



*Japanese Teachers' Association of NSW (JTAN) Inc.*

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

## **JTAN SEPTEMBER Newsletter - 2013**

# **\*\* Apply Online for the AGM workshop Now!!**

Dear JTAN members,

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the JTAN Committee, the Exam Directors and Workshop organisers for their work this year. They certainly work hard before and on workshop days, prior to and after the exams and throughout the year dealing with issues and proofing the exams as well. Thank you so much! You are a fantastic professional team!

### **Japan Foundation Support**

Thank you once again to the Japan Foundation (Sydney) and their teachers for their unfailing support of JTAN this year. The days spent in cold halls and rooms testing students, preparing their premises for our workshops, presenting at our Year 10 Day...what would we do without you!

### **Sydney University and member schools**

Thank you for allowing us to use your premises for our workshops for students.

### **JSAAC**

During the last holidays I spent 4 days in lovely cold Canberra at the Japanese Studies Association of Australia Conference. It was an opportunity to gain information on Japanese studies in the Asian century and listen to insightful presentations from teachers and academics, including JTAN members like Yuji Okawa.

### **AGM Workshop**

One of the presentations at the JSAAC was by Hiroko Koga and Yuko Fujimitsu from Western Australia on the 'Koala Project', a project for students in Australia to interact



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students in Fukushima. Luckily they have agreed to present this project to us at our upcoming AGM Workshop so please come along and listen and maybe join in with this worthwhile venture.

We will also be doing more cultural work on 'Okuribito' at the AGM Workshop and some resources sharing for other courses. When we have an idea of the numbers we will let applicants know what we would like you to bring along.

### **Exam Writing Workshop**

The Exam Writing Workshop will again be held in November, but we think that we will run a session at first on tips on how to write the bigger listening items and reading items so that everyone gets to feel more at ease with doing those sections.

### **Exams**

The JTAN exams this year seemed to have few issues, but I would again ask teachers to please open the exam well before the exam is to be held. Could I remind everyone that in order to open the exams you need to use a PC and right click to open!! The exam and the marking guidelines are there for you to change as you see fit. Please also remember that the Committee members are also busy with their own jobs and really cannot take the time to immediately 'fix' a problem that could be solved by following the instructions. Also late orders may not be taken next year so please make sure to order your exams in advance.

### **2014 Committee**

This year we are looking for members to take on the following jobs for 2014:

- ❖ **Continuers Day Organiser**
- ❖ **Year 10 Day Organiser**

**Members have been extremely generous in giving their time on the day of the Student workshops this year** but please remember that unless we can get members to help with the organisation of these **activities they will not happen in 2014**. (Most of the organisation has been simplified this year so it should not be as onerous as in previous years). The Committee cannot do any more work and when teachers ask that JTAN do something or fix something...**we all make up JTAN**.....we really should be able to



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call on any member to do some of that work. Being a member of the committee or helping to organise events can also be an excellent opportunity for professional development.

Let's all work together in 2014 to provide another successful JTAN year.

Regards,

Liz Sugimoto  
President JTAN

**Sister school relationship**

Ms Aoyama from the Asuwa High School in Fukui prefecture is looking for a school with which to start a Sister School relationship with a 3 year cycle of visits. They are ready to host a group of students from English speaking countries either in June or in October, starting from 2014. Their side is hoping to send out 30 students majoring in English to the counterpart school in February, once every three years, starting from Feb. 2015.

More details on the schedule are available from Liz Sugimoto ([esugimoto@optusnet.com.au](mailto:esugimoto@optusnet.com.au)) and if you are interested Madoka Ando from the Japan Foundation can be contacted on [ando@tjf.or.jp](mailto:ando@tjf.or.jp)

**Remember to register for the following events by going to the JTAN website**

**JTAN AGM AND WORKSHOP – 19 October, 2013 (Registration open)**  
**EXAM WRITING WORKSHOP – 30 November, 2013**  
(Registration not yet open)

**Also, see attached AGM notification if you would like to nominate someone for the 2013/14 JTAN COMMITTEE**