

AMAHOF Presentation and Awards Gala 2024 Article



1 Congratulations to Inductees from Gala 2024 (L-R: Peter Tasiopoulos, Graham McDonnell, Shireen Dindar, Louie Dimou, Rick Rando, and Scott Harvey)

August 16–18, 2024 | Grand Chancellor Adelaide

The Australasian Martial Arts Hall of Fame (AMAHOF) celebrated its 28th anniversary with a memorable Gala weekend at the Grand Chancellor Adelaide. This event, held from August 16th to 18th, 2024, situated in the heart of Adelaide CBD, was a grand yet intimate occasion filled with reflection, recognition, and remarkable demonstrations of martial arts excellence.

Day 1: Friday, August 16th - AGM & Meet and Greet

The weekend kicked off with the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the Sokeship Council session from 4:00 to 5:30 PM. This year's AGM was particularly significant as it featured 12 amendments to the constitution, reflecting the evolving needs and modernization of AMAHOF. After much deliberation throughout the year, these proposals were successfully approved, marking a new chapter for the organization. We once again thank the sub-committee who worked tirelessly on this document. We also appreciate the members who attended the AGM, and the Sokeship Council for their patience as our AGM extended into their scheduled time slot.



2 Management Committee 2024-2025 Looking Sharp! (L-R: Steve Weston, Peter Hunt, John Marrable, Colin Wee, Anthony Hockley, and David Gordon. Absent: Zlatko Peter Kitak, and Roland Winter)

The election of office bearers resulted in the onboarding of new director: David Gordon

The evening continued with a warm and lively Meet and Greet from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. New inductees were introduced to the AMAHOF community, briefed on the weekend's schedule, and received their welcome packs.

Day 2: Saturday, August 17th - Inductee Seminars & Gala Dinner

Morning Seminars

Saturday was packed with seminars delivered by our newly inducted members. Each session highlighted the depth and diversity of martial arts practices represented at AMAHOF:

- **Louie Dimou** focused on the fundamentals of upper blocks and kicking practice, providing valuable insights into patterns and breaking techniques.
- **Graham McDonnell** shared his expertise on Open & Close Principles, emphasizing limb destruction and coverage strategies.
- **Peter Tasiopoulos** demonstrated American Kenpo Applications, showcasing self-defence principles drawn from kata.
- **Shireen Dindar** captivated the audience with her Tai Chi demonstration, which included a sword pattern and applications of internal power. Her session emphasized the healing benefits and fighting skills of Tai Chi, particularly through the rare Chen style.
- **Rick Rando** delivered an energetic seminar on Taekwondo, inspired by Bill "Superfoot" Wallace, covering everything from kick placement to advanced footwork and broken patterns.

Grandmaster Ramon Lawrence OAM underwent a Sokeship Council Grading and demonstration between inductee workshops. GM Lawrence had his son Russell attend as his demonstration partner. His performance with the Jo and Katana was a masterclass in precision and tradition.



3 Seminar photos (Top Left Clockwise Graham McDonnell taking down our entertainment, Louie Dimou leading warmups, Ed Scharrer and Chris Bailey, and Lindsay Guy getting a shoulder realignment)



4 Group photos (Top Left Clockwise: Peter Tas front and centre, Shireen Dindar Taichi Demonstration, Peter Tas goes up close and personal, and Shireen Dindar and Maestro Leo Ancestrais)



5 Group photo (Top Left Clockwise: hanging out with the luckiest man, Diane - James Sheedy's wife and fan, Secretary squares up with Bang Bang Lulu Hawton, Paul Mitchell and Louie Dimou, and Anthony Hockley and Steve Weston



6 Group photos (Top Left Clockwise: Kelly Hockley taking charge of merchandising, Lindsay Guy working the crowd, James Sheedy leading a group, and getting ready for Louie Dimou's session

Afternoon & Evening: Group Photos and Gala Dinner

The afternoon saw the group gathering for individual and group photos before transitioning to the formal Gala Dinner.



7 Inductee photos (Top Left Clockwise: Shireen Dindar, Loue Dimou, Peter Tas, Graham McDonnell, Scott Harvey, and Rick Rando)

The President warmly invited everyone to take their seats as the inductees, escorted into the dining hall, were introduced one by one by MC Peter Hunt. The entry of each inductee was met with enthusiastic applause, setting the stage for an unforgettable evening.

The night's proceedings began with VP Peter Kitak's Acknowledgement of Country, recognizing the Kurna people as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Adelaide Plains. The MC then welcomed the President, VIPs, sponsors, the Management Committee, and all guests.

A poignant moment came when Steve Weston took the stage to honour the memory of Wayne Swanton, a 2021 inductee who passed away this year. Steve's heartfelt reflections, including a

light-hearted anecdote about Wayne's attempt at a steak competition, reminded everyone of the bonds shared within the AMAHOF community.

Throughout the evening, Event Coordinators Kelly Hockley and Paul Mitchell moved through the crowd, selling raffle tickets to raise funds for future events. The main raffle prize, a statue of Bruce Lee commemorating the 50th Anniversary of "Game of Death," was highly anticipated.

Awards Presentation

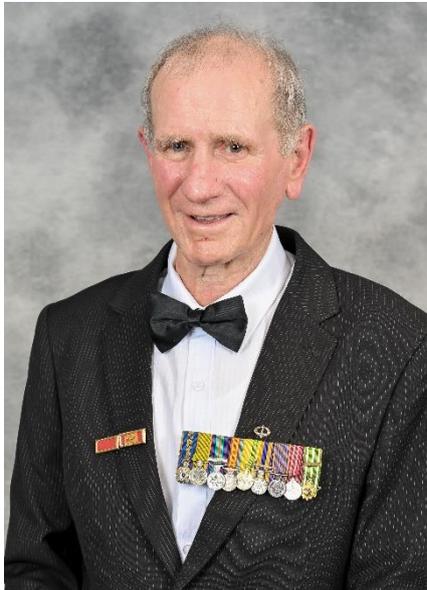
Grandmaster Ramon Lawrence presented the first group of inductees: Graham McDonnell, Louie Dimou, and Peter Tasiopoulos. Entertainment followed, featuring Louis Burt, a sought-after soloist from the Hunter Valley, who performed a mix of hits from the 70s to current chart-toppers.

Next, GM Anthony Hockley presented awards to the second group of inductees: Rick Rando, Scott Harvey, and Shireen Dindar. Special Lifetime Achievement Awards were bestowed upon Craig Anthony Swingler, Trevor John Kschammer, Brenda Hum, and Cheok Son Leong. Additionally, GM Ramon Lawrence was promoted to 9th Dan in Budokan Bujutsu by the Sokeship Council.



8 Event Organizers: Paul Mitchell, Kelly Hockley, and Anthony Hockley

The night concluded with a trivia competition, which spurred intense but friendly rivalry among the tables. Haigh's Chocolates were awarded to the winning table, and the much-anticipated raffle saw the Bruce Lee statue won by none other than next year's Event Director and Sokeship Council Chair Shihan Edward Scharrer.



9 Seen at Gala 2024 AMAHOF Legend
Shihan Johnny Whipp OA

Day 3: Sunday, August 18th - Martial Arts Demonstrations

The final day featured a series of martial arts demonstrations that highlighted the diversity and skill within AMAHOF:

- **Grandmaster Anthony Hockley** spoke passionately about Filipino martial arts, covering both weaponry and empty-hand techniques.
- **Sensei John Marrable** shared Goju Ryu applications and principles, offering a deep dive into this traditional style.
- **Instructor Brenda Hum** demonstrated Yang Style Tai Chi which is a graceful and powerful discipline.
- **Master Paul Mitchell** led a session on stretching, ensuring everyone was physically and mentally rejuvenated.

As the weekend drew to a close, attendees left with new knowledge, strengthened connections, and memories that will last a lifetime.

We now look forward to next year's Gala, scheduled to take place in Canberra from August 15-17, 2025, under the direction of Shihan Ed Scharrer. Mark your calendars for another inspiring weekend of martial arts and fellowship!



10 AMAHOF Gala 2024 comes to a close.