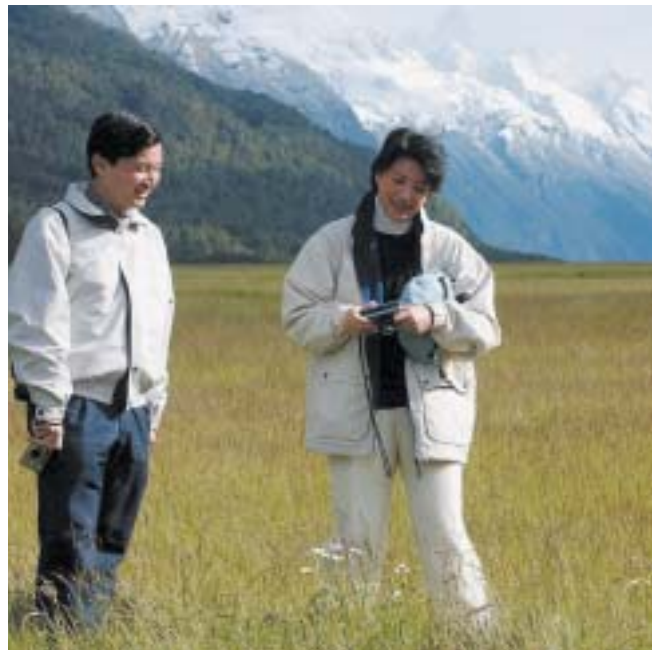


Japanese Royal visit to New Zealand

In response to a longstanding invitation from the New Zealand Government, the Crown Prince Naruhito and Crown Princess Masako of Japan visited New Zealand from December 12-16, 2002. This was their first visit to New Zealand and coincided with the 50th anniversary of post war diplomatic relations between Japan and New Zealand. Their one-year old daughter, Princess Aiko, remained in Japan.

The Governor-General, Dame Silvia Cartwright, welcomed the Crown Prince and Princess to New Zealand at a ceremony at Government House. During their time in Wellington, the Imperial couple attended a wreath-laying ceremony at the National War Memorial and a civic reception hosted by Mayor Kerry Prendergast. They also visited Weta Studios and Te Papa, and met members of the Japanese community and former JET participants.

They stayed at Government House and Crown Prince Naruhito planted a kowhai tree in the grounds to mark the occasion. It is near another kowhai planted by His Majesty the Emperor Akihito, when he and Her Majesty the Empress



The Crown Prince and Princess in the Eglinton Valley.



Their Imperial Highnesses in front of the snowmobile at the International Antarctic Centre, Christchurch.

Michiko visited New Zealand in 1973.

The Governor-General hosted an official dinner for Their Imperial Highnesses on Friday evening. In his speech, the Crown Prince said he and his wife were fond of tramping and regretted that, due to time constraints, they were not able to walk Milford Track. "We look forward to perhaps returning someday and having the opportunity to do the walk with our daughter."

They flew to Christchurch on Saturday, December 14, where they visited the International Antarctic Centre and attended a civic reception hosted by Mayor Garry Moore.

The Imperial couple then flew to Te Anau. The following day, they were taken to Monkey Creek to see keas, took a cruise on Milford Sound and visited the scenic Eglinton Valley, before flying to Auckland.

On the final day of their official visit, the Crown Prince and Princess visited the Americas Cup Village and the Starship Childrens' Hospital, before attending a civic luncheon hosted by Mayor John Banks. They then flew on to Australia for official visits to Sydney and Canberra.

Wellington hosts international science conference

The MacDiarmid Institute, based at Victoria University of Wellington, hosted an international conference on advanced materials and nanotechnology from February 10-14. The conference, which took place at the university and Te Papa, was opened by the Governor General, Dame Silvia Cartwright.

About 270 scientists from around the world attended and more than 100 papers were presented at the main conference, plenary sessions and specialist symposia. They covered research on nano-structured carbon, super-conducting materials, complex fluids and so on.

Mr Hideki Shirakawa, and fellow scientists Mr Alan MacDiarmid (New Zealand) and Mr Alan Heeger (USA), jointly won the 2000 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their work on the capability of plastics to conduct electricity. All three presented lectures on the first day of the conference, and the subject of Mr Shirakawa's address was the "*Synthesis of*



(From left to right) Nobel Laureates Mr Alan Heeger (USA), Mr Hideki Shirakawa (Japan) and Mr Alan MacDiarmid (New Zealand) during the Wellington conference.

Polyacetylene in Liquid Crystals".

There was also a public meeting on the Tuesday evening at Te Papa, with the theme "Where is Science Taking Us?" Mr Shirakawa was one of the panel members. An edited version of the meeting was broadcast on *Insight* the

following Sunday, February 16. Copies are available from Radio New Zealand's *Replay Radio* (Tel. 0800 737-529 – Tape - \$25, CD - \$30).

During the conference, Hon Pete Hodgson, Minister of Research, Science and Technology hosted a reception at Parliament to honour the three Nobel Laureates.

Mr Shirakawa, Mr MacDiarmid and Mr Heeger also unveiled a plaque outside the Murphy Building at Victoria University at a ceremony honouring New Zealand-born Nobel Laureate, Maurice Wilkins.

The conference incorporated the New Zealand-Korea Bilateral Symposium on Advanced Materials and was supported by the New Zealand Ministry of Research, Science and Technology, the Royal Society of New Zealand, the Korea Science and Engineering Foundation and the Korean Academy of Science and Technology. The MacDiarmid Institute plans to organise another conference in 2005.



Professors MacDiarmid, Heeger and Shirakawa talk to pupils of Kelburn Normal School after unveiling a plaque honouring NZ-born Nobel Laureate Maurice Wilkin.

Japanese Antarctic Expedition

The Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition (JARE 44) took place from February 17 to March 13. It was part of a 10-stage programme in the Indian sector of Antarctica which began in November 2001. This exhibition had three main goals:

- (1) Study of the bio-geochemical cycle between the atmosphere and the upper ocean;
- (2) Study of the sinking process from the surface productive layer down to mid-deep layers; and
- (3) Study of gas exchange between air and water.

The NIPR chartered *RV Tangaroa* from New Zealand's National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research. The ship is designed for marine science research in polar waters and was also used in January last year for the third phase of the programme.



Ambassador Koichi Matsumoto receives a gift from Professor Mitsuo Fukuchi, the programme leader of marine science for JARE 44, at a function on board *R.V. Tangaroa* in Wellington on February 14. Mr Fukuchi is also Director for the Centre for Antarctic Environment Monitoring at the National Institute of Polar Research (NIPR www.nipr.ac.jp).

Samoans enjoy Japanese film festival in Apia

The Japanese Embassy in New Zealand recently showed two Japanese films in Samoa. It was a first for the Embassy. The aim was to introduce Samoan people to current Japanese society and to accelerate good relationships between the two countries through Japanese movies.

The film festival was held over two nights, February 17 and 18. On the first night *SHUKUJI* (Congratulatory Speech) was shown, and on the second *NODO-JIMAN*, a comedy about a *Karaoke* singing contest.

The festival venue was the National University of Samoa. Although the university is about 10 minutes by car from the centre of Apia, many Samoan people attended. Most caught a taxi from the city, but some families came together in their own or a friend's car.

Total attendance was 298 people, with 90 per cent of the theatre's full capacity reached before the start of the movie on the second night. After the

films were shown, most attendees said, "When will you be showing the next Japanese films?" or "Are any more Japanese cultural exhibitions or sports demonstrations coming up?"

A Samoan national television (Televise Samoa) crew and a commercial broadcasting corporation also covered the film festival. The ODA programme has contributed to many Samoan people becoming interested in Japanese culture and daily life.

After each showing, the Japanese Embassy handed out surveys to attendees. The results showed that most Samoan people would be interested in seeing more Japanese films, cultural exhibitions and sports demonstrations.

In September this year, the "International Cultural Festival" and "Teuila Festival" will be held in Apia. The Teuila Festival is the

biggest in Samoa with "Teuila" being Samoa's national flower. The Japanese Embassy in New Zealand hopes to show more Japanese films and have some cultural activities (e.g. teaching Samoan children to make Japanese kites or paper craft) in Apia during these festivals, as well as on future occasions.



People arrive for the film show at the lecture hall, National University of Samoa.

Grassroots Grant Aid for Samoan projects

Two projects have recently been completed under the Government of Japan's Grassroots Grant Aid Programme.

On January 28, 2003, the Government of Japan jointly held an official handing-over ceremony for the grant of NZ\$162,884 (approx. 265,500 Samoan Tala) to the Taelefaga Primary School Committee in Vaa o Fonoti district for the reconstruction of the school buildings and equipment. The school had been severely damaged by cyclones in the 1990 and 1991.

Mr Hiromi Adachi, from the Embassy in Wellington, represented the Government of Japan and the presentation was received by Leao Dr Tuitama, Member of Parliament for Vaa o Fonoti district, Assistant Director of Education Lemalu Siomia, Principal Seti Tina, the President of the School Committee and village of Taelefaga.

The project is in accordance with the aim of the Government of Samoa to improve the standard of education throughout Samoa.

The second completed project was the reconstruction of the Foailalo Health Centre, in Savaii.

On February 19, the Government of Japan jointly held an official handing-over ceremony for the grant of NZ\$150,491 (approx. 245,300 Samoan Tala) to the committee for Foailalo Health Centre for the reconstruction of the Foailalo Health Centre. Prime Minister Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi represented the Committee and Mr Isami Takada from the Embassy in Wellington, represented the Japanese Government. Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Misa Telefoni, the Minister of Health Mulitalo Siafausa and other Cabinet Ministers attended the ceremony, as well as the Leader of the Opposition Le Mamea Ropati.

The centre had been damaged by fire soon after it was built in 1976 and by a cyclone in the early 1990s. The old



Mr Isami Takada speaking at the handing-over ceremony at the Foailalo Health Centre.

building was demolished and a new complex constructed with strong support from the Committee and the local communities in the two districts it will serve, Salega and Palauli West.

The grant is in line with the Samoan Government's 2002-2004 Strategy for Development, which aims to improve national health standards.

New Zealand Japan Exchange Programme (NZJEP)

The New Zealand Japan Exchange Programme was established in 1974 by the New Zealand and Japanese Governments. Its general aim is to promote a deeper understanding between the two countries through a programme of educational and cultural exchanges.

Activities are conducted annually, which include visits between New Zealand and Japan by educators, artists and scholars.

The Association of Colleges of Education in New Zealand (ACENZ) administers the NZJEP programme and invites applications from interested persons for funding towards appropriate proposals.

There are two rounds of applications each year and the deadlines for these are March 31 and October 31.

All applications should include a clear outline of the nature of the project, and should indicate how applicants intend to share their experience and knowledge with others at the completion of their project. A full curriculum vitae and detailed budget should also be included.

A set of guidelines for prospective applicants setting out how proposals should be submitted and providing further information can be obtained from: Jocelyn Laine, ph: (04) 472 7162, fax: (04) 472 9562, email: nzjep@acenz.ac.nz or write to: ACENZ, Box 10-298, Wellington.

Sakai potters pay return visit to Wellington

Ten members of the Sakai Potters Association visited Wellington from February 3-8, 2003. They were led by Mrs Kazuyo Hiruma, who had come to the annual New Zealand potters' convention at Te Papa in 1998 as a guest of the Wellington Potters Association (WPA). As a result of her visit, 10 potters from the Wellington region went to Japan in 2001 and exhibited some of their work. They invited the Sakai potters to come to Wellington and the return visit took place in February.

The Wellington programme began with an official welcome by Deputy Mayor Alick Shaw at the Michael Fowler Centre and the opening of a joint exhibition, *Form, Fire, Fusion*, featuring work by potters from the Wellington region and Sakai.

Over the next few days, the potters visited the studios of Dr Doreen Blumhardt, Mr Mirek Smisek and Ms Jenny Shearer on the Kapiti Coast and Mr Paul Melser's studio in the South Wairarapa. They also went to the Sculpture Symposium at Frank Kitts Park,



The exhibits brought to Wellington by members of the Sakai Potters Association.

Wellington.

Both Sakai and Wellington potters gave demonstrations at the WPA rooms and two pots were made to symbolise the friendship between the Wellington and Sakai potting associations. (Two pots were also made during the 2001 Sakai visit.) Mr Roger Pearce, President of the WPA, said there were discussions about future exchange visits between Wellington and Sakai, focussing either on

ceramics or some other form of art.

The group also included members of the Sakai Wellington Association and Mr Yoshiaki Wada, an official from the Sakai City Government. Alternative arrangements were sometimes made for the non-potters in the group, such as a visit to the Nga Manu bird sanctuary.

On Wednesday, February 5, the group attended the Wellington Sakai Association's annual dinner to celebrate the signing of the sister city agreement in February 1994. The dinner was held at the Yangtze Restaurant and included speeches by Mrs Hiruma, Mr Douglas Milligan, President of the Wellington - Sakai Association, and Mr Masaru Aniya, Director of the Embassy's Information and Cultural Centre.

The groups' visit to Wellington was supported by the New Zealand/Japan Exchange Programme, the Nissho Iwai Foundation and the Wellington City Council. Host families included members of the WPA, Wellington Sakai Association and the Wellington Japan Society.



Shigei Ohashi, a New Zealand resident living at Waikanae, with his exhibits. He finds the New Zealand clay "very smooth".

Students write of their Japanese experiences

Three students participated in the Japanese-Language programme for high school students programme last year. They were Erin Mary Dickinson from Gisborne High School, Ben Cribb from Manurewa High School and Brett Wallbuton from Rutherford College in Auckland.

The programme is run by the Japan Foundation. Here are their impressions of their two weeks in Japan.

Brett Wallbuton - Rutherford College

国際交流基金関西国際センターの高校生のプログラムはとてもおもしろくてやくにたつたと思います。
日本にいた時タクシーで関西センターに行ってしょくいんとほかの高校生に会いました。ほかの高校生はいろいろな国から来ました。たとえばカナダ、アメリカ、イギリス、オーストラリア、タイ、ロシアなどです。日本語が一番上手な高校生は中国人でした。7月10日から7月12日まで、プログラムオリエンテーションや文化のクラスや関西べんのクラスやホームステイのじゅんびのクラスをしました。それからホームステイファミリーと2日間にたいざいしました。ホームステイがおわったあと、見学旅行をはじめました。大阪と京都と東京と広島につれて行ってくださいました。広島へのいわこうえんのはくぶつかんにいた間おもしろいことをたくさんならいました。一番おもしろかった所だと思います。私の学校にかえた時どうきゅうせいに日本のたいけんについてはなしました。みなさんはすごいと言いました。
日本にいた間しゃんをたくさんとりましたからみなさんはすべてのおもしろい所を見ることができました。日本のたいざいのために私の日本語が上手になったので日本語のどうきゅうせいはうらやましいです。その人も日本に行きたいと言っています。日本語のりょ行のおかげで日本語が大すきになりました。クラスの一番上手な生となるためにまたいっしょうけんめいべんきょうしたいです。
日本にいた間にたくさんの日本人の友だちができました。ニュージーランドにかえてから日本の友だちに日本語でEメールをおくることがあります。それを日本語でかくこともべんきょうになりました。日本人の友だちと会うために日本にまた行きたいと思っています。
ありがとうございました。

Erin Mary Dickinson - Gisborne Girls High School

Being in Japan has made me realise a lot about my future goals involving Japan and Japanese. My life-long dream is to become a teacher in a second language and four years ago I made the choice to study Japanese, thinking it another way to go in life if need be.

Travelling to Japan and having the opportunity to experience Japan and its culture first-hand has been overwhelming. People still ask me how my trip was and every time I am speechless because there is so much to tell them about my Japanese experience, I do not know where to start. I enjoyed so many things.

I like the Japanese life-style, how they are always busy but know what they are doing. My Home-stay family treated me just like a "Japanese" girl.

Being involved in the family interested me because I was able to compare a Japanese family to my own New Zealand family, which is completely different. Taking the train was a first-time experience because, in Gisborne, we do not have passenger trains but after the first time I was addicted. In my New Zealand school we study about how Japanese people have a bath on the floor. I totally under-estimated how different it is, but it was so much fun - as was going through the Japanese temples and shrines and (to a small degree) learning about Japan history. It surprised me how the Japanese people take so much pride in preserving their historical artefacts.

My classmates enjoyed my photos and stories and it inspired them to travel, hopefully at the end of this year.

I would like to suggest that maybe having more time in Tokyo and Hiroshima is better because I felt that those days went by extremely fast and I would have liked to experience more in the larger cities. I would also have liked to watch a match of Sumo or Judo.

But I cannot complain, I had the time of my life and this has inspired me to continue my Japanese studies past High School and possibly into a future career. Now I can understand more clearly about what I am learning in the classroom because I have been there in person.

Thanking you for the experiences that words cannot start to explain.



Erin Mary Dickinson, Brett Wallbuton and Ben Cribb in front of Osaka Castle during their visit to Japan last year under the Japanese Language Programme for high school students.

Experiences continued

Ben Cribb - Manurewa High School

The programme that I took part in was the most amazing experience I have had. Everyday I would see and discover new incredible things. I have learnt much about Japan, and increased my knowledge of Japanese culture and other cultures.

I thoroughly enjoyed being able to listen and speak Japanese every day. This has increased my learning, and has given me a new thirst to deeply explore the Japanese language. I feel like I have experienced so much of Japanese life, and I am now able to relate better to young Japanese people.

I also had the opportunity to meet and bond with other Japanese students from all over the world, including China, Indonesia, Russia, France, Canada, America and Taiwan.

I met extremely friendly Japanese people wherever I went. My host family was wonderful. They were kind and very friendly, especially my host sister Hitomi. Most of my time was spent in Osaka (which is a very amazing city). In Osaka I went to Universal Studios, Japan, an aquarium, Osaka Castle, shopping in the city (in suburbs such as Mamba, Umeda and Den Den Tow) and I also visited a Japanese High School called Semboku High School. At the school I attended Japanese classes and also took part in some club activities after school. It was really enjoyable and I made many new Japanese friends. I was very honoured to be interviewed by a Japanese newspaper on my experience at Semboku Kookoo.

Other cities I visited were Tokyo, Kyoto and Hiroshima where we also visited Miyajima Island. All of these places absolutely amazed me. Tokyo was incredibly vast and very busy. This city was extremely interesting and I wanted to find out everything and explore the city more thoroughly. Kyoto and Miyajima were the most beautiful places I have ever visited. In the future I would like to re-visit Tokyo or Osaka and stay for a longer time. My visit to Hiroshima was very emotional and it really opened up my mind.

The people at the Institute were really friendly and helpful, especially my new good friend Hiroyuki.

このこうかんりゆがくプログラムにさんかしたことは、私の今までのけいけいんの中で一番すばらし物でした。毎日、楽し物や、しんじられない物をはっけんして、日本についてたくさんのごことをまなびました。そして私の日本や他の国の文化についてのちしきがふえました。

日本にいるあいだ私は日本語を聞いたり、話したりすることをじゅうぶん楽しみました。今、私は日本語がじょうずになり、日本の人びととかいわをするできるようになりました。もっと日本語について知りたくなりました。とても長い間日本にいたような気がします。

日本人だけでなく、他のくにのりゅう学生徒、友達になるきかひもありました。たとえば中国、インドネシア、ロシア、フランス、カナダ、アメリカ、台湾などです。

私はおとずれたいろいろなばしょでとても親切な人々に会いました。私のホストファミリーはすばらしかったです。とくに、ホストシスターのヒトミは親切でとてもこういてきました。ほとんどの時間をおおさかではユーニヴァサルスタジオジャパンや、すいぞくかん、おおさかじょう、買い物にも行きました。

そしてせんぼくこうこうという日本のこうこうにもかよい、また、学校ではじゅぎょうにしゅっせきさせてもらったら、ほうかごのぶかつどうにもさんかしました。とても楽しくて、友達がたくさんできました。私は私のせんぼくこうこうでのけいけいんが、日本の新聞にのることをとてもほこりみおもいました。

他におとずれたところは、東京、京都です。広島のみやじまにも行きました。

This was definitely a life-changing experience for me, and I would like to thank The Japanese Consulate Auckland and Japanese Embassy in Wellington for giving me the opportunity to participate

in this programme. I look forward to visiting Japan again, and my aim is become a more confident speaker of Japanese with the ability to have a conversation about anything.



Ben Cribb, with a Japanese friend, at the Hiroshima Dome.

Japanese team enjoys Wellington International Rugby Sevens



The Japanese team wave to rugby fans during the street parade.



The Japanese team, one of 16 international teams at the tournament, arrives at Civic Square for the welcoming ceremony.

The International Rugby Sevens tournament in Wellington started on Wednesday, February 5, with a lunchtime parade by the teams from Parliament to Civic Square, where Mayor Kerry Prendergast welcomed them to the city.

The games began at 1 p.m. on Thursday, February 7, and finished with the Cup Final the following evening.

The 16 teams were divided into four groups and Japan was in Pool C with Australia (26-5 - lost), Argentina (31-12 - lost) and China (7-33 - won).

The team lost to Niue in the Bowl quarter finals (25-0), beat PNG in the first Shield game (29-7), but lost the Shield final to Tonga (29-26).

Japan's team members were: Kyohei Fujito, Ryuta Kakizaki, Takashi Kikutani, Ryohei Miki (Captain), Nataniela Oto, Katoni Otukolo, Yohei Shinomiya, Kenji Shomen, Masazumi Tanaka, Tomohiro Yamaguchi, Eiji Yamamoto and Hiroki Yoshida.

New Zealand beat England in the Cup Final, (38-26), retaining their lead in the overall International Sevens Tournament (www.irbsevens.com).

Chartwell School Sports Day

Mr Yoshihisa Tsuji, head of the Japanese Supplementary School Management Committee, opened the annual sports day at Chartwell School in Wellington on Sunday, February 16.

About 130 Kiwi and Japanese students participated in the sports day and enjoyed the event in bright sunshine.

The events included a borrow-a-thing race, a mock cavalry race, a doughnut-on-a-string race and the traditional Japan versus New Zealand tug-of-war.

Chartwell School has a Japanese Supplementary School where the children of Japanese families temporarily based in Wellington are taught the Japanese curriculum.



Children compete in the 100 metre race.



Speech contest

Contestants try their skills at the speech contest under the watchful eye of Mr Paul Knight, senior lecturer of Japanese at Massey University.

Dr Fumio Kakubayashi, Senior Lecturer in Japanese at Massey University, provided the following summary:

"The Japanese Speech Contest for the Central Districts is an annual event organised by the East Asian Studies Programme of Massey University, Palmerston North. In 2002, the contest was held on Friday, August 16 in the Auditorium of the Old Main Building, Massey University. Almost 50 students from 17 high schools participated, ranging from New Plymouth and Hawkes Bay to Levin.

The speeches included funny introductions of family members, school activities and accounts of unexpected experiences during trips to Japan. The audience sometimes laughed, sometimes learnt about Japanese culture and the Japanese language.

Compared with past years, last year there were 50 per cent more participants and the contest was a great success. Prize winners were: Mei Chu (St Peter's College) for the first category (years 9 and 10); Lucas Schroeter (Awatapu College) and Alice Hsu (Palmerston North Girls' High School) for the second category (years 11 and 12); Vicky Sun (Awatapu College) for the third category (year 13); and Andy Hsu (Awatapu College) for the open category."

The speech contest is partly funded by the Japan Foundation. Website: www.jpf.go.jp



Hinamatsuri Festival - Dolls Festival

Four young visitors to the Japan Information and Cultural Centre stand in front of a display of *Hinamatsuri* dolls set up for March 3, which is Doll Festival Day in Japan.

Each doll represents a member of the Imperial Court, beginning with the Emperor and Empress on the top level, and they are all dressed in costumes from the Heian period (794-1185).

Japanese families set up displays to celebrate the growth and health of their daughters. However, because of the small size of Japanese homes, they often have only the two top dolls, the Emperor and Empress.

It is rare to see a full set of dolls.

Families celebrate the festival with a meal, eating *Hishimochi* (diamond-shaped rice cakes) and drinking *Shirozake* (made from rice malt and *sake*).

The original festival, which was mentioned in *The Tale of Genji* (11th century), was to protect people from evil.



Wellington JET Alumni enjoy fellowship and events

The JETAA is an international Alumni Association for former JET participants.

There are many chapters worldwide, including Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch.

The Wellington Chapter currently has 90-100 members. In 2002, the Wellington JETAA Committee organised a National Conference and an Australia/NZ Regional Conference, as well as more light-hearted activities like the Karaoke Potluck Dinner. A photo exhibition at the Wellington Public Library last November was very successful. It consisted of photos contributed by Wellington members, based on the theme of

"*Omoshiroi*" (interesting/amusing). See photos on page 11.

Wellington members were also invited to help with JET promotions at universities and to be on the Question-and-Answer Panel for departing JET participants.

Two highlights of 2002 were the visits to New Zealand by Prime Minister Koizumi and HIH Crown Prince Naruhito and Crown Princess Masako.

JETAA Wellington representatives attended official dinners on both occasions.

If you would like more information or become a member, please check their website, www.jetaawgtn.prg.nz

2002 JETS welcomed home



RECEPTION: Mr Shisei Kaku, Minister and Deputy Head of Mission at the Japanese Embassy, hosted a "welcome back" reception for JET participants who completed the programme in 2002 and returned to New Zealand. The reception was held at the James Cook Grand Chancellor Hotel in Wellington on February 27, 2003. A similar function was hosted by the Consul-General, Mr Tatsuo Mizuno, in Auckland on February 28 and by Mr Eiichiro Yamada, Consular Officer in Christchurch, on March 7.

Video competition 2003

The JETAA National High School Japanese Video Competition started in 2000 with the aim of encouraging students to share some aspect of their life in New Zealand with students in Japan.

High school students who study Japanese are eligible to enter the competition. It is similar to the Sony Foundation programme, "Let's Send Video Messages to the World!" which started in 1996.

For more information, contact the video competition co-ordinator, Caroline Watson, Ph. (09) 424-1034 Email: cjwatson@clear.net.nz.

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 between New Zealand and Japan.

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

JET Alumni memories

(“Omashiroi” photo exhibition)

Top Right:
First year students at Oosagami Junior High School scramble to grab the right letters to spell out “New Zealand”

James Hurring - ALT, Saitama Prefecture, 1993-1995



Middle Right:
Gaijin Sumo in Ishikawa Prefecture.

Chris Boorman - CIR, Toyama Prefecture, 1998-2001



Below:
“Shokuin Ryokoo” the annual teachers’ trip.
We “did” four prefectures in three days. There were plenty of adventures along the way. (The World Heritage Gassho-style farm houses are in Shirakawa, Gifu Prefecture).

Jane Turner - ALT, Wakayama Prefecture, 1996-1999



Interview panel enjoys Kiwi JET hopefuls

Fuatialemoana

Talofa!

My name is Fuatialemoana
I am a teacher.

Last year I finished my training,
Now I have full control
of my class.

Every day is different,
each of my students unique.
I want to show them that education
can take them places.

I am an ambassador
for them for my background
is the same as theirs. We live
in the same neighbourhood.

My goal is to go to Japan
to help teach English to Japanese
children, to learn about
the people and their culture.

My pupils will help me prepare
for my journey. We will learn
Japanese words together.

I am a teacher
My name is Fauatialemoana

Talofa!

Interviews of applicants for the JET programme were held in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch in mid-February.

Each year about 170 young graduates from New Zealand travel to Japan to commence 1-3 years as Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) in Japanese schools or as Coordinators of International Relations (CIRs) in local body organizations.

This year 402 applications were received, about 40 more than last year, and about 300 applicants were interviewed.

Candidates who have been accepted into the programme will be notified in April and will travel to Japan in July/August to take up their positions.

"One of the pleasures of serving on the interviewing panel," according to Dr Cyril Childs, one of the Wellington interviewers, "is seeing and talking to many fine young Kiwi graduates setting out on their careers.

For many, the opportunity to assist in Japan will broaden their outlooks, and influence and contribute to their future careers."

One such candidate, Fuatialemoana Lavea, inspired this poem by Dr Childs. Ms Lavea is currently a JET participant in Nagano.



Interviewers for Wellington region: (Standing) Keisuke Ishikawa, Kirsten Porteous (and seated) Dr Cyril Childs, Mr Paul Knight.

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Fax: (09) 377-7784
Email: info@cgj.govt.nz

Japan Information and Cultural Centre
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Email: japan.cul@ej.org.nz
Website: nz.emb-japan.go.jp

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5th Floor, Forsyth Barr House
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PO Box 13748, Christchurch
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