



## Matsubayashi-Ryu Karate Association of Australia Report of Soke Nagamie's Visit

Australia was lucky enough to host Soke Nagamine for the third-time in the big down-under, and this time we were able to have him at both Sensei John Carlyle's and Reece Cummings dojo in Canberra.

We commenced our events on Sunday afternoon on October 2<sup>nd</sup> by watching the National Rugby League (NRL) Grand Final between Australia's Sea Eagles and the New Zealand's Warriors. This was a fantastic event, as in addition to having Soke there, we had our great neighbours from just across the water come over. The New Zealand contingent consisted on Senseis Kevin Plaisted & Tim Herlihy and a senior member of their dojo, Fleur Hindt.

The formal training commenced on Monday evening and continued to through to Thursday evening with Soke. These classes concentrated on the fundamental kihon and kata as well as both demonstration bunkai and oyo bunkai. The students immensely enjoyed this training, and opened many of the less experienced, and even some of the most experienced student's eyes to how Matsubayashi-Ryu Karate could be used in real-life street application. Soke also demonstrated some sparring drills and conditioning exercises.

The highlight of Soke's visit to Sensei Carlyle's dojo was undoubtedly the Yudansha testing on Thursday evening. Matsubayashi-Ryu Australia gained 3 new Shodans (Ben Hay, Liz Rees & Graeme Bingham) as well as 2 karateka promoted to Nidan (Ryan Blanch & Simon Jones) and 2 to Sandan (Greg Round & Shayne Jennings). This totals Australia at 12 yudansha, which is an all time high.

On Friday, Soke travelled down to the capital city of Australia, Canberra in order to conduct a seminar on Okinawan Shorin-Ryu Karate-do that was open to all martial arts styles. The seminar turnout was great, all feedback was very positive from both Matsubayashi-Ryu karateka and those of other styles such as Shotokan, Chito-Ryu, Shorinji-Ryu and many more.

On Sunday, Soke travelled to Reece Cummings' Canberra Kodokan Dojo to conduct a training session with students, especially those who were not able to make it north for the previous week of training. Overall, the week of training at Sensei Carlyle's dojo, the seminar and the Canberra training were all very positive.

It was great to see the support from the non-Canberra dojo in attending the seminar, especially to those new yudansha. It is always fantastic to train with Soke, and I am sure all of the Matsubayashi-Ryu students here in Australia agree, and found the trip to be very rewarding. The World Matsubayashi-Ryu Karate-do Association is an ever advancing ever growing organisation, and Soke Nagamine is leading a fantastic movement that will see the continual advancement of Matsubayashi-Ryu world-wide.

Yours in Karate-do,

Reece Cummings, Canberra Kodokan Dojo

*and on behalf of Sensei John Carlyle and the Matsubayashi-Ryu Karate Assn. of Australia.*

**You can find pictures of Soke's visit to Australia at:** <http://www.matsubayashi-ryu.com.au/2011sokeseminar/index.html>