



New Zealander named as 2004 Japan Prize Laureate

Dr Keith Sainsbury is one of four scientists to receive the 2004 Japan Prize and the winners in the three categories are as follows:

Category I, *Chemical Technology for the Environment*:

Dr Kenichi Honda and Dr Akira Fujishima (Japan);

Category II: *Food Production based on Ecosystem Concepts*:

Dr Sainsbury (New Zealand);

Category III, *Science and Technology for Conservation of Biodiversity*: Professor John Lawton (United Kingdom).

The Science and Technology Foundation of Japan announced the names of the laureates on 17 December 2003 and the presentation ceremony was held in the presence of Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko at the National Theatre in Tokyo on Thursday, 22 April 2004. Dr Sainsbury's wife, his parents and two of his children attended the function.



Acceptance speech by Dr. Keith J. Sainsbury

The official banquet took place later that evening at the Akasaka Prince Hotel. Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi made a congratulatory speech to all the laureates and New Zealand's Ambassador to Japan, H.E. Mr Phillip Gibson, gave the congratulatory speech for Dr Sainsbury.

Dr Sainsbury's mother, Mrs Flo Duncan, who lives at Linden, near Wellington, said the highlight for her was seeing her son sitting next to His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito at the official banquet. Whenever she

looked up they were deep in conversation and Dr Sainsbury told her he was very impressed with the Emperor's knowledge of marine ecosystems.

Another function for selected guests was held immediately after the banquet and Mrs Duncan was introduced to their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. When the Empress said she must be very proud of her son, Mrs Duncan replied that she was as proud of what he was as a man as of what he had achieved. The Empress responded with understanding and they talked as "mother to mother". During the rest of Japan Prize Week, Mrs Duncan said "the family was treated like royalty. The whole thing was absolutely wonderful from start to finish - there was no sour note at all."

Dr Sainsbury was educated in New Zealand, much of it at Island Bay in Wellington. Mrs Duncan said, "That's where it all



Dr Masami Ito, President of the Foundation, has just given the award to Dr. Keith J. Sainsbury, recipient of the Japan Prize for Food Production Based on Ecosystem Concepts. Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko are seated on the right hand side of the photo.

began. He used to fossick in the rocks, turning them over to see what was underneath." He attended Wellington High School, spent one year at Massey University, then moved to Canterbury University, graduating with an Honours degree in science in 1972.

After completing his Ph.D in 1977, he was selected to work at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation in Australia. He is still with that organization and is now a senior principal research scientist and programme leader in the marine research division.

Dr Sainsbury, who is based in Hobart, was awarded the Japan Prize for his "contributions to the understanding of shelf ecosystems and their sustainable utilization". His research has included work on the seabed habitats of Australia's North West Shelf and on the impacts of trawling. He is co-leading a study of management strategies on the North West Shelf fisheries.



Mrs Duncan with a photo of Dr Sainsbury and children Jaimie (10) and Chris (7). (Photo: Maarton Hall, Dominion Post)

Dr Sainsbury is also chairman of the technical advisory committee for the London-based Marine Stewardship Council, an organization that promotes sustainable management of fishing resources.

Director-General of Unesco in New Zealand



(From left) Paramount Chief Tumu te Heuheu, Director-General Koichiro Matsuura and Hon. Chris Carter at Waihi Marae. (Photo: Dave Wakelin, DOC)

Mr Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), visited New Zealand from 31 January to 4 February 2004 as a guest of the New Zealand Government, following a visit to Samoa and Tonga.

While in Samoa, Mr Matsuura addressed the Ministers of Education from the Pacific island states, who met on 28/29 January 2004 to assess

progress towards providing quality education in the region. The meeting was part of the worldwide Education for All movement promoted by UNESCO.

During his four days in New Zealand, Mr Matsuura visited Waihi Marae, near Lake Taupo, the home of Ngati Tuwharetoa Paramount Chief Tumu te Heuheu who is New

Zealand's representative on UNESCO's World Heritage Committee. The Director-General met kaumatua (elders) to discuss the spiritual significance and cultural history of Tongariro National Park, a World Heritage Site. Hon. Chris Carter, Minister of Conservation, and Hon. Mark Burton, Minister of Tourism, attended the meeting.

In Wellington, he met Governor-General Dame Silvia Cartwright, Government Ministers and officials in areas linked to UNESCO's work, as well as the N.Z. National Commission for UNESCO. Ambassador Masaki Saito hosted a dinner for Mr Matsuura at his Residence in Khandallah.

On returning to Auckland, his commitments included a visit to Favona Primary School in Mangere, which is part of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network.

The Director-General's visit to New Zealand followed a meeting with Prime Minister Helen Clark in Paris last April which focused on cooperation between UNESCO and New Zealand, particularly in relation to education, culture and World Heritage promotion for the Pacific sub-region.

Mr Matsuura, a former Japanese career diplomat, became Director-General of UNESCO on 15 November 1999.

New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO:
www.unesco.org.nz

Japan contributes to Reconstruction of Iraq

The International Donors' Conference on Reconstruction in Iraq was held on 23 and 24 October 2003 in Madrid, Spain, and financial assistance of over \$33 billion was pledged by 73 countries, 20 international organizations and 13 non-governmental organizations. Minister for Foreign Affairs Yoriko Kawaguchi announced Japan's pledge of up to \$5 billion for short and medium-term reconstruction at the conference.

Japan is now providing grant aid totaling \$1.5 billion to Iraq to build a foundation for everyday life. It covers such areas as power generation, education, water supply and sanitation, health and employment. Assistance with the protection and conservation of Iraq's cultural heritage is also underway.

In addition to providing civilian personnel, the Government of Japan enacted a new law in December last year that enabled the Self Defence Forces to help with this work. Up to 600 Ground Self-Defence force troops will serve in south-east Iraq, providing humanitarian and reconstruction assistance.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: www.mofa.go.jp/region/middle_e/iraq/issue2003/index.html.

Foreign Press Centre: www.fcp.jp

Japan Prize (continued from page 1)

The Japan Prize was endorsed by Cabinet in 1983 and first awarded in 1985. It is given to people "whose original and outstanding achievements in science and technology are recognized as having advanced the frontiers of knowledge and served the cause of peace and prosperity for mankind."

The Foundation selects the laureates in December each year and the presentation ceremony is traditionally held in Tokyo in April the following year. The laureates receive a certificate and medal and each category also carries an award of 50 million yen (about NZ\$700,000).

The week in which the Japan Prize is presented is known as "Japan Prize Week". During this period, the laureates feature at commemorative lectures and attend academic discussion meetings. They also meet the Prime Minister, visit the Japan Academy and take part in various other activities.

The Japan Prize categories selected for 2005 are, *Information and Media Technology* (Category I) and *Cell Biology* (Category II).

Website: www.japanprize.jp/English.htm

Ambassador in the Cook Islands

H.E. Mr Masaki Saito made his first visit to Rarotonga, in the Cook Islands, from 1-4 March 2004. He met Prime Minister Hon. Dr Robert Woonton, Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Ngamau Munokoa and Minister of Finance Hon. Teremoana Tapi Taio, as well as Leader of the Opposition, Sir Geoffrey Henry. He also spoke with government officials and a tour of the island included a visit to the fish processing factory of Blue Pacific Foods Ltd.

The Japanese government assists the Cook Islands Government by providing short-term training programmes as well as technical expertise for special projects. The assistance is provided under the Japanese Government's Overseas Development Assistance programme.

Japan is the Cook Islands' biggest export market (44% of total exports in 2002) and the bulk of these exports are tuna and black pearls.



Ambassador Masaki Saito (second from left) and Embassy third secretary Isami Takada (left) with Prime Minister Hon. Dr Robert Woonton and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration Secretary, Mr Edwin Pittman (right).

Japan's new Assistance to Samoa

Seven new projects have been approved under the Japanese Government's Grassroots Human Security Grant Aid Programme, fiscal year 2003, for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of primary and secondary schools in Samoa, as well as the construction of water tanks at Gataivai.

The project agreements were signed during a ceremony at the Hotel Kitano Tusitala on 18 February 2004. Representatives of the school committees for Faleula Primary School, Fagafau/Samata I Tai Primary School, Satupaitea Primary School, Pu'apu'a Primary School, Vailuutai Primary School, Lefaga Secondary School and a representative of the Ala o Le Mativa Society signed the grant contracts. Second Secretary, Mr. Hiromi Adachi, represented the Embassy of Japan.

The details are as follows:

- (1) Reconstruction of Faleula Primary School (approximately 228,000 WST.)
Project: 10 classrooms, 1 library and 1 teacher's room.

- (2) Reconstruction of Fagafau/Samata I Tai Primary School (appx 233,000 WST)
Project: 9 classrooms, 1 library room, 1 staff room.
(3) Reconstruction of Satupaitea Primary School (appx 233,000 WST)
Project: 8 classrooms, 1 library room, 1 staff room.
(4) Rehabilitation of Pu'apu'a Primary School (appx 150,000 WST)
Project: 9 classrooms, 1 staffroom.
(5) Reconstruction of Vailuutai Primary School (appx 213,000 WST)
Project: 8 classrooms, 1 library room, 1 staffroom
(6) Reconstruction of Lefaga Secondary School (appx 215,000 WST)
Project: 10 rooms.
(7) Construction of Water Tanks at Gataivai (appx 83,000 WST)
Project: about 30 ferro cement water tanks will be constructed.

The Samoan Government had condemned the former school buildings as unsafe and recommended that they be closed down. The new facilities will help meet the needs of local communities.

N.Z. Scientist visits Japan under Exchange Programme

(Report from AgResearch Limited)

"Recent discussions between the respective Prime Ministers of New Zealand and Japan have highlighted opportunities for strengthening the New Zealand/Japanese relationship in Science and Technology and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) in Japan has been seeking a focus around which to build further ties. MOFA administers a Japan New Zealand Peace Exchange programme and, this last year, the focus was Agricultural Science and Technology.

AgResearch is New Zealand's government-owned Agricultural Crown Research Institute with 1200 staff. Dr Tricia Harris is Group Manager of Science at AgResearch and has the role of managing the strategic direction of the institute's research. Dr Harris was invited to Japan under the Peace Exchange programme to provide an overview of the structure, functions and scientific activities of AgResearch, especially in the area of environmental greenhouse gas research. Because New Zealand is a strong supporter of the Kyoto Protocol, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is important for both countries and seems a good place to encourage collaborative partnerships between Japanese institutes and New Zealand institutes, including AgResearch.

Dr Harris spent three days in Japan. Two were in Tsukuba, Japan's Science City, visiting six agricultural research

institutes, with most time at the National Institute of Livestock and Grasslands Science. The institute undertakes research in animal based greenhouse gas research and also in farm animal cloning and transgenics, areas where AgResearch also has very strong research activity.

Dr Harris travelled to Tokyo from Tsukuba and was briefed by officials from Oceania Division, MOFA, on the priorities for Japan's science and technology budget and the strong priorities given to life science and environmental research. They are seeking an exchange of scientists between Japan and New Zealand and are looking to build a fellowship scheme with the Royal Society of New Zealand. Dr Harris was briefed by the Director of the International Research Division at MAFF's Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Council Secretariat. There was good discussion about the evolving role of the Japanese agriculture research institutes towards a more autonomous model, similar to that used in New Zealand.

At a dinner that evening with MOFA officials, which also included the NZ Deputy Head of Mission and her staff, there was considerable discussion about the enthusiasm with which both the New Zealand Prime Minister and Minister of Science and Technology were viewing getting significant staff exchanges in place, and the opportunities which



Dr Harris making friends with the first bull to be cloned in Japan at the National Institute of Livestock and Grasslands Science.

should arise from the fellowship programme as it is established."

The Peace, Friendship and Exchange Programme was launched in 1994 by then Prime Minister of Japan, Tomiichi Murayama, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the end of World War II. The aim is to promote further understanding between Japan and its neighbouring countries. A book, "Japan and New Zealand: 150 Years", has also been funded by the programme and a series of colloquiums have been held in New Zealand with distinguished speakers from both Japan and New Zealand.

Embassy Website: www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp/political/PFEPProg.html

Agresearch Ltd: www.agresearch.co.nz

Fireworks and Festivals

June, July and August are the summer months in Japan and there are many special events and festivals. It is also the season for fireworks and there is a display almost every night in one community or another around Japan. Anyone coming to Japan might like to plan their visit to include one of the events listed below.

Mid-June The Sanno Matsuri (festival) at Tokyo's Hie Shrine is one of the three greatest festivals in Japan. (The others are the Tenjin Festival in Osaka and Gion Festival in Kyoto.)

2nd Saturday in June Chagu-chagu Umakko Festival in Morioka, Iwate Prefecture. This region is famous for its horses and every year about 100 colorfully decorated horses parade through the city.



Fireworks over the Sumida River, Tokyo



Hakata Festival, Fukuoka

July 7 The Tanabata or Star Festival is held throughout Japan. People write their wishes on narrow strips of colored paper and hang them on bamboo branches placed in the backyards or entrances of their homes. Sendai (Miyagi Prefecture) and Hiratsuka (Kanagawa Prefecture) are particularly famous for their elaborate Tanabata displays.

July 13-15 (or August in many areas) The Bon Festival takes place throughout the country. Religious rites are held in memory of the dead. Bon odori folk dances are offered to comfort their souls.

July 14 White-robed priests carrying 12 giant torches are a feature of the Nachi Shrine Himatsuri or Fire Festival, Nachi-Katsuura, Wakayama.

July 1-15 The Hakata Gion Yamagasa festival in Fukuoka peaks on the 15th with a parade of giant floats.

July 16-17 Gion Matsuri, the largest festival in Kyoto, dates back to the 9th century. Ornately decorated, traditional floats are paraded through the main streets.

Last Saturday of July A grand fireworks display over the Sumida River in Tokyo.

July or August The Kangensai Music Festival at Itsukushima Shrine in Hiroshima features court music and dances

July 24-25 Tenjin Matsuri at Temmangu Shrine in Osaka features a parade of boats, carrying shrines, along the Dojima River.

August 1-7 Nebuta Matsuri in Aomori (August 2-7) and Neputa Matsuri in Hirosaki (August 1-7) have parades of large, illuminated papier-mache lanterns in the shape of samurai warriors.

August 3-6 Kanto Matsuri in Akita has a parade of people carrying long bamboo poles hung with many glowing lanterns.

August 5-7 Hanagasa Matsuri in Yamagata has a dance parade of about 10,000

local people in traditional costumes and wearing straw hats decorated with artificial flowers.

August 12-15 Awa Odori Folk Dance Festival in Tokushima. The whole city is full of people singing and dancing all day and night.

August 16 Daimonji Festival is part of the Bon Festival. Bonfires in the shape of Chinese characters are lit on five hills overlooking Kyoto.

Festivals in Japan: <http://web-japan.org/atlas/index.html>



Lanterns at the Kanto Festival, Akita

Mext Scholarships

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Monbukagakusho, invites applications from New Zealanders to study in Japan. The scholarship benefits (as prescribed in the guidelines) include a monthly allowance, air travel, arrival allowance, tuition fees and accommodation. The following MEXT scholarships are offered:

Undergraduate Scholarships

Scholarships for undergraduate students have a five-year tenure commencing in April 2005, including a one-year course of preliminary instruction in Japanese and other subjects. Applicants must be at least 17 years of age and under 22 years of age on 1 April 2005. New Zealand undergraduate students

may study towards their degrees in Social Science, Humanities or Natural Science subjects.

Research Scholarships

Applicants for Research Scholarships may elect a tenure of 18 months (starting October 2005 or two years commencing in April 2005). The available fields of research fall within the Social Science, Humanities or Natural Science subjects. Applicants must be under 35 years of age on 1 April 2005. They may select a non-degree, masters or doctoral course.

Applications close on 9 July and tests and interviews for scholarship applicants will take place on 5 and 6 August in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. (Please see the addresses at the foot of the back page.)

Media invitation to Japan

Ms Joanne Black, assistant editor of the Dominion Post, visited Japan from 20-29 March 2004 under the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Opinion Leaders Media Programme for fiscal year 2003. She gave the following summary of her visit:

"Having carefully scanned the world's temperatures in the week before my visit to Japan, and seen that Tokyo averaged about 15 degrees, I packed sandals in my suitcase. Consequently, I was alarmed to find that it was 0 degrees on my arrival in Tokyo, and had just snowed in Nikko, where I visited the next day. But oh, how beautiful Japan is in early spring! The cherry blossom was threatening to bloom everywhere and finally managed to do it on my very last day where, in Kyoto, the blossom, and all the people were out. It was magical.

My programme was broad-ranging. I visited a nuclear power station and a ship for transporting nuclear waste, and had lengthy talks with diplomats about whaling. Both those subjects cause friction in the relationship between Japan and New Zealand. But far more of my time was spent on the good side of the relationship. It included surprisingly

broad and extensive people-to-people links in business, sport, education and culture. While New Zealand has always been attractive to Japanese visitors, teaching Japanese language in New Zealand schools has been hugely important in making Japan equally attractive to a generation of New Zealand school graduates. Some have gone on to make their careers, and fortunes, in Japan.

I was moved by the stories of earthquake survivors in Kobe, impressed by the fish market at Tsukiji, enchanted by the Ghibli museum in Mitaka, amazed by the Mori Museum at Roppongi Hills and, as I said, delighted by the blossoms in Kyoto. Mostly, I am very grateful to the Japanese government for the opportunity to visit Japan and for Dominion Post readers to have shared some of the experience."



Ms Black under the cherry blossoms in Kyoto.

Strong Peace Theme at Sister City Conference, 24-27 March 2004

"Christchurch was extremely proud to host a very successful New Zealand Sister Cities Conference 2004 in late March. As a city that embraces and promotes its ethnic diversity and cultural understanding, it was appropriate that a major focus of this year's conference was peace and culture.

Inspiring and thought-provoking keynote speeches were presented by Tadatashi Akiba, Mayor of Hiroshima, Dr Kate Dewes, Vice President of the International Peace Bureau and Garry Moore, Mayor of Christchurch, all of whom are strongly committed peace campaigners. Mayors Akiba and Moore are members of the 579 member cities represented in the 'Mayors for Peace' network, initiated by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1982 as a way to transcend national borders and work



Mayor Garry Moore introduces the Kurashiki Youth Chorus at the Mayor's Welcome Reception on Wednesday, 25 March for delegates to the New Zealand Sister Cities Conference at the Christchurch Convention Centre. (Photo courtesy of Christchurch City Council.)

together toward world peace. Mayor Moore challenged all conference delegates to urge their Mayors to become members.

Many cultures were represented during the conference and the highlight of the Mayor's welcome reception was the performance of 33 boys and girls, aged 8 - 19, of the Kurashiki Youth Chorus. The visit of the chorus was the last exchange in a year of celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of the Christchurch - Kurashiki sister city relationship."

The above report was provided by Ms Barbara August, International Relations Co-ordinator at Christchurch City Council.

The NZ-Japan Sister Cities Youth Forum 2004 will be held in Rotorua, 17-19 August and the Far North District Council will host the 2005 Sister Cities New Zealand conference. Please check www.sistercities.org.nz for more details.

Japanese man receives New Zealand honour



Mr Shuzo Tsuchiya was named an Honorary Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) in the New Year Honours 2004 for services to New Zealand-Japan relations. He received the decoration from the Governor General, H.E. the Hon. Dame Silvia Cartwright, at Government House, Wellington, on Wednesday, 31 March 2004.

The citation read as follows:

"Mr Tsuchiya is the current director of the Otaru Museum, Hokkaido, Japan. Over the past 13 years he has been instrumental in establishing the international importance of the collection of Japanese artifacts and artworks held by the Dunedin museum and other cultural institutions in Dunedin, in providing expert advice and in fostering cultural relations between the two cities. As a consequence of his work, the Dunedin Museum was able to stage two large international exhibitions on the history of the two cities. Another major exhibition is being planned for 2005, which will coincide with Dunedin's Cherry Blossom and Rhododendron Festivals and will have major tourist interest in both Japan and New Zealand. He, and a group of associates, have also made two significant cultural gifts to the Dunedin Public Art Gallery; a Japanese wedding Kimono and an extensive library on Japanese art and culture."

Ambassador Saito visits Otago and Southland



Dunedin Mayor Sukhi Turner and Ambassador Masaki Saito.

H.E. Mr Masaki Saito visited Dunedin on Thursday, 26 February. During his time in the city, he met lecturers and academics with links to Japan, made a courtesy call on Mayor Sukhi Turner and visited the Centre for

Innovation at Otago University. He was also guest of honour at a function hosted by the Dunedin-Otaru Sister City Society, which included local businessmen and Japanese residents in the area.

The following day, he travelled to Invercargill where he met Mayor Tim Shadbolt. He later visited the aluminium smelter at Tiwai Point, which is jointly owned by New Zealand Aluminium Smelters Limited and Sumitomo Chemical Company Limited. Ambassador Saito returned to Wellington that evening.

Sister City Relationships

Dunedin established a sister city relationship with Otaru (Hokkaido) in July 1980. There have been frequent exchanges between the two cities ranging from business people, school students and council staff to art work and cultural exhibitions. Dunedin and Otaru will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the relationship next year.

Preparations are already underway for a major exhibition of Japanese art and cultural material at the Dunedin Art Gallery in September/October 2005 and the material for the exhibition will come from collections within New Zealand. Mr Shuzo

Tsuchiya, curator of Otaru Museum, is very involved with these arrangements.

Invercargill signed a sister city agreement with Kumagaya (Saitama prefecture) in April 1993. Sister city coordinator Eirwen Tulett said there is a very warm relationship between the two cities. Southland Girls High School, Southland Boys High School and the James Hargest High School have sister and brother schools in Kumagaya and there are also links with Risho University, business people and council staff.

Invercargill and Kumagaya celebrated the 10th anniversary of their sister city relationship last year and the Invercargill City Council asked glass artist Phil Newbury to make two identical sculptures to commemorate the event. One of these "Pacific Rim" sculptures was presented to Kumagaya and the other is outside the City Council offices in Invercargill.

Dunedin-Otaru Sister City website: www.dunedin-otaru.com/frameindex.html

Mr Russell Duff, Chairman of the Dunedin-Otaru Sister City Society, Tel. 03-471-6616

Ms Eirwen Tulett, Sister City Coordinator, Invercargill City Council, Tel. 03-211-1777, Email. Eirwen.Tulett@icc.govt.nz



Mayor Tim Shadbolt and Ambassador Saito, shakes hands in front of the 'Pacific Rim' sculpture. (Photo: Eirwen Tulett, ICC)

Welcome Home for JETs

H.E. Mr Masaki Saito (centre) with fifteen JET participants who returned to New Zealand in 2003. Ambassador Saito hosted the 'welcome home' reception at his Residence in Wellington on Thursday, 18 March. Mr Shigeyuki Suzuki (Consul-General in Auckland) hosted a dinner in honour of four 2003 returnees at his Residence on the same day and Mr Eiichiro Yamada (Consular Officer in Christchurch) hosted a dinner for ten 2003 returnees at the Tulsi Restaurant on Friday, 19 March. Many of the newly-returned JETs gave brief accounts of their experiences in Japan and they were also able to meet members of JET alumni associations at these functions.



JET Programme

Just under 300 New Zealanders applied to join the 2004 Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme, which begins in July/August, and over 140 were accepted. Many applicants had recently graduated from university, but the programme is open to any New Zealand citizen under 40 years of age who has a Bachelor's degree or a three-year teaching diploma. Applications for the 2005 programme open in September this year. Please check the Embassy website for more details: www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp/cultural/JET.html

JETAA Conference in New York

The 2003-2004 conference of the JET Alumni Associations was held in New York, 26-29 February, and five New Zealand delegates attended the meeting. Fifty-one representatives from thirteen countries discussed issues and learned about JETAA activities throughout the world.

JET Alumni Associations maintain links with each other and promote international awareness. They act as a knowledge resource about Japan in their local communities and organize activities that build friendship networks and keep alive the memories of their members' experiences in Japan. Activities include events such as hanami picnics, karaoke evenings, school quizzes and competitions.

The next international conference is expected to be in Japan in 2005 to coincide with the Aichi Expo and the 10th anniversary of the Hanshin Earthquake. Conferences have previously been held in Vancouver, London and Tokyo.

Websites:

JETAA-International : www.jetalumni.org

Wellington: jetaawgtn.org.nz

Auckland: <http://www.goocities.com/jetaa/index.htm>

Christchurch: http://homepages.paradise.net.nz/jetaa_south_island



Denise Renshaw (Wellington JETAA), Peter Devalda (Auckland JETAA), Snaiet Shalav (Secretary JETAA-I), Aaron Dods (NZ Country Rep), Shelley Keach (Christchurch JETAA)

Report on JETAA Language Course

Twenty-four former JETs from around the world attended a language training programme in Tokyo in February. The course was for JET Alumni Association members who are currently teaching Japanese or currently studying to teach Japanese. There were four New Zealanders in the group: Mr Craig Rosengrave, Ms Maria Thomson, Ms Tamara Williams and Ms Helen Kemp. Ms Kemp, who teaches at Horowhenua College in Levin, gave this report.

今回、2004年度外務省元 JET 青年日本語研修会にニュージーランドから4人の代表の1人として参加することになりました。今年の2月14日の夕方に、3年ぶりに東京に到着しました。

到着して、友達の家に一泊すると日本の好きなどころをすぐ思い出しました。電車の便利さ、食べ物のおいしさ、テレビ番組の面白さが思い出されました。ニュージーランドの田舎から来て、東京に住んだことがない私には、最初の日に大勢の人にびっくりしましたが、すぐに慣れて3年前の楽しいJET日々が戻っているように強く感じました。

16日の月曜日から東京日本語学校(Naganuma School)で、韓国、中国、米国、カナダ、オーストラリア、ニュージーランド、ブラジル、フランス、英国、ドイツから来たで24人の研修者と一緒に研修会に参加しました。私のように、ほとんどの研修者が母国では高校の日本語の教師として就職していますが、数人が家庭教師、美術の教師、大学院生などの様々な面白いことをしている人もいました。もちろん、日本語の能力も人によって違いますから、最初から三つのグループに分かれて同じぐらいのレベルの人と毎日勉強しました。全員が英語ができるわけではないので、全ての授業や話し合いが日本語で行われました。

2週間の間、月曜日から金曜日まで午前中が授業の時間で、ほとんどの講師が海外で数年間滞在したことのある専門家である東京都内の様々な大学で日本語教育をしています。日本語教育のエリートに指導方法を教えていただいても幸運でした！午後のプログラムは自分の日本語をブラッシュアップするために会話の練習から始まって、それからワークショップに入りました。ワークショップというのは、文法、ひらがな、敬語、文化、この4つのテーマでグループに分けられました。私のグループは「セクシー文法」という名前をつけて、高校生の日本語学者向け、文法を楽しく覚えさせる目的で5人で2週間の間に授業で使う教材を作りました。最後の日に研修者と講師の前で作った教材を利用して発表をしました。

週末に東京を体験しました。有名な渋谷、原宿、新宿で買い物をしたり、六本木に飲みに行ったり、明治神宮で都会の中のみどりを見たりして、毎晩遅くホテルに帰りました。前回行ってない日光にも行って、日光のお寺を見てから久しぶりに温泉に入りました。最高でした！

小さい娘に会いたくて2週間が長く感じたこともありましたが、本当にあっという間の2週間でした。最初の日に、研修会のコーディネーターが「お帰り」と私たちの参加者に言ってくれたように、私にとっては日本は2番目の故郷です。日本外務省、JETAA、Naganuma Schoolの皆様、故郷に帰る機会を作ってくれてありがとうございました。

これから数年間日本語教師の仕事を続けて、研修会で習ったことを実際に使いながらできるだけいい先生になれるように頑張ります！

Ukiyo-e Exhibition in Wellington and Auckland



Wellington Mayor, Mrs Kerry Prendergast, and H.E. Mr Masaki Saito at the opening of the Sharaku exhibition, Michael Fowler Centre, 3 February 2004.

The Japan Foundation touring exhibition, *Sharaku Interpreted* by Japan's Contemporary Artists, was on display at Wellington's Michael Fowler Centre from 3-15 February 2004. Mayor Kerry Prendergast opened the exhibition at a reception on Tuesday evening, 3 February.

Toshusai Sharaku was an ukiyo-e artist who lived about 200 years ago in

Edo (now Tokyo). Little is known about him, but from approximately May 1794 until February 1795 he produced over 140 works, including 28 portraits (head and shoulders) of actors in their kabuki or kyogen roles. These portraits are considered his best work and they capture each actor's features and the characteristics of his role.

The exhibition was divided into three sections. "Reproductions of Sharaku" consisted of the 28 actor portraits, reproduced by the Adachi Institute of Woodcut Prints. "Sharaku in Graphic Art" consisted of 28 posters created by some of Japan's top graphic designers and drawn from an exhibition commemorating Sharaku's 200th anniversary. "Homage to Sharaku" brought together the work of eleven contemporary artists, their mediums ranging from painting, sculpture, photography, ceramics, prints to sound. They were asked to create a new work that was their own interpretation of Sharaku.

The main aim of the exhibition was to compare the work of the participating artists, which was based on the common theme of Sharaku. It was also intended to show the connections between ukiyo-e and graphic design in Japan, as well as the different approaches used in graphic design and contemporary art.

This exhibition was on display in Auckland at the Wallace Trust Gallery from 17-31 March 2004 and then toured in Australia.

The Japan Foundation aims to promote international friendship and understanding through cultural exchange and their work includes organizing touring exhibitions of Japan's arts and culture.

Japan Foundation: <http://www.jpff.go.jp/>

Japan Information Network: <http://web-japan.org/museum/menu.html>

Adachi Institute of Woodcut Prints:
www.adachi-hanga.com/hp_english/en_about-adachi.htm

The World of Ukiyo-e

Ukiyo-e is an art form, usually woodblock prints, that appeared early in the Edo period (1600-1868) and became popular with the merchant class and townspeople of the time. The word ukiyo, which translates as 'the floating world', originally referred to the Buddhist view of life as an illusion. However, through changes in the structure of society and common usage it came to mean enjoying life to the full, particularly in the entertainment districts of Kyoto and Edo. Hishikawa Moronobu, known for his prints of courtesans in the 1680s, was the first important artist in the ukiyo-e woodblock style.

Initially, woodblock prints were in one colour. New techniques were developed later on and resulted in the many-coloured style known as nishiki-e or the 'brocade picture' technique about 1765. This is the style of ukiyo-e we are most familiar with today. Formats ranged from single-sheet prints and greeting cards to albums and book illustrations.

The golden age of ukiyo-e was in the late 1700s. Kabuki actors and courtesans were the dominant subjects, although nature (flowers, birds, insects), everyday customs and activities (visits to shrines, children playing, flower viewing), sumo, incidents from Japanese literature (such as *The Tale of Genji*, etc) and landscapes were also used. Katsushika Hokusai and Utagawa Hiroshige were famous for their landscape ukiyo-e and it was one of the most popular forms in the early 1800s.

The following eight artists are considered the most influential in the development of the ukiyo-e style: Hishikawa Moronobu, Torii Kiyonobu, Suzuki Harunobu, Torii Kiyonaga, Kitagawa Utamaro, Toshusai Sharaku, Katsushika Hokusai and Utagawa Hiroshige. For more information on these artists,

please refer to the following website: <http://web-japan.org/museum/menu.html>.

Ukiyo-e was an integral part of the Edo-period culture and did not survive the westernization of Japan in the Meiji period (1868-1912), although it did influence the impressionist and post impressionist artists in the west, such as Gauguin, Van Gogh and Monet.

Nowadays, ukiyo-e prints are popular tourist souvenirs and, for anyone interested in doing a simple print themselves, the Kyoto Handicraft Center, www.h2.dion.ne.jp/~khc/taiken/taiken-e.html, has a one hour workshop, which costs about \$25.00.

People to People

The Embassy of Japan has set up a "People to People" web portal at www.japan.org.nz. Individuals and organizations with a common interest in Japan can post notices of meetings, activities, or queries for information, etc on the website. The aim is to encourage contact and cooperation, including sharing the large pool of knowledge that has been built up through many years of contact with Japan.

Please contact the Japan Information and Cultural Centre at japan.cul@ej.org.nz if you or your organization would like to post something on the website. The portal can also be accessed from the Embassy homepage, www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp

Japanese embroidery (Nihon Shishu) Classes in New Zealand

Mrs Maureen Moore, from Lower Hutt, has been doing Japanese embroidery for the past 15 years. She is a qualified teacher of this art form and holds an annual workshop. This year it was in Nelson, from 29 April to 2 May, and seven people attended the class.

Mrs Moore is a member of the Japanese Embroidery Centre, a non-profit organization that aims to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of Japanese embroidery through Nuido, the Way of Embroidery. The Centre, in Atlanta, U.S.A., was founded by Shuji and Masa Tamura in 1991 and is linked with the Kurenai-Kai community in Japan.

Traditional Japanese embroidery is taught in ten initial phases, covering basic stitches and the forty-six traditional techniques, such as working veins, stamens and branches, gold and silver thread work, and braided cords. The design, motifs and colour schemes are selected according to the age of the wearer, the season of use or to symbolize traditional themes, legends and classical Japanese literature.

An exhibition of about 80 embroidery pieces, including kimono and obi, gift covers, panels and pictures, was held in Auckland in 2000. The work was supplied by embroiderers in Japan,



Mrs Moore gave a demonstration at this exhibition of her work in 1998 at the Taylor-Jensen Fine Arts Gallery, Palmerston North.

Canada, England, Italy, the United States and New Zealand.

Mrs Moore was guest speaker at the Japan Society of Wellington's meeting on 4 May at the Japan Information and Cultural Centre. Mrs Liz Lowry, a member of the society, said her work looked "untouched by hand, it was so perfect."

Mrs Moore's embroidery will be on display at the JICC from Thursday, 20 May, until Friday, 20 August. The JICC also has two booklets on Japanese embroidery (reference only) which can be viewed during opening hours, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m, Monday to Friday.

Background

The oldest example of Japanese embroidery is a Buddhist mandala from

the Asuka period (593-710), which follows the Chinese Buddhist embroidery tradition. It is kept at the Chuguji temple near Nara. In its early stages, Japanese embroidery was only used for decorating items used during religious ceremonies.

Japanese embroidery techniques later became more intricate and were used on kimonos and accessories. By the 15th century, after trade was re-established between Japan and China, Chinese techniques again influenced Japanese embroidery. Then, in the 1500s, the tsujigahan technique was developed, a combination of tie-dyeing and embroidery used to produce richly decorated and expensive silk garments.

With more stability and general wealth in the Edo period (1600-1868), the art of Japanese embroidery continued to develop and was used not only on women's garments and accessories, but also to produce richly embroidered costumes for Noh and Kabuki theatre.

Up until the end of the Edo period, the word for embroidery was shishu or nui (literally 'sewing') and Nuido, the Way of Embroidery, is derived from this word.

Contact: Ms Maureen Moore, 32 Brook Street, Lower Hutt. Tel. 04-569-6692

Japanese Embroidery Centre:
www.japaneseembroidery.com

Shogatsu Display



Matt and Abbey Simpson stand in front of the shogatsu (New Year) display at the Japan Information and Cultural Centre in Wellington. The traditional items are (from left) kumade, shimakazari, hagoita, toso and kadomatsu.

The Art of the Kimono

On Saturday, 13 March, in the Music Centre Chapel of Christchurch, Mrs Miyako Tanaka and three graduates from her Miyako Kimono Institute delighted an audience of 110 people with a demonstration of the kimono. Her friend, Mrs Noriko Kikuchi of Kikukuart Fashions in Riccarton, coordinated Mrs Tanaka's first visit to Christchurch.

Mrs Tanaka is a former principal of the Senshoo Kimono Institute and established the Miyako Kimono Institute in 1992. She devised a method of tying the obi in front and is a most enthusiastic promoter of this, as she believes that it will make the kimono more accessible as a fashion garment to many more people. With her graduates, Ms Mitsue Iwatani, Ms Yoko Koyama and Ms Alexandra Shaitan, explanations were given of tomesode, yukata, hoomongi and furisode styles of kimono, with very well-coordinated choreography. Musical interludes were

provided by the koto music of Koyu-kai, a group of Christchurch musicians led by Ms Masumi Hashimoto. Finally, three women modeled kimonos accompanied by koto music.

Mrs Tanaka may be returning to Christchurch to give a similar demonstration during the Festival of Japan, 16-22 August. For more information, please contact emma@theeventscompany.co.nz.

Japan Fact Sheet: <http://web-japan.org/factsheet/fashion/index.html>



(From left) Mrs Tanaka, Ms Koyama, Ms Alexandra Shaitan and Mrs Iwatani with local models at the kimono demonstration on 13 March 2004. (Photo: Amanda Clifford)

Okinawa Dancers: A Living Heritage



Members of the Fusako Shida Dance Company perform Yotsudake, a classical style dance, at Te Papa marae in Wellington on 4 March.



Ayahaberu, a dance about spring flowers and butterflies (the fans) created by Fusako Shida. Te Papa marae, Wellington, 4 March.



Maki Shida (left) and Fusako Shida (right) work with students at Auckland University's School of Creative and Performing Arts on 1 March.

The sub-tropical islands of Okinawa make up Japan's most southerly prefecture and they are known for their traditional songs and dances. Okinawa dance has two main forms: classical (dances that developed when Okinawa was an independent country called the Kingdom of Ryukyu) and popular (Zou-udui, based on everyday life in the farming and fishing communities). The Fusako Shida Dance Company and vocalist/musician Yukito Ara recently toured Manila (Philippines), Auckland, Wellington and Palau in late February/early March, introducing Okinawan dance and folksongs through performances and workshops.

Fusako Shida is a prominent Okinawa dancer who received the Minister of Education Prize for Excellence in the arts in 1992, a prize awarded by the Agency for Cultural Affairs. She is regarded as "an intangible cultural asset of Okinawa prefecture and upholder of traditional dance." She established the Shisenmiyabi School of Traditional Okinawan Dance in Tokyo and has taught Princess Akishino, wife of the Prince Akishino, the second son of Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. The Prince and Princess's two daughters, Princess Mako (13 years old) and Princess Kako (9 years old), now learn from Ms Shida.

Yukito Ara sings traditional Okinawan songs and accompanies himself on the sanshin, an ancient three-stringed instrument. He is considered one of the best Okinawan musicians today.

The Fusako Shida Dance Company and Yukito Ara gave a performance at the Auckland Town Hall concert chamber on 29 February which was attended by about 500 people. The group also held a workshop at Auckland University's School of Creative and Performing Arts the following day and eight students took part in the event.

Their performance at Te Papa marae in Wellington on 4 March was very well attended and 54 students took part in the workshop at the Wellington Performing Arts Centre on 5 March. Deputy Director at the Arts Centre Ms Adriann Smith said, "The students, particularly the dance students, were overawed by the technique of the dancers. What looked deceptively simple was very difficult indeed." She added, "All the students had a wonderful experience and were blown away by how the dancers and musicians were so open and willing to share. They were thrilled that, by the end of the session, they could approximate a Japanese dance and approximate a Japanese song. I was very grateful the workshop was able to happen."

The tour was funded by the Japan Foundation's Cultural Demonstration Tours Programme.

Japan Foundation: <http://www.jpff.go/>

Shisenmiyabi School of Traditional Okinawan Dance: <http://www.shisenmiyabikai.com>

General information about Okinawa: <http://web-japan.org/region/>

Sumo comes to Wellington

The Festival of Japan in Wellington will be held from 15-22 August and a group of young sumo wrestlers will be one of the main attractions. The six non-professionals are from Wellington's sister city, Sakai, and Mr Douglas Milligan, trustee and event co-ordinator of the festival, said it is the first time sumo has been brought to the Wellington region.

Sumo became a professional sport in the early Edo period (1600-1868). Today, it is practiced by clubs in high schools and universities as well as amateur associations, but it is best known as a professional spectator sport. An overview of the sport is available at <http://web-japan.org/museum/menu.html>, with more information at <http://web-japan.org/factsheet/sumo/index.html>.

Wellington Festival of Japan contact: Mr Douglas Milligan, Tel. 04-801-4217

Japan Sumo Association: <http://www.sumo.or.jp/eng/index.html>



Sumo wrestlers

Modern Japanese Art at Govett-Brewster Gallery



Hiroyuki Matsukage, 'Star' (detail) 2000. Image courtesy Govett-Brewster Art Gallery

Mediarena: contemporary art from Japan opened at New Plymouth's Govett-Brewster Gallery on 13 March and runs until 7 June. Gallery director Mr Gregory Burke said, "Mediarena surveys art from the last 30 years in Japan, but with particular emphasis on art being made now." Works include computerized liquid crystal sculptures by Tatsuo Miyajima, an interactive photographic installation by



Ms Gillian Irving, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, Mr Kazumasa Takane, director of the Embassy's Japan Information and Cultural Centre, and Mr Fumio Nanjo, co-curator of Mediarena, at the opening of the exhibition in New Plymouth, 13 March 2004.

Hiroyuki Matsukage and 75 year old Yayoi Kusama's red polka dot balloons, Dots obsession 2000.

Ms Gillian Irving, business development manager at the Govett-Brewster, said 2,200 visitors came to the gallery in the first two days of the exhibition and 1,900 the following week. She also said, "We have had no bad feedback that I know of. It's been overwhelmingly positive."

Noburu Tsubaki's Radical carbon was set up on the New Plymouth foreshore from 8 to 14 March. It consisted of 30 traditional Japanese cookers: the kilns were buried in the ground and had long, steel flues. They produced bamboo charcoal, a symbol of purification. Visitors were welcome to cook food on them during the final afternoon.

Related performances and lectures in New Plymouth, Auckland and Wellington included talks by Japanese artists with work displayed in the exhibition and performances by 'glam rock' conceptual



Yayoi Kusama 'Dots obsession' 2000. Image courtesy Govett-Brewster Art Gallery.

artists, Gorgorous. Please check the gallery's website, www.govettbrewster.com, for details of other events.

Govett-Brewster director Mr Gregory Burke, Mr Fumio Nanjo, deputy director of the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo, and Mr Roger McDonald, deputy director of Arts Initiative Tokyo, were co-curators of Mediarena.

An exhibition of this kind was first considered in 1999 when Mr Nanjo visited New Plymouth as keynote speaker for an international museum conference. Mr Burke said they both felt "there was a need to increase the level of artistic dialogue between New Zealand and Japan." Results have included Jacqueline Fraser's participation in the 2001 Yokohama Triennial, a presentation of Len Lye's work in Tokyo and Mediarena.

Mediarena received support from the Japan Foundation's Exhibitions Abroad Support Programme and the Japan World Exposition Commemorative Fund.

The Govett-Brewster aims to foster the development and interpretation of contemporary art. It opened in 1970, the result of a bequest by New Plymouth resident Mrs Monica Brewster (nee Govett). The New Plymouth District Council has strongly supported the gallery since it was established.

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery:

www.govettbrewster.com

Japan Foundation: <http://www.jpf.go.jp/>

FRUITS

H.E. Mr Masaki Saito opened the photographic exhibition, FRUITS, at the Dowse Art Museum on Friday, 20 February 2004. The exhibition consists of 75 images of young people dressed in brightly-coloured and often startling clothes. The fashion trend began in 1997 in the Harajuku area of Tokyo with teenagers, mostly 18 and 19 year olds, combining second-hand clothing, fake leopard skin, tartan and anything else they fancied to produce their own fashion statements. Today, this style of outfit can be bought at Harajuku boutiques such as Pink Girl, Wish Doll and Sun Face.

Photographer Shoichi Aoki kept a record of these fashions and also founded two Tokyo street magazines, STREET and FRUITS. An exhibition of his photos, taken between 1997 and 2002, is on display at The Dowse until 30 May 2004.



The exhibition also includes examples of New Zealand street fashion, designed and made by students from Massey University School of Design. The Dowse: Tel.04-570-6580, www.dowse.org.nz Web-Japan: <http://web-japan.org/trends/fashion/index.html>

Japan Wins Hockey Tournament

The New Zealand Hockey Federation hosted a women's hockey Olympic qualifying tournament from 19-28 March 2004 at the Lloyd Elsmore hockey stadium in Manukau City. Ten international teams took part in the tournament and the five top teams automatically qualified for the XXVIIIth Olympic Games in Athens in August. Japan won the tournament, beating Spain 1-0, and New Zealand came third, beating Germany 3-2. The teams that qualified for the Olympics were Japan, Spain, New Zealand, Germany and Korea.

New Zealand Hockey Federation website: www.nzhockey.org.nz



The Japanese team and coach Zenjiro Yasuda celebrate winning the Olympic qualifying tournament in Auckland on 28 March 2004. (Photo courtesy of the New Zealand Hockey Federation.)

Japanese Softball Teams also in NZ

The men's team took part in the ISF Men's World Softball Championships 2004 which were held at the Smokefree Ball Park in Christchurch, from 29 January to 8 February.



Japan women's under-23 team in Wellington on Sunday, 28 March 2004. (Photo courtesy of Softball New Zealand.)

New Zealand won the championships, for the third year running, and beat Canada 9-5 in the final on 8 February. The Japanese team came fifth, after Canada, Australia and the USA.

Official website: www.2004worldsoftball.com/homepage/home.htm

The Japanese Women's Under-23 Team began its tour of New Zealand in Auckland on 21 March. They played regional teams in Auckland, Rotorua, Wanganui and Hastings and also played the touring Chinese National Team in Auckland and Rotorua.

A Tri-Series tournament between Japan, China and the "White Sox" (the New Zealand women's national team) was held in the Hutt Valley and Wellington on 26, 27 and 28 March. Japan won the series beating China 5-1 in the final game.

Softball New Zealand Inc: <http://softball.org.nz>

Coming Events

Fruits – the extreme fashion styles of Japanese teenagers on the streets of Tokyo, photographed by Shoichi Aoki

When: Saturday, 21 February - Sunday, 30 May 2004

Where: The Dowse Art Museum, Laings Road, Lower Hutt

Contact: Tel. 04-570-6580, www.dowse.org.nz

Mediarena – Japanese art in the 21st century: painting, photography, sculpture, digital animation and installations. (Exhibition supported by the Japan Foundation.)

When: Saturday, 13 March - Monday, 7 June 2004

Where: Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, Queen Street, New Plymouth
Lectures and other events: New Plymouth, Wellington, Auckland

Contacts: Tel. 06-759-6060, www.govettbrewster.com

Exhibition of Japanese Embroidery

When: Tuesday, 18 April - Friday, 20 August 2004

Where: Japan Information and Cultural Centre, Wellington

Contact: Tel. 04-472-7807, www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp ("What's new" button)

International Language Week – celebrates the benefits of understanding more than one language. Many schools participated in the previous two International Language Weeks in 2002 and 2003.

When: Sunday, 15 August - Saturday, 21 August 2004

Where: Throughout New Zealand

Website: www.international-languages-week.org.nz

Festival of Japan, Wellington – sumo wrestlers, kabuki theatre, taiko drummers, etc

When: Sunday, 15 August - Sunday, 22 August 2004

Where: Wellington Convention Centre and various Wellington venues

Contact: Mr Douglas Milligan, Event Coordinator, Tel. 04-801-4217

Festival of Japan, Christchurch – includes kabuki theatre, taiko drummers, etc

When: Saturday, 16 August - Sunday, 22 August 2004

Where: Various Christchurch venues, including the Arts Centre

Contact: Ms Emma Carillo, The Events Company, Tel. 03-377-9797, emma@theeventscountry.co.nz

Wellington-Sakai Sister City 10th Anniversary celebrations –

The theme is: people-to-people, a bridge over two cities. Events include painting, pottery and photographic displays, arrangements by Sakai and Wellington ikebana teachers, speech contests for school children, demonstrations of calligraphy, Japanese painting, bamboo art/Maori fibre art and origami.

When: Thursday, 19 August - Saturday, 21 August 2004

Where: 1st Floor, Westpac St James Theatre

Contact: Mrs Hiromi Morris, morriswn@ihug.co.nz

Japanese choir to visit New Zealand – Chor Farmer is a male choir consisting of old boys of an agricultural university in Tokyo. They will give concerts in New Zealand and Australia.

When: Late August/early September. Planned concert dates as follows:

Where: Christchurch (28th August), Dunedin (29th), Nelson (31st), Featherston (2nd Sept), Rotorua (3rd) and Tauranga (5th).

Contact: Mrs Akiko Omundsen, Tel. 04-478-8476

Please also check the Embassy's web portal.

www.japan.org.nz, for current events

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