



## President's Message

Welcome to the 2016/7 year of the TCAA. The current Management Committee was elected at the AGM on the 5<sup>th</sup> June for the period 2016/7. The elected office bearers and representatives are now listed on the TCAA Website: <http://www.taichiaustralia.com/>. I have the honour to be the current president.



As always, we should review the reason for the TCAA to exist:- It provides a platform to share information and events of common interest to members.

The TCAA is not a governing body, nor is it very wealthy as the subscription fee is quite small. Office bearers and helpers work on an honorary (unpaid) basis, totally out of pure passion for the sport; therefore please support them when they seem to be in difficulty answering your interesting questions.

Nevertheless, through our shared effort, we have achieved the following as on-going capability:

- Help teacher-members gain National Coaching Accreditation through the KWA (Kungfu Wushu Australia, renamed from Australian Kungfu Wushu Federation).
- Help teacher-members find the insurance scheme suitable to their needs.
- Share learning/teaching ideas.
- Connect with national authorities, to keep members informed of laws and regulations that may affect our sport, especially what the laws consider are "weapons" and how they should therefore be managed.
- Hold the annual "Tai Chi only" TCAA Championships that supports Tai Chi players at the beginning levels as well as advanced and international levels.

Please remember that these capabilities depend on volunteers to develop and maintain, and therefore may not endure unless there is sufficient interest to provide the "energy" to sustain.

Thank you for being a part of this great Sport.

Ken Goh  
President 2016/7

## Links to Events:

### NCAS Instructor Accreditation.

See the KWA website for dates at [http://kungfuwushuaustralia.com/accreditation\\_dates.php](http://kungfuwushuaustralia.com/accreditation_dates.php)

### 2017 TCAA Open Championships

This will be ON the 3<sup>rd</sup> JUNE 2017, Saturday. Put it on your calendar NOW ☺.

Note that it is not the Queen's Birthday weekend. Watch for progress on the TCAA Website <http://www.taichiaustralia.com>

### **EDITOR'S NOTE:**

Members wishing to inform the membership about events they are holding or supporting through this Newsletter may send a short title/description of less than 70 characters, plus a hyperlink to get further information.

This facility is provided free, but is limited to one event per member, and until this column on the first page is filled up. This facility is not meant for your regular class advertising.

## TCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS:

On 4th June 2016, TCAA hosted a happy and successful TCAA Tai Chi Open Championship at the Sydney University Sport and Aquatic Centre. We had 37 individuals with 80 performances. There were forms competition (TaoLu) as well as Push-Hands.

This TCAA Championship was approved by the KWA (Kungfu Wushu Australia, national peak body for Chinese martial arts) for selection of Australian Tai Chi national representatives to the IWUF (International Wushu Federation) 2nd World Taijiquan Championships Oct. 14 – 20 in Warsaw, Poland. Three highly accomplished athletes qualified to represent Australia, but regrettably the participation in Warsaw had to be withdrawn as there was no official available to lead the team to the venue.



Amy: A study in sword!!



Sword



TaiChi Ball

More pictures of the 2016 TCAA Competition:



Push Hands, 61-70 kg –Male



Push Hands, 51-60 kg –Male



Competitors getting ready. One of the judges.



Push Hands, 80+kg –Male Sunny Li (First)

### WEAPONS

#### VICTORIA: Control of Weapons Act.

Under the Act, Victoria has included the sword as a “controlled” weapon, and has specific regulations controlling the selling, owning, carriage and use of swords. The TCAA has been tracking the regulations as they were enacted, and has gained exemptions for TCAA members to own swords and practise with them in our sport.

The process of gaining the exemptions has been further detailed in the Regulations. The TCAA has been approved as an organisation whose members can gain exemptions in Victoria, subject to compliance with the Regulations.

#### NSW

NSW has under the SUMMARY OFFENCES ACT 1988 - SECT 11B control of “offensive implement”:

##### *11B Custody of offensive implement.*

*(1) A person shall not, without reasonable excuse (proof of which lies on the person), have in his or her custody an offensive implement in a public place or a school.*

*Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years.*

Notice that the “offensive implement” could be anything. The key requirement is that the person must prove that s/he has “reasonable excuse”. So if you brandish your sword in public or in a school (presumed operating hours), and somebody gets scared, you will need to have a good explanation (“self-defence” is admission of offence). It is prudent therefore not to attract attention, and you should have full control of your “implement” (sheathed, in a bag with lock). It helps if the blade of your “sword” is floppy and is unlikely to do damage, and you are actually on your way to or from a practice area where you are unlikely to frighten members of the public.

Do not expect every policeman to have considered whether you with your sword constitutes “custody of an offensive implement”. Do not expect any consistency. A report from Todd Huang suggests that the local council may have certain agreements that permit exercising with a sword in the park, but not every police officer may know that. However, a report from Brian Gregson suggests that personalities may make a difference. I suggest we each exercise caution and do not tempt a clash. Keep your “implement” in its scabbard and in a bag tied up or locked and when in a car, out of your reach (in the boot). Practise away from the passing public view.

I invite members knowledgeable about the Law in other states to inform where the Tai Chi sword stands in their state.



### LANTERN FESTIVAL

South Australia's TCAA group has again participated in this year's Moon Lantern Festival in Elder Park, Adelaide on September 18th. The Moon Lantern Festival is an integral part of Adelaide's annual OzAsia Festival.



### DRAGON BOAT RACES

Although dragon boat is not Tai Chi, it is a part of the Chinese cultural heritage akin to Tai Chi spread over the world. So here is a report from Jennifer Bould, TCAA VP from South Australia:

#### **DRAGONS DOWN UNDER – ADELAIDE 2016**



The DragonBoatSA racing season went from September to March concluding with the DBSA State Championships. The next big event on the calendar was Dragons Down Under in late March to early April with the AusDBF Australian Championships, Asian Championships and finally the Club Crew World Championships. The CCWC was the largest of the events run on AM Ramsay Course at West Lakes over the twenty days.

The sport of dragonboating recognizes its Chinese cultural heritage, so at the beginning of each event there were separate opening ceremonies with their own speeches and VIPs. Boat blessings were done by Buddhist Monks to release the spirit of the dragon. This was followed by an Australian touch, a welcome to country ceremony. The organising committee spent a lot of time and effort coming up with different style of celebration for each of the events as well as the different after-parties to close off each event.



The Dragons Down Under Committee, all volunteers, worked for over twelve months to organise the above to get everything covered. The committee members were awarded a Presidents' Award from AusDBF in recognition of their dedication and effort involved

The competitors were local, national and international people from all walks of life in total 6,500 attended. There were 90 dragonboat clubs at the event, six from South Australia, 27 from interstate and 57 from overseas

Research highlighted how much people enjoyed the event, the beautiful venue, the venue's big screen and great live streaming. There was a huge following of the event received on the live streaming. It was viewed in over 168 countries. The Facebook and twitter feeds are still rolling on. A drone was used to get spectacular overhead views of the dragonboats racing down the course and then taking in views of the surrounds. There was advertising showing South Australian tourism highlights between races.

A mammoth effort was required of volunteers to facilitate these events. There was a total of 250 volunteers over these events and over 170 volunteers on the ground each day of the Nationals and Worlds. The volunteers came up for special positive mention by all and were awarded a gold medal memento in recognition of the fabulous and valuable work they did to make the well organised event a huge success

### SWORD EXEMPTION RULES, VICTORIA

While we are on the subject of weapons in this Newsletter, be it known that the regulations to obtain the “Order in Council” Exemption under the Control of Weapons Act to own and practise with a sword have specifically required that:

- a. The applicant must make a statutory declaration that s/he is not a “Prohibited Person”.
- b. The applicant must have a photo identification with the same name as that of the membership card, and on the statutory declaration.
- c. The applicant must be a current member of the TCAA.

The Order in Council requires that the TCAA manage exemptions sought by its members. Accordingly, all members seeking exemption should now download the Exemption Application Form and the prescribed Statutory Declaration Form from the TCAA website <http://www.taichiaustralia.com/swords.html>.

Upon all requirements having been met, TCAA will send you an Exemption Statement describing you as having met all the requirements for exemption. This Statement includes a brief description of the Exemption under the Order in Council. Note that you need to have a photo ID, for the Exemption Statement to identify you positively, and also your current TCAA membership card, these being the conditions of the Exemption. TCAA membership cards will **no longer** require a photo ID.

Please note that this Exemption is issued as a privilege and is not a right. Due to the added administrative load, exemptions will be processed only for members with 4-year memberships.

For those with Exemptions, the TCAA is also under obligation to report to the Justice Department your cessation of membership and/or invalidation of your Exemption. Therefore the onus is upon you to ensure your membership is current.

### NCAS INSTRUCTOR ACCREDITATION AND MAIA INSURANCE

Some members have encountered hitches with obtaining their accreditation cards. Here are a few tips to avoid some pitfalls:

- a. Do not change your postal address and/or email address after you submit your final accreditation submission. Your cards and correspondence will end up in the wrong place and could be irretrievable.
- b. If you have existing insurance, it is unlikely to meet the MAIA accreditation stringent requirements. You are advised to simply say you do not have valid insurance and apply for the MAIA insurance.
- c. The video you submit of your class need not be a masterpiece; it should simply be taken by a camera situated in the corner of your training space that shows that the going-on's in your class complies with the rules of safe conduct. It is not intended to show the full range of your teaching capability.
- d. If you call the KWA phone number provided on your submission form to make enquiries, and is diverted to a message bank, do leave a clear message stating your name, the topic of enquiry, and your phone number.

### EDITOR'S NOTES FOR ARTICLES

Besides informing the membership about matters from the Management Committee, this Newsletter is also a members' forum for learning/teaching ideas.

Members are invited to send in articles. Articles should be first-hand observations and conclusions/opinions. Should you need to quote published material or the opinion of others, you should identify the source (a hyperlink if available), and provide your summary of the subject matter as relevant to your article.

Providing your article implies permission given to the TCAA to publish. Others may use the information in the articles without necessarily acknowledging you as the originator. As you may know, copyright is not related to an idea but to the “*specific expression* (embodiment)” of ideas or concepts, meaning your composition that is an original weaving together an implementation of ideas and sequences. (TCAA disclaims providing legal advice.)

The Editor reserves the right to make changes to comply with our Code of Conduct and space considerations.

Please submit your article(s) to [tcaanews@gmail.com](mailto:tcaanews@gmail.com).