

History of Judo in Masterton.

The first incarnation of Masterton Judo Club was as the Ichiban (number 1) judo club founded in 1958 by Clive Thorne, Colin Thorne and Kelvin Henson sited in the old store room at Hood Aerodrome. The idea to open a Judo club was reached between the three men over a beer in the Pioneer and since Clive and Colin knew of a space at their work, the club was spawned. Training was scheduled on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings and on Saturday morning for children, which prompted an article to be published in the Wairarapa Times Age.



Clive Thorne was first introduced to Judo, whilst based in Ebisu, Tokyo, Japan, as part of the J-Force occupational force in 1947. Clive was originally a boxer and wrestler (from his days at the Young Citizens Club), having competed in the All Japan Wrestling Championships as part of the NZEF Wrestling team. Clive studied Judo until his return to NZ, after J Force was withdrawn from duty in September 1948. Kelvin Hanson was a 2nd kyu (blue belt) who had relocated to the Masterton area after training with Feigo Sjoerds, a Dutch 3rd dan Judoka based in Palmerston North at Man-Am-Ju Judo Club.



The club thrived at its store room site at the aerodrome, being run under the guidance of Man-Am-Ju Judo Club and Feigo Sjoerds in Palmerston North, until they moved in 1959 to the Young Citizens Club facilities based at 205 Chapel Street, Masterton. At this time the Ichiban club became known as the YCC Judo Club and the YCC registered the club with the New Zealand Judo Federation. The Young Citizens Club was originally set up by Andy Anderson (Physical Welfare Officer) in 1945 at the

Enthusiastic support for newly-formed judo club

The ancient sport of judo is enjoying an enthusiastic and growing following in Masterton.

The recently-formed Ichiban Judo Club (Ichiban means number one in English) has taken up residence in an old store-room at Hood Aerodrome and in a few short weeks has created a gymnasium where four instruction sessions are held each week. Besides evening training on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday a Saturday morning class is held for children. Youngsters from five years of age upward were at last week's class being conducted by Mr Kelvin Henson, a blue belt holder. He is running the new club with Messrs Clive and Colin Thorne, and, as they put it, anyone from five to 55 years is welcome and can acquaint themselves with the sport, which is probably the most effective of all when self-defence is needed in an emergency.

Mr Henson trained for five years under the New Zealand Judo champion and is a keen student of the sport. It is hoped to bring the Dominion's top judo exponent to Masterton for Police Charity Day but in the meantime the club is concentrating on its weekly classes. The next goal—besides continuing the conversion of their new home—is the formation of a women's and girls' class.

And Mr Henson emphasised that it makes no difference what weight, age or sex a person is—six months' consistent study and training will bring reasonable proficiency in the art of self-defence.



back of the old Opera House on Lincoln Road, as a facility for the youth in the Wairarapa where you could learn boxing, weightlifting and wrestling. However, the Young Citizens Club also had a history of Ju Jitsu being taught at their facility from 1955 by an Englishman called John Woods who was an ex-army close combat instructor.

In 1960 Joseph "Bully" Kawana was inspired to start his Judo training at the YCC Judo Club when he watched a class during a weight training session, as he had previously studied Ju Jitsu as part of his close combat training in the Army (1957 – 1959). It was in 1961 that two students of the YCC Judo club, David Snelling and John Haigh, imported a Judo Tatami from Japan, prior to this the boxing ring used to be used for Judo lessons.

In 1962 the YCC Judo club had its first student's grade to 1st kyu, brown belt by Sensei Pat Toner from Wellington, and they were Clive Thorne and John Haigh. In 1963 Joseph "Bully" Kawana was graded to 1st kyu, brown belt, by Feigo Sjoerds in Palmerston North, and the club also received the influx of Bob Forrester a 2nd dan Judoka under the BJU from the UK who took over the role of senior instructor at the YCC Judo Club.



During this period at the YCC, Kelvin Henson retired from the Wairarapa Judo scene returning to Palmerston North (approx. 1961). The club also had a strong tournament presence in 1963 to 1965, competing in the Wairarapa Judo Champs, Wellington Judo Champs and the National Judo Championships. Bully Kawana was awarded his provisional black belt after his performance at the

National Championships in 1965. Unfortunately in 1967 Bully broke his leg in a motorbike accident which ended his Judo career.

In 1966 Clive opened a new club at the Douglas Villa sports complex based at the Solway Show Grounds and Masterton YCC Judo club continued to run under Bob Forrester, John Haigh and Bully Kawana at the YCC facility. This meant that there were now two Judo clubs running in the Wairarapa, but only the YCC was registered with the New Zealand Judo Federation.

The clubs merged back together at the Young Citizens Club in 1970 after a fall out with the Douglas Villa committee and around this time Clive retired at the age of 42 years in 1971. The club slowly dwindled as the majority of its Judoka moved over to Karate, especially since their former club mate Joseph "Bully" Kawana had taken up karate after his injuries had healed, and gained his Kyokushin black belt in 1970. The club was formally closed by John Haigh on his retirement from Judo in 1972.

New sports academy gets a grip

JUDO
by Gary Caffell

Wairarapa's latest sporting venture, the Masterton Judo and Ju Jitsu Academy, is up and running with early signs suggesting a successful future.

Instructor and founder Simon Ogden is delighted with the initial membership of 14 adults and 12 children and is confident numbers will build as the profile of the academy grows.

Classes for kids' judo (4-13yrs) and adult ju jitsu started at Chanel College on Tuesday with regular training sessions to be held on Tuesday and Thursday nights, judo from 5.30pm to 6.30pm and ju jitsu from 6.30pm until 8.30pm.



START: Simon Ogden is delighted by initial membership numbers.

Englishman Ogden, a pharmacist who moved to Masterton about three months ago, received his first judo lessons in the UK at the age of five and now holds a brown belt — just one short of a black — in that discipline. He has been involved in ju jitsu for about 16 years and holds the equivalent of a black belt in Britain.

Ogden says the skills required for both judo and ju jitsu are similar, although he believes that youngsters should confine their learning to judo, as ju jitsu, which is largely aimed at teaching self defence, is more adult-orientated.

Ju jitsu involves the use of striking, locking, throwing and grappling techniques to overcome an attacker.

He said the benefits of learning either judo and ju jitsu included improved fitness, strength, balance, co-ordination, flexibility, speed, agility and confidence.

In February 2010 a Judo club was re-opened in Masterton at Chanel College sports hall, by 1st kyu coaches Simon Ogden and Graham Rogers. In honour of its roots the club was called Masterton Judo & Ju Jitsu Academy. The club taught childrens Judo and adults Ju Jitsu due to the senior coach's grades in Judo and Ju Jitsu. However, due to issues with competition for the school hall at Chanel College, and with the aide of local business man Dave Borman, the club moved to new permanent facilities located on level 1, 149 Queen Street in October 2010.

Academy lets you get a kick from staying safe

by Nathan Crombie



The only judo and ju jitsu academy in Wairarapa has opened its doors in Masterton.

Simon Ogden, academy founder and lead instructor, said he launched his Queen St dojo this week and the change was "absolutely welcome" after he originally established the Masterton Judo and Ju Jitsu Academy earlier this year at Chanel College in the town.

"This is the first time we've had a dedicated space and our gratitude has to go to Dave Borman, who was vital in making that happen," Mr Ogden said.

The academy runs judo classes for juniors and ju jitsu sessions for adults, he said, with the former discipline a competitive variation of the latter.

Mr Ogden, who works as a pharmacist at Duncan's Pharmacy in Kuripuni, holds second dan ju jitsu and first kyu judo rankings and first took up the discipline as a child in Britain.

He has since worked as a doorman and has trained in various martial arts.

He said the academy already boasted 12 adult and 24 child students — ranging from a 4-year-old girl to two former boxers and a powerlifter.

He is hoping to offer judo training for adults in the near future.

He said both disciplines focused on the use of holds, locks, strangles and throws, although ju jitsu exponents also learned strikes and kicks.

He said: "There are definite fitness benefits with both forms and our academy seeks to give self-confidence and self-respect and teach students the ability to deal with stress, in a fun and friendly environment."

"It's about being safe. Judo is there if you want to fight competitively and ju jitsu is about staying safe."

But the underlying premises for both disciplines can be applied in everyday life."

Mr Ogden said women often found the close contact training demanded in ju jitsu difficult although he did have a young woman studying at the academy.

He said the opposite was true in his junior judo classes, where girls dominated the roll.

Mr Ogden said veteran Masterton judo exponent Graham Rogers was instructing mostly standing work and throws at the academy while he concentrated on floor techniques.

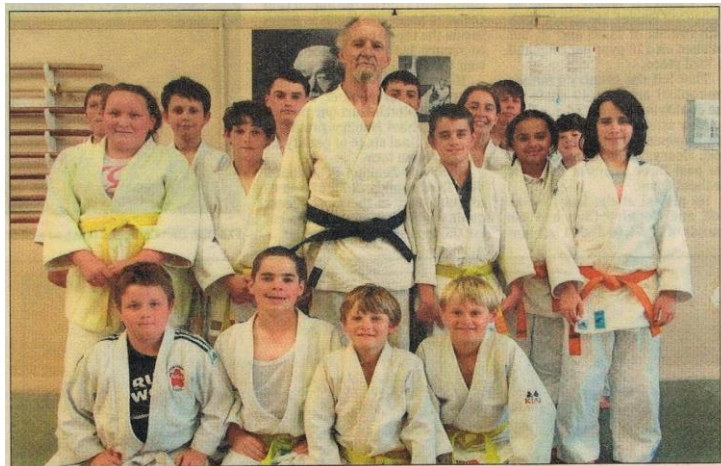
Foundation student Toby Priestley, who works alongside Mr Ogden at Kuripuni and gained his yellow belt a week ago, reckons the philosophy of the discipline is "use of minimum effort for maximum effect".

Junior judo classes run for an hour from 5.30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and are open to boys and girls aged from four to 13, he said.

Ju jitsu classes run for two hours from 6.30pm on the same days, for students aged 14 and up.

For more information call Simon Ogden at 021 2486111.

Judo once again in Masterton grows from strength to strength; Graham Rogers graded to shodan in 2012 and a former student, Hannah Wilton (2nd kyu) picked up a silver medal in the North Island Judo Championships in Gisborne in 2013.



FIRST: Black belt Graham Rogers with students at the Masterton Judo and Ju Jitsu Academy.

Rogers makes club history

Masterton Judo and Ju Jitsu Academy have their first judo black belt.

Graham Rogers, 66, received his Shodan (first degree black belt) from Judo New Zealand in Wellington early last month.

The black belt grading generally consists of a two-day examination, with a technical exam on the first day and a

kata exam on the second. But such was the technical understanding of Rogers as well as his exemplary kata performances that he was the only one of six candidates to pass the whole examination in a single day.

The achievement was five years in the making for Rogers, who received his brown belt grading in 2007.



Also in 2013 Joseph “Bully” Kawana was inspired to step back on the mat as a Judo coach after a 46 year absence when his grandson James Kawana graded to 4th kyu orange belt.