



New Ambassador arrives

Ambassador Masaki Saito arrived in Wellington on June 18 to begin his term as Ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa. He presented his credentials to the Governor-General, the Honourable Dame Silvia Cartwright at an official ceremony at Government House on July 24.

Born in Hiroshima Prefecture, Mr Saito graduated from Tokyo University, Faculty of Liberal Arts, and entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1966. His appointments have included:

- 1982 Director, Ocean Division, Economic Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 1984 Director, Economic Affairs Division, United Nations Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 1986 Consul, Consulate-General, Hong Kong
- 1989 Counsellor, then Minister, Embassy of Japan in the People's Republic of China
- 1992 Consul-General, Consulate-General, Seattle, USA
- 1995 Director-General, Consular and Migration Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 1997 Ambassador to Cambodia
- 2000 Executive Director, Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development, Tokyo
- 2003 Ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa



H.E. Mr Masaki Saito shakes hands with Hon. Dame Silvia Cartwright after presenting his Letters of Credence.

The following is a message from Ambassador Saito:

"I am delighted to have come to New Zealand. It was a pleasure for me, too, to learn that there is already a strong basis of direct contacts and knowledge of Japan here, as you can see from the articles in this Bulletin.

"I was warmly touched by the hospitality that New Zealand people showed during the Training Squadron visit, surprised by the enthusiasm of the people who attended the opening of the Japonism in Fashion exhibition and had no idea that Japanese anime would have an active fan base in this country.

"The effectiveness of the Japanese invitation programme can be seen by reading the comments by Massey High School teacher, Ms Irene Wang and, then again, there is the visit of the Canterbury Ballet to Christchurch's sister city, Kurashiki. I look forward to hearing about their trip and of many more similar activities.

"Besides the broader trade and government relationships between Japan and New Zealand, it is at this personal level that I build my hopes for deeper understanding between our two countries."

Mrs Makiko Saito accompanied the Ambassador to New Zealand. They have three children.



(From left) Mrs Saito, Ambassador Masaki Saito, Governor General Dame Silvia Cartwright, Mr Cartwright and Hon Chris Carter, Minister of Conservation, at Government House.

Training Squadron visit to New Zealand June 16-20, 2003

The Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) Training Squadron left Japan on April 24 on a 4½ month training cruise in the Pacific region and called at Pearl Harbour (USA), Papeete (Tahiti) and Suva (Fiji) before arriving in New Zealand.

JDS Kashima, the squadron's flagship, was in Wellington from Monday, June 16, until Friday, June 20, and the two escort destroyers, JDS Hamayuki and JDS Sawagiri, were in Auckland from Tuesday, June 17, until Friday, June 20.

The three ships had a total of about 750 crew, including 178 cadets who graduated from the JMSDF Maritime Officer Candidate School in March. Rear Admiral Masahiko Sugimoto, Commander of the squadron, said the cruise gives the cadets experience of life at sea as well as contact with people and cultures of other countries - in this case New Zealand.

JDS Kashima, the largest of the three ships, had 360 crew including 118 cadets. With crew standing to attention on deck, the ship fired a 21-gun salute as it sailed into Wellington on the morning of June 16 and the battery at Point Jerningham returned the salute. After refueling and clearing customs, JDS Kashima berthed at Queens Wharf.

On Tuesday, June 17, Rear Admiral Sugimoto made courtesy calls on the Mayor of Wellington, the Secretary of Defence, Chief of Defence Force and Deputy Chief of Navy.



Crew play Taiko drums for visitors from Chartwell School and the NZ/Japan Joint Venture School



The crew stand to attention as the JDS Kashima berths at Queens Wharf, Wellington.

A reception, held that evening on the upper deck, was attended by about 200 guests. After his welcoming speech, Rear Admiral Sugimoto, Commodore Dave Anson (Deputy Chief of Navy), Air Marshal Bruce Ferguson (Chief of Defence Force) and Mr Shisei Kaku (Charge d'Affaires at the Embassy) put on hapi coats and performed the traditional kagami biraki ceremony to open a keg of sake. The sake was served in small square bowls which guests were welcome to keep as a memento of their visit to the ship.

On the morning of Wednesday, 18th, Rear Admiral Sugimoto laid a wreath during a brief ceremony at the Wellington Cenotaph, accompanied by cadets from JDS Kashima.

JDS Kashima was open to the public from 9am-11am and 1pm-3pm on Wednesday and the JDS Sawagiri in Auckland was open to the public on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. A steady stream of visitors were welcomed on board the ships in both cities.

On the afternoon of Wednesday, 18th, many of the crew went to the Trentham

Military Camp to watch or play sport with members of the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF). The results were: Soccer: 2-2, draw; Volleyball: 3-2 sets, NZDF won; rugby sevens: 65-0, NZDF won; softball: 16-2, NZDF won.

Members of Wellington-Sakai Association (WSA) also organised a trip to the

Karori Wildlife Sanctuary during the afternoon, as well as a night tour of the sanctuary. WSA, Wellington Japan Society and Sangatsu-kai members invited some cadets to join them for a meal at their homes, or out in town, as a way of introducing them to the New Zealand way of life.

Thursday, June 19, was a recreation day for the crew. However, a special visit to the ship was arranged for schoolchildren

and parents from Chartwell School and the NZ/Japan Joint Venture School in the afternoon. There was a taiko drum performance for the children who were then given a tour of the ship, including



A buffet meal was served at the reception on board JDS Kashima.

the bridge and engine room. Mr Chris Morris, Principal of Chartwell School said, "The school is always keen to take any opportunity to keep the links with Japan."

JDS Kashima left Wellington at 9am on Friday, June 20, to rendezvous with JDS Kamayuki and JDS Sawagiri and the squadron then set sail for Sydney and Melbourne. The squadron will continue on to Papua New Guinea and South-East Asia before returning to Japan on September 8. A JMSDF Training Squadron last visited New Zealand in 1996.



Pupils from Kadimah College on board JDS Sawagiri in Auckland.

Wreaths laid at Featherston Garden of Remembrance

Rear Admiral Sugimoto, accompanied by training cadets, visited Featherston on Wednesday, June 18, to lay wreaths at the Garden of Remembrance. The band from the JDS Kashima played the New Zealand and Japanese national anthems during the ceremony. The garden marks the site of a World War I training camp for New Zealand soldiers, which became a prisoner-of-war camp in World War II. In February 1943, one New Zealander and 48 Japanese POWs died during an incident at the camp.

The squadron's band, under Band Master Lieutenant Kazutaka Kobayashi, gave a concert at the ANZAC Hall at 3.30 pm. It began with an exchange of gifts between Rear Admiral Sugimoto and South Wairarapa Mayor John Read. The band, whose 20 members had been specially chosen from Japan's six naval bands, played a medley of songs, including their own arrangement of Pokarekare Ana.

About 120 people, mostly retirees, came from Masterton, Martinborough and Featherston to attend the concert. Band Master Kobayashi invited them to join in the last song, Now is the Hour. They did so and gave the band a standing ovation.



Rear Admiral Sugimoto prepares to lay a wreath at the New Zealand memorial in Featherston.

South Wairarapa District Councillor John Tenquist commented later, "We wish the band would come again."

Rear Admiral Sugimoto and six crew members spend time at the Rembuden Kendo Club

Rear Admiral Sugimoto and six crew members from JDS Kashima practised kendo and competed with members of the Rembuden Kendo Club on Thursday evening, June 19, during the JMDS Training Squadron's visit to Wellington. He presented the club with 23 shinai (bamboo swords) and three sets of bogu (protective armour).



Rear Admiral Sugimoto (left) and a Kashima crew member practise their Kendo skills at the Rembuden Kendo Club, Victoria University.

The Japanese martial art of kendo, the "Way of the Sword", is a method of fencing based on techniques used with the two-handed samurai sword.

Fencing with the single-edged, straight blade sword was probably introduced to Japan from China in the 7th century. Sword skills or kenjutsu were particularly strong during the Kamakura shogunate (1192-1333), but declined in the early 17th century when peace was established throughout Japan under the Tokugawa shogunate. However, the moral and spiritual element began to develop, drawing strongly on Zen Buddhism. Bamboo training swords and lightweight, protective armour were introduced in the late 18th century and are still used today in the modern sport of kendo. The code of ethics remains a basic part of this martial art.

Although it looks dangerous - rather like the Jedi warriors in "Star Wars" movies - it is one of the safer sports, due to the protective gear. It also develops strength, agility and concentration.

The New Zealand Kendo Federation website, www.kendo.org.nz, has details of clubs throughout the country and information about various competitions. An 11-member New Zealand team, led by Gerard Egerton from the Rembuden Kendo Club, attended the 2003 World Kendo Tournament in Glasgow between July 4-8.

Japanese-Language Programme for high school students



Emma Trail from Tauranga Girls College

Jiunn Hsiao from Heretaunga College (Upper Hutt), Minsik Jung from Northcote College (Auckland) and Fabian Hartwell from Horowhenua College (Levin) spent about two weeks in Japan in July as winners of the Japanese-Language Programme for High School Students. The programme is run by the Japan Foundation.

Fifty students applied in 2003 and the standard was very high. The three runners up were Emma Trail from Tauranga Girls' College, Michael Julian from New Plymouth Boys' High School and Timothy Shepherd from Long Bay College (North Shore). They received special prizes and their essays have been posted on the Embassy of Japan website, www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp, in the Culture and Education section. The essay of the first runner up, Emma Trail, is reproduced here.

Toy Display at JICC July 23 – Aug 29, 2003

Japanese crafts have developed in specific parts of the country, sometimes because the materials to make them are found in the area or because of local demand (e.g. fans and Nishijin textiles for the Imperial Court in Kyoto). Each prefecture also has its own festivals, which can attract visitors from all over Japan, as well as from overseas.

The cabinet displays show examples of toys typical of local areas of Japan, which is divided into eight regions. A video will run from 12.10-1.50pm on weekdays from Monday, July 23, to Friday, August 29. The first 50 minutes gives information about **travelling in Japan** and is followed by an explanation about **Japanese crafts**, e.g. masks, kokeshi dolls, pottery and porcelain.



Toy Display at JICC July 23 - August 29, 2003.

Contact: Tel. (04)472-7807, www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp or www.japan.org.nz

Ms. Emma TRAIL Tauranga Girls' College

学生で、13歳から日本語を勉強していて、とても楽しんでいます。今年、日本語とえい語とれきし、びじゅつやデザインをべんきょうしています。ぜんぶのかもくをいっしょうけんめいべんきょうして、いつもよいてんをとっています。あたらしくておもしろいことをならうのが大好きです。きょ年のしけんのあとで、私はえい語と日本語とびじゅつとれきしとすうがくでトップ生となり、それに、そうごうでもトップ生とになりました。今年もきょ年のように、がんばりたいです。あたらしいがいこく語とほかのぶんかのことをならうのが好きです。

私はいろいろなしゅみがあります。そのしゅみは、えをかいたり、音楽を聞いたり、日本語でマンガをよんだり、水中ホッケーをしたり、友達とすごしたりすることです。

えをかきながらよく音楽を聞きます。いろいろな音楽を聞くのがとても好きで、がっきをひくのとうたうのが好きですが、ぜんぜんできないのでざんねんだと思います。いつかどちらもできるようになりたいです。えい語の音楽の中では、ロックのほうが好きです。すこしだけの日本語のポップを聞いたことがあって、とても好きでした。いつか、でんとうてきな日本語の音楽を聞きたいです。

私の一番好きなスポーツは水中ホッケーです。なぜなら、とてもおもしろくてたくさんの中のおい友達と一緒にすることができるからです。冬のスポーツだけどまい年、8月のしあいのために1月からずっとれんしゅうしておくのはふつうです。1しゅう間に3かい、じゅぎょうの前に学校のプールでスイスイをしたりします。あさの7時に水はとてもつめたくてみんなはねむいのですが、今年のしあいでかちたいからスイスイをがんばります。まいしゅう水曜日と日曜日の夜に大学のプールでタウランガの水中ホッケーのクラブとゲームをします。さんかしているせんしゅは私より上手なので、この夜のゲームはとてもむずかしいです。おわたたあとはいつもつかれていますがこのスポーツが大好きだから大丈夫です。ほかのスポーツかあたらしいことをやりたいです、学校がとてもいそがしいからふつうはできません。

友達は私にとってとてもたいせつで、人とすごすのが大好きです。しゅうまつにしゅくだいをしたあとで、友達とえいがを見に行ったり、かいものしたり、友達のうちに行ったりして、いつもしゅうまつを楽しみにしています。日本に友達もいて、ひまな時があると日本人のペンパルに日本語で手紙をかきます。

小さい時からえをかくのが大好きで、ひまな時によくえとマンガのストーリーをかいていました。日本語のマンガをよむのも好きで、マンガをよんだので私の日本語はもっととくいになっていました。さいしょから分かるのは時々むずかしいですが日本語をならいつづけるとよむのはもっとかんたんになってきます。ニュージーランドのマンガは日本のマンガほどよむのがおもしろくないと思います。びじゅつと、マンガをかくのが好きなので、しょうらいにマンガかになりたいです。それはたいへんなもくてきだけどがんばりたいです。もし私の日本語が日本人のように上手になったら、日本でマンガかになりたいです。

エマ (恵真)

Training Programme for Teachers of Japanese Language

Irene Wang, from Massey High School in Auckland, returned to New Zealand in March after spending six months at the Japan Foundation's Japanese-Language Institute in Urawa, Saitama Prefecture. The Training Programme for Teachers of the Japanese Language is designed to improve the participating teacher's methods of teaching. Irene Wong attended the Long-Term Training Programme and writes about her experience.

Irene Wang (far right) with other participants at the Japanese-Language Institute.



研修の報告書 2002 長期研修

去年の九月から今年の三月にかけて日本国際交流基金に招聘され、日本へ研修を受けに行きました。それは私が一生忘れられない半年でした。

研修というと、すぐに思い浮かべるのは授業を受けることです。授業は月曜日から金曜日まで、朝九時半から午後三時半までです。授業の内容は日本語そのものだけではなく、教授法や文化体験に至るまで様々でした。

日本国際交流基金と先生方々の陰で、私はこの半年間色々勉強になりました。この研修ならではの教わることのできないことをたくさん勉強したり、体験したりすることができました。例えば、この機会を契機にして、私は学習者の立場になり、学習者の気持ちや彼らが日本語を勉強する困難（問題点）を理解することができました。教授法の多様化も勉強できて、今、ニュージーランドに戻って、教案を立てる時に、前よりもっと工夫しています。毎日、学習者にとって、いわゆる、面白い授業をするわけではないと思いますが、毎日変わりのない授業を送るわけにもいかないのです。いつもと違うアプローチを用いて、学習者の興味を引いたり、動機付けさせたりすることができるかもしれないと思います。私の好きな言葉でもあり、そして私はこの研修から持って帰ってきたお土産のひとつでもあるのは「学習者中心の授業」という概念です。

日本にいる間に、教授上の知識のほかに、自分自身も成長しました。いろんな国からいらっしやった先生と六ヶ月間センターで生活をおくったため、たくさんの友達を作ることができただけでなく、異文化やその習慣を理解することもできました。

この研修は私達、2002年の長期研修生が互いに五年後またアプライしてみる約束をするほどよかったです。国際交流基金、先生方々とセンターの皆さん、そして2002年の長期研修生の皆さんへ、ありがとうございました！

International Language Week (August 10 – 16, 2003)

<http://www.international-languages-week.org.nz/>

The aims of the second International Languages Week in New Zealand are to again celebrate bilingualism, multilingualism and all the advantages of learning a new language at any age or stage. There will be an added focus on the education sector and improving transition and timetabling issues for languages in the school curriculum at primary and secondary levels as well as promoting study at tertiary level. Language learning outside the compulsory education sector will also be a focus.

All languages will be celebrated, but there will be a special focus on the five key international languages taught at schools throughout New Zealand: Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Spanish.

Schedule:

Also, during the week will be:

1. On-the-spot campaigns at railway stations, airports in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch.
2. Displays of haiku in English or one of the target languages about the value of learning other languages.
3. Japan Information and Cultural Centre (JICC)
 - (a) School Visits: School groups are welcome to come to the JICC to learn about Japan and its culture. Sessions are usually 1 - 1½ hours and the content can be tailored to suit the class. Please contact the JICC to arrange a suitable time (Tel. 472-7807).
 - (b) Films: Special screenings of the films listed here can be arranged for school groups at the JICC theatre. Please contact the JICC.

4. JICC in cooperation with Te Papa
The following **films** will be screened at **Te Papa's Soundings Theatre** in conjunction with International Language Week. They all have English subtitles and admission is free.

Saturday, August 2, and Monday, August 11:

Taro, the Dragon Boy (G): 11am - 12:15pm: Taro learns that his mother has been turned into a dragon and sets out to find her.

Little Adventures (G): 1pm-2:35pm: Four children plan a great adventure. They decide to bicycle all the way across Japan from the Pacific Ocean to the Japan Sea. Their teacher decides to go with them.

Night Train to the Stars (PG): 3pm-4:50pm: A biographical film about Kenji Miyazawa, Japan's most beloved fantasy novelist.

Sunday, August 3, and Sunday, August 10:

The Snow Fairy (G): 11am-12:30pm: Based on the novel by Ryusuke Saito, who has won many prizes for his children's books. The story is about poor villagers who try to regain their peaceful life using Yuki's gentle bravery.

Unico (G): 1pm-2:30pm: This film is about the travels of a kind little unicorn who makes people happy. Written by Osamu Tezuka, creator of Astro Boy.

Barefoot Gen (PG): 3pm-4:50pm: Based on a cartoon series by Nakazawa Keiji. While a student in primary school, Gen survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, but lost his father, sister and brother.

Contacts: Japan Information and Cultural Centre, 472-7807, Te Papa, Tel. 381-7000 or websites, www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp, www.japan.org.nz.

August 10th (Sunday)	Street festivals in main centres driving out the Winter of monolingualism and welcoming in the Spring of multilingualism
August 11th (Monday)	Ni hao Day (Chinese)
August 12th (Tuesday)	Bonjour Day (French)
August 13th (Wednesday)	Guten tag Day (German)
August 14th (Thursday)	Konnichi wa Day (Japanese)
August 15th (Friday)	Buenos dias Day (Spanish)

Japanese Language Proficiency Tests 2003

The proficiency test is designed for Japanese language students who wish to test their level of skills using worldwide criteria. It is hoped that the tests will stimulate interest in further Japanese studies.

Applications and Examination Fees will be accepted from Monday, August 4, to Friday September 26, 2003 (Please note that applications must arrive during this period.)

Examination Date: Sunday, December 7, 2003

(Examinations will be held in Wellington, Auckland and

Christchurch.)

Venue: Please contact the Embassy in Wellington, Consulate-General in Auckland and Consular Office in Christchurch for venue details

Examination Fees:

Level 1: \$42 Level 2: \$36 Level 3: \$30 Level 4: \$18

Application forms and more information are available from the Embassy, Consulate-General or Consular Office (Please see contact details on the back of this brochure.)

2003 Sister Cities Convention

The 2003 Sister Cities Convention was held in Masterton from April 3-6, and the theme was sister city relationships between New Zealand and China. About 150 people attended and Japanese delegates included Mayor Saburo Yamashita from Masterton's sister city, Hatsukaichi, Mr Keisuke Tsukada from the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) Sydney office and Mr Toshio Nakamoto, President of Juken Nissho Ltd's parent company in Hatsukaichi. Members of the Wellington JET Alumni and Wellington-Sakai Association also attended.

Caroline Everest, representing the Wellington-Sakai Association, provided the following report on the convention. It is reproduced here at the courtesy of the Wellington-Sakai Association and the Japan Society of Wellington.

Report on Sister Cities Convention April 3-6, 2003, Masterton

The convention began on Thursday evening with a welcome dinner. The main business of the Sister Cities Convention was on Saturday April 5 at Rathkeale College in Masterton.

The Chinese delegation was asked not to attend at the last minute due to concern over the possible spread of the SARS virus. This meant that some scheduled events were changed. However, adjustments had been made to try and deliver as much of the scheduled programme as possible.

The morning began with a welcome from Rick Barker, MP and Chair of the NZ Parliamentary Friendship Group for China, who spoke of his interest in China since his childhood, and how pleased he was that the relationship between New Zealand and China was continuing to deepen.

Madam Li Xiaolin, the Vice President of CPAFFC, a Chinese association for friendships with overseas countries, was not present, but her presentation was delivered by a representative of the New Zealand China Friendship Society.

Jeremy Dwyer, President of Sister Cities New Zealand gave an inspiring presidential address.

Following this was the presentation by the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research on the economic benefits of sister city relationships in New Zealand. The report presented some



Sister City Convention Lunch: (left to right) President Douglas Milligan and Mrs Akiko Omundsen, Wellington Sakai Association (WSA); Mrs Kuniko Polglase, Juken Nissho Ltd; Mr Euan Hubbard and Ms Caroline Everest, WSA; and Ms Snaier Shalav, JET Alumni.

useful conclusions, although these were qualified by the difficulty in measuring the precise economic benefits in dollar terms of a sister city relationship. The report focussed instead on case studies of situations where cities have had economic gains as a result of sister city relationships. The conclusions were that sister city relationships have delivered economic benefits at the company level, and that the benefits are broad ranging. Sister city relationships are evolving and economic benefits becoming more important to many cities. The report ended with some advice on how cities looking to develop the economic benefits might do so, and these included goal setting and effective planning. A copy of the full report is available from the Institute.

Professor Bill Willmott spoke of great bridge builders between New Zealand and China. These included early missionaries among the Chinese gold diggers and New Zealanders who lived in and visited China earlier in the 20th century.

After lunch, a discussion focussed on the role younger people can play in a sister city relationship and included a youth representative from the Australian Sister Cities Association, Rebecca Scullion, and a returned AFS exchange student. It was agreed that young people who have taken part in exchange programme or sister city visits often have a great deal of enthusiasm and a desire to share their experience upon their return. Sister city associations discussed

ways of involving these people more, and there was interest in establishing a youth group following the Australian example.

Later in the afternoon, Dr Phil Rolston and Dave Bromwich gave a presentation on rural development in China and its implications for New Zealand, including the aid programmes that New Zealand is involved in. While large parts of eastern China are becoming more prosperous, there is a concern that the gap between this growing middle class and the poorer parts of more remote western China is widening. However there are many programmes underway to assist these areas, including bringing them electricity and running water. Another example is that mobile phone coverage is constantly improving even in areas where until now there has been no telephone network cabling infrastructure. New Zealand's involvement in projects to assist development in these areas has led to friendly relationships developing on a personal level between the parties involved at either end.

Jeremy Dwyer closed the day's events with a speech reinforcing how international friendships, including sister city relationships can be so rewarding with some time and effort, and should progress slowly but steadily, with "one handshake at a time".

By Caroline Everest

Christchurch will host the 2004 Sister City Convention, March 24-27, which will have an Australian-NZ focus. Website: www.sistercities.org.nz

Promoting the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme at Victoria University

Applications for the 2004 JET Programme will be available in September from the Embassy in Wellington, the Consulate-General in Auckland and the Consular Office in Christchurch. Seminars on the programme will be held in the next few months at universities throughout New Zealand.

Ex-JETS Rebecca Webber (right) and Snalet Shalav (an Embassy staff member) answer questions from Victoria University students at the 2003 Campus Career Fair on Thursday, May 22. Other stands at the Fair included Teach New Zealand, the New Zealand Army, the Meteorological Service and VSA.



2003 JET Participants attend Question and Answer Sessions

The "Question and Answer" meeting was held at the Japan Information and Cultural Centre in Wellington on Friday, June 13. Mr Iwabuchi briefed the new JET participants on travel arrangements and Mr Warren Parratt from the Inland Revenue Department explained tax requirements. A panel of four former JETs was available to answer questions during the session. The aim was to help new JET participants prepare for their time in Japan.



The Consular Office of Japan in Christchurch organised a similar meeting at the Copthorne Central Hotel in Christchurch on Friday, June 13, and the Consulate-General in Auckland held another on Tuesday, June 24, at the Carlton Hotel.

Mr Butch Iwabuchi from Kintetsu International Express (Oceania) Pty Ltd, replies to questions from young people who will leave for Japan in July on the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) programme.

Christchurch-Kurashiki, first sister city link between Japan and New Zealand



Christchurch Junior Orchestra Members played with Karashiki Junior Philharmonia musicians during the April visit. (Aotea Centre July 1, 2003)

The Christchurch-Kurashiki sister city relationship was signed in March 1973 and was the first between Japan and New Zealand. The 30th anniversary celebrations are being held from March 2003 until early 2004 and began with a visit from the Kurashiki Junior Philharmonia in April.

Other events include a student exchange and sculptor exchange and the Canterbury Ballet will go to Japan in September. Mayor Garry Moore plans to visit Kurashiki in August and Mayor Takeshi Nakada will make a return visit in October to join the celebrations in Christchurch. Plans are also under way for the Kurashiki Choir to come to Christchurch in April 2004. For more details, please contact Ms Barbara August, International Relations Co-ordinator, Christchurch City Council (Tel. (03) 941-8251) or check www.christchurch.org.nz/SisterCities/Kurashiki.

Japonism in Fashion at Te Papa

Japonism in Fashion shows the influence of Japanese design on European fashion from the late 19th century to the present day. The exhibition, curated in collaboration with the Kyoto Costume Institute, consists of more than 90 gowns and accessories and includes garments by 19th century French haute couturier Charles-Frederick Worth, Givenchy and Issey Miyake.

The exhibition has three major segments:

Kimono Craze: (1860-1900 approx) Virtually closed to the world for about 200 years, Japan was obliged to open up to trade when Commodore Perry's "black ships" arrived in 1853. Japanese culture became a source of inspiration to the arts, including fashion design. Western designers used fabrics with Japanese-inspired patterns and even material from kimonos to create garments with an oriental flavour. Japanese motifs - beaded, embroidered or hand-painted - were also popular.

Turning Japanese: (about 1900-1930s) This section shows how elements of the kimono's structure were adapted to high fashion as dresses, evening coats and wraps. Designers include Madeleine Vionnet, Mariano Fortuny, Worth and Coco Chanel.

Go West: (1980s to 2003) This section looks at Japanese designers, such as Rei Kawakubo/Comme des Garçons, Yohji Yamamoto, Issey Miyake and Junya Watanabe, who brought innovative ideas and fabrics to western fashion.

In recent years couturiers have again been turning to the East for inspiration. This is the focus of the exhibition's finale and includes outfits from Gucci, Dior, Galliano and Jean-Paul Gaultier.

The content of the exhibition, which was displayed most recently at the Brooklyn Museum of Art in New York in 1999, has been modified slightly and the contemporary section



Japanese designer Junya Watanabe used microfibre fabric in this lantern-style dress and jacket.



Minister Shisei Kaku from the Embassy of Japan, and Mrs Kaku at the opening reception for Japonism in Fashion on Wednesday, July 9.

extended. Curator Angela Lässig and exhibition designer, Lesley Fowler, went to the Institute and chose the garments specifically for the New Zealand exhibition, in consultation with chief curator, Akiko Fukai, and her staff. Ms Lässig said, "The opportunity to meet Ms Fukai and her staff last October, and to view the Institute's outstanding collection for the first time, was a valuable experience."

Japonism in Fashion opened at the Tower Gallery of Te Papa on Thursday, July 10 and runs until Sunday, October 5. A series of free lectures on the exhibition will be held at the Soundings Theatre, Te Papa, 6:30-7:30pm, as follows:

1. Thursday, July 10
Japonism in fashion - Ms Akiko Fukai: the influence of Japanese art on western fashion.
2. Thursday, August 7
Kimonos and chrysanthemums - Dr Jane Malthus, former university lecturer and Honorary Curator of Costume at the Otago Museum: Japanese influence on New Zealand fashion in the 20th century.
3. Thursday, August 14
Fashion embroidery influences - what next? - Anthea Godfrey, Head of Embroidery and Surface Decoration at the London College of Fashion: Current directions in fashion embroidery.
4. Thursday, August 21
Lure of the Orient - Angela Lässig, Te Papa History Curator: Oriental cultures and early 20th century European couturiers.
5. Thursday, August 28
Contemporary Japanese fashion - a personal view - Marilyn Sainty, fashion designer and importer: Illustrated lecture on her experiences at the Paris catwalk shows of Issey Miyake and other Japanese designers.
6. Thursday, September 25
Global fashion - traditional dress - John Gillow, textile historian and best-selling author: A 'show and tell' lecture on textiles from around the world.
Contacts: Tel. (04) 381-7000, www.tepapa.govt.nz.

The exhibition will then be on show at the new Christchurch Art Gallery (www.christchurchartgallery.org.nz) from December 12 until March 7, 2004 before returning to Japan.

The exhibition received assistance from the Japan Foundation's Exhibitions Abroad Support Programme.

Japan's UNESCO World Heritage Sites

The UNESCO Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage, usually known as the World Heritage Convention, was adopted in 1972 and more than 170 countries have now signed the agreement. Japan, which signed in 1992, has 11 sites on the World Heritage List, as follows:

Cultural heritage sites: The Horyuji area, ancient Kyoto, Himeji castle, the Gassho-style farmhouses in Shirakawa-go and Gokayama, Itsukushima Shrine, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Atomic Bomb Dome), ancient Nara, Nikko and Ryukyu.

Natural heritage sites: Shirakami Mountains and Yakushima.

More details are available at <http://jin.jcic.or.jp/atlas/index.html> or on the UNESCO world heritage site, <http://whc.unesco.org/nwhc/pages/home/pages/homepage.htm>.

New Zealand, like Japan, has natural World Heritage Sites. They are Te Wahipounamu - south west New Zealand, Tongariro National Park and New Zealand's sub-Antarctic islands.

Sixteen models of buildings from Japan's World Heritage Sites were on display at the Japan Information and Cultural Centre during May. Children were particularly attracted to them, but they also appealed to students and adults, both from New Zealand and Asian countries. A snow-covered model of the Golden Pavilion (Kinkaku-ji) in Kyoto was one of the most popular, followed by Kyoto's Kiyomizu-dera temple with its tiny, cherry blossom trees.

One visitor, a model maker, was impressed by details such as white caps on the waves by the Itsukushima Shrine. She also said, "You think, 'Japan - one style', but it was interesting to see the models set out like that showing different types of architecture."

As well, 10 documentary videos were screened at the Centre during lunchtimes. This new series, which is in Japanese without English subtitles, covers both cultural and natural heritage sites and has beautiful images of the buildings, wildlife and surrounding countryside. Perhaps surprisingly, visitors who did not speak Japanese tended to stay for the whole video and



Students from Raphael House, a Steiner School in Wellington, take a close look at the model of Kinkakuji temple in Kyoto.

two or three people returned to see most of the series. One preferred Himeji Castle, a Japanese visitor found the Hiroshima Peace Dome documentary very moving and a third person said, "I enjoyed them all immensely."

Two English-language videos were also screened at lunchtimes. One was on the building methods used in traditional Japanese architecture. The other video was about Josiah Conder and the four Japanese architects he trained (Kingo Tatsuno, Tokuma Katayama, Tatsuzo Sone and Shichijiro Satachi), who began designing European-style buildings in Japan during the Meiji period.

The Information and Cultural Centre in Wellington, Consulate-General in Auckland and Consular Office in Christchurch have videos and cultural items that schools and individuals are welcome to borrow. Please refer to the catalogues on www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp. Each office also has a library and membership is free.

World Heritage Stamps

Japan's first collection of world heritage stamps was issued in 1994 and covered Japanese sites on the World Heritage List at that time (Himeji, Horyuji, Yakushima, Shirakami-Sanchi). A new collection began in 2001 and Series Nos 1-5 were on Nikko, Itsukushima and Kyoto (three times). World Heritage Series Nos 6-10 were issued in 2002 and showed ancient Kyoto, Nara (twice), the Gassho-style farmhouses in Shirakawa-go and Ryukyu.

Japan Post plans to issue 18 series of special postage stamps in 2003. These include World Heritage Series No. 11 (10 stamps), released in March, which featured the Hiroshima Peace Memorial.

The Information and Cultural Centre in Wellington and Consulate-General in Auckland receive a few pamphlets on each issue and collectors can also view many stamps at http://www.post.japanpost.jp/english/kitte_hagaki/index.html. The nearest overseas agency for the stamps is in Melbourne, at the following address:

Max Stern & Co., GPO Box 997H, Melbourne, Victoria, 3001, Australia Tel. 0061-3-654-6751 Fax. 0061-3-650-7192.



The World Heritage Series. No. 5

Ancient Kyoto (Copyright © 2002 Japan Post All rights reserved)

Anime – Japanese animated films have international following

The Japanese animated film, "Spirited Away" (Sen to Chihiro no Kamikakushi), won the Oscar for the Best Animated Feature Film at the 75th Academy Awards in March. It was also joint winner of the Golden Bear Award at the Berlin International Film Festival last year, the first animated film to receive the award. One of the most popular films ever screened in Japan, it was shown in New Zealand cinemas during the April school holidays.

Hayao Miyazaki's "Spirited Away" is about the adventures of a 10-year-old girl, Chihiro. She and her parents find themselves in a mysterious town inhabited by spirits. Her parents are turned into pigs and she tries to find a way to save them. After lots of adventures, she succeeds in rescuing them and helps many of the spirits in the process.

Japan's first animated films appeared around 1915 and were influenced by French animators, such as Emile Cohl. The industry continued to develop over the years, then finally took off in 1963 when manga (comic strip) artist Osamu Tezuka produced an animated version of "Astro Boy" for television.

The Japanese style of animation became known as anime. Some well-known examples of the medium are: Kyandī Kyandī (starring a little, orphan girl), Ginga Tetsudo 999 (Galaxy Express 999 - science fiction), Tonari no Totoro (a story about a friendly woodland ghost that can only be seen by children), Doraemon (the robot cat) and Pokemon (these last two both very popular worldwide).

As animation techniques and artwork became more complex and sophisticated, different styles or genres of stories developed. The sci-fi adventures of Akira, produced in 1988, was one of a new action-packed type of anime that particularly appealed to teenagers. This style has continued to develop and now covers most aspects of modern life with stories often centred around schools and the workplace. Wellington anime fan Ross Dutton says, "They tend to detail life as it is, but give you a break from the intricacies of the real world, as we know it." The fan base has developed, too, now including adults in their 20's and 30's.

There are currently two anime societies in Wellington - the Omake Anime Club and Wellington Anime Club. According to

Ross Dutton, "These clubs are groups of people who generally just like to hang out, watch anime together, borrow anime off each other, and ... show people what it really is all about." Contact for the two clubs: rossdutton@yahoo.com.

As an aside, New Zealand film company, Weta, has also become involved in the anime industry. Staff are currently working on special effects for a sci-fi film, Neon Genesis Evangelion, about a young hero who battles with alien invaders. It is a live action film based on the TV anime series Shinseki Evangelion and is a joint project with Japanese games company Gainax and ADV, an American film company.

Four anime films will be screened at Te Papa's Soundings Theatre in conjunction with International Languages Week. (Please see page 6.) They are in the more gentle style of "Spirited Away" and all have English subtitles. Admission is free.



Ross Dutton with the anime and manga (comics) he used during his presentation to the Wellington Japan Society on June 3.

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 cul@jpnemb.org.nz if you or your organisation 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 newspapers

Japanese newspapers are available for reference, as follows:

Japan Information and Cultural Centre, Embassy of Japan, Wellington

Asahi Shimbun (Japanese)

Japan Times (English)

Consulate-General, Auckland

Asahi Shimbun (Japanese)

Yomiuri Shimbun (Japanese)

Consular Office of Japan, Christchurch

Asahi Shimbun (Japanese)

Nikkei Weekly (English)

Sekku Festival – Children’s Day recalls celebration for boys

The term, sekku, originally applied to offerings of food made on certain days that traditionally marked changes in the seasons, but it came to mean the festival day itself. May 5, traditionally known as Tango no Sekku or Shobu no Sekku, the Iris Festival, gradually became a festival for boys, but in 1948 it was renamed Children’s Day and made a public holiday.

However, many families still celebrate it as a festival for boys (March 3, Hinamatsuri, is for girls). They fly carp streamers outside the house and set up a warrior doll display (gogatsu or mushi ningyo) of miniature banners, Samurai armour and weapons, and rice cakes. The aim is to encourage boys to respect the code of honour and duty of the Samurai warrior. Mugwort and irises were traditionally hung from the eaves of the roof to ward off disease and evil spirits, but this is not so common today. Special rice cakes are also exchanged with neighbours during the celebrations.

The custom of flying Koinobori (carp streamers) originated about 1700, during the Edo period. It is a way of celebrating that there are male children in a family and an expression of hope for the boys’ health and prospects. Carp have long been a symbol of strength and perseverance in Japan because they can swim up fast-running streams, jumping rocks on the way. Small streamers are usually made of paper and are used inside. Larger ones, some more than 30 feet long, are made of cloth, paper and other materials. These large Koinobori are still very popular today, particularly in the Japanese countryside.

The next major Japanese festival is Tanabata or the Star Festival on July 7, which is another of the sekku festivals. It combines several folk traditions, including the Chinese legend about the Weaver Star (Vega) and the Cowherd Star (Altair) who were said to be lovers that could meet only once a year on the seventh night of the seventh lunar month.

This story merged with the Japanese legend about a celestial weaving maiden (Tanabatsume) believed to make clothing for the



A warrior doll display at the Japan Information and Cultural Centre in Wellington.

gods. The name was shortened to Tanabata and the festival became one of the annual events observed by the Imperial Court. Tanabata also fell close to the Bon Festival for the souls of the dead and became associated with some of the practices for welcoming and farewelling the spirits of ancestors.

Although modern celebrations of Tanabata vary in different parts of Japan, a common feature is the display of bamboo branches decorated with long narrow strips of coloured paper and other small ornaments and talismans. People write their wishes for the success of a project or romance, etc on the coloured strips and hang them on the tree in the hope that their wishes will come true.

A Tanabata festival tree was set up at the Japan Information and Cultural Centre in Wellington for the month of July. Visitors and school groups were welcome to write their wishes on paper strips, perhaps as a haiku poem, and hang them on the tree.



Ms Nami Miyamoto, her mother and a friend hang their wishes on the Tanabata tree at the Cultural Centre.

Enquiries are welcome at the following offices:

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www.japan.org.nz

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Level 12, ASB Bank Centre
135 Albert Street
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Tel: (09) 303-4106
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CHRISTCHURCH

Consular Office of Japan
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Tel: (03) 366-5680
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Email: cojchc@jpncon.org.nz