

GO-KAN-RYU

# SHIMBUN

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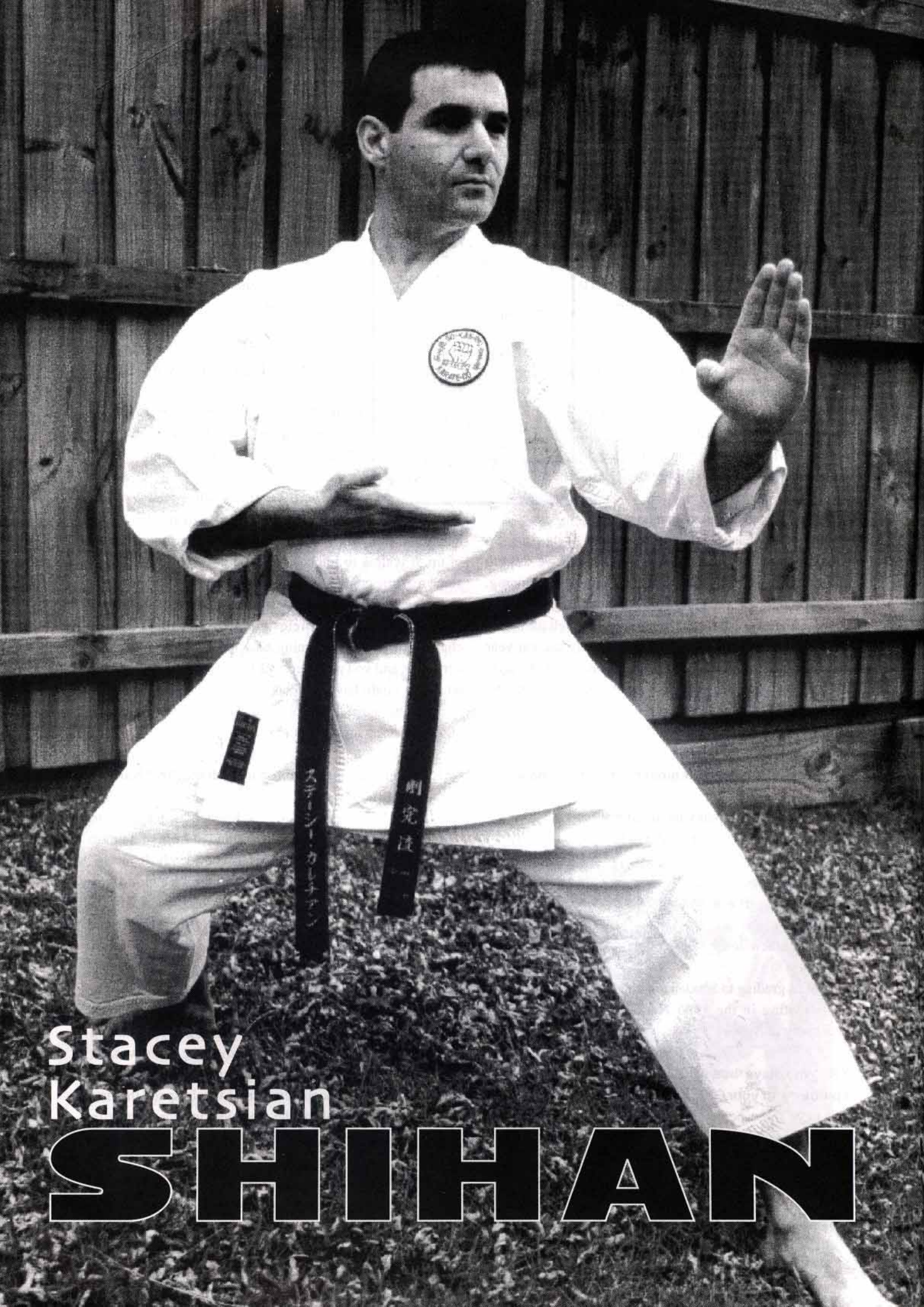
# SHIHAN

Stacey  
Karetsian

Dojo Talk  
news  
from around  
the globe

karate  
a modern  
philosophy





Stacey  
Karetsian

# SHIHAN

**Stacey Karetsian entered the world of GKR in the early 90's, just as GKR was about to explode into the world martial arts scene. He has since developed into one of GKR's most recognised and respected instructors. Kancho Robert Sullivan shares his view on Stacey's rise to the top, as he bestows Stacey the highest of martial arts awards, the title of Shihan.**

In early 1991 GKR karate was seven years old, we had gone through many stages of growth from ground zero January 1984 till that time. Early 1991 I was embarking on a program of developing students in Adelaide South Australia, which was the only city we were in at that time and as you probably know is GKR's city of origin. At the time this program was a plan of interstate and then eventually international expansion. I was selecting students to come aboard, a full time program of training in karate and general management/administration skills. Of course some applicants to this program came from existing students, others responded to newspaper ads.

One of the respondents to the ad called and I arranged to meet him at the Northfield High School in Adelaide, where I was teaching a Sensei class. He was very well mannered, respectful and talked about his background in the Martial Arts. He had trained in the Shotokan style of karate for over 7 years and held a 1st Dan Black Belt in that style. He sat and watched the class and really enjoyed our style of Karate.

He turned up at our GKR Headquarters the following day to hear more about my background and the plans for GKR's future development. After hearing about the career opportunity available he wanted to get involved.

I accepted him and he started the very next day. I was quick to notice that he had good karate ability, and made a special decision to allow him to still wear his Black Belt even though he had to learn GKR kata and evolve into the GKR style.

Respecting his parents wishes to complete his university degree in civil engineering, Stacey held back on going full time

for a couple of years. The reality is emotionally he probably wanted to commit full time immediately and forget the engineering. Life has a way of honouring and blessing integrity and good attitudes. It turns around in your favour. Stacey's current position in GKR proves that.

In 1993 Stacey and his now wife Vicky came to Sydney after having successfully completed his engineering degree to dedicate himself to GKR on a full time basis. He was outstandingly successful and became the Regional Instructor of Region 2 in North West area of Sydney in May 1994.

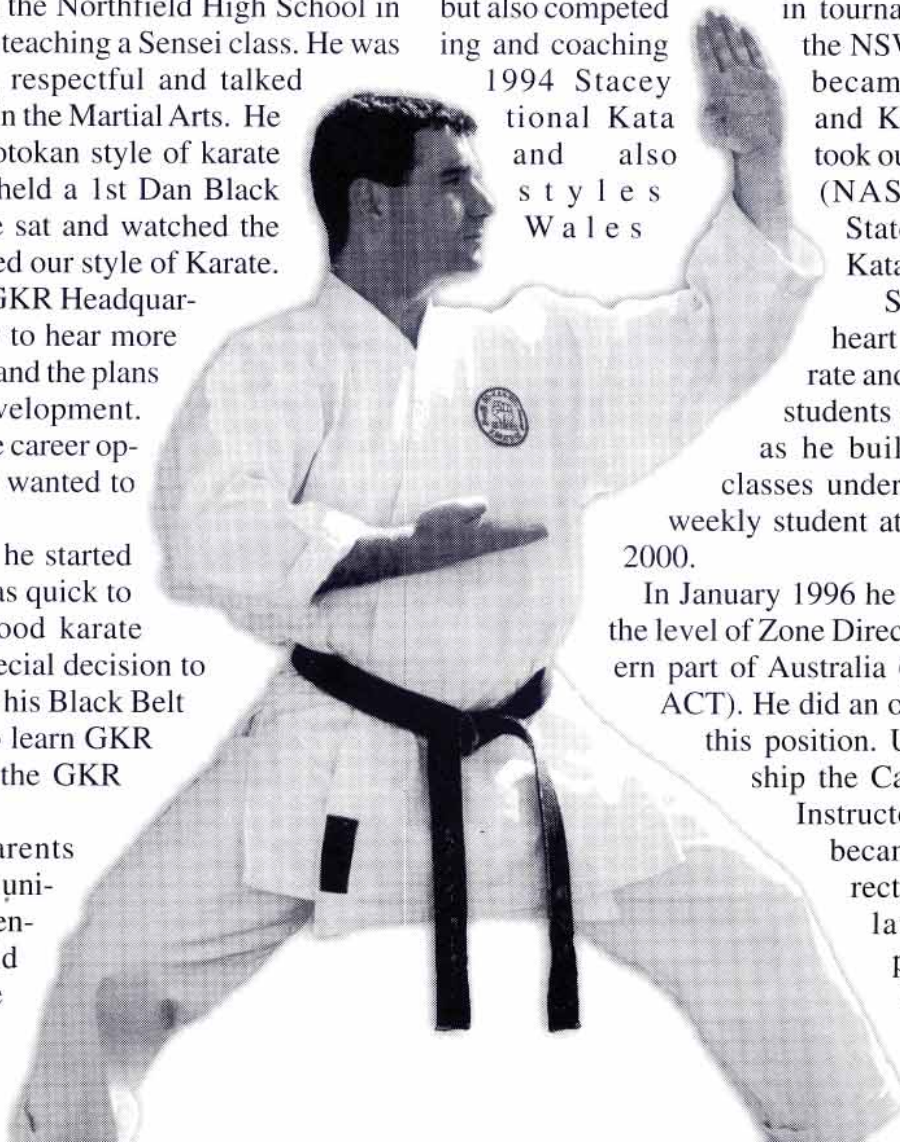
During that year Stacey not only looked after the complete running of the classes in northwest Sydney, but also competed in tournaments representing the NSW State Team.

1994 Stacey  
International Kata  
and also  
styles  
Wales

took out the National All (NAS) New South State and Australian Kata championship.

Stacey has a true heart for the art of karate and a concern for his students and that showed as he built the Region of classes under his control to a weekly student attendance of over 2000.

In January 1996 he was promoted to the level of Zone Director for the Northern part of Australia (NSW, QLD and ACT). He did an outstanding job in this position. Under his leadership the Canberra Regional Instructor, Jason Wright became the Zone Director for the (Midlands) Northern part of the UK. Recently Nabil



Famous who replaced Stacey as the Regional Instructor in Region 2 in Sydney also replaced Stacey as Zone Director.

Earlier this year I selected Stacey to be my Assistant Chief Instructor for Go-Kan-Ryu karate. Stacey, along with myself, directs the marketing and management of GKR karate and administers policies of karate standards, eg; teaching formats, grading systems, kata curriculum, tournament management and the selection and establishing of all new senior instructors. Stacey has made it to the top and it couldn't have happened to a nicer guy.

On a personal level, Stacey and Vicky now live in Sydney with their bundle of joy Nicolas. For my wife Donna and I, Stacey and Vicky are great friends and there is a mutual loyalty, respect and friendship. I am secure and confident that you as karate students have a great man in Stacey.

Recently I felt it most appropriate to bestow the coveted title of Shihan on Stacey, given many factors. One being his grade of 4th Dan and his 18 + years of karate experience and very relevant, his attitude, loy-

alty and commitment. The title of Shihan is not given lightly. It is awarded only to special people. It isn't awarded exclusively on experience and loyalty; it is even more than that. Shihan in simple terms means master, and whilst mastery is a life long pursuit, Stacey is certainly GKR's first master.

I decided to choose what I considered an appropriate time and location for the official announcement. After a lot of planning and preparation, I awarded the title to Stacey on Saturday 15th July 2000 during a Training/Conference weekend dinner in front of over 120 people. It was awarded amid much emotion and heartfelt congratulations.

Stacey's rise to the top of GKR has been through incredible dedication, commitment and an undeniable pursuit of personal excellence in the Martial Arts.

I'm sure you all support me in congratulating Stacey on his new title and all that he has achieved. Congratulations Stacey.

Kancho Robert Sullivan  
Founder of G0-Kan-Ryu Karate

