

JKA Karate-Do Australia — Master Camp May 2026

The annual JKA KDA Wood Dojo Master Camp returned in 2026 with an exceptional lineup - 120 students from every state, and NZ, Malaysia attended, Wood dojo jam packed again! JKAHQ masters Ogura Yasunori Shihan and Naka Tatsuya Shihan joining Jim Wood Shihan and Lutie van den Berg Shihan for four days of training, grading, and celebration in a packed custom built JKA Dojo in Mandurah, WA. The camp opened with classes from the home instructors. Lutie van den Berg Shihan set the tone with focused kumite drills before Jim Wood Shihan took the floor for Kihon and an exploration of kata Wankan. That evening, a welcoming party of fifteen made their way to the airport - arriving in a stretch limousine - to receive Ogura Shihan and Naka Shihan. It was the kind of welcome the occasion deserved.

Naka Shihan opened the following morning with the Dan grades, and the room was immediately reminded why he is regarded as one of the finest technical minds in the JKA. Through biomechanics - small, precise adjustments to posture, alignment, and focus - participants felt immediate and measurable improvements in the power and efficiency of their karate. The simplicity of the changes made the impact even more striking.



Jim Wood Shihan and Lutie van den Berg Shihan followed with a joint class of sharp kumite drills built around two fundamentals: distance management and guard position. The guiding principle was direct – when defending, your position at the moment of attack is what counts, not to be where you started. Jim Wood Shihan extended the session with detailed Kihon work, moving basics contextualised through Heian Shodan and Wankan.

The afternoon saw the groups split by grade. Ogura Shihan took the kyu and 1st-3rd dan grades through Kihon and step kumite, while Naka Shihan returned to the 4th-7th dans for a second session of biomechanics, closing with Kata Meikyo. The following morning continued the pattern of targeted, grade-specific instruction. Naka Shihan worked the kyu grades through basics - Heian Nidan - and guided the 1st-3rd dans through Jion, while Ogura Shihan took the senior grades through 5-step and 1-step kumite with characteristic precision and depth.

The group then travelled to Halls Head Recreation Centre for a Judging Seminar led by Naka Shihan — one of the weekend's most thought-provoking sessions. Naka Shihan drew a clear line between the attitude of a judge and the standing of a competition: and how officials carry themselves, their confidence, teamwork, and willingness to cover each other's blind spots directly determines the prestige of the event. Flag gestures and centre judge hand signals were covered in detail, followed by a formal judge's licence examination.



The afternoon closed with a test match - a 5-versus-5 team kumite event with two rounds of female competitors and three rounds of male. The standard of fighting was high, the spirit higher.

That evening, the Wood Dojo shed its training clothes entirely. Transformed into an elegant function venue, it hosted over seventy guests for what became one of the camp's most memorable evenings. Ogura Shihan and Naka Shihan arrived in a bagpipe welcome, before the night opened properly with a performance by TIDA, Perth's Okinawan drum and dance group - featuring JKA KDA member Takeshi Sensei - an extraordinary performance. JKA KDA student Zane Livingston performed solo on guitar and vocals, then was joined by his sister Charlee for a duet. Natsuko Minegishi Sensei's singing brought the room together, and the evening peaked with Ogura Shihan, Naka Shihan, and Natsuko Sensei performing the Karate Song to an enthusiastic crowd. A signed t-shirt auction, karaoke, and no shortage of laughter rounded out the night.



The final day was the most demanding. Naka Shihan drove the kyu grades hard through Kihon before guiding the 1st-3rd Dans through kata Chinte. Ogura Shihan delivered an in-depth masterclass in kata Gojushiho Dai to the senior grades - the kind of detailed, precise instruction that participants will be working through for years to come.

The camp concluded with formal examinations. Ogura Shihan and Naka Shihan conducted Dan gradings from 4th - 6th Dan alongside C and B level instructor and examiner. Special congratulations to JKA KDA host Aileen Wood Sensei's promotion by Master Ogura to B. class Examiner. Jim Wood Shihan then presided over gradings up to 3rd Dan and D level licence accreditations.



The visiting masters were farewelled that evening at a local restaurant - gifts exchanged, stories told, and the kind of laughter that only comes at the end of something genuinely worthwhile.

On Monday, the camp drew to a gentle close with a boat tour through the Mandurah canals - a fitting final chapter to an extraordinary few days. The group were treated to dolphin sightings along the way, a reminder that Mandurah has a way of leaving an impression well beyond the dojo walls.

As the Scots say: ***"Haste ye back"***

