

Prime Minister of Japan, Mr Yasuo Fukuda

Prime Minister Fukuda became Japan's 91st Prime Minister in September 2007. Born in Gunma Prefecture in July 1936, he was the eldest son of the late Takeo Fukuda, who was also prime minister from 1976 to 1978. After graduating from the School of Political Science and Economics at Waseda University in Tokyo, he worked in the oil industry but later turned to politics. He served as Chief Secretary in his father's office in 1977-78 and then, in 1990, was elected a member of the House of Representatives representing the Gunma 4th District constituency.

Since then, he has been re-elected five times and positions he has held include Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs (1995/96), Deputy Secretary-General of the LDP (1997-2000), and Chief Cabinet Secretary for both Prime Minister Mori and Prime Minister Koizumi. He visited Wellington in June 2006 as Chairman of the Asian Forum of



Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Parliamentarians on Population and Development.

Mr Fukuda leads a coalition government of the Liberal Democratic Party and New Komeito Party. In his first policy speech to the Diet on 1 October he stressed his commitment to the tasks before him "putting first and foremost Japan's future development and the stability of people's lives..." Structural reforms, environmental issues, anti-terrorism measures and the Japan-US alliance were covered, as well as the development of relationships with China, Korea, ASEAN and other countries. For the full text of his speech, please see the Prime Minister's website.

Prime Minister and Cabinet:
www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/index-e.html

House of Councillors:
www.sangiin.go.jp/eng/index.htm

House of Representatives:
www.shugiin.go.jp/index.nsf/html/index_e.htm

Japan's On-going Assistance to Samoa

Samoa children benefited from the Japanese Government Grassroots Human Security Grant Aid Programme with the reconstruction of two primary schools in August. These projects, which focus on improving education facilities, are in line with the Government of Samoa's Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2005-2007.

- (1) **Laulii Primary School:** The Government of Japan held the official handing-over ceremony for the grant of up to A\$118,347 (about 236,000 Tala) for "The Reconstruction of the Laulii Primary School" on 13 August 2007. The project, which was proposed by the Laulii Primary School Committee in 2005, consisted of construction of a new school building with six new classrooms, a 5,000 gallon water tank to ensure a consistent supply of water to the school, plus a lavatory block.
- (2) **Pata Primary School** received similar facilities and the official handing-over ceremony for the grant of up to A\$118,839 (about 237,000 Tala) for "The Project for the Reconstruction of the Pata Primary School" was also held on 13 August 2007. "The completion of this Project will provide a better environment for students and will lead to the increase of the school's enrolment," Ambassador Takahashi said at the ceremony.



Ambassador Takahashi speaking at the official handing-over ceremony at Laulii Primary School.



Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi at the handing-over ceremony of Pata Primary School on 13 August 2007.

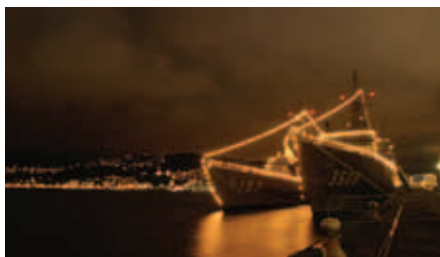


Pata Primary School children celebrate getting their new classroom.

Visit to New Zealand by Training Squadron

A Training Squadron from the Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) made a goodwill visit to Wellington from 29 July to 1 August 2007 as part of a five month training cruise in the Pacific region. The three naval vessels, JDS Kashima, JDS Shimayuki and JDS Sawagiri, had about 800 crew on board.

Rear Admiral Yasushi Matsushita, Commander of the Training Squadron, hosted



JDS Kashima and JDS Sawagiri, the two training squadron ships at Queens Wharf, were illuminated on 29 and 30 July.

a reception on board JDS Kashima on Monday, 30 July, which was attended by government officials, members of the business community and people with cultural links to Japan. The following day, he paid a courtesy call on the Chief of the New Zealand Defence Force, Lieutenant General Jeremiah



(From right) Deputy Wellington Mayor Alex Shaw, Ambassador Takahashi, South Wairarapa Mayor Adrienne Staples, Chief of NZ Navy Rear Admiral David Ledson and Rear Admiral Yasushi Matsushita took part in the traditional kagami biraki ceremony 30 July 2007. The sake was served to guests.

Mateparae, ONZM, and laid a wreath at the National War Memorial.

On Tuesday, 31 July, Captain Shuui Ochi of JDS Kashima and a group of 50 cadets visited Featherston to lay a wreath at the Garden of Remembrance. The garden marks the site of a World War I training camp for New Zealand soldiers that became a prisoner-of-war camp in World War II.

While in Wellington, crew members took part

in a sports exchange programme with the New Zealand Defence Force at Queen's Wharf and visited local attractions such as Old St Paul's cathedral and Te Papa.

About 1,300 Wellingtonians took advantage of the Open Day on 31 July to visit JDS Kashima and JDS Sawagiri at Queen's Wharf. The Training Squadron taiko drum team and band entertained visitors during the early afternoon.

The squadron left Wellington on 1 August 2007 and sailed to Sydney and Darwin. They visited Malaysia and Korea before returning to Japan on 21 September. A JMSDF Training Squadron last came to New Zealand in June 2003 when it visited Wellington and Auckland.



Captain Shuui Ochi (centre) laying a wreath at the Featherston Garden of Remembrance.

Science and Technology Cooperation

A celebration in honor of the launch of a Bilateral Programme associated with science and technology between the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology of New Zealand (MoRST) and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) was held at the MoRST office in Wellington on 23 August.

The programmes under the MoRST-JSPS scheme, which include exchanges of researchers and post-doctoral fellows, joint workshops and joint research projects, were launched in April 2007.

This celebration brought together participating researchers visiting from Japan, New Zealand researchers who will shortly go to Japan and affiliates from various research institutes. MoRST Chief Executive Dr Helen Anderson and Ambassador Takahashi both spoke at the event and researchers from both countries enjoyed talking to each other about their work in the friendly atmosphere.

Japan and New Zealand have undertaken collaborative research activities in various areas,



Ambassador Takahashi, standing next to Dr Helen Anderson, gives a speech at the function on 23 August

such as the Mount John Observatory. Japanese and New Zealand researchers have also jointly undertaken a search for deep-sea hydrothermal ecosystems in the South-West Pacific using a Japanese submersible research vessel.

Both the governments of New Zealand and Japan are considering further ways to strengthen the present bilateral economic relationship. It is considered that science and technology is one of the most important areas to promote closer cooperation.

It is also expected that New Zealand and Japan will continue to work together on global issues

such as climate change and natural disasters, especially earthquakes, which are a common challenge for the two countries. It is expected that both countries will strengthen cooperation and work together to deploy and develop new technology to help address these global challenges.

It is also expected that this MoRST-JSPS bilateral programme will be a catalyst to promote further cooperation in science and technology between New Zealand and Japan.

NZ-JSPS Bilateral Cooperation Programme:
www.morst.govt.nz/international/funding-opportunities/jsp/



Japanese and New Zealand guests enjoy a chat at the celebration on 23 August at the Ministry's office in Wellington.



Kanazawa

By Helen Kono

Kanazawa is located in Western Honshu on the Sea of Japan Coast, and is the capital city of Ishikawa Prefecture. The city is extremely rich in culture and tradition, so much so that it is often referred to as a little Kyoto.



The samurai district

Hidden a few streets back from Kanazawa's central shopping district, Korinbo, is the Nagamachi samurai district, a remnant of feudal times. With its winding cobble streets lined by gold-coloured earthen walls, it is easy to visualize samurai once living here.

Saihitsu-an is one of the few traditional samurai houses still remaining and it is now used as a workshop by artists of Kaga Yuzen, a traditional Japanese dyeing technique introduced to Kanazawa by the famed silk-dyer Yuzensai Miyazaki during the Edo Period. In this traditional technique, designs are hand-painted onto fabric, typically silk, then used to make kimono and obi. Kaga Yuzen can be recognised by the use of five basic colours (indigo, crimson, chrome yellow, dark green and royal purple), its intricate patterns depicting natural beauty, as well as the fine white lines that remain after the special starch paste, used to prevent colours from running together, is washed away. At Saihitsu-an, visitors can watch Kaga Yuzen artists at work, see many pieces on display, try on a kimono, and for those that would like a hands on experience, try dyeing a handkerchief using this dyeing process.

Three geisha districts still remain in Kanazawa, Higashi-Chayagai (Eastern Teahouse Town), Nishi-Chayagai (Western Teahouse Town) and Kazuemachi (Kazue Town). Much of the traditional architecture still remains mixed in with Japanese-style restaurants, cafes and small shops along the beautifully stoned streets. Of the three districts, Higashi-Chiyagai is the largest, the most well known and the most beautiful.

Kanazawa is also home to Kenrokuen, one of

the three great gardens in Japan, along with Kairakuen in Mito, and Korakuen in Okayama. Kenrokuen was originally built as the outer garden of Kanazawa castle and was opened to the public in 1875.

The changing of the seasons are evident in this beautiful garden; the breathtaking pinks of the blossom trees in spring, the vibrant purples of the irises set against the green grass fringing the streams in summer, the sensational deep reds, yellows and oranges of maples in autumn and the yukitusuri, ropes attached in a conical array, from the top of the trees down to the lower branches, to help support the branches from Kanazawa's heavy snows in winter.



Nishi-Chayagai (Western Teahouse Town)

Although Kanazawa has many temples, one that stands out for its uniqueness is Myoryuji Temple, or **ninja dera** (ninja temple), as it is more commonly known. Although this temple has



Cherry blossoms at Kenrokuen

nothing to do with **ninja**, it received this name from its intricate design. The temple is built around a central well, has seven levels, 29 stairways, 23 rooms, as well as many hidden chambers, traps and trick doors. The well is rumoured to lead to a secret tunnel that runs under Kanazawa's Sai River, to the castle, but to this date, the passage has not yet been found.

Whether you wish to taste wonderful Japanese food, visit beautiful gardens, temples, traditional districts or experience Japanese culture, Kanazawa has something for everyone.



Autumn leaves at Kenrokuen, one of Japan's great gardens.

Upper Hutt Student visits Japan

Max Telfer, a Year 12 student at Upper Hutt School, took part in the Japan Foundation's "Japanese-Language Program for High School Students 2007" from 3-18 July. He writes about his experience below.

Myself and 29 other students (from all over the world) were primarily based at the Japanese Language Institute in Osaka. As soon as I entered, I felt completely overwhelmed with the amount of Japanese being spoken to me, but it quickly turned from a worry into a bit of a challenge, and a good one at that. About half way through the trip I remember talking about New Zealand to an Indonesian student (who didn't speak any English at all) and, after speaking a reasonably complex sentence, realized I hadn't thought about it in English before I spoke. Breakthrough!

Going to Japan and being able to actually

talk to Japanese people made me realize why I'm studying the language - just being able to get by in everyday life in Japan and doing things such as buying something from a shop, getting a train ticket, or even ordering food at the cafeteria were quite challenging at first, but you

really feel a sense of accomplishment when you manage to have a full conversation with someone. Also, if you try to speak the language, Japanese people are really encouraging and helpful, which makes you want to try even harder.

It really was completely different to anything I'd ever seen before as I'd never been out of the North Island until then. It definitely made me want to return to Japan and be part of it again as soon as possible. I'd like to say a huge arigatou to the Japan Foundation, the Japanese Embassy and to all of the people who helped me. I really am incredibly grateful!



Max (second from left) with friends Joel, Jake and Matt having a traditional Japanese dinner in yukata and tourist hats

Focus on Japan – a young NZ photographer in Japan

by Rosemary McLennan



Young photographer Daniel Clelland.

The only New Zealander to take part in the recent Japan Forum's "Focus on Japan" photography assignment was Year 13 Upper Hutt College student Daniel Clelland. He has been studying Japanese since the third form and heard about the project through his Japanese teacher, Jo Hawes. He had to choose six pictures about himself and caption them in Japanese.

Daniel's trip was fully funded by the Japan Forum. He flew to Tokyo where he met the other participants, who were from Australia, England, the US, China and Korea. They had to complete a week-long photography essay in collaboration with Japanese high school students. The students were divided into groups of four and based in Tokyo, Miyagi, Hiroshima and Osaka. Daniel's group went to Hiroshima and was there for the August 6 anniversary of the 1945 atomic bombing of the city. They visited the peace park and were able to photograph and interview hibakusha (survivors of Hiroshima). At the museum, they also learned about the effects of the bomb, especially the leukaemia many people later developed. "I wasn't pro war beforehand, but it certainly confirmed that."

Daniel travelled inland to Shobara, where he home-stayed in a traditional rural home for one night, and then went to Onomichi, a

traditional town on the coast. On returning to Tokyo, he gave a presentation to the Japan Forum group.

Daniel described the trip to Japan as a "wonderful experience" and it has whetted his appetite to return. He came home with 1,200 photos and plans to use them for his NCEA photography assignment and also hopes to exhibit some of them.



Two boys pay their respects. The Peace Memorial Dome is in the background.



Focus on Japan participants interview hibakusha in the Hiroshima peace park.

Wellington and Sakai: Cherry blossoms and Rugby

By Mr Marcel Austin-Martin, Project Co-ordinator, International Relations, Wellington City Council.

An enduring symbol of Wellington and Sakai's sister city relationship was inaugurated on Saturday, 4 August 2007, at Katherine Mansfield Park in Thorndon. Members of the Sakai Wellington Association generously donated a beautiful garden of 28 Japanese cherry trees to Wellington to honour and celebrate our two cities' friendship. The project was supported by the Wellington Sakai Association.

The garden was officially opened by Mayor Kerry Prendergast on Saturday, 4 August, in front of more than 100 people. Ambassador Takahashi also attended the event. Among the crowd was Mr Seiji Tsuruno, a representative of the office of Sakai Mayor Keisuke Kihara, as well as four members of the Sakai Wellington



From left) Mr Seiji Tsuruno, Assistant to Mayor Keisuke Kihara of Sakai, Ambassador Takahashi and Mayor Prendergast plant one of the 28 cherry trees at Katherine Mansfield Park on 4 August 2007.

Association who had travelled from Sakai to witness the opening of the garden. Twenty-eight Sakai students, who were in Wellington on a student exchange, also attended the opening with their host families.

The inspiration for the gift came from Mr Yoshikazu Nakao, President of the Sakai

Wellington Association. Mr Nakao visited Wellington in November 2006 to find a suitable location for the project. Katherine Mansfield Park was the unanimous choice and its tranquil setting is most befitting of a Japanese garden.

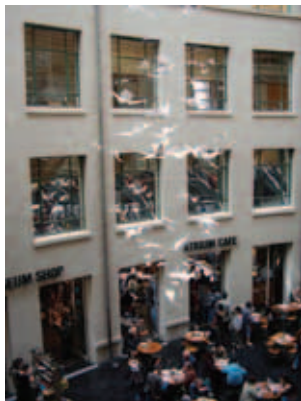
It is intended that the garden will become a venue for future Japanese activities in Wellington and will encourage more Japanese tourism and community events.

The visit also allowed the opportunity for Mr Tsuruno to donate a rare photo of a Japanese rugby team that toured New Zealand in 1936. The donation was made to the New Zealand Rugby Football Union and will now be a very special record of some of the past exchanges between Japan and New Zealand.

Re-printed courtesy of the Wellington-Sakai Association. Mrs Hiromi Morris, President, Wellington Sakai Association, Email: morriswn@ihug.co.nz

Taste of Japan 2007, 8/9 September 2007

By Stephen Duxfield, President, NZ Japan Society of Auckland Inc.



One of two origami chandeliers at the Auckland War Memorial Museum.

The New Zealand Japan Society chose PAPER as the main theme for Taste of Japan 2007. Many fine arts of Japan, which use paper as their medium, were explored with the help of artisans such as local origami master Jonathan Baxter and visiting guest shodo master Mr Kohara. There was entertainment and teaching by Kimono Koryu Kyokai and other invited Japanese cultural exponents, including for the first time Kazenokai, shakuhachi players from Fukuoka. Seven local schools also participated in a shodo and essay competition.

The atmosphere varied from floor to floor and room to room. At the ground floor entrance the public was awestruck as they noticed two huge origami chandeliers and were then entertained by the local Haere Mai drummers and dancers and the haunting sound of the Japanese flute; the first floor became a 'buzz' of excitement as two rooms filled with eager learners attending workshops to practise arts, and children attentively watched kamishibai (picture card show). Adjoining this was the more sedate feel of the (adult attended) tea ceremony. The



Visitors try their hand at the shodo, chigirie and origami workshops.



This oiran kimono (centre) was part of the kimono show.

second and top floor auditorium was used for a concert, kimono dressing demonstrations, opening and prize giving ceremonies, while the surrounding hall was lit with Japanese lanterns to display the school shodo and essay entries.

'Taste of Japan' was scheduled to coincide with International Language

Week to give teachers and students the chance to participate in a Japanese language related competition. Congratulations to the following students:

1st prize winner Sarah Lee from Macleans College, 2nd, Jennifer Liu from Kristin School and 3rd, Rose Peng from Mt. Roskill Grammar. The first prize-winner gained a trip to Japan with a homestay arrangement with Kohara Sensei and members of the New Zealand Society of Japan in Chiba.

Taste of Japan is organised annually by the New Zealand Japan Society of Auckland Inc, with support from the Consulate General of Japan, and was hosted this year by the Auckland War Memorial Museum.



The Japanese choir Sakuranokai and shakuhachi players from Fukuoka.

New JETs leave for Japan



H.E. Mr Toshihiro Takahashi (centre, front row) with new Wellington region JETs. The Ambassador hosted a farewell reception for them at his Residence on Friday, 27 July 2007.



The Auckland JETs pose for a photo after their pre-departure orientation at the Kingsgate Parnell Hotel on Saturday, 4 August 2007. Acting Consul-General Mr Takeshi Sugiyama hosted a farewell reception at the hotel that evening.



Consul Tomoo Hirakawa (centre front) hosted a farewell reception for Christchurch JETs at the Holiday Inn on Avon on Saturday, 4 August. He joined them as they sang Pokarekare ana.

Nearly 100 young New Zealanders joined the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme in 2007: 38 from Christchurch, 34 from Wellington and 26 from Auckland. Most are Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) and will spend at least 1 year at schools in cities, towns and villages throughout Japan. Five are Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs), a position that requires fluent Japanese, and they are based in local government offices. They left New Zealand in late July and early August 2007.

For those interested in participating in the 2008 JET Programme, applications close on Friday, 7 December 2007. Please contact our offices in Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch for more information and application forms. [Applications can also be downloaded from the Embassy website at www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp/culture_education/JET.html](http://www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp/culture_education/JET.html)

Japanese artists enthrall audiences

The Music Fair of Japan 2007 followed on from the very successful Music Fair in 2005 and celebrated the 55th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and New Zealand. Ambassador Takahashi said, "Our aim was to enhance the bonds between the two countries through the classical and contemporary music performed by these outstanding Japanese artists".



Pianist Yuko Mifune, violinist Mie Kobayashi and soprano Satsuki Adachi performed on 15 August at the Concert Chamber of the Auckland Town Hall, on 17, 18 and 20 August at the Ilott Theatre, Wellington Town Hall, and on 21 August at the Regent on Broadway in Palmerston North.

The three talented artists performed at all the concerts and entranced their audiences with their technical and interpretative skills. More than 900 people attended the concerts in Wellington alone and many expressed their thanks and spoke in glowing terms of the musicians and their enjoyment of the concerts. Mr Hidehiko Hamada, Minister at the Embassy and a key player in initiating the concerts, said the concerts were a great success.

The Organising Committee of the Music Fair and the Embassy of Japan arranged the concerts and the Music Fair was supported by the local Japanese business community, local institutions and their New Zealand counterparts.

For more information about the artists please see www.japanarts.co.jp/index_e.htm

Japanese exhibition in Wellington, 14-21 July 2007

By Paula Kerslake, JETAA member, exhibition coordinator and artist.

The 'To Japan with Love' art exhibition at the Thistle Hall Gallery successfully brought Japanese interest groups and the local community together to promote cultural exchange and celebrate the practice of Japanese art in Wellington.

JETAA invited new, emerging and established artists to display their work. Fifteen artists displayed 47 artworks that included Japanese modern art, calligraphy, photography, ikebana, painting and sculpture.

Ms Paula Kerslake, Mr Peter Coates, from the Wellington Art Group and Wellington Sakai Association, and Ms Keiko Furuta, Director of the Embassy's Information and Cultural Centre, spoke at the opening on 14 July.

The exhibition included an Artist Demonstration Day (21 July) organized by the Wellington Sakai Association. It included koto and shakuhachi, bonsai, origami, calligraphy and ikebana, and 90 people came along to enjoy the demonstrations. It was a chance for Wellingtonians to see how Japanese art is created and was also an opportunity to inspire people to visit Japan. Over 400 people visited the gallery during the exhibition.

Special thanks to the following groups for their support: JETAA, JICC, Wellington Sakai Association, Hutt Minoh House Friendship Trust, Ikebana International, Wellington Bonsai Club, WAG, Thistle Hall, Capital Times, Dominion Post.

JET Alumni Association Wellington:
www.jetaawgtn.org.nz



Calligraphy was one of the events on Artist Demonstration Day during JET AA's 'To Japan with Love' exhibition.

SPRING BREEZE FROM JAPAN 2007



This year's 2007 **Spring Breeze from Japan** at the Embassy's Information and Cultural Centre also celebrated the 55th anniversary of full diplomatic relations between Japan and New Zealand and the events ran from August to November 2007.

Peace Art Poster Exhibition (7 – 24 August)

The Peace Art Poster Exhibition was the first in the series and was opened by Ambassador Toshihiro Takahashi at a reception on Monday, 6 August, Hiroshima Day. Although the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki happened 62 years ago, nuclear weaponry is still an issue. Nearly 30 posters with peace or anti-nuclear themes, created by 22

artists from the Japan Graphic Designers Association, were displayed in the exhibition.



Artwork by Ushii

was his fate to make the DVD, which was shown at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 11 April 2007.

Ground Zero gives insight into how and where people lived in the city before the A-bomb, as well as covering the explosion itself and its aftermath. An elderly

A documentary DVD called **Ground Zero – Documents of Hiroshima** (Knack Image Production Center) ran in conjunction with the exhibition. Director/producer Mr Masaaki Tanabe lived next door to the hypocenter of the atomic explosion in

Hiroshima in 1945 and felt it



Image courtesy of Knack Image Production Center

visitor, a former prisoner-of-war at a camp near Hiroshima, saw the DVD here in Wellington. He was moved to tears and said he was very glad to have seen it.

The DVD screened on 6, 9 and 14 August at the Embassy and on 8



Ambassador Takahashi, Mr Gerald O'Brien, President of Honour of the Peace Council of Aotearoa, and H.E. Archbishop Charles D. Balvo, Apostolic Nuncio.

August at Victoria University (organized by student group JINZA).

Japan Graphic Designers Association:
www.jagda.org/en/index.html

Knack Image Production Center:
www4.ocn.ne.jp/~knack/a-bomb.htm

Dyeing Techniques and Kimonos

Our second exhibition, **Japanese Dyeing: Traditional Techniques**, ran from 6-28 September and showcased the work of dyeing artist Hisako Tokitomo.

Ms Tokitomo, who lives in Okayama, learnt dyeing techniques at the Tokyo Dyeing Art School. Since 1975, she has displayed her work in such diverse places as Norway, Croatia and Thailand. She also had fond memories from visiting New Zealand as a tourist 25 years ago and had hoped to exhibit here one day.

Kimonos, obi sashes, decorative pieces and noren (entrance hangings) made up her Wellington exhibition and were created using yuzen, katazome and other traditional Japanese dyeing techniques. The seven kimonos, with their subtle colours and beautiful patterns, attracted particularly admiring comments from visitors from Wellington, the Kapiti Coast and even Auckland. The old and fragile Ise-katagami stencils in the display cabinets, part of Ms Tokitomo's collection, were also a favourite with visitors.

Besides the exhibition, Ms Tokitomo, with the help of her four Japanese assistants, gave three workshops in Wellington and one in Christchurch.

Yuzen dyeing is one of her specialties. It is a sophisticated, paste-resist technique developed in the early 1700s by Kyoto fan-maker Miyazaki Yuzen. The most distinctive feature of yuzen dyeing is itome-nori. A starch is put into a finely-tapered tube and squeezed in fine, thread-like lines (itome-nori) on the outline of the design on the cloth. The itome-nori stop colours overlapping and appear as thin white lines at the end of the dyeing process. The technique overcame design limitations of shishu (embroidery) and shibori (tie-dyeing) and allowed Edo-period artists to create intricate pictorial designs.

Mrs Tokitomo summed up her approach: "Taking the images one has in one's mind and expressing them on cloth is exhausting work which requires perseverance and physical stamina, but as each step is completed, the cloth gradually takes on its own individuality and asserts itself. This is the point when one forgets the hard work and feels the sheer joy of creation."

Books on dyeing techniques are available from the library at the Embassy's Information and Cultural Centre.



Anime Classics and Anime Lectures

It is impossible to discuss Japanese anime without mentioning Hayao Miyazaki, Katsuhiro Otomo and Mamoru Oshii. These three were head and shoulders above their contemporaries in the 1980s and have been at the forefront of the animation world ever since. The Embassy screened classics by these master directors during our **Spring Breeze** anime week, 21-28 September: Akira (Otomo), Patlabor Movie 1 (Oshii) and Kiki's Delivery Service (Miyazaki). Oshii's Ghost in the Shell 2: Innocence, made in 2004, was also screened.



In conjunction with the film week, Australian anime expert Philip Brophy gave lectures in Christchurch on 18 September (organized by the Embassy's Consular Office), in Wellington at Victoria University on 19th (organised by student group JINZA) and at our Cultural



Philip Brophy at the Embassy's Information and Culture Centre on 20 September 2007

Centre on 20th, and also in Auckland on 21st (organized by the Consulate-General). Entitled "Sexual Robots and Plastic Humans in Anime", his views on this genre were stimulating and sometimes unexpected. He wrote about his visit:

"I have found over the years that great misunderstanding of manga and anime persists in the West. This mostly arises from associating manga and anime with comics and childish entertainment produced by American culture. But just as there have been amazing artists and writers of comics in the American underground comics scene over the years, so are there countless Japanese artists and writers who have for many years produced insightful work in the manga and anime art forms. My talk centred on how uniquely Japanese these art forms are – despite their surface appearance. Manga and anime is as Japanese as sushi and samurais. It was invigorating to present these ideas to people in New Zealand."

Mr Brophy's visit was supported by the Japan Foundation.

Anime: <http://web-japan.org/factsheet/pdf/POPULARC.pdf>

Philip Brophy:
www.philipbrophy.com/cv.html2.

Traditional and Contemporary Ikebana

Mr Kosen Ohtsubo, a Ryusei-ha master, gave an introductory ikebana lecture/demonstration at the Embassy's Information and Cultural Centre on Wednesday, 12 September 2007, as part of the Spring Breeze events.

Ohtsubo-sensei was invited to New Zealand by the Wellington Chapter of Ikebana International (No.158) for the Chapter's 35th anniversary celebrations and gave a 'Masters Presentation and Workshop' at the James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor on 13/14 September. He has an



Ohtsubo-sensei demonstrates his skills at the Embassy on 12 September 2007.

unorthodox approach, sometimes using fruit and vegetables in his creations. President Nanette Kwok said "The Wellington Chapter was extremely fortunate to have secured a guest demonstrator with the experience and talent of Kosen Ohtsubo." Ambassador and Mrs Takahashi attended the presentation/demonstration on 13 September.

Ohtsubo-sensai has demonstrated in Japan and overseas, including India, the USA and Denmark, and is currently teaching at Beijing University. He has also published four books.

Mrs Nanette Kwok: Tel. 386-1221
Kosen Ohtsubo website: <http://e-flowerplanet.com/e/Link.htm>



Contemporary arrangements using fruit and vegetables.

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