

FEATURE ARTICLE

World Taekwondo and Me



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www.worldtaekwondo.com.au

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By Inst Michael McVeity: Greenwith & Golden Grove Training Centres.

What was I thinking starting World Taekwondo at age 40 with a very dodgy knee? My start began with two free memberships given to me by a work colleague, and friend of WTKD, Evan Frangos. My youngest son, Glenn, started and I would take him to the Greenwith Community Centre on a Saturday afternoon and sit and watch. I am not a good watcher so after 3 weeks I decided if I was going to be there anyway I might as well give it a crack and see how the knee copes. This was in the days before Grand Master Wahid introduced to South Australia the Kids Taekwondo Program. I was more than happy to get to green belt and break a board – the ultimate (or so I thought)!!

World Taekwondo was now in my blood and I kept training and grading and training and grading and before I knew it I was grading for my black belt. I remember that day well at Adelaide High School, 42 C and no air-conditioning. I don't remember too much of the grading except feeling decidedly hot and knackered after the warm up. I also remember badly bruising a knuckle doing a fore-fist punch. No punching for 6 months but that soon passed. As the Toyota advert says, 'Oh What a Feeling!!'

Now as a Instructor in the Northern Area like most Instructors I get a real kick at seeing my students attain their Black Belt but particularly those who started in the Kids Taekwondo Program and stayed through thick and thin. I get more nervous and concerned when they grade then at any of my own grading tests. My greatest disappointments are when students give in far too easily without at least attempting their Black Belt grading. It is better to have tried and failed than to have never tried at all.

Why did World Taekwondo get in my blood? I and many others can thank Master Wahid for his long term vision and leadership of the club. His ability to make the difficult simple and instil in others the confidence to try and take risks, is second to none. His flexibility towards training and enabling those not necessarily as gifted as some to achieve, has allowed World Taekwondo to become the premier martial arts club in South Australia and beyond.

