



Japanese Teachers' Association of NSW (JTAN) Inc.

ABN 94 045 344 808
PO Box 6453, North Sydney 2060
<http://www.jtan.org.au>

JTAN November/December Newsletter 2016

It is nearing the end of the school year and we hope you are all preparing well for the holiday season. JTAN will close business between **15 December 2016 - 26 January 2017**. Urgent emails may be sent to pobox6453@jtan.org.au, as emails to enquire@jtan.org.au may not be replied to promptly during this time.

We would like to thank the members who attended the **JTAN AGM & Workshops** held on Saturday 15 October, 2016. We received extremely positive evaluations for the workshops and issued QTC-endorsed certificates to attendees. All participants are advised to keep **JTAN certificates**, as they outline the standards that you have achieved from attending workshops and act as records of your attendance.

We would like to remind that online application forms are open for the following workshops:

- **25 February: Resource Sharing Workshop for Primary School Teachers**
- **4 March: Extension Student Workshop**

Both these workshops are available to JTAN and non-JTAN members. To apply, follow the steps below:

1. Open www.jtan.org.au
2. Click on the 'Events' tab at the top
3. Click on a workshop to see the details
4. Fill in the application form and submit
5. Print the invoice (it will appear as soon as you submit and will also be sent via email)

The JTAN President (Teruko Sharif) and Languages Officer of DoE (Janelle Byrne) represented NSW at the **Advisory Committee Meeting (ACM)** held on Thursday 3 November in Melbourne. The ACM is an annual meeting run by the Japan Foundation (JF) Sydney for representatives from Departments of Education and Japanese language teacher associations (herein JLTAs) from around the country. It is an opportunity for stakeholders to share ideas and discuss effective means for supporting Japanese language education in Australia. It also provides a space to make recommendations and suggestions to JF Sydney about our activities. Please read the [attached report](#) from NSW DoE.

The **National Symposium Japanese Language Education (NSJLE)** was held on 3-4 November in Melbourne. Teruko Sharif (President) and Sally Mizoshiri (former President) represented JTAN and presented on Advocacy. It was pleasing to see many NSW Japanese language teachers at the symposium. For those who were unable to attend, please read Sally's report on the conference (p. 2-3).

Online application forms for JTAN membership and examination orders will open early Term 1 next year. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

2016-2017 JTAN Committee



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NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM REPORT: VISIBLE AND VALUABLE

The 3rd National Symposium on Japanese language education provided important insights into current trends and research relating to Japanese teaching.

Day 1 (Friday 4th November)

The Keynote Address was given by a Victorian Principal, Ms Sheereen Kindler (<http://gec.vic.edu.au/>) who had recently been on a JPF Australia Principals Fellowship to Japan. Her experience of seeing Japan firsthand affirmed her belief in the necessity of teaching Japanese language and culture in an integrated manner and she talked at length about cultural days, open days for languages and activities her school had organised to promote Japanese language learning. She believed that Japanese would grow in popularity to sit amongst the other two languages offered.

Takeaway: It is important for our Principals to visit Japan and engage with us and our students so that they become powerful advocates for our programs. They are a vital link between us and the broader community and need to be reminded of the power of our Japanese programs!

Day 2 (Saturday 5th November)

Professor John Hajek spoke about the pervading 'Anglo-bubble' and monolingual mindset we face in Australia, using clips from *'I Love Lucy'* to illustrate his point. He focused on the need for us to find suitable young Australians who speak Japanese to promote the study of Japanese in our schools – Adam Liaw, Miranda Kerr and Goyte were three examples he raised. Songs, advertisement and famous jingles in Japanese were also recommended as ways to get students interested in Japanese (e.g. THE CUP SONG in Japanese: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DIOW9cZqjk>)

Takeaway: He told us not to be complacent and 'polite' in accepting the status quo, but rather to face administrators, timetable managers and principals to demand full allocations for Japanese be given as they are in other subjects. This is a timely message for us all as we prepare for the 2017 year.

Teruko and I co-presented on the role of JTAN in promoting advocacy amongst NSW Japanese teachers and presented future directions for the association. Suggestions from the audience were made about how JTAN could link in with universities, which is something to be explored.

We attended a variety of lectures on the following topics: Apps/online feedback, imaginative texts and the Australian Curriculum, film making, using picture story books, Click Nippon activities and collaboration for advocacy from the JPF.





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NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON JAPANESE LANGUAGE EDUCATION

Here are some useful links to explore:

- Vizia <https://vizia.co/>
- Story: <http://nezuminoyomeiri.wikispaces.com/> (made by a VIC team of Japanese teachers)
- Claymation: Omichi creative - <https://omichi.smugmug.com/PG/CA>
- Story: <http://mottainai.com/> ; <http://mottainai.com/e/about/>
- Click Nippon resources <http://www.tjf.or.jp/clicknippon/en/>

Adam Liaw was the guest speaker at the NSJLE Reception and he talked at length about his connections with Japan and how it has shaped the person he is today. He worked in Japan as an in-house lawyer for Disney and discovered Japan's food culture along the way. Reading menus was Adam's way into learning Japanese. He also mentioned that the SBS series (*Destination Flavour Japan*) in which he appears came about as he was the only person they could find who could cook and speak Japanese! The show changed his life and he was very grateful for the opportunity to travel all over Japan.



Adam is a perfect example of a powerful advocate and famous Australian personality whom we as Japanese teachers can use to promote Japanese in our classrooms. Professor Hajek suggested using clips of him speaking Japanese to show our students that Australians can work using their Japanese language skills successfully. Adam's current cookbook – *The Zen Kitchen* – sold out in minutes and he said his aim is to change the average Australian kitchen to cook one new dish a week... all one needs is 'sa shi su se so' - 5 simple Japanese seasonings!

I extend my thanks to Mrs Anne De Kretser and the JPF for organising such an enriching symposium, giving us new directions to think about in our Japanese teaching. Both Teruko and I hope to share these ideas with JTAN members in 2017.

- Sally Mizoshiri



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2016-2017 UPCOMING WORKSHOPS – UPDATED (DECEMBER)

Date: Sat. 25th February 2017
Time: 09:30 – 15:00
Venue: Northbridge Public School
Sailors Bay Road, Northbridge 2063

Application Due Date: 10 February 2017

***Registrations open online**

Resource Sharing Workshop – Primary Teachers

- Sharing resources
- Networking opportunities

\$20 for JTAN members
\$20 per non-JTAN members

- Morning tea and Lunch provided
- Take-home USB with resources provided

Date: Sat. 4th March 2017
Time: 08:30 – 13:30
Venue: SHORE School (TBC)
Blue Street, North Sydney 2016

Application Due Date: 17 February 2017

***Registrations open online**

Japanese Extension Student Workshop

- Prescribed text, '*Departures*'
- Film techniques, themes and issues

\$25 for JTAN student and teacher
Students must belong to a JTAN teacher member school

- Morning tea for teachers only
 - Only one teacher permitted per 15 students
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We have another year of great workshops for both teachers and students lined up for 2017. Please keep an eye out for updates in the future!



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RESOURCES & EVENTS

Disclaimer: The following information is introduced as a service to members of JTAN. However, JTAN does NOT endorse or hold responsibility for any activities associated with the following.

THE JAPAN CULTURE BOOK

Hello. This is Fumiko Miura, nonfiction writer currently based in Hiroshima.

I am writing to introduce you my book, *The Japan Culture Book*. It is an English-Japanese bilingual guide to Japanese art and culture, published by The Japan Times last year (while I wrote the Japanese sections, American writer Alan Gleason translated it into English). I would be happy, if members of JTAN consider the book as a Japanese language learning tool for your students.

The content focuses on stereotypes and diversity in what we call "Japanese culture," trying to inspire discussion and exploration. This book project is based on criticism against Nihonjinron, and my own experience feeling difficulties to answer questions about Japan. Each process of producing the book – research, translation, footnoting, selecting images, book design and using eco-conscious paper - was very carefully completed by each professional.

Please find the attached PDF file of the book's excerpted version, as well as the following links of the press release and an article about it:

Press release (English)

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/2015/02/02/press-release/japan-culture-book-japaneseenglishon-sale-now/#.VgIrKe-hfIU>

"Books from Japan" website

<http://www.booksfromjapan.jp/publications/item/3154-the-japan-culture-book>

For ordering for schools, please contact Intext (Melbourne) or Kinokuniya (Sydney), the publisher's agencies in Oceania. They have retail shops as well.

For your information, the book is also used as an English language learning tool and just a reading to think about their own culture in Japan. Readers include elementary school kids and elders.

I would be very happy, if I receive lots of feedbacks for the book from Australia.

三浦史子

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<https://www.facebook.com/thejapanculturebook/>



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TEMARI ORNAMENTS – A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT!

Please browse the beautiful selection of Temari ornaments from *Colours of Japan*. If you're looking for last minute Christmas ideas, this could be it!



Photo 1 - small 3.5 cm diameter \$10



Photo 3 - large 6.5 - 7 cm \$30, or 2 for \$50



Photo 2 - medium 5.5 - 6 cm. \$25, or 2 for \$40



Photo 4 - colour samples for custom order.
Medium \$20

Please contact **Chihiro Kownacki** on **0421 602 895** for purchase.

AEF E-NEWSLETTER

If you haven't already, sign up to the AEF E-Newsletter for updates on Asia and Asia Literacy in Australia. Here is the latest newsletter link:

<http://asialink.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/d/415F9F1DB61E5659/4A438D8D8B7F845F0B3A73003FE B3522>



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CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM - SKYPE

Dear Sensei

My name is Heather Bates and I am currently on the JET Programme (CIR) in Fukuroi City, Shizuoka Prefecture.

My City hall, in particular the education division, would like to implement a cultural exchange programme (English speaking class) that would use Skype and would allow Japanese students to speak in English with Australian students. They are hoping that students will talk to one another (in English) and exchange stories about their local culture, history etc. to gain a better understanding and appreciation of other countries. It doesn't matter if the Australian students cannot speak Japanese as I will be present during the classes to interpret and help assist in communication between students in order to alleviate the problem that may arise with language barriers.

It is still in the early stages but so far these are the main points:

**Target: Year 7 class*

**Class duration: 30-40 minutes*

**Approximately 10 Japanese students per class*

At the moment they are looking at having a Year 7 class that would be interested in taking part in trial classes for this Skype English class programme.

There will be two trial classes held the first sometime between Feb 20~24 2017 and the second sometime between March 7~10 2017.

I know it is very late notice but if there would be any schools or teachers that would like to take part in the trial classes of this programme, please contact me by December 15.

Kind Regards,

Heather Bates.

heather.y.bates@gmail.com

ITO EN Oi Ocha Haiku Contest

Please see the link below for details on a Haiku Contest in Japan. There are some great prizes, and the contest has many divisions, including students and adults!

Applications are due by Tuesday 28 February, 2017.

http://www.itoen.co.jp/new-haiku/en/rules_regulations/index.html

Let words depict the landscape of our minds. 