

Perth Karateka tested in Osaka

A 14-member team, including seven competitors, from Perth's Williams Family Karate Academy joined Seito Shito-Ryu karateka from eight countries in Osaka, Japan for a combined tournament, international grading and social gathering at the International Shito-Ryu Karate-Do Cup in late July.

Under the guidance of Shito-Ryu Australia Karate-Do Kai's Mike Williams Sensei, the Australian team brought home eight medals from the biennial event. "It was a fantastic effort considering it was the first time some members had competed in an International Tournament," said Williams.

Among the medal winners, Taiga Yano was a standout with gold in kata and kumite divisions, while Williams himself managed silver medals in kumite and team kumite, and a bronze for kata. Williams was also graded to 5th Dan by a panel of four shihans and presented with his shihan license and the title of Renshi by Soke Tsukasa Mabuni from the Shito-Ryu International Karate-Do Kai.

The team also attended a kata and *bunkai* (kata applications) seminar run by the Japanese Shihan Kai and following the event were treated to a bus tour of the famous Himeji Castle and the city of Kobe.

"It was a great way to finish the *taikai* [event] and gave everyone a chance to spend the final day together and reflect of the events of the previous two days," said Williams.

Williams (fourth from left) with his team at Himeji Castle

