



## Best Wishes on occasion of Emperor's 68th Birthday

Over 200 guests attended a celebration on Thursday, December 6, hosted by Ambassador Koichi Matsumoto, in honour of the 68th birthday of His Majesty Emperor Akihito. Among those present were the Hon. Steve Maharey, Minister of Social Services and Employment representing the Government, past and present Members of Parliament, Ministry and local Government officials and friends of the Embassy of Japan from diplomatic, community, educational and cultural interests. This year, in particular, the reception was a good occasion for the guests to congratulate the birth of the Emperor's grand daughter on December 1.

Ambassador Matsumoto concluded his message with a toast to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and "the continuing friendship between our two countries in the years to come".

Mr Tony Browne, Director of North Asia Division in his speech on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, re-iterated the importance of Japan-New Zealand relations.

*Photographs on page 2*

*"The drastic upheavals since the tragic events  
of September 11 should make all of  
us united in our determination to make  
the world a better place. And of course,  
Japan and New Zealand will continue to  
make a valuable contribution toward  
these global efforts".*

**Ambassador Koichi Matsumoto**  
*Emperor's Birthday reception, December 6, 2001*

## Celebrating The Royal Birth

On December 1, 2001 a baby girl was born to Crown Prince Naruhito and Crown Princess Masako, their first child since marrying in June 1993. The whole nation became caught up in a mood of celebration at the news, and 120,000 people flocked to the Imperial Palace (home of the Emperor and Empress), Togu Palace (home of the Crown Prince and Crown Princess), and other venues across the country to sign congratulatory registers. Seven days after the baby was born, a naming ceremony was conducted, at which the Emperor bestowed on the child the name *Aiko* and the appellation by which she will be called in her youth, *Toshi-no-miya*, or Princess Toshi.

Right: Her Imperial Highness  
Crown Princess Masako with her newborn baby



# Celebrating The Emperor's Birthday



Some of the guests at the Emperor's Birthday reception.



Ambassador and Mrs Matsumoto with the Hon John Falloon, former Cabinet Minister and Member of Parliament for Pahiataua pictured at the Emperor's Birthday reception on December 6.



Ambassador Matsumoto pictured with the Hon Steve Maharey and Mr Tony Browne at the Emperor's Birthday reception on December 6.

# Alumni rekindle memories of youth goodwill cruise

Members of the New Zealand Ship for World Youth Alumni greeted the *Nippon Maru* to Aotearoa/New Zealand for the second time in two years when the ship docked in Auckland on Saturday, November 10. The 14th SWY stopped for a "whirlwind" three days of sightseeing, cultural exchange and a taste of the outdoors. Participants on the cruise came from Kenya, Mauritius, Australia, USA, India, UAE, Egypt, Greece, Finland, UK, Brazil, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Bahrain and Japan.

After a briefing about New Zealand by former participant Sandra Kailahi and others, the visitors came ashore, streaming into internet cafes, Victoria Park market, New World supermarket; and queuing for the vertical bungy, the Sky tower and the link bus. A highlight for the alumni was the opportunity to sleep onboard the *Nippon Maru* with its renovated cabins complete with DVD players and new furniture.

On Sunday, participants and alumni climbed into coaches for the three-hour trip to Rotorua. A BBQ lunch, viewing rainbow trout and other wildlife at Rainbow Fairy Springs and a visit to the obligatory sheep show were all enjoyed. So too was the visit to Whakarewarewa where participants checked out the snorting geysers and the Maori carving



*Nippon Maru* leaving Auckland

school, and experienced a *hongi* with the locals (a Maori greeting by touching noses).

On Monday, the alumni organised visits to a diverse range of local schools where participants and students exchanged cultures with songs and other items. The final afternoon was free time for the participants. Many chose outdoor adventure options like kayaking in Okahu Bay and mountainbike riding in Cornwall Park.

The alumni newsletter describes the visit as a "resounding success. We enjoyed the opportunity to meet and

interact with participants from a diverse range of countries. In light of previous events, the opportunity to converse with Middle Eastern and Muslim delegates, as well as those from the USA proved valuable. Participants were exceptionally hospitable: warm and chatty during receptions and welcoming to the past participants who stayed on board..."

*Thanks to the New Zealand Ship for World Youth Alumni for kindly allowing the use of this information from their Official Newsletter and for making the photo available.*



New Zealand past participants Manu Keung (third from left) and Esther Graham (next to her) enjoying the company of current voyagers on the 14th Ship for World Youth



# Photo show increases interest in JET scheme

Visitors to the Wellington Public Library between November 3-17 were able to view an exhibition of 70 photographs taken by members of the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme) Alumni.

Over 1,400 young New Zealanders have joined the JET Programme since it began in 1987. Many former participants are members of alumni groups in Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch. The ex-JETs get together to chat over old times, assist new participants before they depart, discuss ways in which they can strengthen good relations between Japan and New Zealand with the benefit of their experiences in

Japan, and generally keep in touch with Japan-related activities. They also maintain contact with their counterparts in other JET participant countries.

With the co-operation of Fujitsu who supported the exhibition, the Wellington JET Alumni collected together their best photos from Japan, mounting a highly impressive exhibition featuring activities on the JET Programme, children, parents, teachers, friends, landscapes and special events like festivals and sports in their local areas. All photos were captioned. The exhibition will be kept for future displays.



Andrew Reay, now in his third year as a CIR in Saga City on the island of Kyushu, recently had the opportunity to promote New Zealand in an International Food Festival. A group of four New Zealanders sold barbequed lamb, NZ cheese and pineapple, and also meringues pavlova-style with kiwifruit. "We were more successful than we imagined", writes Andrew Reay, 'selling around 200 lamb chops in three hours'.



One of the photos on display. Former JET Denise Renshaw, Assistant Language Teacher in Gunma Prefecture between 1993-96, pictured with some of her pupils. Denise is now President of the Wellington JET Alumni.

# Japan New Zealand Business Council meets the challenges

The 28th Joint Meeting of the Japan New Zealand Business Council was held from November 14-16 in Kyoto. Mr Hachiro Tomokuni, Chairman of the Japan Committee served as Chairman and Mr Kerry McDonald, Chairman of the New Zealand Committee, was co-Chairman. A total of 109 members, 40 from New Zealand and 69 from Japan attended the meeting, including Ambassador Koichi Matsumoto who spoke early in the agenda.

After greeting delegates, Ambassador Matsumoto briefly outlined the current situation and relationship between New Zealand and Japan. He discussed issues relating to diplomacy, the economy, trade, investment and tourism. The Ambassador cited sister city relationships, the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme and Working Holidays as opportunities for New Zealand and Japan to expand our relationship.

Earlier, the meeting started with a tour of the world-famous Kawashima Textile Manufacturers and Kyocera, to observe a wide spectrum of traditional and leading-edge technologies. The next day's plenary meeting focused on how to spearhead the current trend of IT, its challenges, and how to position IT which is under increasing international re-examination.

Chairman Kerry McDonald emphasised the significance of the complementarity between the two countries during the 28 year history of the committee, and the potential to develop the relationship further. Both countries are facing new challenges and it is important to strengthen our relationship at a new level.

Mr Kenji Yoshizawa, Deputy Chairman, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd and Dr Allan Bollard, Permanent Secretary of The New Zealand Treasury analysed the economies of both countries under the theme "Reform and Challenge: Further Economic Development of Japan and New Zealand".

The Second Plenary Session was devoted to IT and Dr Ken-ichi Imai, Chairman of the Stanford Japan Centre, gave a keynote speech on its future development based on cultural diversity in the Asia Pacific. The economy is inseparable from cultural diversity and they must be integrated to develop a hybrid IT. Dr James Buwalda, Chief Executive, Ministry of Research,

Science and Technology gave an overview of the new economy and innovation in New Zealand. Former Ambassador to Japan Neil Walter, Permanent Secretary of the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, expressed strong expectations for the New Level of Engagement which was agreed when Prime Minister Helen Clark visited Japan in



Photo kindly supplied by the Japan Committee, Tokyo

April, with particular emphasis on forestry, tourism, education, the new economy and people-to-people exchange.

The theme of the Third Plenary Session was education and tourism. The advances in IT are re-shaping travel. Indeed, the necessity of positioning IT, indispensable for future growth in every industrial sector was confirmed, notwithstanding the slowdown of the global economy. Broad and in-depth fruitful discussions centred on the significance

---

*"Both countries are facing new challenges and it is important to strengthen our relationship at a new level"*

---

of technological innovation, and industrial reform, making use of information - the very essence of IT.

There are many challenges for the future. The Business

Council therefore should make incessant efforts to reflect the needs and desires of the two business communities, according to the *Chairman's Summary*.

# Japan Societies meet in Hawkes Bay

Delegates from Japan Societies around the country travelled to Napier for the 8th Biennial Conference of Japan Societies. They enjoyed the warm hospitality of the Japan Society of Hawke's Bay, celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. In his message published in a special anniversary issue of the Society's news magazine, Ambassador Koichi Matsumoto paid tribute to the Society, saying "When the Society was founded in 1961, relations between our countries were not as close as they are today. I am especially grateful to those early members who laid the foundations for the strong and vibrant Society we have today".

In a report after the Conference, organiser Barry Chapman wrote: The Conference had two main aims. One was to advance Sister City relationships through Friendship Societies and the

other was to nationally modernise communications between Societies, with the aim of perhaps, at a later date, making it an international communications medium. The delegates were brought up to date on the web site being developed and what can be achieved in the future. The Conference gave moral and financial commitment for the Auckland Society to progress the setting up of a web site to achieve the requirements of member societies.

The social highlight of the Conference was a dinner which also celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Japan Society of Hawke's Bay. Ambassador Matsumoto and Consul-General Mizuno were among the 90 guests who enjoyed an evening of entertainment which included traditional dance and shamisen playing.



Delegates at the 2001 Conference in Napier Consul-General Tatsuo Mizuno is seated fourth from the right

---

## *Ikebana* for all to enjoy

The Wellington Chapter of *Ikebana* International welcomes contact from anyone interested in learning about its activities. "Friendship through Flowers" is the *Ikebana* motto. The Wellington Chapter is one of four in New Zealand, links in a world-wide chain embracing a love of nature, flower arranging, aesthetic beauty and cultural exchange.

Japanese flower arranging had its origins in early Buddhist flower offerings and developed into a distinctive art form during the 15th century, with many styles and schools. In the post-war era, there has been an upsurge of interest in *Ikebana* which is now taught, as an art form, in schools around the world.

Mrs Ruth Scott founded the Wellington Chapter of *Ikebana* International in 1970 and is now its Patroness. She is the only New Zealander to have held the position of International President of *Ikebana*

International in Tokyo. During the 1960s Mrs Scott did much to promote the growing interest in *Ikebana* in the USA, in Washington, Sacramento, Atlanta, New York, Boston, Cleveland, Pittsburg, St Louis and Sarasota. In 1963 she was presented with the Key to San Francisco. The many facets of her contribution to *Ikebana* and international goodwill were recognised by the Government of Japan in 1992 when Mrs Scott was awarded the Order of the Precious Crown, Apricot.



The Embassy of Japan in Wellington has enjoyed a warm relationship with the Wellington Chapter of *Ikebana* International over many years. Most of their monthly meetings are held at the Japan Information and Cultural Centre, so too is their annual Spring Exhibition in September. Other activities may involve field trips or demonstrations by visiting specialists. *Ikebana* arrangements feature at Festivals of Japan. They are an attraction on their own or sometimes an added enjoyment for concert-goers and visitors to exhibitions and events.

In a message for readers of the *Japan Bulletin*, President of the Wellington Chapter of *Ikebana* International, Mrs Nanette Kwok extends a warm welcome to anyone who would like to attend a monthly meeting.

Please contact her by telephoning Wellington 476 7473.



# Wajima snapshot lives on

In 1967 Mr Paul Knight, now Senior Lecturer in Japanese at Massey University in Palmerston North, photographed two local residents chatting at a local market in Wajima, Ishikawa Prefecture. His photo was among 300, selected from 40,000 entries world-wide, to appear in the second of a series of three books from M.I.L.K. (Moments of Intimacy, Laughter and Kinship). Three other New Zealanders were also successful with their entries.

The three books each contain 100 images. The title of the second book is *FRIENDSHIP*. The collection, described as "the photographic event of our time" includes the works of international award-winning photographers who were challenged by the organisers to "capture and celebrate the essence of humanity with authentic stories and spontaneous emotion"



Information and photo kindly supplied by Mr Paul Knight

Photos from the New Zealand-organised competition were recently shown, to critical acclaim, in an exhibition in Grand Central Terminal, New York

City. The exhibition was shipped to London for display at the prestigious Science Museum in October 2001.

---

## Selected Booklets available...

### Oceania and Asia:

#### The South Pacific Looks North

This *Asian Studies Institute Working Paper* booklet is a record, edited by Professor Ralph Pettman, of the presentations from a public colloquium held in Christchurch on 28 February 2001 in the Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies at the University of Canterbury. The colloquium was arranged by the Asian Studies Institute of Victoria University of Wellington of which Professor Pettman is a founder member, with the assistance of the Macmillan Brown Centre.

The colloquium was made possible by a grant from the Government of Japan under the *Peace, Friendship and Exchange Initiative* introduced by former Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama in 1994. As part of this Programme, a book containing articles from Japanese and New Zealand writers was published entitled *Japan and New Zealand: 150 Years*. Next, a one-day seminar was held in Wellington on 21 February 2000 to discuss *New Zealand and Japan: What Next?*

*Oceania and Asia: The South Pacific Looks North* is the next step, raising the following questions:

- What are the implications of the nexus between Oceania and Asia?

- What are the domestic dimensions to it?
- What issues of identity, of ethnicity and of national loyalty does it raise?

Mr Tsuneo Sugishita discusses the topic *Oceania and Asia: The Joint Effort to Achieve Sustainable Economic Development*. He was Bureau Chief for the *Yomiuri Shinbun* and is currently lecturing on International Co-operation at Ibaraki National University.

Dr John Henderson, Head of the Department of Political Science at the University of Canterbury helped in the organising of the colloquium and spoke on the topic *Oceania and Asia: The International Repercussions of Domestic Affairs*.

Dr Roderic Alley is Associate Professor of International Relations at Victoria University of Wellington. His topic was *Identity, Ethnicity and National Loyalty in Oceania: Some Asian Pacific Implications*.

Ms Teresia Teaiwa is a Lecturer in Pacific Studies at Victoria University of Wellington. Originally from Kiribati, she was raised in Fiji and did her postgraduate studies in the U.S. Her paper on the Pacific Islands relationship between Asia and America, and the role of New Zealand, brought the colloquium to a close.

Copies of the Asian Studies Institute Working Paper are available from the Japan Information and Cultural Centre, Embassy of Japan.

### YEAR 10 JAPANESE:

#### A Study of Retention Factors in New Zealand Secondary Schools

The Schools of Languages at the Auckland University of Technology (AUT) and Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology discuss their conclusions from research into how retention rates can be improved for Japanese language students going on to Years 11 and 12 in New Zealand secondary schools. The study was investigated through a representative sample of

secondary schools in the Auckland and Christchurch areas.

Support for this research came from the *Peace, Friendship and Exchange Programme* of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tokyo.

Limited supplies of the publication are available from the Japan Information and Cultural Centre in Wellington.

# Astronomers unite in discovery of comet



Mr Albert Jones shows the plaque commemorating the Edgar Wilson Award which he won jointly with Mr Utsunomiya, pictured below. Behind Mr Jones is his telescope, attached to which is the small wide field finder telescope through which he found the comet.



Mr Albert Jones of Stoke, Nelson has been observing variable stars and comets for nearly 60 years. On the morning of November 26, 2000 he noticed an unexpected comet and reported his finding to the Mount John University Laboratory, which in turn notified the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Cambridge, USA. The Observatory assumed it might be the lost comet that Mr Syogo Utsunomiya had found a week earlier, but which was moving south so quickly that no further observations could be made. With information from the amateur astronomers in Japan and New Zealand, the Observatory was able to correctly predict the direction of the comet C/2000 W1 which was given the name *Utsunomiya-Jones*.

Mr Utsunomiya lives in Aso in Kumamoto Prefecture, situated in Kyushu Island, southern Japan. He lives in a mountainous area at a height of 750 metres, more than a kilometre from his nearest neighbour. He watches the stars and looks for comets through the 15cm binoculars which he has been using for 10 years.

Mr Jones designed and constructed his 21.3cm reflector telescope with a 7.8cm finder telescope in 1948 using brought optics. At 81 years of age he is the oldest man ever to have discovered a comet. He and Mr Utsunomiya have never met but they have a warm friendship through their e-mail correspondence.

Mr Jones and Mr Utsunomiya share the Edgar Wilson Award which is given to astronomers who discover a new comet using amateur and privately-owned equipment.

Consulate-General of Japan  
Level 12, ASB Bank Centre  
135 Albert Street  
PO Box 3959, Auckland  
Tel: (09) 303-4106  
Fax: (09) 377-7784  
Email: info@cgi.govt.nz

Japan Information and Cultural Centre  
Mezzanine Floor, The Majestic Centre  
100 Willis Street, Wellington  
Tel: (04) 472-7807  
Fax: (04) 472-3416  
Email: cul@jpnemb.org.nz  
Website: www.japan.org.nz

Consular Office of Japan  
5th Floor, Forsyth Barr House  
764 Colombo Street  
PO Box 13748, Christchurch  
Tel: (03) 366-5680  
Fax: (03) 365-3173  
Email: cojchc@jpncon.org.nz

Any items in this Bulletin may be reproduced without further permission.  
Opinions expressed in contributed articles do not always reflect those of the Japanese Government.