



## A People-to-People Exchange Project: '4 Million Kiwis Experience Japan' Campaign

Comments by Ambassador Masaki Saito

During my tour of duty here in New Zealand, I have emphasized the importance of people-to-people relationships and tried to encourage them as much as possible. I believe that links at this level have enormous value in contributing to goodwill and friendship between nations. Indeed, people-to-people exchanges are one of six areas of cooperation making up the New Level of Engagement between Japan and New Zealand, an agreement re-affirmed when Prime Minister Helen Clark and Prime Minister Koizumi met in Tokyo in June 2005.

Japan as a guest of the 2005 Aichi World Exposition. The EXPO ran from 25 March to 25 September 2005 and I was interested to read that about 4 million people visited the New Zealand Pavilion, a similar number to New Zealand's population. It was a popular pavilion and most visitors were intrigued by its central feature, a greenstone boulder. They almost invariably reached out to touch it, particularly children. It occurred to me that it would be an excellent people-to-people style of project to do this in reverse by encouraging 4 million New Zealanders to reach out and 'touch' something Japanese.

It is not as impossible as it might at first sound. The Japanese culture has become much better known here in the last five or ten years.

In the first months of this year there have been a number of festivals involving Japan, such as the Bon Odori Festival in Auckland (page 7) and the Japan Festival at the Settler's Museum in Petone (page 7). The multicultural Festival of the Elements in Porirua included origami master Jonathon Baxter and bonsai master Noel Plowman among artists at Pataka Museum. Japan was again represented at the Palmerston North Festival of Cultures where International Pacific College students set up stalls selling Japanese food.

The **Splendours of Japan** exhibition at Te Papa (page 8) was a very special opportunity for New Zealanders to learn about Japanese culture. A number of school groups went to the exhibition and combined their trip with a visit to the Embassy's Information and Cultural Centre to



Visitors touch the two tonne greenstone boulder at the New Zealand pavilion, 2005 Aichi EXPO. (Photo: Mr Brian Cross)

hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors) came here in March (page 6).

The sister city movement is itself based on people-to-people relationships. These are touched on in the articles about the Sister City New Zealand Aichi project (page 3) and the investiture of the former Mayor of Kakogawa (page 2).

I think you can see that 4 million Kiwis reaching out to 'touch' Japan is an achievable goal. It could be something as simple as eating sushi with a friend, solving the Japanese number puzzle, Sudoku, in the newspapers, going to a Japanese film or watching an anime DVD. Learning about the tea ceremony, learning the language itself or writing haiku (page 9) could be another choice. For the more energetic, trying the Japanese martial arts might have more appeal. I hear that sumo wrestling is becoming quite popular here.

learn more about the Japanese way of life. Schools are welcome to approach the Centre in Wellington, the Consulate-General in Auckland and our Consular Office in Christchurch about school visits of this kind (page 5).

On a more sombre note, the Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-Bomb Exhibition has been touring the country (page 6) and two



Enjoying Japanese culture in New Zealand: Ms Lesley Maclean performed the tea ceremony at Pataka Museum, Porirua, on Saturday, 8 April 2006.

## A Spring Breeze from Japan

The Embassy of Japan will organize a celebration of Japanese culture in Wellington from August to November 2006. There will be a variety of events which will offer you a taste of the Japanese aesthetic ideal, *Mono-no-aware*, in both modern and traditional forms.



## Continued from page 1

Of course, we would be delighted if you visited Japan. For those who feel discouraged because they have no knowledge of the Japanese language, let me reassure you by saying that many of our youngsters now speak English. For your information, the Yokoso Japan (Welcome to Japan) campaign began in 2003 with the aim of doubling tourist numbers in Japan to 10 million by 2010. Our tourist industry is now more organized to look after foreign tourists and I am sure you would receive a very warm welcome.

For those who have no plan to visit Japan in the near future, please come and enjoy our cultural event in the coming spring.

But to return to my original idea, links at the grassroots level are a valuable part of the bilateral relationship between Japan and New Zealand. I hope you will give these ideas some thought and, with your friends and family, reach out to 'touch' Japan.

Yokoso Japan website: [www.japanwelcomesyou.com/cssweb](http://www.japanwelcomesyou.com/cssweb).

## Yokoso Japan – Welcome to Japan

This website has basic tourist information as well as travel articles, such as:

- The Shikoku Pilgrimage – follow an ancient route in the footsteps of Kobo Daishi
- Anime fantasy at the Ghibli Museum – Hayao Miyazaki's museum in Tokyo
- Ukiyoe: the "floating world" revealed
- Interview with a Geisha
- Seto, Japan's porcelain city

<http://www.japanwelcomesyou.com/cssweb/>



## Japanese Citizen in New Year's Honours

Mr Seiichi Kinoshita was named an Honorary Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) for services to New Zealand-Japan relations in the New Year's Honours List released on 31 December 2005. Mr Kinoshita travelled to Wellington to receive the award from the Governor-General, H.E. the Hon. Dame Silvia Cartwright, at an Investiture Ceremony at Government House on Tuesday, 21 March 2006.

The citation was as follows:

"Mr Kinoshita was Mayor of Kakogawa City from 1986 to 2002. During his 16 years as Mayor he provided, through his dedication, professionalism, empathy and on-going application, a firm foundation for bridging the

divide between Waitakere City and Kakogawa City in education, business, civic exchanges and understanding, which endures on many levels. He was instrumental in the donation of a Japanese garden in Waitakere, and requested the carving of Pou Whenua (totem poles) by local Maori for display in a public park in Kakogawa. In 2003 he was awarded honorary citizenship of Waitakere City."

The Mayor of Waitakere City, Mr Bob Harvey, was present at the ceremony at Government House.

Mr Kinoshita is now Board Chairman of the Kakogawa International Association. He and his party made a brief visit to Waitakere City before returning to Japan.



Mr Seiichi Kinoshita with H.E. the Hon. Dame Silvia Cartwright at Government House on 21 March 2006. (Photo courtesy of the Kakogawa International Association)

Waitakere City Council sister city link:

<http://www.waitakere.govt.nz/OurPar/sc/kakogawa.asp>

## Japan Assists NGOs in Samoa



(left to right) JICA Samoa Office Resident Representative, Mr Junji Ishizuka, Mrs Yumiko Fujiwara, Mr Leilua Tavas Leota and Mr Hiromi Adachi, Embassy of Japan.

Samoan non-government organizations (NGOs) are to benefit from the Japanese Government's Grassroots Human Security Grant Aid Programme. A brief ceremony was held at Aggie Grey's Hotel on 14 March 2006 to sign six project agreements between the Embassy of Japan and Samoan school committees, vocational institutes, PTA and NGOs.

The six new projects were approved by the Government of Japan under this Programme for the Japanese fiscal year 2005 as follows:

- The Project for Upgrading of Workshop Facilities at Don Bosco Technical Center, Don Bosco Technical Center, AUD\$118,904.
- The Project for Construction of a New Classroom Block for Laumua O Punaoa Polytechnic, Laumua O Punaoa Polytechnic Development Committee, AUD\$121,488.
- The Project for Construction of Workshop Centre and Procurement of Equipment for Tagiillima Handicrafts Association, Tagiillima Handicrafts Association, AUD\$50,726.
- The Project for Village Income Generation Through Integrated Farming System, Samoa

Small Business Association, AUD\$105,294.

- The Project for Renovation of Apolima Uta Primary School, Apolima Uta Primary School Committee, AUD\$109,655.
- The Project for Reconstruction of Sataoa Primary School, the Parents and Teachers Association of Sataoa Primary School, AUD\$119,833.

Mrs Yumiko Fujiwara, Counsellor at the Embassy of Japan, said "Japan will continue to support Samoa as it implements the "Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2005-2007".

With these six projects the Government of Japan has now approved a total of fifteen new projects under the Grassroots Human Security Grant Aid Programme for FY 2005.

# Water Tanks for Mauga Village

On 16 March 2006, the Government of Japan officially handed over water tanks to the village of Mauga, Lealatele in Savaii to help alleviate chronic water shortage in their community water supply system. Mrs Yumiko Fujiwara made the presentation.

The thirty-nine newly-constructed water tanks donated to the village households are of ferrocement construction and vary in capacity from 3,000 gallons to 5,000 gallons according to the size and requirements of each village family.

The grant project valued at AUD\$49,748 or SAT\$100,684 was made available under Japan's Grassroots Human Security Grant Aid programme for FY 2005. The assistance was sought by the Mauga Village Water Committee in October 2003 from Japan through the JICA Samoa Office in Apia.

Mrs Fujiwara stated the hope of the Government of Japan that the project would contribute to "improving and rehabilitating water supply systems, particularly in rural areas to help



Mrs Yumiko Fujiwara, (left) and Sala Vaimili, who represented the village council of Mauga at the hand-over ceremony

communities towards a better quality of life".

# New Zealand Builds on Benefits of Taking Part in the Aichi Expo

The New Zealand Government set up the Aichi Leveraging Fund project to build on the benefits of New Zealand's presence at the 2005 Aichi World Exposition. The purpose of the four-year project, which is one of the government's Growth and Innovative Framework projects, is to improve commercial, cultural and people-to-people links between Japan and New Zealand. New Zealand Trade and Enterprise manage the fund in association with other agencies.

Telecommunications, greenhouse gas research and nanocomposite technology are some areas covered, but Sister Cities New Zealand director, Mr Brian Cross, outlines a less technical one.

## "Good Practice" Manual for Sister Cities

Sister Cities New Zealand Inc. is the lead agency in a project to enhance New Zealand's people-to-people links with Japan. Already recognised as one of the most active of sister city networks, the New Zealand-Japan portfolio is set to expand with the Aichi Project, which is generously supported by the New Zealand Government through New Zealand Trade and Enterprise. It forms part of both governments' wider aims at a new level of engagement in our bilateral relationship, and more specifically forms part of New Zealand's mission to leverage off the country's successful participation in the 2005 Aichi World Expo.

Traditionally, New Zealand-Japan sister city links have focused their resources on education, culture, art and sport exchanges, along with local government technical cooperation and the important by-product of those activities, tourism. Recognising the clear educational, social and economic benefits of the long-lasting relationships and mutual trust that result from people-to-people interaction across cultures, central and local government is demonstrating with its support just how highly valued these links are to both countries.

The first sister city links between New Zealand and Japan were established in the early 1970's, when the world was a very different place.

History demonstrates that communities on both sides have taken a long-term view in building these relationships, now numbering nearly 50 in total. With many partnerships having recently celebrated their 10th, 20th and some their 30th birthdays, the time is ripe for some new initiatives to keep them all vibrant and fresh. This project will provide that opportunity, based on learning from what has been done before and by enhancing best practice.

Initially, the project is engaged in:

1. Creating a set of 'good practice' examples of New Zealand – Japan links in a resource manual for members of Sister Cities New Zealand and their Japanese counterparts (produced in English and Japanese). This real life information on what works for our partnerships will provide examples and guidelines to those interested in increasing their levels of engagement.
2. Making information available to non-members considering links with Japan, to help evaluate the benefits and provide guidelines on putting a partnership in place and engaging in activities.
3. Providing quantitative and qualitative measures for assessing outcomes and evaluating the success of links with Japan. These will be a platform for continual

improvement and provide actual models for communities to use in their own links.

The result will be a permanent and regularly maintained resource for use in researching and identifying the best possible ways of capitalising on the gains already made in our citizen diplomacy – an increasingly important branch of international relations.

The links that bind New Zealand and Japan at community level have diverse histories, purposes and aims. The Aichi Project will not encroach on the attributes of each one, it is important that they all maintain their individuality. By sharing information however, all those interested and involved in interaction between our two countries can actively contribute to ways of increasing the benefits over time.

Mr Brian Cross, Sister Cities New Zealand:  
Tel. (04) 586 3145,

Email: [brian@sistercities.org.nz](mailto:brian@sistercities.org.nz),  
[www.sistercities.org.nz](http://www.sistercities.org.nz)

Aichi Leveraging Fund:

New Zealand Trade and Enterprise,  
Tel. (04) 910-4300,  
[www.nzte.govt.nz/section/13727.aspx](http://www.nzte.govt.nz/section/13727.aspx)

Ms Elizabeth Gollan, Project Manager – Aichi Leveraging Fund



## Welcome Home for JETs



Ambassador Masaki Saito (centre) with 2005 JET returnees in Wellington. Ambassador Saito hosted a welcome home reception for seven JET participants who returned to New Zealand in 2005. The reception was held at his Residence in Wellington on Monday, 13 March 2006.



Mr Takamichi Okabe, Consul-General of Japan in Auckland, (centre back) with six returnees. The Consul-General hosted a welcome home function for them at his Residence on Monday, 24 March 2006.



Mr Geoffrey Price, a JET selection panel member, proposed a toast at the reception in Christchurch. Consul Tomoo Hirakawa hosted a combined welcome home reception and JETAA AGM at the Marina Restaurant on Friday, 10 March 2006. Six recently returned JETs and 29 members of Christchurch JETAA attended the event.

## The JET Programme

The purpose of the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme is to increase mutual understanding between the people of Japan and the people of other nations. Begun in 1987 with the cooperation of the governments of participating countries, the programme has grown from 848 participants from four countries in its first year (America, England, Australia and New Zealand), to almost 6000 new and continuing participants from 44 countries in 2005. More than 2,000 New Zealanders have taken part in the programme and a new group will be

leaving for Japan in July. About 90% of the participants are Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs), but there are also positions for Sports Exchange Advisors (SEAs) and Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs). CIRs are based in local government offices or related organizations, rather than schools and are expected to have a reasonable grasp of the Japanese language. Ms Helen Oxenbridge gives her impressions of life as a Coordinator for International Relations in Komono-cho, Mie Prefecture.

## When in Rome ...or Komono-cho

I remember applying for the position of CIR and imagining the job would be a high-pressure, deadline-filled schedule of translations and interpreting events. I was terrified my Japanese would not be good enough and that I would not fit in at the office.

However, I have found that being fluent in Japanese and conforming is something I am not really expected to be or do. On the contrary, my office seems to love having a foreigner among them that they can practice English with, laugh with, discuss basic cultural differences with, or even just introduce to their friends. As for the job itself, that old JET saying of every situation is different really rings true. Komono is a small town with little foreign correspondence, so there is little opportunity for translation or interpreting. Initially I was disappointed about this, as I was still in the selfish mind frame of wanting to utilise and improve my Japanese. However the more I learn about my job, the more I love it. My role is to encourage cross cultural interaction and understanding within the community on a basic level, in a very hands-on kind of way. I organise cultural events for school children, international



Helen (centre) with colleagues at the Komono Town Council offices

cooking classes for adults (although I can't actually cook, but lets just keep that between us shall we?), library readings, English conversation classes for adults, youth events, and pen-pal classes. I also participate in town festivals, and prepare cultural speeches and seminars.

I have learnt that international exchange is nothing to do with my Japanese ability, or someone else's English skills, but about trying to insert a touch of the cross-cultural into every age group and layer of society. My job is not to mix with the bigwigs or to translate important documents, but to help create a feeling of friendship or at least familiarity between the people of the town and New Zealand.

I am not trying to paint a rose-tinted picture of life as a CIR. Living in a small Japanese town I frequently encounter the difference between traditional Japanese thinking and New Zealand ideas. However, whilst I am in Japan I will do my best to adapt, but without sacrificing my identity as a New Zealander. To me that is an important part of being on JET and maybe cross-cultural interaction on the whole; trying to find a way of merging two cultures without one losing itself to the other. In consideration of the saying 'when in Rome do as the Romans do'; we cannot all be Romans – not that I have anything against Romans, but it is just not feasible. Why not 'when in Rome do as close to doing as the Romans do without losing your own cultural identity'? It does not hold quite the same charm, linguistically speaking perhaps, but I think you know what I mean.

(First published in the South Island JET Alumni Association newsletter, JetAche, December 2005. Edited.)

JET Programme: <http://www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp/cultural/index.html>

## Gathering of Monbukagakusho Scholarship Alumni



Ambassador Masaki Saito (left) greeting Monbukagakusho Scholarship Alumni Association members and guests at the Yangtze Restaurant in Wellington on Friday, 24 March 2006. Ten members attended the function. There is also an alumni association in Christchurch, established in October last year, and another started in Auckland in March 2006.

The function of the alumni associations is to give former participants the opportunity to keep in touch with each other, to provide a pool of knowledge and experience about Japan and its culture, and to encourage bilateral links between the two countries. Members also help new scholarship students prepare for their time in Japan.

The Monbusho programme, as it was originally known, started in 1954, but has only been open to New Zealanders since 1958. One researcher took part that year and studied at Tokyo University. Since then, more than 250 New Zealanders have participated as researchers, undergraduates or Japanese studies students at universities throughout Japan.

For more information about the scholarship programme run by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Mombukagakusho), please contact the Japan Information and Cultural Centre (Wellington), Consulate-General (Auckland) or Consular Office of Japan (Christchurch). (Contact details are on page 10.)

New Zealand Monbukagakusho Alumni Association: [www.monbusho.org.nz](http://www.monbusho.org.nz)

Embassy of Japan: [www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp/cultural/scholarships.html](http://www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp/cultural/scholarships.html)

Study in Japan: [www.studyjapan.go.jp/en/](http://www.studyjapan.go.jp/en/)

## Japanese Language Proficiency Tests 2006

The proficiency tests are 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.

Applicants can choose from four levels, with Level 1 being the most difficult. The test for each level has three sections: writing and vocabulary; listening; reading and grammar. Applications open in early August and close at the end of September. The examinations will be held on Sunday, 3 December 2006, in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

A series of classes (one evening per week) will be held at the Japan Information and Cultural Centre in Wellington to help students prepare for the examinations. The classes will probably start in September and continue through October and November.

For more information, please contact the Embassy in Wellington, Consulate-General in Auckland or Consular Office in Christchurch. (Contact details are on page 10.)

## Would You Like to Display Your Art or Craft at JICC?

The JICC library has twelve display cases. Artists whose art or craft has been influenced by the Japanese culture are welcome to approach the Centre about exhibiting their work. We also accept submissions from teachers who want to display their students' work. Displays are generally for one month and photos of a selection of pieces from each display are posted on our website. Anyone who would like to contribute a display should contact JICC, Tel. (04)472-7807, [japan.cul@eoj.org.nz](mailto:japan.cul@eoj.org.nz)

## School Visits in Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch

Groups of students from schools and colleges in the Wellington area are welcome to come to the Embassy's Information and Cultural Centre to learn more about Japan and its culture. Sessions can be tailored to meet the needs of the class, but usually cover the following: food; yukata and hapi coats, as well as school uniforms; toys; furoshiki (a wrapping cloth); and a festival, such as Children's Day. A video or DVD is sometimes shown. The sessions are for one hour or 1½ hours.

School visits were a special focus in March with presentations given at Scot's College, Rongatai College, Paekakariki Primary School, Samuel Marsden Bishop Viard College, Porirua; and



Year 9 students at Samuel Marsden College in Karori play with kami-fusen (paper balloons) on 23 March 2006.

Hutt Intermediate.

The Centre also has a collection of traditional items for loan and can provide teachers with

booklets, pamphlets, maps, posters and newspapers. Teachers may also borrow documentary videos and DVDs free of charge and a catalogue is available on the Embassy's website, [www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp/cultural/video\\_library.html](http://www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp/cultural/video_library.html). The Centre has evening screenings of a Japanese film each month. Special day-time showings of these films may be possible, on request.

The Consulate-General in Auckland and the Consular Office in Christchurch have similar school visits programme and lend out model food, clothing, videos, DVDs, etc for displays and for classroom use. (Contact details are on page 10.)

# Hibakusha Visit School in the Hutt Valley

Two hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors), Ms Sueko Motoyama and Ms Tadako Kawazoe, came to New Zealand in March 2006. The week-long visit was an initiative of International Pacific College student Ami Ito, who has strong beliefs on nuclear issues. Nagasaki student Ena Koda joined them here. She is a member of Koukousei Ichimannin Shomei Katudou, a group of high school students who have gathered 10,000 signatures for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The visitor's itinerary included a talk at the Raphael House Steiner School, Lower Hutt, on 24 March, a visit co-ordinated by the Embassy's Information and Cultural Centre. Japanese language teacher Ms Fiona Smythe wrote about their visit.



Ms. Motoyama speaking to students at Raphael House. (Photo courtesy of IPC)

Three Japanese women from Nagasaki, spanning three generations, spoke to a group of 50 students and teachers. Two of the women described their first-hand experiences of the atomic bombing of

Nagasaki on 9 August 1945 ....where they were at the time the bomb was dropped, what they saw and heard in the moments following, how the people around them were affected at the time and in the years to come. Through a translator, they conveyed the horror of their experiences

in a very personal, yet unsentimental way. It was inspiring to hear how these women have been able to turn a devastating act of war into a determination to work in the peace movement, so that others may be spared a similar horror.

The group of Year 12 and 13 students of Raphael House, who study atomic physics as part of their Year 12 high school curriculum, were moved to sign a petition for abolition of nuclear weapons that was offered by the Japanese visitors. The students were impressed by the generosity of spirit in these people – both in their philosophy to work pro-actively to encourage young people to support peace movements, and in their willingness to share their personal stories with us.

The Hibakusha gifted several beautiful books on Nagasaki's history to the high school, as well as a series of large photographic images which record the atrocities of the nuclear fallout in Nagasaki.

We were grateful for the opportunity to hear first-hand the remarkable stories of these survivors. We wish them well with their efforts in the peace movement, and appreciate the chance to join with them in their important work towards a nuclear-free world.

# Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-Bomb Exhibition in Palmerston North

(Contributed by Ms Jasmine Groves, Marketing Assistant, Te Manawa Museum, Gallery and Science Centre, Palmerston North.)

The Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-Bomb Exhibition was on display at Te Manawa from 11 February until 5 March 2006. A 'powhiri' was held on 11 February to open the exhibition and welcome visitors to Te Manawa. Te Manawa Trust Board Member Manaaki Tibble gave a welcoming speech and Ms Keiko Furuta, Director of the Japanese Embassy's Information and Cultural Centre, took part in the proceedings. More than 80 people attended the opening and guests were treated to entertainment by the dynamic International Pacific College (IPC) Japanese drum team.



Ms Keiko Furuta, (second from left), with other guests at the opening of the exhibition at Te Manawa Museum on Saturday, 11 February 2006. (Photo courtesy of Te Manawa Museum)

The Hiroshima Nagasaki A-Bomb exhibition was created to highlight the devastation caused by nuclear bombs in 1945. Hiroshima and Nagasaki experienced nuclear weapons for the first time in human history. The cities were devastated and thousands of lives were lost in an instant. The suffering inflicted by atomic radiation on those who survived continues until this day.

Throughout the 3-week exhibition, the public and schools

were invited to come, sit, contemplate and make peace cranes. It was a reminder to those who viewed it of a terrible event that is part of the world's history.

## Background

Christchurch became New Zealand's first Peace City in 2002. The exhibition was gifted to the city that year by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki for use in New Zealand and it was displayed in Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland. A roof tile from Hiroshima, which showed the effect of the A-Bomb blast, was gifted to then Mayor of Christchurch, Mrs Vicki Buck. It was one of various artifacts that toured with the exhibition.

The Christchurch City Council later approached Mr Mark Roach of Exhibition Services to organize a travelling exhibition. This was done with support from the Peace Foundation in Auckland and generous funding from the Peace and Disarmament Education Trust. During 2005 and early 2006, it was on display in Masterton, Dunedin, Auckland, Gisborne, Waiouru, Palmerston North, Whangarei and Whakatane. Please see page 10 for other venues in 2006.

Five artifacts were included in the exhibition until February 2006 (two each from Nagasaki and Hiroshima, together with the tile given to the Mayor of Christchurch). The Japanese Embassy in Wellington and Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo provided assistance related to the artifacts.



A visitor looks at diagrams of the bombs dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

## Hiroshima-Nagasaki continued

Ms Barbara August, International Relations Coordinator at Christchurch City Council said that, when not on tour, this high quality photographic exhibition is available to approved exhibitors. The council also has a smaller exhibition with laminated panels, which is available to schools or institutions

Christchurch City Council: Ms Barbara August, Tel. (03) 941-8251

Exhibition website:

<http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/peacesite/English/Stage3/S3-7E.html>

Nagasaki city website: [http://www1.city.nagasaki.nagasaki.jp/index\\_e.html](http://www1.city.nagasaki.nagasaki.jp/index_e.html)

Hiroshima city website: <http://www.city.hiroshima.jp/e/index-E.html>

# Auckland Events

Contributed by John Paton, Auckland Consulate-General

## Bon Odori

On Tuesday, 7 February 2006, there was a public celebration of the traditional Japanese Bon Festival, a summer festival honouring the souls of ancestors. Consul-General Okabe gave a speech at the opening of the festivities and the Deputy Mayor of Auckland, Mr Bruce Hucker, attended the event.

A group of performing artists from Japan played various thematic pieces relating to the festival. Bon odori folk dancing is held in many communities throughout Japan. Men and women, young and old, often wearing yukata (summer cotton kimonos), dance to the music in a circle around the yagura (stage). Each region has its own traditional style of bon odori.

A Maori dance group also participated in the Auckland performance.

This was the first of such festivals in Auckland and it is hoped it will become an annual event.

## Film Shows:

These are generously supported by the University of Auckland School of Asian Studies. The 2006 season started in February, with the Auckland showing of "Sumo Do, Sumo Don't". The March film, "Bloom in the Moonlight", was the University of Waikato's first of the year. Both were very successful.

## Rakugo

On 18 January at the Fairway Lodge in Takapuna, the public of Auckland were treated to an evening of Rakugo (traditional storytelling) by two famous Japanese performers, Zakobu Katsura and Jakujaku Katsura, and their pupils. There were about 150 people in the audience. They were filming



Top photo: Japanese performers in Auckland  
Bottom photo: The audience joins in the traditional bon odori (folk dance) in Auckland on 7 February 2006.

a programme which was being broadcast live in Japan and it included this performance.

# Fusion Japanese Festival at Settlers Museum in Petone

Ambassador Saito opened the Japanese festival at the Settlers Museum on Saturday, 25 February 2006. The opening ceremony, attended by Hutt

City Mayor Mr David Ogden, was followed by a wide variety of activities. Members of the Wellington Kyudo Club, Hutt Kendo Club, Wellington Judo Association, together with aikido, sumo and karate enthusiasts, demonstrated their skills in the Settlers Museum carpark.

Activities in the community room included a children's workshop on the taiko drum, songs by the Japanese women's group, Sangatsukai, a performance by the Himawari children's playgroup and a recital by Mrs Michiko Ammon (koto) and Mr Bryan James (shakuhachi).

There was a performance by the International Pacific College taiko drum team and a dance routine by students from Osaka studying at local secondary schools. Visitors could also see displays and

demonstrations of some of Japan's more gentle traditional arts: the tea ceremony, calligraphy, ikebana and bonsai.

A special feature of the festival was mochi-tsuki (rice-cake pounding). People took turns with wooden mallets to pound the cooked rice in a very big wooden bowl. The sticky rice was then made into small cakes and given to visitors. The mochi-tsuki set (mallets and bowl) were on loan from the Japanese community in Auckland. Although the custom of mochi-tsuki is particularly associated with New Year celebrations, it is often part of festive occasions throughout the year.

Stalls selling Japanese food, origami paper and a variety of products were set up in the atrium next to the Petone library.

This festival was part of Petone's Fusion Festival which ran from 28 January to 28 February 2006. The celebrations showcased the cultural heritage of some of the many nationalities in the Hutt Valley and Wellington region, including the Polish, Italian and Scottish communities. It was the second year this month-long, multi-cultural festival has been held at the Settlers Museum and, based on its success, the Hutt City Council plans to make it an annual event.

Hutt City Council: Tel.570-6666, [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)

Petone Settlers Museum: Tel.568-8373, [www.petonesettlers.org.nz](http://www.petonesettlers.org.nz)



# Exhibition at Te Papa: Splendours of Japan – Treasures from the Tokyo National Museum

The official opening of **Splendours of Japan** on Friday, 3 March 2006, was attended by politicians, diplomats, people from the business community and those directly associated with Japan and the arts. Hon. Mahara Okeroa, Associate Minister for the Arts, opened the exhibition and Ambassador Masaki Saito was one of the speakers at the reception.

The 131 items from the Tokyo National Museum were on display at Te Papa from Saturday, 4 March 2006, until Sunday, 14 May 2006, and they included four National Treasures and seven Important Cultural Properties. The exhibits were divided into five sections:

(1) **The Dawn of Japanese Culture (artifacts from about 3000BC to 600AD):** The artifacts show the beginnings of a distinctly Japanese culture as people moved from living in hunter-gatherer communities to settlements with a closely-linked society and common culture. This section had examples of chipped axes, fish hooks and spears, bracelets and beads, and ceramic pots and figures from the Jomon period (10,000-300BC). There were ceramic jars and bronze-work from the Yayoi period (300BC-300AD) and bronze mirrors, jade beads, ceramic haniwa, as well as iron armour and swords from the Kofun period (300-710AD).



(2) **Buddhism and Japanese Life (artifacts from about 600 to 1600AD):** Originating in India around the fifth century BC, Buddhism spread through China and finally reached Japan via Korea in the mid-sixth century. Bronze figures, scrolls and ritual implements made up this section. The artifacts were from the Asuka, Nara, Heian, Kamakura, Nanbokucho and Muromachi periods.

(3) **Warrior Rule (artifacts from late 1100s to the late 1800s):** The samurai class ruled in Japan from the beginning of the Kamakura period (1185-1333), until the end of the Edo period (1600-1868). Artifacts in this section were saddles and stirrups, laced armour, helmets and swords. A National Treasure, a tachi (slung sword) from the Kamakura period, was part of the display.

(4) **The Pursuit of Refinement (artifacts from the 1100s to the late 1800s):** This section focused on the development of the arts within the aristocracy from the late Heian period (794-1185) until the end of the Edo period. Tea ceremony bowls and equipment, painted and calligraphy scrolls, including the National Treasure, *Man'yo Shu* (a 12th century poetry anthology), Noh masks and embroidered silk Noh costumes were displayed.

(5) **The Shogun's Peace (artifacts from the Edo period, 1603-1868):** Ieyasu Tokugawa was made shogun in 1603 and established his capital at Edo (Tokyo). He set up a rigid class system and bureaucratic structures that brought peace and prosperity to Japan for more than 250 years. From 1635, the Tokugawa regime also restricted all foreign shipping to Nagasaki. Arts and crafts flourished and developed their own character in this isolated society. Hairpins and combs, painted scrolls, woodblock prints (including work by Hiroshige Utagawa and Sharaku Toshusai), lacquerware, embroidered kimonos, a finely-worked, iron dragon (the symbol of the exhibition) and even



Ambassador Saito, Mrs Saito (second from left) and Japanese guests) at the opening reception at Te Papa on 3 March 2006.

medical handbooks and a bronze acupuncture model of the human body were included in this section.

Nine demonstrations and lectures were organized at Te Papa in conjunction with the exhibition, focusing on arts, crafts, religions and toys of Japan. The series began with **The Way of the Warrior** (martial arts) on Saturday/Sunday, 4/5 March, and ended with **Melodic Meditations – Traditional Japanese Music** (koto and shakuhachi) on Thursday, 20 April.

**Splendours of Japan** was originally scheduled to end on Sunday, 30 April, but was extended for a further two weeks. The target audience was 12,570 visitors, but more than 16,500 people saw the exhibition. Ms Pamela Lovis, senior advisor for product development at Te Papa, was impressed with the exceptional quality of the collection. She said staff closely involved with the exhibition found working with and learning from conservators and staff from the Tokyo National Museum a wonderful cross-cultural experience.

Bennington, Te Papa's chief executive explained that **Splendours of Japan** was the first part of a significant cultural exchange project between Te Papa and the Tokyo National Museum.

The idea for an exchange of exhibitions was first proposed by Mrs Atsuko Toyama when she visited New Zealand early in 2001. She was at that time Director-General of the National Museum of Western Art in Tokyo and shortly after appointed Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. The idea gained impetus when Prime Minister Helen Clark visited Japan in March 2001 and expressed her aim to develop bilateral relations between our two countries. The result was the exhibition at Te Papa, which will be followed by an exhibition of over 130 pieces of Maori taonga (ancestral treasures) at the Tokyo National Museum from Tuesday, 23 January 2007 to Sunday, 18 March 2007.

Te Papa Museum of New Zealand: Tel. (04) 381-7000, [www.tepapa.govt.nz](http://www.tepapa.govt.nz)

Tokyo National Museum: <http://www.tnm.jp/en>

Left photo: Haramaki-style armour with multicoloured lacing, Muromachi period, 1400-1500 AD, Important Cultural Property. Courtesy of Tokyo National Museum © 2005

Bottom right photo: Statue of Dainichi Nyorai (Mahavairocana), Heian period, 1000-1200 AD, Important Cultural Property. Courtesy of Tokyo National Museum © 2005.



## New Zealand Haiku #2

To provide insight into the haiku art form, Dr Cyril Childs, a past president of the NZ Poetry Society, has kindly selected three examples of haiku written by New Zealanders, together with comments on each haiku and poet. This is the second in the series.

after the sound and light show  
... cicadas and stars  
Ernest Berry

Easy, isn't it, to seek organised entertainment, when often there are things of even greater wonder, and marvel around us in the natural world. Things that we tend to take for granted. In this simple yet telling haiku we may only have to open our ears and eyes on a fine summer evening in our own home gardens. Most English-language haiku are written in three lines. The poet has chosen to present this one in two.

Ernest Berry, a prolific writer of excellent haiku over many years, has been widely published in international haiku literature. He lives in Picton. This haiku was published in *The Second New Zealand Haiku Anthology* (NZ Poetry Society 1993).

Dr Childs: child@sxtra.co.nz

More information on haiku: <http://web-japan.org/museum/others.html>

## Library Books at JICC

**Japan and New Zealand: 150 Years** – Japanese and New Zealand contributors, plus archive photos. Published in 1999. This historical survey of the relationship between the two countries was a Peace, Friendship and Exchange Programme project. Former Prime Minister of Japan Tomiichi Murayama initiated the Programme in 1994 by to improve understanding between Japan and its neighbours.

**Oku no Hosomichi/The Narrow Road to Oku**, a travel diary written in 1689 by haiku poet, Basho. Translated by Donald Keene and illustrated by Miyata Masayuki. (Japanese with English translation)

**The second New Zealand Haiku Anthology**, edited by Cyril Childs.

**The Mother of Dreams and Other Short Stories: Portrayals of Women in Modern Japanese Fiction**, edited by Makoto Ueda. It includes three pieces by Nobel laureate Kawabata Yasunari.

**The Nighthawk Star**, one of a series of children's stories by Kenji Miyaza. Translated by Karen Colligan-Taylor and illustrated by Masao Ido.

The **Monthly Origami Magazine** of the Nippon Origami Association. The January 2006 issue (No.365) has a section on dogs with diagrams showing how to make a Yorkshire terrier and Chihuahua, among others!

**Squeamish about Sushi** by Betty Reynolds. Coloured sketches and simple text help visitors to Japan cope with chopsticks, noodles, sushi, etc. Also describes the contents of dishes, what to expect for breakfast, festival food, staying and eating at a ryokan, and so on.

**Japanese language:** the library has a selection of text books, some with tapes or CDs.

## Hina Matsuri Display at JICC



Miss Keiko Aoki, attaché at the Embassy in Wellington, stands by the Hina Matsuri display at the Information and Cultural Centre on 23 March 2006. The centre's director, Ms Keiko Furuta, hosted a reception on 27 February and another on 23 March to show these beautiful dolls to guests and to celebrate the festival.

### Background

Hina Matsuri (Doll Festival or Girls' Festival) is celebrated on 3 March and families with young daughters mark the day by setting up a display of dolls inside the house. They pray for the health and happiness of the girls and offer rice crackers and other food to the dolls.

The dolls wear costumes of the imperial court during the Heian period (794-1192) and are placed on a tiered platform covered with red felt. The size of the dolls and number of steps vary, but usually the displays are of five or seven layers. Single-tiered decorations with one male and one female doll are also common.

The top tier is for the emperor and the empress. A miniature gilded folding screen is placed behind them, just like the real Imperial throne of the ancient court.

On the second tier are three ladies-in-waiting, and on the third are five male court musicians. Ministers sit on either side of trays of food on the fourth step, and the fifth row features guards flanked by an orange tree to the left and a cherry tree to the right.

The practice of displaying these dolls on the third day of the third month on the traditional Japanese calendar began during the Edo period (1603-1868). It started as a way of warding off evil spirits, with the dolls acting as a charm. Even today, people in some parts of the country release paper dolls into rivers after the festival, praying that the dolls take a person's place and carry away sickness and bad fortune.

Most families set up the doll display in mid-February and put it away again as soon as Hina Matsuri is over. This is because of an old superstition that families that are slow in putting the dolls away will have trouble marrying off their daughters.

Japanese Festivals: <http://web-japan.org/kidsweb/calendar/calendar.html>

# Japan Wins Women's Hockey Test Series



Black Sticks Charlotte Harrison and Rika Komazawa compete for the ball during the test series in February 2006. (Photo courtesy of Hockey New Zealand)

Japan won a five-test series against the Black Sticks 3-2; 4-1, 1-0, 1-1, 1-0. Misaki Ozawa (3), Kaori Chiba (2) and Tomoni Komori (2) were the main goal scorers for the Japanese side.

The series began on Thursday 16 February, and finished on Thursday, 23 February 2006. The matches were played at Porritt Park in Christchurch, except for the 4th game which was played at Derlen Bakery Park in Ashburton.

The test match series was part of New Zealand's preparation for the XVIII Commonwealth Games held in Melbourne from 15 to 26 March 2006. Black Sticks coach Ian Rutledge said Japan was picked for this series because it would give New Zealand hard games. At the time, the Black Sticks were 6th in the women's world hockey team rankings and Japan 8th.

Hockey New Zealand: Tel. (09) 629-2932, Email. support@hockey.co.nz, website: www.hockeynz.co.nz

## Current Events

Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-Bomb Exhibition –  
"To make our future a peaceful one"

When and Where:

Lake Taupo District Museum, 8 June – 5 July 2006

Uxbridge Gallery, Howick, 10 July – 30 July 2006

Puke Ariki, New Plymouth, 5 August – 24 September 2006

Related web site:

[www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/peacesite/English/Stage3/S3-7E.html](http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/peacesite/English/Stage3/S3-7E.html)

**A Spring Breeze from Japan** – exploring the Japanese aesthetic ideal, Mono-no-aware:

- Graphic art exhibition, 8-24 August 2006
- Kimono demonstration and display, 25/26/27 August 2006
- Ceramics display – the work of Bruce and Estelle Martin, 31 August – 22 September 2006
- Ikebana – annual exhibition of Ikebana International, 3-6 October 2006
- Noh mask graphics exhibition, 16 October – 3 November 2006

(Details to be confirmed. Venue: most events will be at the Embassy's Information and Cultural Centre)

# Art of Radio Japan: Children's Art Competition

(From left) Heidi Ellis (aged 5) and Max Ellis (aged 3) with JICC Director Ms Keiko Furuta, Mrs Molly Ellis and Dr Jo Del Monaco, Board Member of the Radio Heritage Foundation.

A children's art competition was held in conjunction with the Art of Radio Japan exhibition at the Japan Information and Cultural Centre, 30 November 2005 - 28 February 2006. Children were invited to create their own 'radio art', inspired by the colourful artwork on the postcards in the exhibition and by the role radio plays in their lives. Ms Furuta presented Heidi with a certificate and prize for the best entry in the competition and her little brother, Max, also received a prize for his efforts. Heidi's

entry was based on a postcard the Ellis family received from Japan.

Mr David Ricquish, Chairman of the Radio Heritage Foundation, said the foundation plans to have an 'on-line only' version of the art competition which would be open to schoolchildren throughout New Zealand.

Radio Heritage Foundation:  
[www.radioheritage.net](http://www.radioheritage.net)



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