



30 martial arts masters wanted to FIGHT FOR LIFE

Melbourne jujitsu instructor Renshi Kevin Walsh is spearheading plans for a two-day martial arts seminar of unprecedented size to raise money for cancer research.

Renshi Walsh's idea was sparked by the sad news that his student and friend, Sensei Wendy Carroll, is again battling the disease after going into remission following a long bout fighting it last year. Carroll, who was interviewed in *Blitz* last year about the martial arts' role in her fight against the disease, is now undergoing intense radiation therapy for life-threatening bone cancer.

"When a good friend is afflicted with such a terrible disease, you are left with a sense of helplessness. Almost everyone on the planet has had someone they know or love affected by this terrible disease," Walsh told *Blitz*, "so I have decided to make a stand and help fight in this little-understood war, where over seven million people die every year and millions more live with the constant threat of death."

Walsh's bold plan is to "create a seminar of the size never seen in Australia" and so far he has had an overwhelming response from many people and organisations. Instructors have agreed to come from NSW, QLD, Canberra, SA and WA, and even Germany and England, to participate. The event will be held over the weekend of 6-7 November at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre (MSAC). The seminar, titled 'Fight for Life', has the full backing of the Cancer Council and all proceeds will be donated to their cause.

Walsh is now looking for 30 instructors of both traditional and modern martial arts and self-defence systems to donate their time and teach multiple sessions over the weekend. The plan is to have 10 sessions running simultaneously over the two days, giving participants the opportunity to try training in a variety of different combat arts with no obligation.

"It will be a shot in the arm for the martial art industry and raise awareness and money for cancer research," said Walsh. "As martial artists we cannot fight this invisible foe but we can give the scientists and medicos the

necessary tools to fight. Singularly we can achieve very little, but united we can make a difference."

Walsh, 6th Dan, is the chief instructor of Idokan Australia and is the Victorian state representative for the Australian Jujitsu Federation. He is also the Australian co-ordinator for the international division of Japan's Dai Nippon Butoku Kai martial arts preservation organisation.

Anyone wishing to run a workshop at the event or wanting to help in some other capacity can phone Kevin Walsh on (03) 9305 5809, 0403 800 089 or email him at kevin@idokan.com. For further details, visit the website www.fightforlife.org.au

Wendy Carroll in action



COMBAT MASTER COMES TO NZ

Founder of Combat Hapkido, Grandmaster John Pellegrini, 9th Dan, visited New Zealand in January. Over 50 instructors and students from Combat Hapkido and other martial arts from all over NZ's North Island gathered in Upper Hutt to attend the 'Double Impact Self-Defence Seminar' with Grandmaster Pellegrini and Master David Rivas.

High-ranking instructors from other styles including taekwondo, karate and Thai boxing also attended.

The two-day seminar saw Pellegrini and Rivas instruct participants in an array of standing and ground survival techniques. The pair also visited the Royal New Zealand Police College in Porirua and trained police and other law-enforcement agencies in defensive tactics.

"Conducted with humour and a fun and enjoyable learning atmosphere, the seminars were considered a great success," said International Combat Hapkido Federation New Zealand instructor and organiser Nevan Stevenson.



Above: Pellegrini presents a certificate of appreciation to Nevan & Susan Stevenson