

# CANBERRA KANCHO VISITS OKINAWA



Kancho Cummings  
training with  
Hanshi Arakaki

Head instructor of Canberra's Kodokan Matsubayashi-ryu Cummings Karate Dojo, Kancho Reece Cummings, recently returned from his annual intensive training camp in Okinawa under Matsubayashi-ryu's most senior instructors.

This year's visit involved training under the guidance of 10th Dan Hanshi Sensei Toshimitsu Arakaki, who oversaw morning and evening training sessions across 17 days. The trip culminated with Sensei Cummings testing for his *Yondan* (4th Degree Black-belt) under the watchful eye of the top five directors of the association, including the new president Yoshitaka Taira, vice president Arakaki, and the other three top 9th Dan directors.

This was Sensei Cummings' sixth visit to the island of Okinawa and his eighth visit to Japan overall.

Looking to give Australian students the opportunity to experience karate in its birthplace, Sensei Cummings will take a contingent of around 12 karateka to Okinawa to represent Australia in November. The group will train for a week as a part of the memorial seminar to honour the passing of Soke Takayoshi Nagamine.