NEWSLETTER

24/4 – 27th December 2024



Season's Greetings from the JJIF President

Dear Members and Friends of the Ju-Jitsu Community,

As we approach the end of 2024, I would like to extend my warmest wishes for a joyous Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all of you.



This year has been exceptional for our Federation, marked by significant achievements and memorable events. Among our regular events, a highlight of 2024 was undoubtedly the World Championship held in Heraklion, Greece. This event was an absolute success, with over 3,000 participants from around the globe. The Championship indeed celebrated the spirit of Ju-Jitsu and strengthened our global community.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting lineup of events and projects planned for 2025:

- CSIT World Sports Games in Greece and Mediterranean Festival in Italy both to be held in June 2025,
- World Police and Fire Games in the USA in June-July 2025,
- The Worlds Games in Chengdu, PRC, on 5th to 18th August 2025.
- Asian Youth Games in Bahrain in October,
- Islamic Solidarity Games in Saudi Arabia in November and much more.

We believe that through sports, we can foster global peace and unity, bringing people together from all walks of life. Thank you for your continued support and dedication. Together, we will continue to achieve great things in the coming year.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,



Panagiotis Theodoropoulos
President
Ju-Jitsu International Federation (JJIF)

Lindolfo COLLOR, OSA Award – Simon Ogden OSA

On Saturday 2nd November our Outstanding Service Award was awarded to Lindolfo Collor, 3rd Dan, and was announced at the NZJJF National Seminar held at the Upper Hutt Martial Arts Academy.

Lindolfo Collor was born in Brazil on 5th February 1957. His father was a diplomat, meaning his family travelled the world, so his first exposure to Martial Arts was in Thailand with Muay Thai at the age of 6 years old. On moving to Moscow Lindolfo enrolled in the Judo school at the American Embassy but was then sent to boarding school in France in 1968. On returning to Brazil in 1972 Lindolfo picked up the martial arts of Karate and Aikido, however it was on moving into an apartment building in Rio that Lindolfo's family found themselves living a floor below the Gracie's which spelled the start of his fortuitous change to Brazilian Jiu Jitsu.







Lindolfo soon got to know Rickson, Relson, and Rolls and would often go surfing with Rickson and hangout in Helio's Gym. This quickly turned to training in Jiu Jitsu at the age of 17 in 1974.

Lindolfo's first teacher was Rorion Gracie, who taught him the first moves of self-defence such as getting out of the mount and side control, he was tapped a lot during classes when rolling with Rickson Gracie on a regular basis, before being then taught by Rickson himself. Lindolfo was lucky to also have additional time-to-time training under Helio, Rolls, Rolker, Royler and Robin at the Gracie Jiu-Jitsu Academy in Rio. Lindolfo continued his Jiu Jitsu exploration for 8 years in total, under the second generation of the Gracie family, throughout his time studying Law at Rio University, up until1982, and the age of 25 years old, when he then moved to New York to undertake more legal studies. During this time Lindolfo re-engaged with Judo before returning to Rio and Gracie Jiu Jitsu again in 1984.

In 1996 Lindolfo moved to Raleigh, North Carolina with is family and once again re-engaged with Judo and was awarded with his Brown Belt. He also started giving Brazilian Jiu Jitsu lessons. Lindolfo received his black belt in Gracie Jiu Jitsu directly from Rickson Gracie in 1997 after 23 years of study, he then moved from Raleigh, North Carolina to Auckland, New Zealand later that year.

On arriving in Auckland, Lindolfo was contacted by the Chris Easley who wanted to write an article about him and Gracie Jiu Jitsu, for the New Zealand Martial Arts magazine, December 1997, issue 23 publication. In turn Chris somehow introduced him to the Ju Jitsu stalwart Terry Evans, and the story of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu in New Zealand began. Lindolfo was offered teaching time out of the Waitakere Martial Arts dojo, when Terry wasn't teaching his Japanese Ju-Jitsu classes, and out of this initial melting pot dojo icons of the current Brazilian Jiu Jitsu scene in New Zealand like Steve Oliver, Peter Aberdeen, Kane Iles and Karl Webber cut their teeth. In 1999 Lindolfo moved to Wellington teaching out of his home dojo, and the Wellington Judo and Ju Jitsu Academy on a Sunday, coaching the likes of Brian Morris, Adrian Smith and Alex Scott. Introductions made by Lindolfo facilitated Steve Oliver to train in L.A with Rickson Gracie and facilitated Vanderson Pires to set up at the Combat Room with Brian Morris. Lindolfo was grade to 3rd degree black belt in 2011 in Rio at the Gracie Humaita headquarters. On 28th February 2020, Lindolfo had the pleasure of returning to New Zealand and to the Combat Room in Wellington, grading Brian Morris to 2nd degree black belt.







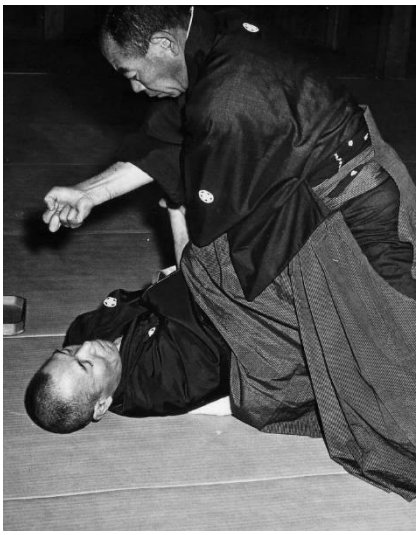
Lindolfo can be regarded as the first person to open and teach a Brazilian Jiu Jitsu club in New Zealand, as well as being the first Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Black Belt in this country. His influence and connections are the original ignition point for Brazilian Jiu Jitsu in Aotearoa New Zealand

NZMAHOF 2025

The next New Zealand Martial Arts Hall of Fame event is scheduled for the Matariki Weekend on Saturday 21st June 2025 to be held in Nelson. The facebook link for the event can be found HERE and the nomination form can be found HERE.

Kata – 形 – David Hall

As pre-arranged combative forms, kata played a significant role in the training of the classical Japanese warrior. The earliest kata we are familiar with began to appear during the late-Kamakura to early-Muromachi period although we know little about them except a few of their names. Kata, in fact, are still being created today.



However, in the classical martial traditions (koryū) these combative forms varied greatly among the myriad traditions and, in an historical and hoplological perspective, not all kata were equal. Generally speaking there were at least three categories of kata developed in the classical systems: 1) those forms which were designed by warriors who, having survived battle and/or personal duel, encoded their successful strategies as pre-arranged combative scenarios--they were often seen as divinely inspired by a particular deity; 2) those forms which were created by warriors, most without battle experience, in the peaceful years of the Tokugawa Shogunate or later; and 3) those forms which were extrapolated from earlier forms in order to teach basic and intermediate combative technique or to cover variations in earlier combative scenarios.



In the case of this first category, some warriors--martial geniuses--were able, in the midst of battle or at locations of spiritual power, to intuit and create highly effective strategies and tactics for combat. The strategies (heihō) were not simply techniques in the sense of manipulating a weapon. They were methods requiring psycho-physical perfection, a supreme synergy of body, breath, and mind in a unified whole. This synergy would empower the warrior with the ability to defeat an enemy with what might often appear to an observer as the simplest of movements. While we may analyze these strategies through our own cognitive abilities, they were not designed constructions arrived at through normal cognition. They were, instead, intuited in the heat of battle or as the culmination of exhaustive, protracted religious austerities. Also, these strategies were neither applied through normal, cognitive consciousness, nor were they taught through normal intellectual-pedagogical means. A master teacher passed them on to a disciple in a way that required the student to use intuition under stressful conditions; in several martial traditions this was accomplished in front of altars indicating a line of direct transmission from the divine.

In addition, these subtle strategies were not "taught" in an intellectual sense. Learning them required the disciple to use intuition based on years of experience and training. This teaching approach becomes clear when viewed in light of current studies in psychology. According to current research into intuition, people possess that special ability precisely because they have mastered a relatively narrow field of endeavor. Evidently the thousands of hours of effort the warrior devoted to training would have provided him with a large body of experience/knowledge which actually created a change in the way he thought and reasoned. He thus attained the ability to deal with larger "chunks" of internalized knowledge. The aim of this method was to give the trainee the ability to make intuitive leaps in the midst of combat instead of taking a plodding, analytical approach to dealing with a dangerous enemy. In addition to cultivating intuition, training in these scenarios was aimed at developing a variety of other combative capabilities. (See Guide article on bu no ri.)



Finally, and probably due to the influence of Buddhism--especially Rinzai Zen--many of these early, classical kata were constructed, both in name and pedagogy, in the form of riddles. The Zen kōan was a teaching method popular in Rinzai Zen and its intent was to force the student to intuit an answer under stressful situations. Some warriors, such as Kamiizumi Ise-no-Kami, took phrases directly from collections of Zen kōan and applied them as names of kata.

The second type of kata--those created by samurai, some as headmasters of older schools, others as founders of new schools--were intended to have the same purpose as earlier forms. However, with the evolution of the warrior's art and capabilities during the years of Tokugawa peace, these forms often lack the depth and vigor of their Sengoku period predecessors.



The third type of kata as noted above often had no pretention of being battlefield inspired. They are a mixed bag, many limited to the repetitive teaching of specific techniques, and, during the mid- to late-Tokugawa period, were often aimed at success in sportive, competitive matches with other schools (taryūjiai). This process is still in play today. Many classical Ju Jutsu ryū which have come down to us today contain kata of all three types.

NZJJF Black Belt Register



The Black Belt Register is kept for the purpose of assuring the public that black belt grades claimed by Ju-Jitsu practitioners in New Zealand are valid and reasonable. The NZJJF provides verification of this in accordance with it's national policy. Black belts of Member Clubs may apply to have their grades recognised by the NZJJF.

On passing of verification by the NZJJF and acceptance to the Black Belt Register on our website, the NZJJF will issue a dan grade recognition certificate, along with the congratulations in the next NZJJF Newsletter.

Hans Van Ess, 8th Dan, OSA – Simon Ogden OSA



The NZJJF was incredibly saddened to hear of the passing of the New Zealand Ju-Jitsu pioneer Hans Van Ess on the 27th November 2024.

Hans emigrated from Holland as a 1st Dan in Kawaishi Jiu Jitsu and Judo in 1961, and founded the New Zealand Ju-Jitsu Association (NZJJA) in 1968 to administer the growth of this style of Ju-Jitsu in New Zealand. From this group sprang the likes of Black Dragon Jiu Jitsu Academy, Samurai Arts, Whangarei Jiu Jitsu Club and the South Pacific Jiu Jitsu Society.

Hans held the grade of 8th Dan in Kawaishi Jiu Jitsu, received our Outstanding Service Award in 2004, awarded Life Membership of the NZJJA in 2014, and the New Zealand Order of Merit for Services to Ju-Jitsu in 2022.

His funeral was held on Monday 2nd December at the Birkenhead RSA in Auckland and our deepest condolences go out to his family, his friends and his students.

ALL our NZJJF Coaching Course are NOW AVAILABLE on-line!



All of the NZJJF Courses are now available via our online learning platform. Our C1 Assistant Coach through to our C4 Advanced Coach courses, along with our extension modules on coaching Tamariki, Rangitahi and Coaching for Inclusion are now delivered via Thinkific®. The link to the Thinkific® courses can be found via our NZJJF website coaching page or by clicking on this LINK

Maai – 間合 – Diane Skoss

My cousin, who runs a karate school in San Jose, California, says that the one who controls the distance in an encounter is the one who controls the situation. One of the shihan of the Japan Aikido Association, when asked about how, using aikido, to deal with a karate practitioner, replied simply, "Maai."



We've all heard similar statements, and all have been admonished during training to be aware of the maai, often translated as combative engagement distance, but perhaps more accurately rendered "combative interval." When I first heard the word in a Tomiki aikido dojo in the U.S., I thought it referred to a simple spatial relationship-the distance at which I could, in a single movement, reach an opponent with my attack. Conversely, I also discovered, it was the distance at which an attacker could reach me!

What I didn't quite get at first was the extent to which this was not one, but two, sometimes vastly different, distances. When my then training partner, Meik Skoss, casually remarked, over coffee and donuts after jukendo (bayonet way) training one morning, "Of course, you know that my maai in relation to you, will always be different from yours to me--even though the distance between us is constant," I nodded, and pretended to have the foggiest notion of what he was talking about. It became clearer soon after when I ran into my friend Bill, who is over six feet tall, in the company of his girlfriend, who is five foot nothing. If the two of them were to stand side-by-side facing me, at (Bill's) arm's length away, I would be fully within Bill's maai, and just outside of his girlfriend's. They would both be in my maai. If Bill took one step back, he might very well be out of my maai, yet I would still be within his. These differences are naturally based on the length of each individual's arms and legs. Two more elements, speed and timing (hyoshi) can also affect the effective combative interval. What it all adds up to, is judging the constantly changing maai, different for each individual and each type of attack, is incredibly complicated. And of course, our teachers tell us, we must learn to make this evaluation virtually subconsciously and instantaneously.



One major benefit arising from training simultaneously, at least for a time, in a number of different weapons systems, is a certain mental flexibility regarding maai, which I believe takes longer to develop to an equal level when studying only taijutsu. For example, in aikido each encounter is utterly different, because each individual's body is unique, and we must make a series of minute adjustments to take utmost advantage of the maai and make it work. This is virtually impossible for the beginning student to grasp, and many systems have implemented a more basic, static style of training, so that students can get the hang of techniques before being confronted with the full complexities of maai. Training in a weapons system, however, introduces a weapon, which is generally of a uniform length. My naginata is the same length as Meik's naginata, and while differences in reach and ability to cover distance still matter, they matter less and are easier to isolate. The compensations one must make are clearer to see when training with various partners because of the constant of the weapon.





Studying in several different weapons systems then, gives one the chance to work on different maai, as defined by the length of each weapon. More importantly, it teaches flexibility and awareness. Earlier this year, I began going to jo training immediately after practicing Toda-ha Buko-ryu naginata. At first, when I began to use the jo, I would find my hand sliding off the end-I wanted more jo-and I would drop one end of my weapon. I quickly decided this was a bad idea, and rather than relying on a physical memory, or lapsing into habit, I began to turn on a constant maai monitor-before doing any technique, I would mentally check the length of my weapon. When I started to learn tanken (short sword) after several years of juken training, my thrusting attack was simply too shallow. My body knew quite well how to do a thrust-but only with a weapon the length of a bayonet.

These days I train in empty-handed techniques, and with tanto, tanken, tachi, jo, juken, naginata, and yari, and I can switch between the various maai (which are really all the same, but that's another story for the future, when I figure it out) with a reasonable degree of accuracy and efficiency. As a result, I feel much more comfortable and confident in dealing with the ever-changing maai of taijutsu.

2025 Club Re-affiliation

2025 NZJJF Club affiliation payment is almost due for all clubs, clubs must be affiliated to get an NZJJF website page, support for accessing sports funding, funnelled referrals, and the award of a club NZJJF Quality Award.

A club invoice will be sent out via Xero so please pay the $20 Club Affiliation Fee into the NZJJF account 38-9026-0130293-00

CONGRATULATIONS:

The NZJJF wishes to congratulate the following people on their well-deserved success. Your hard work and perseverance have paid off and New Zealand Ju-Jitsu is proud of you.

NZJJF Coaches Register up to the end of December 2024

Qualified C1 Assistant Coaches
Keith Collier, NZJJS Hastings, 23/06/2024
Simon Hill, NZJJS Hastings, 23/06/2024
Lloyd Tarrant, Kapiti Goshin Ju Jitsu Academy, 15/10/2024
John Benson, Hamilton Goshin Ju Jitsu Academy, 16/10/2024
Caillin Morris-Trainor, MAI Dojo, 19/11/2024
Hamish Jarvie, MAI Dojo, 15/12/2024

Qualified C2 Club Coaches
Javier Zaya, Hamilton Goshin Ju Jitsu Academy, 16/06/2024
Shona McGregor, Upper Hutt Martial Arts Academy, 16/06/2024
Tristan Anson, Upper Hutt Martial Arts Academy, 16/06/2024
Michael Rohde, Black Dragon Ju Jitsu Academy, 28/08/2024
Blair McEwen, Hamilton Goshin Ju Jitsu Academy, 15/10/2024

Qualified C3 Advanced Coaches
Lindolfo Collor, Gracie Humaita, 02/11/2024

NZJJF Black Belt Register up to the end of December 2024

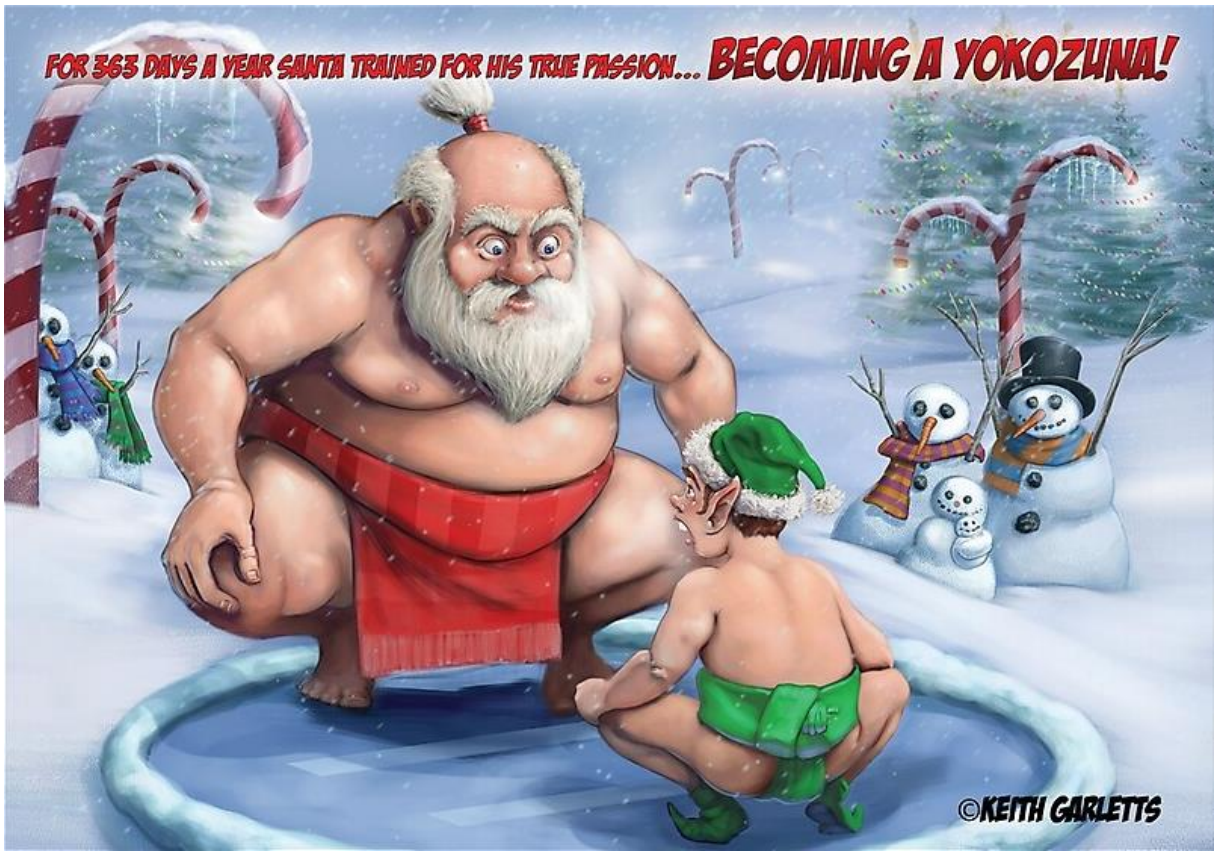
Congratulations to the following approved, up till the end of December 2024, for the Black Belt Register:

Lindolfo Collor (3D)
Lloyd Tarrant (2D)
Damon Simmonds (2D)
Jacon Verbeek (2D)
Alexander Soutar (1D)



Meri Kirihimete me ngā mihi o te tau hou (Merry Christmas and Happy New Year)

The NZJJF committee and executive wants to wish you all a Happy Christmas.



Have a great holiday, enjoy and stay safe!