



Auckland 2nd Annual Kids Fun Day - May '09

by Jeanie Benson Sensei

Our second annual fun day was a big event this year. We had over 37 children and this included visitors from Waitakere and Ellerslie Dojo as well as our own host dojo Hombu at Aberfoyle St, Mt Eden. Juniors from 4yrs to 13 yrs had a great time learning Aikido and having fun with children from other dojo. The day ran from 11-2pm and included a BBQ lunch as well as two training sessions. Friends, family and Aikido Junior members all attended.

As the host of this event, I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone that helped bring this noisy, enjoyable and very warm day together. Takase Shihan supported from behind the scenes. Brent Beaumont Sensei brought many of his own dojo juniors from Waitakere and taught a wonderful class. Greg Mayo Sensei also brought his Ellerslie members and supported us right through the day. Kerry Spence Sensei who teaches with me at Hombu also helped out all day and was on hand for any injuries. Of course, thanks must also be passed onto the dedicated Aikido Shinryukan members from Hombu and Howick dojo who stayed all the way through the day and helped out wherever and whenever they were needed – tying belts, correcting poor techniques, partnering with shy juniors, buttering bread and handing out balloons.

Most especially, I need to thank the families who made this special day possible. As you know, without you this and other events would be impossible. To all of you dedicated parents, your tireless support of our classes, your enthusiastic support of your children's Aikido training – and of course the BBQ and professional kitchen hands.

I truly hope that all of the children at the Fun Day had a great time and learned some new and interesting Aikido. It is my pleasure and privilege to work with such a wonderful bunch of children from our own dojo and to meet the young Aikidoka from around Auckland.



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