

WHAT IT MEANS TO ME TO BE A BLACK BELT

By Scott Muldeary

It took many years of hard work, but the time became irrelevant, as in that time I met a lot of good people. First and most importantly Sensei Bernie who taught me from basic skills to the highest level of black belt.

Along my journey I've met many students like Ian, David, Susie, Norman, Gavan, Steve and they are among my long list of respected comrades. I thank all of them for their time and effort to reach my ultimate goal.

Now I have achieved Black Belt, it feels so good because being a Black Belt means so much more to me than being a white belt.

The knowledge has led me to be confident in defending myself and makes me feel important when I can tell my friends that I'm a Black Belt and they actually step back and say WOW! It was a wonderful feeling when I was at bike racing club recently and they told me of a situation when a passing car and smart talking driver nearly took them out and called abuse. After I told them I was a Black Belt they made a comment that it would have very handy to have me about.

A friend of mine who is a Black Belt in another style but who had not trained for sometime was still able to defend himself against a physical attack as his skills were not forgotten, so this made me realize that my skills are much more than present but for my lifetime.

I don't know many Karate styles in Shepparton but I feel a great pride in being part of Goju Ryu. A style that I feel is the most meaningful and Sensei Bernie really knows and understands of the great history of Goju Ryu.

I enjoy listening to his valuable knowledge and more and more want to gather this knowledge for myself. I feel worthy of being a Black Belt and even though I don't know as much as even Jonah or anyone else, I still feel that I try hard to know as much as I can.

I always have to set and reach my goals and I feel that through Karate I have being able to have the strength and courage to do this and it has given me other opportunities to branch out and achieve greater heights that I would never have dreamed of before I started Karate.

There has been one guiding influence throughout my journey that I must mention, my brother Danny. He was the one to push me and inspire me, yell at me as well as introducing me to my other idol Bruce Lee. I was totally astounded with his speed and power from the movie Enter The Dragon. Danny and I then knew that we had to do Karate.

But to reach Black Belt was a far off dream. Blue Belt was our first hurdle, next Green, that felt good, but our Brown Belt was even more special because I knew it was my last hurdle before Black.

Slowly but surely the time came for my Black Belt grading and that was the best. The biggest moment had arrived, my dream had come true!

