

GARRY VICCARS

KYOKUSHIN KARATE

Shihan Gary Viccars was born in 1946 and began training in Kyokushin Karate in 1967 at the dojo of Bill Paauw in Little Ryrie St, Geelong. That dojo produced some very high profile karate-ka including Brian Ellison, Mervyn Nelis (now head of Seido Karate in Australia), Brian Cole, Peter Volke, Mick Varker and Ritchie Saunders. Who would have guessed that more than 30 years later Gary would still be training in the same style and that he would rise to be one of the most prominent Kyokushin Karate instructors in Australia.

Gary has been teaching Kyokushin Karate since 1970 when he opened his first dojo at Ocean Grove as a green belt. He gained shodan in 1973, nidan in 1975, sandan in 1979, yondan in 1983 and in 1989 he and Nick Cujic became the first Australians to ever physically undergo a test for godan.

In 1970 he was a member of the Geelong team that won the first ever Victorian Kyokushin Teams Championship and thus began a very distinguished tournament career that spanned the decade, both in knockdown and point system

Shihan represented Victoria a total of 8 times. He was a member of the first ever Victorian team to win an Australian F.A.K.O. Teams title (Perth 1977) as well as placing in the top 4 heavyweights in Australian knockdown in 1977 and 1978. In addition, Shihan Gary has always been recognized as one of Kyokushinkai's best breaking technicians. He, together with Rowan Stephens and John Klose, once demolished a total of 300 cement tiles in 28 seconds. He was also one of the first in Australia to perform the baseball bat break with a shin kick.

He earned the right to represent Australia at the second World Kyokushin Championships in 1979. He had also been selected in the Australian F.A.K.O. team for the 1977 W.U.K.O. Championships. Thus he is one of the very few people to have ever been selected to represent Australia in both Knockdown and point system.

**INSTRUCTOR
PROFILE**

KYOKUSHIN



Gary Viccars continues.. In 1986 Shihan Gary completed the 50 man kumite test with Jim Phillips, Tony Bowden and Luke Grgurevic. Gary's achievement was all the more remarkable as he was 39 years of age at the time of the test. Gary used his trip to the World tournament (in 1979) to stay in Japan for training and became the first Geelong person to do so. He trained with Sosai Mas.Oyama 3 times a week plus many of the other Kyokushin legends. He also completed the notorious Kyokushin winter camp (his leader at this camp was none other than Akiyoshi Matsui).

Thus he is one of the few to have gained that indepth insight into Kyokushin Karate by living and training daily in Japan and personally training with Sosai Oyama over an extended period. Upon his return to Australia in 1980 he decided to become actively involved in judging and refereeing and rose to be an International referee during the next decade. He has officiated at many International Kyokushin events, including acting as a referee at the Commonwealth Championships, the All Japan Championships, the World Cup and the World Championships.

In 1993 Sosai Oyama appointed Gary as a Branch Chief and since that time he has worked tirelessly to develop his Branch and he now has a total of 25 dojo is Victoria and Tasmania. He is a member of the Matsushima group.

In June 1997 Shihan Gary was graded to 6th Dan, thus joining the elite of Kyokushin instructors in the World (only a grand total of 40 people have achieved this rank or higher in all 3 Kyokushin groups).

Among the tributes and congratulations he received was one from Shihan Trevor Field 5th Dan. Shihan Field is not a member of the Matsushima group but had this to say: "Of all the people I have known or trained with over the past 37 years I don't know of any who has contributed so much, asked for so little, or worked harder for the advancement of Kyokushin Karate. My heart felt congratulations go out to you, it is a reward justly deserved and I know that you will wear it with the dignity, respect and honour befitting this high rank. It is no less than you deserve." Shihan Trevor Field - 18/6/97.

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Region 2 – UK and Europe

So you're thinking about packing a big bag and heading off to the land of royalty, revolution and romance? Here are just a few ways you can experience the region,

*Live and work in a British pub – See the pom in his natural habitat. Work in safe, secure, friendly pubs, and choose a location to suit you, be it a party pub in the heart of Soho or a sleepy village tavern.

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*Learn Spanish in Spain – Choose the famed capital Madrid or the art and culture haven of Barcelona. In your free time, take in the fantastic shopping Madrid has to offer, or visit Barcelona's fabulous Gaudi architecture or explore the

*Study design, fashion and visual communication in Italy – Most courses are taught in English, and there are schools in Rome, Milan, Florence and Turin.

*Do volunteer work in Ireland – Assist with landscaping, stonewalling, pruning and planting in some river gardens in the heart of the Cork countryside.

The gardens, which have lain untouched since the 18th century, have been listed by Unesco as being of historical importance.

Region 3 - Americas

So you're thinking about packing a big bag and heading off to the land of grizzly bears, hot dogs and Havana rum? Here are just a few ways you can experience the region.

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