

KARATE SOKE HONOURED IN OKINAWA

A group of keen karateka from the Matsubayashi-ryu Karate Association of Australia recently paid tribute to the late head of their style, Takayoshi Nagamine Sensei, at a seminar in Okinawa, Japan.

Senseis John Carlyle and Reece Cummings led a group of 13 students — 12 from Canberra's Cummings Karate Dojo in Canberra, including four children — to attend The Memorial Karate-Do and Exchange Demonstration held in honour of the late Nagamine Sensei, the second soke (head) of Matsubayashi-ryu and direct instructor to Australia. The Cummings Dojo group was the largest from a single dojo, with contingents coming from nine countries around the world.

The Aussies' training began the morning after their arrival with a two-day karate seminar alongside 240 other Matsubayashi-ryu practitioners. The seminar covered off on the fundamental exercises, kata, and bunkai (kata applications).

On the third day, a grading was held for 25 students, including Australian chief instructor John Carlyle Sensei, who was

promoted to 6th Dan, and Canberra's Dave McHugh, who was promoted to 2nd Dan. The seminar wrapped up with an international 'exchange party' featuring singing, dancing and that most popular of local pastimes, karaoke.

After a little sightseeing, the Australians then spent six more days in the region for intensive training with World Matsubayashi-ryu (Shorin-ryu) Karate-do Association president Yoshitaka Taira Sensei and vice

president Toshimitsu Arakaki Sensei, both 10th Dan.

"Overall, the memorial seminar proved a great way to remember our teacher, Soke Nagamine, and provide students with an insight into and experience of karate in the birthplace of karate: Okinawa," said Cummings Sensei. "The experience was significant for the children, as it has encouraged their continued practice into the future."



The Aussies with Arakaki Sensei