

SAMURAI

Te Awamutu Dojo newsletter

May 2026

Look us up at www.karateteawamutu.com or on Facebook

We welcome a lot of new students to training this year. It is pleasing to see family groups coming along. If new members have not done so, they should provide SS Michael with a contact email address so that they can receive club news etc.

Annual General Meeting

Our club AGM was held on April 23rd and it was noticeable that numbers attending the earlier class were low. Fortunately a quorum was achieved so that the AGM could proceed.

Unsurprisingly our President remains SS Michael, Secretary JS Gerard, Treasurer Sensei Alex, Club Captain JS Donald and the other committee members are Senpai Matt, Ray Riady and Matthew Spires.

The club will make a NZ\$200 to the Seido Juku Foundation to mark the 50th anniversary of Seido karate later this year. The donation will be presented along with other NZ donations by Eiko Hanshi Renzie at the celebrations in New York later this year.

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Increase in General Fees

From 1st May 2026 general fees will increase to \$30 per month for school students and \$35 per month for adults. Family concessions gets the second person at half price and the third at a flat \$12 per month. Black belts are \$30 per month, however 5th and 6th dans are \$20 per month on account of their

teaching responsibilities. Fees were raised at the AGM, partly to take account of increased rent on the dojo. The fees have remained unchanged for many years. The increase amounts to \$5 /month for students.

Payment can be made by direct credit into the account of Te Awamutu Seido Karate Do Inc at Westpac – account number **03-1564-0079660-00**. Please ensure that you put your surname and a notation like “fees” or “Grading fees” on the deposit.

Remember that, if you graded recently, you need to pay a grading fee which is \$10 if you are grading to a white belt, \$15 to a blue, \$20 to a yellow, \$25 to a green and \$30 to a brown. When the money is paid into the bank account please note “grading fee” on the deposit. New belts cost \$10. If you got a new belt, please pay the money into the club account marking the payment “belt”.

Karate News and Calendar of Events

Shuseki Shihan Michael, JS Reuben, JS Gerard and Sensei Alex attended the multiple shodan grading in Auckland in March. SS Danny took an excellent grading. Congratulations to the Fab 5, Senpais Kirsten, Cheryl, Cathy, Susan and Gabe!

Unfortunately Nate Johnston and Eddie Page will both be off training for 6 weeks after they each broke an arm at soccer practice. Get well soon, boys!

Ex Te Awamutu and Auckland and now Tauranga student, Olly Gardiner, passed his shodan grading on 2nd May at the Tauranga Boys High gymnasium. The grading was taken by Shuseki Shihan Michael and there was a good turnout from Te Awamutu and Hamilton black belts. The grading was a tough one, as expected, but Senpai Olly got through to the other end. Congratulations Senpai!

Congratulations to **Liam McAdam** who graded to 9th kyu in May.

There will be a **general grading** on Saturday, **June 6th** at 10.00am at the TA dojo. There will be Hamilton dojo students coming over to grade as well. If you have enough attendances, make sure that you know your syllabus. The shihans will let you know if you are in a position to grade i.e. you have enough attendances and you know your syllabus.

Word on the grapevine is that Taris is returning from overseas and may be back training with us in June.

The **Wellington tournament** will take place on **May 23rd, 2026**. Luca Wadmore will be the sole competitor from the TA dojo this year. SS Michael and JS Gerard will be attending.

The **Auckland camp** will be held from **October 9-11, 2026**.

The **National camp in Christchurch** will be held **27-29 November, 2026**.

Next year's **Wellington camp** will be held from **February 11-13, 2027**

Humility

Humility is a psychological trait and a character strength that involves recognising our limitations and valuing other's perspectives.

Humility helps in developing self awareness and personal growth. By being humble you can objectively recognise areas where you can improve.

Humility can produce more happiness, positive emotions and well being, because a person has a clearer understanding of the self. They are able to be comfortable with who they are and who they are not.

Humility is not passive, but an active practice. It involves treating others with respect, listening attentively and valuing their perspectives. It means acknowledging our own mistakes and learning from them. Practicing humility in everyday life leads to richer relationships and greater personal growth.

Kaicho encourages us all to be compassionate karateka. If you practice humility you will be a compassionate person.