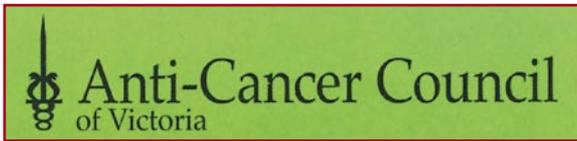


The 1997 Blitz

Masters

Of Their Art



1997 was the year for great and significant change within the martial arts community - it was the year that the Blitz Hall of Fame dedicated the awards not only to those martial artists who have contributed so greatly to the martial arts, but to the Anti-Cancer Council who have contributed so greatly to the value of life. For the first time in Australia the profits of the Blitz Hall of Fame were donated to the Anti-Cancer

Council.
Photography by Lisa Saad



Silvio presenting the cheque to Rose McLeod from the Anti-Cancer Council



With a total of 324 martial arts icons adding great esteem to the great establishment that overlooks Melbourne's finest park (Albert), The Carlton Crest came alive as *Blitz* honoured the achievements of every martial artist who attended on the night and those who failed to make it to the Grand Waldorf Ballroom.

The night began in elegant fashion - a black tie affair that had the cream of the crop looking like the cream. Never had there

been so many practitioners in the one room dressed to the nines. The night itself was like a Delmonti suit, it looked good, felt good, was good!

Cocktails in the foyer were followed by dancing, as the sweet, sultry sounds of *Say Yeah* filled the hall. Howard Leigh, presenting again, along with the lovely Jeanette Hall, made the introductions, welcomed both the Australian based and international guests. The entrée and dinner was served and then

we were treated to the brilliance of magician Duck Cameron.

Duck was a treat. Slow to start but when he got warmed up he set the place alight. Magician, illusionist and fire breather, Duck did it all and warmed to the crowd, earning some hot applause as he left the stage to get a glass of milk and put the fire out in his throat.

It was now the moment that everyone had been waiting for. An air of anticipation swept

Hall of Fame Awards



through the ballroom. Who would take out the coveted awards and be inducted into the Blitz Hall of Fame?

It was difficult to pick a recipient. The nominations were so close, but in the end only one person can be honoured in each of the categories. However, all nominees are considered to be winners.

The list of guest presenters was as impressive as those who had received the awards: Tom Curtis, one of Australia's finest

kata competitors; Richard Norton, Australia's leading martial arts actor; Fari Salievski whose Korean Hapkido Australia Organisation holds between 600 and 700 students nation wide; Sam Greco, the World Full Contact Karate champion and K1 warhorse; our own General Manager, Australian cruiserweight Muay Thai champion and all round good guy, Mark Castagnini; John Will, Australia's premier grappler and the man who brought Machado Brazilian Ju Jitsu to Australia; Joe Thambu,

Kong Wing Loh, Barry Pang and the legend himself Bob Jones.

These men presented with grace, style and respect - a true representation of what the Blitz Martial Arts Hall of Fame Awards stand for. The awards, as Mark Castagnini pointed out "transcend politics and egos." They are designed to bring all martial artists together in a friendly, non-competitive environment, where old friendships can be renewed, new friendships made and politics put aside.



Host and founder of the Blitz Hall of Fame Awards, Silvio Morelli

Martial arts is about respect and the respect shown by all who attended was in the true spirit of martial arts history. We believe that the Blitz Hall of Fame Awards has become a part of that history.

The martial arts is also about charity. Cancer is one of the curses of society. It can strike down anyone, anywhere. As Silvio Morelli, publisher of *Blitz* and founder of the Hall of Fame said, "With drugs you have a choice but with something like cancer, you have no choice it can effect anyone. It is for this reason that the proceeds from the Blitz Hall of Fame Awards will be donated to the Anti-Cancer Council in the hope that we can do our part to furthering the research and finding more cures for this silent killer."

The Anti-Cancer Council is an organisation dedicated to minimising the human cost of cancer for all Victorians and funds biological and clinical research; runs statewide cancer prevention and early detection campaigns; provides information and support to patients and families and plays a major role in advising the government in the development of new initiatives and policy. It is a volunteer-based charity which raises over \$10 million annually which goes directly to research, education and family support programs. *Blitz* is honoured to be a part of this organisation and donated the \$2690 Hall of Fame profits to the Anti-Cancer Council.

Silvio presented the cheque to special efforts co-ordinator Rose McLeod who is looking to continue in a long association with the Blitz Hall of Fame awards.

There were some highly popular award recipients on the night but none more so than the martial arts itself. However some of the individual honours received some loud applause.

Sharon Anyos was a popular and well deserved recipient of the Female Kickboxer of the Year award which confirmed her status

at the top of the kickboxing rankings. Ron Vreeken who recently completed production of his first all-Australian action thriller, *Black Ice* and who has demonstrated his skill in such films as *American Samurai*, *Rage and Honour 2*, *Ironfist* and *Streetfighter* with Jean Claude Van Damme, was a worthy recipient of the Actor of the Year award. Sam Greco also received loud cheers when he accepted the Male Kickboxer of the Year award.

The most popular recipient and inductee on the night was by far Bob Jones for the Lifetime Tribute Award. Kyoshi Sama Bob Jones is one of Australia's highest profiled martial artists and has studied under greats Jack Rozinsky, Tino Ceberano and Sal Ebanez. He has been described by his peers as an "innovator, not an immitator" and by host Silvio Morelli as "a learned man... ahead of his time... and one of the nicest guys you could possibly meet." He is a legend and now follows in the footsteps of Eddie Emin and Tino Ceberano as lifetime recipients.

The Blitz Hall of Fame was again a great success and is growing stronger each year. Congratulations to all martial artists, those present and those who have made their contributions throughout the year, we'll see you next year.

The success of the Blitz Hall of Fame Awards relies on your nominations. Look out next year for a nomination form for the 1998 awards and nominate your instructor, an outstanding kickboxer, Australian martial arts actor, etc. for the 1998 Blitz Hall of Fame Awards.

Instructor of The Year - Kung Fu

Nominations

- Jim Fung
- Dana Wong
- Ian Protheroe
- Barry Pang
- Del Fisher
- Chan Cheuk Fai



Kung Fu Instructor of the year, Dana Wong

- Rick Spain
- Stuart Brooks
- Robert Zakreski
- David Mazzochetti
- Alfredo Del Brocco
- Gary Martin
- Mike Dodar

Recipient

Dana Wong

Instructor of the Year - Aikido

Nominations

- Joe Thambu
- Graham Morris
- Michi Mori
- Paul Cale
- Robert Botterill
- Michael Field

Recipient

Graham Morris

Instructor of the Year - Ninjutsu

Nominations

- Kazuo Saito
- Andrew MacDonald
- John Ang
- Steven McKeown
- Michael Tattoli
- Wayne Roy

Recipient

Michael Tattoli

Instructor of the Year - Hapkido



Ninjutsu Instructor of the year, Mike Tattoli

Nominations

- Fari Salievski
- Matthew Kim
- Geoff Booth
- Yung Sup Kim
- Frank Fish
- Dave Smith

Recipient

Fari Salievski

Instructor of the Year - Tai Chi



Hapkido Instructor of the year, Fari Salievski

Nominations

- Allan Harris
- Gary Khor
- Tang Lai Wei
- Jirong Zhang

Recipient

Tang Lai Wei

Trainer of the Year - Kickboxing

Nominations

- Paul Grima
- Jemal Hassan



Joe Thambu presents John Scida with the Kickboxing Trainer of the Year award

- Dave Hedcock
- Wayne Spencer
- John Chaniotis
- John Scida
- Dana Goodson
- Mick Spinks

Recipient

John Scida

Instructor of the Year - Muay Thai

Nominations

- Stefan Fox
- Phon Martdee
- Joe Hilton
- Michael Kenna
- Brian Kingwell
- Mark Castagnini

Recipient

Phon Martdee

Instructor of the Year - Taekwondo



Muay Thai Instructor of the Year, Phon Martdee

Nominations

- Sung Soo Lee
- Michael Muleta
- Ross Hartnett
- Russell Fallon
- Young Youl Oh
- Yung Ku Yun
- Michael Tan
- Martin Hall
- Michael Bou Daher
- Moon Lee
- Jack Rozinsky
- John Mooney



Kong Wing Loh presents Martin Hall with his award for Taekwondo Instructor of the Year

- Peter Walters

Recipient
Martin Hall

Instructor of the Year - Freestyle

Nominations

- Dennis Farrugia
- Glenn Coxon
- Peter Mylonas
- Frank De Marco
- Gary McCrae
- Billy Manne
- Michael Nicholls

Recipient
Michael Nicholls

Instructor of the Year - Karate

Nominations

- Jim Casey



Freestyle Instructor of the Year, Mick Nicholls

- Ian Watts
- Les Anyos
- Ralph Burd
- Kong Woh Loh
- James Sumarac
- Richard Bradford
- Paul Starling

Recipient
Kurt Klimkait



- Max Fabris
- Kurt Klimkait
- Eddie Emin

Recipient
Kurt Klimkait

Instructor of the Year - Jiu Jitsu

Nominations

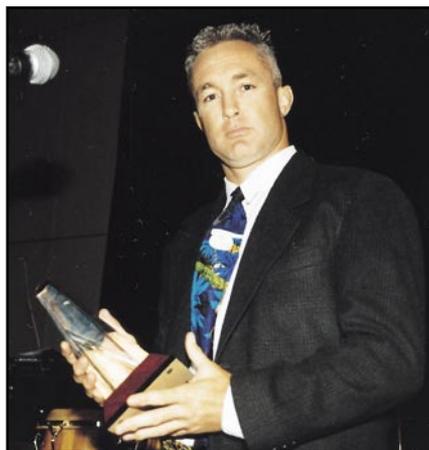
- Jan De Jong
- Chris Haseman
- John Will
- Anthony Flask
- Sam Gervasi
- Brierley Bailey
- John Beckman

Recipient

John Will
Female Kickboxer of the Year

Nominations

- Sharon Anyos
- Laura Skinner



Grappling Instructor of the Year, John Will

- Hollie Ferneley
- Amanda Buchanan

Recipient
Sharon Anyos

Male Kickboxer of the Year

Nominations

- Marcus Mangan
- Jenk Behic
- Amir Shafipour
- Sanapar Noi
- Adam Watt
- Allan Galloway
- Michael Kenna
- Sam Greco
- Ian Jacobs
- Stan Longinidis

Recipient

Sam Greco
Full Contact Female Fighter

Nominations

- Lydia Zakkas
- Maria Gibilisco



Male Kickboxer of the Year, Sam Greco

- Vanessa Mitchell
- Lauren Burns
- Debbie Phillips
- Vanessa Mills

Recipient

Maria Gibilisco

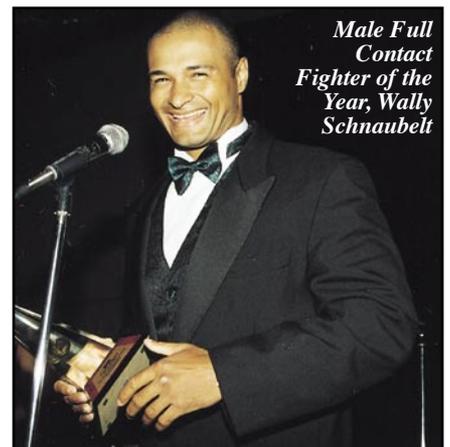
Full Contact Male Fighter

Nominations

- Judd Reid
- Warren Hanson
- Jason Comer
- Wally Schnaubelt
- Simon Kennedy
- Michael Basquez
- Frank Russo

Recipient

Wally Schnaubelt



Male Full Contact Fighter of the Year, Wally Schnaubelt

Junior Point Fighter of the Year

Nominations

- Jason Azilla
- John Feretzanis
- Shannon Hurley
- Vedron Lovric
- Kristen Leong
- Carl Sullivan
- James Casey Jnr

Recipient

Jason Azzilla

Junior Forms Competitor of the Year

Nominations

- Christen Leong
- Jay Moore
- Blaise Brtles
- John Pham
- Pania Casey

Recipient

Jay Moore

Adult Forms Competitor of the Year

Nominations

- Terry Bradford
- Tom Curtis
- Tony Carroll
- Carmella Hartnett
- Chris Rabba
- Spiro Sousanis
- Helen Argyropoulos

Recipient

Chris Rabba

Adult Point Fighter of the Year

Nominations

- Beau Campbell
- Noel McBride
- Des Murphy
- Aaron Rigano
- Spiro Sousanis
- Glenn Ratcliffe

Recipient

Spiro Sousanis

Martial Arts Actor of the Year

Nominations

- Richard Norton
- Joe Sayah
- Ron Vreeken

- Nathan Jones

Recipient

Ron Vreeken

Blitz Hall of Fame Lifetime Tribute Award

Recipient

Bob Jones



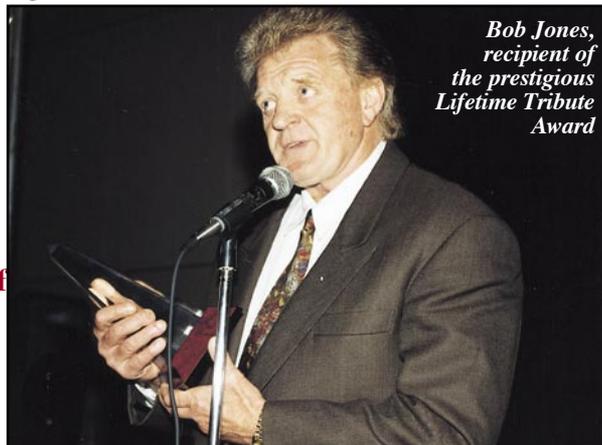
Martial Arts Actor of the Year, Ron Vreeken



Bob Jones receives a standing ovation as he walks to the stage to receive the Lifetime Tribute Award



Silvio Morelli congratulates Bob Jones



Bob Jones, recipient of the prestigious Lifetime Tribute Award