

Caffeine High

Official Newsletter Australasian Ving Chun Kuen Instructors Association
 - using the internet to counter the mis-information spread by the internet -

FROM THE BARISTA

Welcome to the very first edition of our official newsletter, tentatively titled "Caffeine High" - since it originates from the Instructors Coffee Shop.

From time to time you receive newsletters from the **Instructors Association** website or the **Earle's Academy** website, as well as messages and posts from other members of our **FB** page. Why the hell would I want another newsletter, you might ask? Well, those messages are shared among *all* the members. "**Caffeine High**", on the other hand, is for the sharing of more technical and analytical information with Association Instructors. It is the Instructors newsletter.

How often should we send out a newsletter? Should we send it weekly or monthly? Being painfully aware of how much time can be wasted clearing ones in-box – not to mention the time required to prepare the material and present it in newsletter format - it was determined that rather than commit oneself to a regular publishing timeframe, it would be sent out "occasionally".

So this is the first issue of the Official '*occasional*' Newsletter of the Australasian Ving Chun Kuen Instructors Association; **for Instructors eyes only.**

And what the hell is the 'Instructors Coffee Shop'? Where is it? **For that information you need to turn to page 2... & page 3... &...**

"Given the plague-ridden problems with security, denial of access, outages, lost files, data rates, file uploading, third party reliance - the list goes on - inherent in storing and sharing information with Instructors through websites, I am currently exploring viable alternatives to websites and web hosting. This newsletter, "Caffeine High", is the first step in "Wing Chun-ning" that process."

Kevin Earle

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Laying The Foundation For Change – No, *you* don't need to change. The Association is just making some advancement

The Instructors Coffee House – What is it about? Where is it? Why? Do they serve Mocha? We attempt to answer those questions & more... just a little pre-emptive strike...

Association Logo – Introduction to the association official logo – we invite your feedback, questions, and suggestions

Contact Details – Links to websites referred to in these pages *plus* our contact details

"In the case of Ving Chun, less is more..." *Kevin Earle* – **theme topic next issue!**

"...it's just.....an occasional newsletter..." Kevin Earle

Laying The Foundation For Change

As you know I believe loyalty to one's teacher to be perhaps the most important personal attribute for the development of a Kungfu student, for without demonstrating loyalty why would the teacher want to continue to teach? As for the student, without loyalty he becomes increasingly confused, wandering aimlessly from teacher to teacher and method to method. *Pivot on the heels. Pivot on the front of foot. Chest sunk. Chest should be raised. One needs look no further than internet Wing Chun for evidence that confusion is king.*

Further, it is also considered inappropriate for a student to approach his teacher's teacher for training. In traditional Kungfu there were, (and still to this day) both cultural and practical reasons for remaining loyal to one teacher, one family, and the one system of Kungfu.

Various styles were also traditionally bitter enemies. If a student admitted studying with an opposing teacher, he would be treated as a spy and either turned away or purposely misled. -

Adam Hsu
The Sword Polishers Record

This idea of "one teacher, one family" is reinforced by our Association guidelines, which read in part:

..... if a member approaches a Technical Advisor with a request for private lessons, the TA should in the first instance refer that member back to their Instructor for private lessons. TA's will give private lessons only to Practicing Instructors, or to members only at the request of their Instructors.

An international artist is giving a concert... people attend in droves, pulling a hundred dollars or so out of thin air for tickets to the show; take a weekend (or week) of work; travel to the other end of the country paying a few hundred dollars for accommodation, travel, and other associated costs – while back home they can't support their local artists doing gigs for minimal cost, in fact often for free.

Sounds familiar? Sideward Shift: Student has a little trouble getting to training - they "just can't afford" the few dollars in training fees; and a cup of coffee a week is a lot to sacrifice to the Association; and it is a bit of a hardship travelling the odd km to training. Then an international "master" they know little about holds a weekend workshop and suddenly they can find several hundred dollars to throw at him; never mind they'll never get the chance to do any hands on; nor will there be supervised follow-up with the opportunity for clarification and correction... so then they ask "Sifu Net"!

The internet can be a great tool for communication but by sharing our method indiscriminately I feel that we would not only add to the confusing medley of information that is available, but would in essence be inviting students to by-pass their Instructor, ultimately putting their own interpretation on the material presented. This could not only put the student on the wrong track, but lead to a situation where the student thinks he (she) "knows better" than their teacher.

"What does the Association govern?"
Nothing, and no-one. *Kevin Earle.*

...it's just.... an occasional newsletter...
Kevin Earle



Queenstown November 1975.

Sifu Beau (front row center) & Sifu Kevin (front row right) have given many public demonstrations of Wing Chun.



*"Classes? Nah. I just look it up on the web...
but I might make the workshop!"*

WORKSHOPS

Sifu Beau and I have been giving workshops and public demonstrations of Wing Chun since the early seventies, and following Sifu Beau's enthusiastically supported Easter workshop tours of 2011 & 2012 I have held a number of workshops up and down the country. Feedback from Instructors and students who took part in those workshops and those prior led by Sifu Beau, can only be described as fantastic, and both I and Beau & Instructor Raph appreciated the support and hospitality given in return.

Notwithstanding the obvious benefits that can result from having students participate in workshops, I do have concerns, mainly: **1)** Fees charged for attendance at workshops leave the area. This is income that could be remaining in the area for the benefit of the school Instructor, & **2)** Rather than support their Sifu by participating in regular classes, some students "pop up out of the woodwork" to get the benefits of the workshop. They are just cheating themselves.

"Could we, by default, become part of the problem?"

I believe that by posting technical and analytical material via "Sifu Net" and holding an ongoing series of workshops, we (meaning the Association/Technical Advisors) could simply reinforce the idea that "Hey I don't need to attend classes I can just look up the videos and pop along to a couple of workshops...."

".... No! I refuse to be part of the problem." Kevin Earle

I make it quite clear that to come between the Sifu and his students or to in any way interfere with the independence of a school and the authority of the Sifu, is against the purpose and stated aims of the Association. It is our purpose to reinforce the role of the Teachers and give our support.

For those reasons I now declare the Instructors Coffee Shop open!

MORE ABOUT THE COFFEE SHOP

- * A Café where Instructors meet. A virtual Café.
- * A venue where we share and discuss technical matters about Wing Chun, initiated in the first instance from the Association via this newsletter, videos, and any method deemed appropriate.
- * OR, just kick back, relax, have another coffee; a social time after training – there is no expectation or requirement to participate
- * Delivered straight to your inbox for perusal at your leisure... just like this newsletter. No more logging into websites, forgotten passwords, master passwords, log in problems... *well that's the ideal, and we are working on it, it just may take some time...*
- * We will still maintain the websites during this process and for the foreseeable future
- * Flat White, Mocha or a Cappuccino? Yes, when we meet in person. In the meantime we will (try) to maintain the same relaxed vibe via the pages of "Caffeine High" as we would do if we were sitting around the table sipping hot coffee (or tea, if you prefer), talking anything Wing Chun

So your feedback, your opinion, and your contributions are welcomed! Don't worry – if we think your idea is inappropriate or not in line with the Association objectives and guidelines we'll tell you – and we can discuss it!

Web Links & Contact

[VCK Association](#)
[Earle's Academy](#)
[FaceBookGroup](#)

[Association Guidelines](#)

[Email Kevin Earle](#)

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ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL LOGO



This is our suggestion for the Association official logo. You may have seen it before; it features on the cover of the current Trainee Instructors Manual.

*If you have a School or branch uniform or t/shirt, it could form part of your uniform, replacing "EARLE'S ACADEMY (1972)" with your School name, e.g. "BAY WING CHUN TAURANGA" or "SOUTHERN WING CHUN 20**" - it would then identify your school as being part of an international association.*

Not to replace, but to complement your own School badges. Feel free to submit any suggestions you may have to me at [Association Logo](#)

"You mean there'll be no more workshops?"
There will always be a place for workshops - they are an invaluable educational tool. Expect changes however. I am currently exploring ways of how to best utilize workshops for the benefit of the Instructor, and as an Instructor your input is invaluable – email your input.
Kevin Earle