

SOMA Membership Information:

SOCIETY OF MARTIAL ARTS AUSTRALIA (SOMA)



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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IMPORTANT NOTICE:

This Membership Booklet has been produced to explain to member clubs and intending members what the Society Of Martial Arts (SOMA) is all about and what it can offer you and your martial arts club.

This document is accurate as at the date on the front cover. It is proposed to update this document at regular intervals or whenever significant changes occur.

For further information and the most recent updates on what is happening at SOMA you can visit our website.

The SOMA website can be accessed at: www.societyofmartialarts.com

“Roy’s three “L’s” of karate: LOOK + LISTEN = LEARN.”
- Roy Fuller, Renshi (retired at 80 years of age).
(Bushido Karate Club)



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SOMA Membership Information:



Photo – SOMA President Barrie Revell

Welcome to the Society Of Martial Arts. My name is Barrie Revell, President of SOMA.

This booklet has been designed to provide information to prospective members on what we, at SOMA, are all about. Inside these pages you will learn of some of the many benefits of becoming a member of SOMA and what our society can offer you.

We believe that we have, among our membership, some of the best martial artists in the country and we are working towards making our organization the premier multi-style martial arts organisation in Australia. We cater for all styles – Japanese, Chinese, Korean based and others.

My own martial arts journey began at the age of eleven at a local youth club in the UK. I immigrated with my parents to Australia in 1963 and was immediately attracted to a judo and karate club called the “Kangaroo Karate and Judo Club” run by Moss Hollis, a pioneer of Australian martial arts. You can read more about this great Australian martial arts pioneer under the “History of the SOMA” on page 6 of this booklet.

Over the years I have trained in various styles of karate but mostly in Shotokan and Shito Ryu. I have also trained in kung fu, judo, ju-jitsu and self defence.

I was fortunate enough to become a private student of the late Bill Vaughan who you can read more about in our tribute to him on the following page. Bill polished my open hand combat skills and taught me weapons including iaido katana, bokken, bo and sai.

If you are not currently a member of an Association (or even if you are) then this booklet should give you enough information for you to be able to decide whether you would like to become a member of the SOMA. If you would like to talk to somebody you can call contact any of the numbers or email on page 11 of this booklet. We welcome you to join us!

Barrie Revell

Barrie Revell, Hanshi – President SOMA

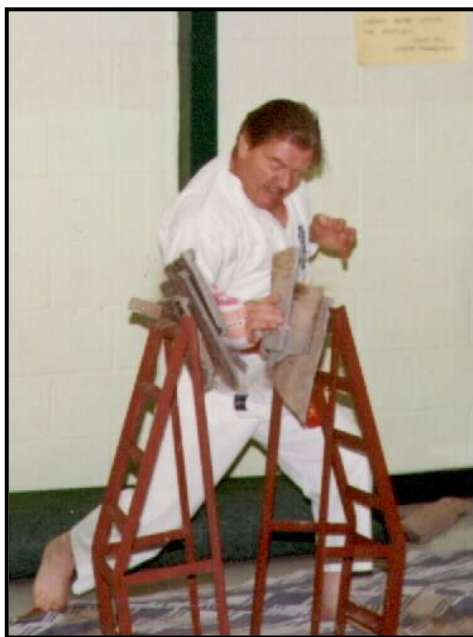
SOMA Membership Information:

Special Tribute to Grand Master William Vaughan

Grand Master (William) Bill Vaughan was not only a founder and the main driving force behind the Australian Martial Arts Association (AMAA) but he was also elected to serve as its first President – a position he held for twenty five years from its inception to his untimely death in 2005. Over that period he was elected unopposed at every election.

Bill was born in 1931 in Walsall, Staffordshire, England. Bill's principal instructors were Shihan Jim Hipkiss of Daito Ryu Aiki Bujutsu, Sifu Ah Fat who taught him Chuan Fa Kung Fu and the legendary teachers Amos "Moss" Hollis of Shotokan Karate and Sosai Mas Oyama of Kyokushinkai Karate.

In 1975 Bill Vaughan founded his own style of Zenbukan karate which means "the complete way." Grand Master Vaughan attained his 10th Dan in the year 2001 on his 70th birthday. He was the first 10th Dan of the AMAA. His knowledge survives through his most senior student, Hanshi Barrie Revell (now a 10th Dan in his own right), who was strongly recommended by Grand Master Vaughan to be his successor as President of the AMAA (now abandoned).



Photos - Grand Master Bill Vaughan in action smashing tiles.

The SOMA is forever grateful to the knowledge, talent and leadership of Grand Master Bill Vaughan without whom many talented martial artists throughout Australia would not be where they are now.

Vale Grand Master Bill Vaughan 10th Dan (1931 – 2005).

SOCIETY OF MARTIAL ARTS (SOMA)

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“Martial Arts must be enjoyed, otherwise it won’t last a lifetime.”
- Professor Steve Miranda.
(Chief Instructor and Founder – National Karate Academies)

SOCIETY OF MARTIAL ARTS (SOMA)



ITEM 1: HISTORY AND FOUNDATION OF SOMA :

The Society Of Martial Arts (SOMA) was borne from the ashes of the Australian Martial Arts Association (AMAA) which was created in 1980 through the efforts of its founder - **Bill (William) Vaughan** (1931 – 2005). It was incorporated two years later in Adelaide, South Australia in 1982.

The AMAA was abandoned by almost all of its members in 2013 because it had become stale and some of its members were perceived as no longer following the ideals of the spirit of true martial arts. The vast majority of like-minded members then joined the newly formed SOMA.

In the early years many martial artists also had input into the ideals of the SOMA. The most notable of these was Amos (“Moss”) Hollis (1930 – 1986) who was an early judo and karate pioneer. Moss was responsible for creating the interest in numerous martial artists including our current President Barrie Revell and Sensei John Van Weenen MBE (currently 8th Dan), who is now one of the most senior karateka in Great Britain. Moss’s philosophy in martial arts was *“If it works, use it!”*



Photo - Moss Hollis, an early judo and karate pioneer

SOMA is a non-political and a non-profit organization set up solely to serve its membership. It is sanctioned by the Australian Boxing and Martial Arts Commission. It is a multi-disciplined martial arts organization and welcomes all legitimate martial arts clubs in Australia.

SOMA is covered by a **Constitution** which is available to all member clubs. The **Constitution** was revised in 2013 to bring it up to date with modern ideas.

SOMA Membership Information:

ITEM 2: PRIME OBJECTIVE OF SOMA :

The prime objective of SOMA is to further the study and practice of Martial Arts without prejudice towards race, colour, gender, sexual preference, political or religious beliefs.

SOMA promotes cross-training of styles and seeks to foster goodwill between all its members.

ITEM 3: WHO CAN JOIN SOMA? :

Any bona-fide person (or martial arts club) of good standing who wants to further his or her knowledge in any martial art may join SOMA. SOMA provides membership to both traditional and eclectic styles of martial arts.

ITEM 4: BENEFITS OF BECOMING A MEMBER OF SOMA :

The benefits of being a member of the SOMA are many. Here are some:

- Meet and associate with like-minded people with common goals,
- Be a part of a prestigious martial arts organization,
- Cross train and gain experience at other member clubs,
- Possibility to upgrade in rank after qualifying conditions are met,
- Possibility to upgrade in title after qualifying conditions are met,
- Ability to serve on sub-committees or the Board,
- Enjoy relationships with positive, like-minded people,
- Advice, mentorship and experience of more senior martial artists,
- Be represented by a strong, united body,
- Participate in tournaments, training days, seminars etc,
- No political interference with running of individual member clubs.

ITEM 5: WHAT IS THE COST OF BECOMING A MEMBER OF SOMA? :

Fees are set by the Board every year. The fee for membership is presently \$100 for the application fee and thereafter \$100 per annum, payable on 1st February each year. The initial cost for new clubs is therefore \$200.

Grading fees are covered by the SOMA's publication entitled: "**General Requirements for the Promotion of Rank of Members.**" This copyrighted document is held strictly in custody by the President and is available for viewing by appointment or at any official SOMA meeting.

There are no other standing fees unless special events are organized.

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ITEM 6: THE COMMITTEE (BOARD) AND ITS ROLE IN SOMA :

Like all associations, SOMA is governed by a Committee, also known as the "Board." The Executive Committee are the six office bearers (see below):

The Board consists of six elected officers (the Executive) drawn from the most senior members plus four other elected members. Democratic elections are held every two years with half the members being elected every alternate year.

Under the provisions of the **Constitution** the Board must meet no less than six times per year to discuss matters of interest to the membership. The Board also gives guidance on all matters pertaining to the SOMA.

More details of the function and processes of the Board are contained in SOMA's **Constitution**. All members are eligible to receive a copy to understand their rights and obligations within SOMA and may obtain one from any member of the Executive.

ITEM 7: CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SOMA :

The current Executive members of the Board of SOMA are as follows:

- President: Barrie Revell (10th Dan Hanshi)
- Vice President: Position vacant
- Secretary: Position vacant
- Treasurer: Barrie Revell (10th Dan Hanshi) – ACTING ONLY
- Public Officer: Gary Simpson (9th Dan Hanshi) – ACTING ONLY
- Executive Officer: Gary Simpson (9th Dan Hanshi)

The other members are:

- Steve Miranda (10th Dan Professor of National Karate Academies)
- Tony Caruso (7th Dan Shihan)
- Glen Middleton (5th Dan Renshi)
- POSITION VACANT

ITEM 8: CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE GRADING COMMITTEE OF SOMA :

The six current members of the Grading Panel of SOMA are as follows:

- Barrie Revell (10th Dan Hanshi)
- Prof. Stephen Miranda (10th Dan)
- Gary Simpson (9th Dan Hanshi) - Consultant
- Tony Caruso (7th Dan Shihan)
- Steven Andrezza (6th Dan Shihan)
- Glen Middleton (5th Dan Renshi)

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Other members can be “co-opted” as required for specific grading assessments if the Panel believes it has insufficient knowledge or specific information to make an informed, fair and proper decision.

ITEM 9: RANKS AND TITLES WITHIN SOMA :

All ranks and titles are awarded on merit and are governed by the provision of the “**General Requirements for the Promotion of Rank of Members.**” This is based on internationally accepted budo and general martial arts standards.

A list of titles and ranks currently in use (and those that have previously been used in SOMA) are listed in Appendix 2 along with approximate translations.

SOMA only recognizes ranks and titles within SOMA that have been accepted by the Grading Panel, passed by the Board and recorded into the Minutes. Members may claim ranks outside SOMA from other organisations.

ITEM 10: HOW TO APPLY TO BECOME A MEMBER OF SOMA :

Becoming a member of SOMA is an easy process. Simply fill out the detachable SOMA Membership Application Form (see Appendix 3) and send it to:

**The Acting Secretary
Society Of Martial Arts (Inc)
11A Russell St, Glenelg North
South Australia 5045**

together with a cheque or money order made payable to **SOMA** for \$200.00. Thereafter the yearly membership fee is \$100.00 per annum.

Your application will then be taken to the next SOMA Board meeting and you will be advised in writing of your acceptance. If, for any reason, your application is denied, your money will be refunded in full.

“Presentation is everything.”
- Barrie Revell, Hanshi
(Shin Gi Tai Karate Do & Kobujutsu)

*“Everybody works,
Nothing is free,
All start at the bottom.”* (circa 1985)
- Gary Simpson Hanshi.
(Zanshin Kai Karate Do & Kobudo)
Note: This quote has since been “adopted” by Zen Do Kai

SOMA Membership Information:

APPENDIX 1: CURRENT LIST OF MEMBER CLUBS OF SOMA :

In alphabetical order here is a list of the current (*) member clubs and/or individuals of SOMA:

Name of Club (or individual)	Principal Instructor & SOMA Title & Rank	Type of Martial Art
Australian White Tiger School of Combined Martial Arts (SA)	Philip C Newton Renshi 5 th Dan	Karate
Golden Dragon Budo Ryu Karate (SA)	Glen Middleton Renshi 5 th Dan	Karate
Hikaru Dojo Martial Arts Academy (WA)	Colin Wee Sensei 6 th Dan	Tae Kwon Do, Karate
Kelly Anderson (SA) (individual)	Kelly Anderson Renshi 4 th Dan	Karate & Kick Boxing
NKA (SA, ACT, NSW, Qld)	Stephen Miranda Professor 10 th Dan	Karate, Ju-jitsu, Kobudo Pressure Points
Shin Gi Tai (SA)	Barrie Revell Hanshi 10 th Dan	Karate, Ju-jitsu, Kobudo
Pat (Surname?) (SA) (individual)	Pat (Surname?) Sensei 1 st Dan	Judo (original student of Moss Hollis – 1969)
Shotokan Karate Club of Adelaide (SA)	Tony Caruso Renshi 7 th Dan	Karate
South East School of Jik Cheung Kung Fu & Tai Chi (SA)	Amadeo Cella Sifu 4 th Degree	Kung Fu, Tai Chi
Zanshin Kai Karate Do & Kobudo (WA)	Gary Simpson Hanshi 9 th Dan	Karate, Ju-jitsu, Kobudo, Self Defence
Zanshin Kai Little Tigers (WA)	Steven Andrezza Shihan 6 th Dan	Karate, Self Defence
Zen Suru Kirisuto (SA)	Dr Redman Crosby 4 th Dan	Zen, Breath Mastery

* Note: This list, while stable at the time of printing, is subject to change as new members are added and some, regrettably, must retire or leave. The list will be revised and updated as new information comes to hand.

“One becomes a **beginner** after one thousand days of training and an **expert** after ten thousand days of practice.”
- Sosai Mas Oyama (1923 – 1994)

SOMA Membership Information:

APPENDIX 2: THE APPROXIMATE TRANSLATIONS OF TITLES THAT ARE OR HAVE BEEN USED IN SOMA ARE AS FOLLOWS :

In alphabetical order, the approximate translations of titles that are (or have been) used in the SOMA, are as follows:

Founder (Generic) – a founding member.

Grand Master (Generic) – the ultimate master of a style or organisation.

Hanshi (Japanese) – “polished master” (similar to a Professor – 8th to 10th Dan).

Kancho (Japanese) – usually the head of a style or an Association in a country or the world.

Kensei (Japanese) – Sword master.

Kyoshi (Japanese) – “polished teacher” (similar to a Master of Arts – 6th to 8th Dan).

Professor (Generic) – an acknowledged expert of his/her own style of a very large organization.

Renshi (Japanese) – “polished practitioner” (similar to a Bachelor of Arts – 4th to 6th Dan).

Sempai (Japanese) – assistant or assistant teacher or senior – can be a senior kyu grade (sub black belt) but most often a 1st or 2nd Dan.

Sensei (Japanese) – literally “one who has gone before” or teacher – any rank.

Shihan (Japanese) – a collective term that can encompass Renshi, Kyoshi, Hanshi and the like (in effect, a generic term that covers 6th to 10th Dan)

Sifu (Chinese) – teacher (Chinese equivalent of Japanese Sensei).

Sijo (Chinese) – literally “Ancestor” or Founder of Style

Tashi (Japanese) – “experienced practitioner” (most often a senior 3rd or 4th Dan)

Note: Not all martial artists of the rank of black belt qualify for a title. Some clubs simply do not use them and some only use the basic titles of Sempai, Sensei and Sifu. As a general rule, rank (or grade) is personal whereas a title is a mark of respect for what the recipient has done for others or for extra knowledge. However, some clubs use different systems. And anomalies can and do occur.

CONTACTS FOR SOMA:

President Barrie Revell – Mobile: 0418 859 769

Vice President – VACANT

Executive Officer Gary Simpson – Mobile: 0409 309 455

Public Officer – VACANT

Secretary - VACANT

Website: www.societyofmartialarts.com

Or write to:

The President

Society Of Martial Arts (Inc)

11A Russell St, Glenelg North

South Australia 5045

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APPENDIX 3: DETACHABLE SOMA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM :

This application is to be filled out by the organization's **Principal Instructor** or individual (if individual - write individual where "name of Club" is stated)

[Fees: \$100 new clubs - \$100 annual fee - \$10 for individuals]

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Surname.....Given Names.....

Address.....

Telephone.....Email.....@.....

Mobile.....Website (if any).....

Name of Club.....

Martial Art Style.....

Present Rank.....Date Rank was attained.....

Name(s) and Rank(s) of your Main Teacher (s).....

Brief statement on why you want to join the SOMA.....

.....

How did you hear about SOMA?.....

Note: New members must include a clear copy of certificate of last rank.

I hereby apply for membership of the Society Of Martial Arts (SOMA). I warrant that I have answered all questions truthfully and that as a member I will act in a respectful, thoughtful and courteous manner at all times. My cheque/money order for \$..... is attached (refundable if rejected).

Signature of applicantDate.....

Note: Any false or misleading information will render this application null and void. Please detach and send this application with your payment to:

**The President,
Society Of Martial Arts (Inc)
11A Russell St, Glenelg North
South Australia 5045**