



# Newsletter



## *Inaugural WASK International Gasshuku*

Complete updates in the inaugural WASK International Gasshuku including events and seminars, Hall of Fame and Lifetime Achievement recipients, and Yudansha gradings!

Read more to hear about the amazing success of WASK's first international event! Details for the next International Gasshuku inside!

### *Inside:*

WASK Gashuku • P2-3

WASK Awards and  
Gradings • P4-7

Shorinjiryu Essay by  
Shihan Scott Brown • P8

Editor's Message - Help  
contribute to WASK! • P9

# *First WASK International Gasshuku*

29TH OF NOVEMBER 2025 - L'AUGERGE DU LAC MORENCY SAINT-HIPPOLYTE QC CANADA

Last November WASK launched its first International Gasshuku, marking a historic occasion for the organisation and the culmination of a tremendous amount of dedication on part of the organisers, led by Hanshi Michel Laurin. An international delegation of Shorinjiryu schools and academies with different affiliations all came together under one roof to share and celebrate what they have in common, their passion for Shorinjiryu Karatedo.

The event consisted of a series of seminars and training sessions conducted by some of the world's leading authorities on Shorinjiryu Karatedo, an awards ceremony where the amazing achievements of some of Shorinjiryu's pioneers and current leaders received the prestigious WASK Hall of Fame and Lifetime Achievement recognitions, and black belt (Yudansha) gradings were issued to WASK members, and a celebration dinner where attendees had the opportunity to engage in discussion, laughs, and memories to last a lifetime.

*Hanshi Wayne  
Donivan gives a  
lecture and seminar  
on deep insights into  
the Shorinjiryu  
Kihon*



*Some photos from the gallery of the inaugural WASK International Gasshuku*



# WASK Hall of Fame and Lifetime Achievement Awards



THE WORLD ALLIANCE OF SHORINJIRYU KARATEDO  
PROUDLY ANNOUNCES THE INDUCTEES FOR THE  
2025 HALL OF FAME AWARD  
TO BE PRESENTED AT THE WASK INTERNATIONAL  
GASHUKU ON NOVEMBER 29, 2025 AT LAUBERGE DU  
LAC MORENCY SAINT-HIPPOLYTE, QC  
OPEN TO ALL SHORINJIRYU BLACK BELTS



HANSHI SHUNJI WATANABE



HANSHI WAYNE DONIVAN



HANSHI DOUG ROBERTS



HANSHI MYRON M. LUBITSCH



HANSHI MIKHAIL KRYSIN



HANSHI BRIAN AARONS



HANSHI LAURENCE VANNIEKERK  
IN MEMORIAM



SHIHAN ROBERT DAEMEN



A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WASK 2025 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES. THIS IS THE HIGHEST HONOUR WITHIN WASK DEDICATED TO THOSE WHOSE CONTRIBUTIONS AND DEDICATION TO SHORINJIRYU KARATEDO HAVE UNIQUELY SHAPED OUR STYLES HISTORY AND WHOSE ACHIEVEMENTS HAVE CHANGED THE LIVES OF COUNTLESS OTHERS DUE TO THEIR UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO THE CORE VALUES OF SHORINJIRYU KARATEDO

A SPECIAL NOTE TO HONOUR THE RECENT PASSING OF WASK HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE, HANSHI LAURENCE VANNIEKERK, THE PIONEER OF SHORINJIRYU KENKOKAN KARATEDO IN AUSTRALIA. REST IN PEACE HANSHI AND THANK YOU.

# WASK Hall of Fame and Lifetime Achievement Awards



THE WORLD ALLIANCE OF SHORINJIRYU KARATEDO PROUDLY PRESENTS THE RECIPIENTS FOR THE 2025 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO BE PRESENTED AT THE WASK INTERNATIONAL GASHUKU ON NOVEMBER 29, 2025 AT L'AUBERGE DU LAC MORENCY SAINT-HIPPOLYTE, QC OPEN TO ALL SHORINJIRYU BLACK BELTS



SHIHAN PHILLIP HOOPER



KYOSHI ANTHONY D'AVINO



HANSHI BILL NUSZ PENWELL



SHIHAN GRAEME BOWDEN



SHIHAN HIROSHI HISATAKA



KYOSHI DAN HAYES



KYOSHI OLAF LOTZE-LEONI



KYOSHI PAGE CHRISTIS



SHIHAN NORMAN WENER



SHIHAN MANNY HAWTHORNE



SHIHAN TOM BELLAZZI



SHIHAN DALIL MASCHINO



KYOSHI ROBIN LEPINE



SHIHAN GILLES PICHE



KYOSHI GILLES LABELLE



SHIHAN ARTHUR MARK



A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WASK 2025 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS. THIS AWARD IS GIVEN TO THOSE WHO HAVE DEDICATED A LIFETIME TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SHORINJIRYU KARATEDO AND HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN VARIOUS REALMS OF KARATEDO SUCH AS COMPETITION, TEACHING, STUDY, ORGANISATION AND OTHERS.

# *WASK Black Belt (Yudansha) Gradings*

ALSO TAKING PLACE DURING THE WASK INTERNATIONAL GASSHUKU WERE THE FIRST YUDANSHA CERTIFICATES ISSUED TO MEMBERS THAT HAVE DEDICATED THEMSELVES TO THE DILIGENT STUDY OF THE SYLLABUS AS PUBLISHED IN SCIENTIFIC KARATEDO BY HANSHI MASAYUKI HISTAKA AND CODIFIED BY WASK ON OUR WEBSITE. A BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE BLACK BELTS ON THEIR EFFORTS! THE LIST OF RECEIPTS BELOW!

HANSHI SHUNJI WATANABE - JUDAN (10<sup>TH</sup> DAN)

GILLES LABELLE - HACHIDAN (8<sup>TH</sup> DAN)

DENIS ETHIER - ROKUDAN (6<sup>TH</sup> DAN)

LORNA LAURIIN - ROKUDAN (6<sup>TH</sup> DAN)

ARTHUR MARK - ROKUDAN (6<sup>TH</sup> DAN)

GILLE PICHE - ROKUDAN (6<sup>TH</sup> DAN)

SHANNON LAURIN - GODAN (5<sup>TH</sup> DAN)

CHARLES LAVOIE - GODAN (5<sup>TH</sup> DAN)

ALEXANE ROBERGE - YONDAN (4<sup>TH</sup> DAN)

FRANCOIS PELOQUIN - YONDAN (4<sup>TH</sup> DAN)

GRANT BRECHNEY - YONDAN (4<sup>TH</sup> DAN)

SAMUEL BEAUCHESNE - SANDAN (3<sup>RD</sup> DAN)

DAVID BEAUVAIS - SANDAN (3<sup>RD</sup> DAN)

PHILIPPE BOISSEAU - NIDAN (2<sup>ND</sup> DAN)

JOCELYN MAHER - NIDAN (2<sup>ND</sup> DAN)

ISABELLA MARK - NIDAN (2<sup>ND</sup> DAN)

SYLAR MARK - SHODAN (1<sup>ST</sup> DAN)

MAXIME BEAUDRY - SHODAN (1<sup>ST</sup> DAN)

MARC RENAUD - SHODAN (1<sup>ST</sup> DAN)



# WASK Black Belt (Yudansha) Gradings

A SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS TO HANSHI WATANABE ON HIS LONG DESERVED PROMOTION TO JUDAN AND ADMITTENCE INTO THE WASK HALL OF FAME.



WORLD ALLIANCE OF SHORINJIRYU KARATEDO  
 1ST WASK INTERNATIONAL GASHUKU WAS AN AMAZING SUCCESS! NOVEMBER 29, 2025 WE MADE HISTORY!  
 WASK  
 DEDICATED TO PRESERVING SHORINJIRYU FOR GENERATIONS TO COME! BRINGING OUR SHORINJIRYU PRACTITIONERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD TOGETHER FOR TRAINING, THOUGHTFUL DISCUSSION, AND CELEBRATING LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT



SHORINJIRYU 10TH DEGREE BLACK BELT KAICHO SHUNJI WATANABE

世界少林寺流  
 空手道連盟

WORLD ALLIANCE of  
 SHORINJIRYU KARATEDO

世界少林寺流空手道連盟 段位証

上記の者すべての課題を修了し  
 公式に 段 士 少林  
 寺流空手道の有段者に認定する  
 世界少林寺流空手道連盟は  
 貴殿の弛まぬ努力と忍耐を認  
 め今後とも修行を継続して  
 むくことを期待します

年 月 日

World Alliance of Shorinjiryu Karatedo Diploma  
 Kaicho Shunji Watanabe

has successfully completed all requirements and is hereby officially recognized as having reached the level of **Ju Dan, 10<sup>th</sup> degree black belt** and granted the title of **Kensei** in Shorinjiryu Karatedo.

The World Alliance of Shorinjiryu Karatedo acknowledges your effort and determination, commends you on attaining this level and encourages you to continue your study of the art.

Issued this **29** day of **November 2025** No. **0001**

Examiner / Sensei  
 Scott A. Brown  
 Shihan Scott Brown  
 Australia

Shihan  
 Wayne Donivan  
 Shihan Wayne Donivan  
 Canada

Shihan  
 Michel Laurin  
 Shihan Michel Laurin  
 USA

AT THE GALA WE HAD THE HONOR OF PRESENTING KAICHO WATANABE WITH HIS 10TH DEGREE BLACK BELT KAICHO WATANABE WAS ALSO INDUCTED TO THE WASK HALL OF FAME WE CAN'T THINK OF ANYONE WHO DESERVES IT MORE THAN HIM! THANK YOU KAICHO FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SHORINJIRYU KARATEDO WORLDWIDE!



# *Shorinjiryu Essay by Shihan Scott Brown*

*Board member of WASK*

## SHORINJIRYU KENKOKAN KARATEDO: HISTORY, BREATH SCIENCE, AND THE BIOMECHANICS OF THE VERTICAL FIST

### ABSTRACT:

This essay explores the historical development, technical principles, and scientific foundations of Shorinjiryu Kenkokan Karatedo. Drawing on the lineage of Kaiso Masayoshi Kori Hisataka, the influence of Okinawan master Chotoku Kyan, and the later international expansion of the style through Japan, North America, and Australia, the piece highlights Shorinjiryu as a deeply layered martial tradition shaped by both practical combat experience and disciplined technical refinement.

Particular attention is given to the Australian transmission of Shorinjiryu through Shihan Scott Brown, whose two periods as an *uchi deshi* at the Hombu Dojo in Tokyo, together with his decades of teaching, study, and leadership, represent a significant contribution to the preservation of the Kenkokan tradition in the Southern Hemisphere.

The essay also examines two defining technical features of Shorinjiryu: breath retention during striking and the use of the vertical fist, or *tate ken*. These principles are presented not as stylistic preferences, but as historically grounded and biomechanically coherent methods for improving force transmission, body alignment, trunk stability, and impact resilience. By connecting traditional dojo practice with modern research into intra-abdominal pressure, kinetic-chain mechanics, and striking biomechanics, the essay argues that Shorinjiryu's distinctive methods remain highly relevant to contemporary martial science.

Readers are encouraged to visit the WASK website to read the full essay and explore this important contribution to Shorinjiryu history, technical understanding, and preservation.



## *Editor's note:*

**GRANT BRECHNEY**

Over the past year, WASK has seen significant developments in its growth, made possible through the outstanding efforts of the WASK Board and their supporting networks. This issue highlights several important milestones, including the first International Gasshuku, the announcement of Hall of Fame and Lifetime Achievement Award recipients, and the first group of WASK Yudansha gradings. However, many more developments continue to take shape behind the scenes.

WASK has now reached a critical stage where the Board is seeking to develop a range of projects for the benefit of our members and the broader preservation of Shorinjiryu Karatedo. To support this work, we are looking for volunteers who are willing to contribute their skills and expertise to the ongoing goals of WASK.

If you have computer skills, social media experience, media or design experience, writing or editing skills, administrative expertise, or any other abilities you believe may help the continued development of WASK, I would love to hear from you. Your contribution could play an important role in helping us build and preserve the future of Shorinjiryu Karatedo.

If this sounds like you, please contact me at: **[thestormma@gmail.com](mailto:thestormma@gmail.com)**

I sincerely hope you have enjoyed this edition of the WASK newsletter. Stay tuned for our next volume in the coming months.

**Grant**  
Editor

