

Japanese Teachers' Association of NSW



JTAN
ABN 94 045 344 808
PO Box 6453 North Sydney 2060
<https://sites.google.com/site/jtanaustralia/home>

February 2011 Newsletter

Hi Everyone,

We hope that you all had well-earned rest and are ready for what is sure to be another busy year.

The JTAN Committee is constantly surprised and impressed with the professionalism of Japanese teachers in NSW and their willingness to share their expertise and resources with their colleagues. We hope that this invaluable sharing continues in 2011. Members are reminded that there is a resource sharing section on our website. If you feel you have an idea or resource that may assist others in their teaching, why don't you upload it here!

JTAN Committee

Below is a list of 2010 – 11 Committee Members

President: Cathleen Jin (Cranbrook School)
Vice President: Naoko Henschke (Kambala)
Secretary: Elizabeth Sugimoto (North Sydney BHS)
Treasurer: Ken Gillespie (Fort Street High School)
Accounts Receivable: Teruko Sharif (Wenona)
Exam Director (Beg): Kyoko Kusumoto (Santa Sabina College)
Exam Director (Cont & Ext): Liberty Campbell (St. Pauls)
Communications Officer: Aaron McLuckie (MLC School)

The new committee is looking forward to working with all members in the coming year. If you have any questions, requests, ideas or enquiries, please don't hesitate to contact us at enquire@jtan.org.au.

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President's Message

日本語の先生がたへ、

I trust that everyone has had a great start to 2011 and would like to warmly welcome new members to the Japanese Teachers' Association of NSW.

I have recently received 'The Current State of Japanese Language Education in Australian Schools' put together by the Asia Education Foundation. This 85-page document contained comprehensive analysis and study of the participation and use of language assistants.

Here is some interesting information for your consideration from the document's executive summary;

Participation

- There are currently approximately 351,579 students studying Japanese in Australian schools, of whom some 63% are at the primary level.
- Japanese remains the most widely studied language in Australian schools and universities. Over 10 per cent of students across all year levels (K-12) studies Japanese in 2008, and a higher proportion of the cohort has studied it at some point in their schooling.
- There has been a decrease of approximately 16% in overall student numbers since 2000. **This has been most severe in NSW**, with a decline of nearly 43 per cent.
- Secondary level enrolments have declined by around 6.4% since 2000 (15.6% in terms of the number of schools).
- There is a large rate of attrition after language becomes an elective, reflecting not only student disengagement but **structural factors in schools** and in course requirements.

At Year 12, the number of students in the mainstream units (continuers) has fallen substantially in every State and Territory except VIC and the

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NT. In SA the number has halved. However, the decline in the number of 'continuing' students has been largely offset by an increase in students taking the Beginners' course. Consequently, total Year 12 enrolments have appeared comparatively stable over the last decade, with the number of students completing Year 12 units falling from a high of 5,179 in 2002 to 4,910 in 2008.

Factors in the recent decline in numbers and problems within programs

- Declining support for Japanese from governments, educational sectors and school leaders.
- Strains imposed by over-rapid expansion without adequate planning, leading to employment of under-qualified teachers in some jurisdictions and lack of attention to continuity and transition issues.
- Problems with transition and continuity between primary and secondary schools, whereby students are either denied the opportunity to continue with Japanese, or are forced to repeat what they have learned in primary school.
- Problems with the quality and suitability of some secondary programs and a disconnection between textbook-focused programs in early secondary and the demands of senior secondary syllabuses.
- Decrease in commitment by schools to support Japanese and to provide a clear pathway to Year 12. More schools appear unable or unwilling to support small classes at senior levels, leading to unsatisfactory combined year-level classes or the abandonment of senior programs. This deters students in lower levels from enrolling in, or continuing with, Japanese, as they see that it is not valued and supported by the school, and that they may not be provided with the appropriate conditions to enable continuation. Fewer enrolments in lower year levels further decreases the likelihood of viable senior classes, thus a negative spiral of dropping enrolments is set in motion, which threatens the viability of the whole program.

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- Problems with senior secondary curriculum and assessment leading to student perceptions that studying Japanese will be difficult and may not be a strategic choice in terms of maximising their chances for tertiary entry.

Teachers

The key issue for teacher supply is in increasing and maintaining quality, for both new and existing teachers. In terms of teacher quality, the picture is not at all negative. Japanese teachers are generally regarded as energetic and resourceful. They have a high level of engagement in professional associations and have developed excellent support networks; native and non-native speakers generally cooperate productively. There is a core group of excellent teachers who provide leadership for the profession.

However, skill upgrading is required for many existing teachers, and measures are needed to ensure that teacher training programs produce teachers with a high level of linguistic, cultural and intercultural competence and of Japanese –specific pedagogic skills.

I wish everyone a happy Term 1 and hope to see you soon at the JTAN workshops!

Cathleen Jin
JTAN President

JTAN Membership, Examination and Workshop Mail Out

Most of you would have already received the mail out package from JTAN that contains details relating to JTAN membership, workshops and examinations for 2011. Attached to this email is an electronic version of the above mail out. If you have any further questions or enquires regarding the above, please don't hesitate to contact JTAN at enquire@jtan.org.au.

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All membership, workshop and examination applications in 2011 will be completed utilizing our new online system. The mail out and this newsletter have explicit instructions to assist you with this transition. If members have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at anytime at enquire@jtan.org.au.

New look JTAN website

Over the break, JTAN, in particular Naoko Henschke, has been working hard on producing a new JTAN website. It can be seen by clicking on the following link: <https://sites.google.com/site/jtanaustralia/home>. Please visit the website so that you are familiar with the new look and its contents. It would also be a good idea to bookmark it, so that you can access it with ease in the future.

All membership, workshops and examination orders will be managed online from 2011. This will ensure that these processes are more streamlined and will also enable JTAN to ensure that it meets its members' needs more effectively. As you can imagine there are some slight changes in the processes, so we ask members to read instructions carefully and to ensure they enter the correct information for each of the required fields.

Any information that JTAN collects from its members is not shared with any third party without the written consent of the member. Having this additional information will enable for a quicker and more streamlined process both for our members and JTAN as an organisation. Should you have any questions or enquires regarding the new website, please don't hesitate to contact enquire@jtan.org.au or me at amcluckie@mlcsyd.nsw.edu.au.



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Membership

As mentioned above, the process for applying for membership has changed for 2011. **All applications must be completed online.** To apply for membership you can follow these simple steps.

1. Go to: <https://sites.google.com/site/jtanaustralia/membership>
2. Click on the Membership tab
3. Enter all the required fields correctly
4. Select how you would like to pay (Cheque or Direct Deposit)
5. Press submit
6. You will be sent an invoice electronically
7. Organise for payment to be sent (either electronically or cheque)
8. When JTAN receives your completed online application form and payment, we will issue your username and password so that you can access the member only section of the website.

2011 Examination Orders

JTAN will publish the following kits in 2011. Each exam kit (Written Paper and Listening) will be on a CD. The audio section can be played both on a computer and on a CD player.

Beginners - Yr11 Preliminary Yearly Examination Paper

Beginners - Yr 12 Trial HSC Examination Paper

Continuers - Yr11 Preliminary Yearly Examination Paper

Continuers - Yr12 Trial HSC Examination Paper

Extension - Yr12 Trial HSC Examination Paper (No Listening)

JTAN owns the COPYRIGHT on all JTAN Exams and they are only to be used/amended by JTAN members in the course of their teaching. JTAN Exams are not to be used by other organisations or non-members. Failure to adhere to this will result in legal action by JTAN.

The closing date for all exam orders is: **Friday 29 April 2011.** **Members are encouraged to adhere to this deadline, as late orders will not be accepted.**

Contact: Aaron McLuckie enquire@jtan.org.au (02) 87413193



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- Trial HSC Exam papers are embargoed until 31st August 2011.
- Preliminary Yearly Exam papers are embargoed until 16th September 2011.

As with membership and workshop applications, all orders for JTAN Examination Papers will be made online. To order follow these simple steps:

1. Click on to the JTAN Exams tab of the new website:
<https://sites.google.com/site/jtanaustralia/sample-exams>
2. Fill in the online order form.
3. JTAN will then issue you with an invoice
4. Print the [Exam Declaration](#) from the website and get it signed by your Head of Department (Note: **No examinations will be sent without the original signed declaration**)
5. Send payment (either cheque or notification of EFT) with declaration by post to JTAN, P.O. Box 6453, North Sydney 2060
6. **Exams will be delivered to schools by 17 June 2011**

JTAN Past Papers for sale

JTAN currently has the following past papers for sale:

- Beginners: Preliminary Yearly Exam 2009 and 2010 (\$95)
 Trial HSC Exam 2010 (\$95)
- Continuers: Preliminary Yearly Exam 2009 and 2010 (\$95)
 Trial HSC Exam 2010 (\$95)
- Extension: Trial HSC Exam 2010 (\$60)

If you are interested in purchasing any of the above, please contact Teruko Sharif directly at: jtanreceivable@gmail.com



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Workshops

Below is a summary of workshops that are scheduled for 2011. There is a link next to each workshop that will direct you to the online application form. All information regarding workshops can be found under the 'Events' tab of the new website: <https://sites.google.com/site/jtanaustralia/events>

Date	Workshop	Time	Venue	Apply Now!	Cost
Sat 12 th Mar 11	Planning a Trip to Japan	1.00 – 3.00	Japan Foundation	Click here to apply online	FREE
Sat 28 th May	Listening Items Production	10.00 – 3.00	Japan Foundation	Online registration open soon	\$30
Sat 11 th June 11	Yr12 Continuers Day for Students	am and pm sessions	NSBHS	Click here to apply online	\$20
Thurs 21 st July 11	Yr10 Day for Students	All Day	USYD	Online registration open soon	\$15
Sat 23 rd July 11	Yr12 Beginners Day for Students	am and pm sessions	SHORE	Online registration open soon	\$20
Sat 22 nd Oct 11	JTAN AGM Workshop	9:00 – 5:00	TBA	Online registration open soon	FREE



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New Resources - www.japaneseteachers.net

A message from Shannon Mason:

My name is Shannon Mason. I am a Japanese teacher on the Sunshine Coast in Australia.

I would like to introduce you to a website that I have managed for a number of years that might be of interest to you and members of your association.

Japanese Teachers' Resources is an informal online network of Japanese teachers from around the world that features resources that have been donated by generous teachers.

Our collection of over 650 free resources currently includes: worksheets, workbooks, flashcards, mini-books, lesson plans, unit plans, powerpoint presentations, e-books, reading comprehension activities, interactive worksheets, songs, videos and more!

www.japaneseteachers.net If possible, we would love for you to share this information with your members. Our aim is to give teachers of Japanese access to a wide variety of resources and ideas, for the benefit of our students, and the promotion of quality Japanese language education. Your support is most appreciated,

New Speaking Resource – Japanese Essential Grammar for Speaking

A message from Mayumi Tomi:

Dear High School Teachers,

Happy New Year of the Rabbit to you! Hope everyone feels refreshed to start the new school term.

“Japanese Essential Grammar for Speaking” which is actually a revised version of the book that I presented at the teachers' conference in 2007 but couldn't publish then. I have now revised the contents extensively and have finally self-published the book.

This book is a basic grammar workbook, which provides a clear explanation of basic grammar with lots of examples, and exercises which can be used for oral activities in class or homework or self-study. The book is probably most suitable

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for those who have already learned te-form or to be used as a first step for HSC preparation.

Please visit the website <http://www.japaneseessential.com.au/> where you can view some sections/pages of the book or listen to the recordings in the CD which is included with the book.

It would be great if the book could be of any help to your students to build their ability to use the basic grammar accurately & fluently in daily conversation. Wish you all the best for the new term.

*Yours Sincerely,
Mayumi Tomi*

Japanese Incursion Idea

Claire Telsen is offering an incursion of performances of Japanese fairytales. Claire offers **Momotaro** for primary school students and **Urashima** for both primary and secondary students up to grade 8. Attached is further information, if you are interested, please contact Claire directly at red.herring.co@gmail.com or for further information see: www.red-herring.com.au

If members have any ideas or ways that you feel JTAN could be improved or better satisfy your needs as a Japanese teacher, please don't hesitate to contact us at enquire@jtan.org.au

Enjoy the term!

Regards,

Aaron McLuckie
JTAN Communications Officer