.com)