

JETAA
JET Alumni Association Canberra Inc.

2008-09 Canberra JETAA Inc AGM

31 May 2009

Attendees:

Murray Woodford, Amanda West, Nicole Lawes, Nicola Savage, Megan Vidgen, Lucy Ryan (nee Shields)

Apologies:

Andrea Rogers, Ailsa Lian, Ewan Morris, Vanessa Hegarty, Torben Vang, Jason Grave, Miho Grave, Jade Carson, Rachel Rawlings, Aler Locus, Keith Parker

Meeting Opens

AGM was declared open at 3.20 pm.

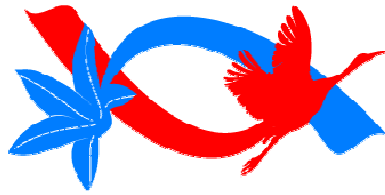
Position Reports

President's Report:

Well, it's been another very good year for Canberra JETAA Inc (JETAA). Not a month has gone by with some sort of JETAA activity. We have continued to actively support the JET Program by providing comprehensive pre-departure orientation to new JETs as well as post-return support for returning JETs. Additionally, Canberra JETAA again marked all Australian written applications and assisted the Embassy of Japan with promoting the program and the candidate selection for this year's JET participants.

Last year, with great success, we instituted a "buddy system" with the Japanese ALTs (JALTs) who come here on a self-funding basis for a year to teach. This was continued this year, but with slightly fewer numbers. The funds that we raised in previous years have been used to subsidise JALT participation in JETAA events as well as a JALT essay contest which I hope will continue this year

We have also furthered the cause of grassroots Australia-Japan relations. The monthly O-Shaberikai has been, for the most part, reasonably well attended and one-off events such as movie nights and field trips have also been popular. The annual trivia night has been cemented into the Canberra Japan-Interest social calendar and we have again successfully participated in the Multicultural and Candle Festivals and enjoyed what is becoming an annual event; the JETAA field trip. Thank you to Aler Locus for organizing the cherry picking excursion to Young and everyone who participated in the Trivia, Orientation and Festival sub committees.



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The 2008-09 committee also approved the granting of \$1,500 to Lanyon High School to support their study trip to Japan which shows how JETAA can support not just the JET Programme, but the wider community as well.

All this would not be possible without the hard work of the committee members who give up their time to allow JETAA to function. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each committee member for their contribution throughout the past year and hope that they will continue their affiliation with JETAA.

Amanda West has worked hard in the often unseen role of Treasurer to satisfy ACT Government and CLAIR audit requirements, balancing the books, ensure that all accounts are paid on time and generally managing the JETAA finances. Proving that national boundaries are no impediment to participation, Alisa Lian, our Canadian chum, did great work as Vice President/Secretary – we wish her well in her new life back in Japan and beyond.

Jade Carson ran a series of very useful pre-departure orientation sessions for new JETs. Vanessa Hegarty led our very successful participation in the Canberra-Nara Candlefest and Megan Vidgen also must be thanked for organizing the JETAA stall at the Multicultural Festival on the hottest February day of the year. Thanks should also go to Al Locus for his exemplary work as webmaster and it looks as though the face-book page is also gathering momentum. Finally, thanks to Andrea Rogers, Nicole Lawes and Ewan Morris for their efforts as social co-ordinators.

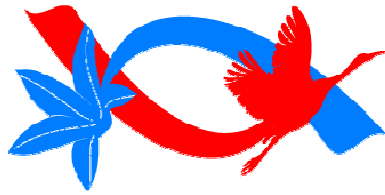
I would also like to thank all other JETAA members for their support throughout the year just gone and I urge all members to consider standing for a position on the committee or subcommittees because, healthy, vibrant and relevant as JETAA is now, it will only remain that way as long as good people are prepared to continue to good work.

Thank you.

VP/Secretary's Report:

First of all, I'd like to say a big thank you to all JETAA members in the Canberra area for letting me take part and take on a role on committee. I had such a great time taking part in all the events and field trips over the year! Just goes to show that Japan can go on uniting people and leaves a connection with everyone who has had the opportunity to spend an extended time in this beautiful country, which I have returned to!

The role of Vice President was not taken up once as our stellar president, Mr Murray Woodford was never absent from a meeting. I thank him for never making me step into the role as he did such a wonderful job for the duration of the year.



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As Secretary, the main role is writing and completing the Minutes at each Committee Meeting. This was made quite easy since Murray prepared an Agenda before each meeting. After the minutes are typed up, send them around for committee review, edit and approval. I found that this was a most educating experience in the art of Australian linguistics! And then after final edits are completed, send them on to the Web Master, Mr Aler Locus so that they can be posted on the website. And thus completes the role of Secretary!

Of course taking part in such a wonderful and active chapter, there's always room to volunteer on subcommittees and help out whenever possible. I am now an accomplished gyoza flipper and beer hawker. Also, I completely enjoyed my time representing Canberra at the 2008 Oceania Regional Conference and am thoroughly jealous of whoever is going to New Zealand this year!

Recommendations for this year's Secretary: Try and sort out that monstrous Black Binder. I'm sure most of it could be chucked as I didn't look at it the entire year, but it did find a comfy spot under my sofa. And secondly, perhaps keep one set of printed minutes from the previous meetings. I think it would be useful to be able to reference to the exact decisions or discussions of previous meetings without consulting the minutes online.

That's it from me! Hope everyone is happy and healthy!! Be sure and let me know if you are in Kansai, once I get some furniture, you are more than welcome to crash!!

Treasurer's Report:

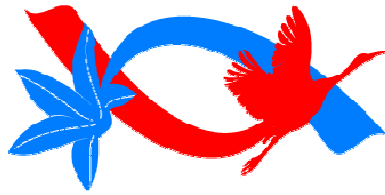
JETAA Canberra Inc's bank balance continues to grow, with an opening balance of \$14 4245.29 and a closing balance of \$15 364.36 for the 2008-09 financial year. This translates to a profit of \$716.47. This is well down on previous years, but we did decide to give a \$1 500 grant to Lanyon High School for their school trip to Japan. Had we not decided to make this charitable donation, our profit would have been similar to previous years.

Our GIA payment from CLAIR, an amount of \$2 427.18, has since been received and our bank balance is currently \$17 792.31.

Social Co-ordinators' report:

Every month JETAA continued to meet for the monthly *Oshaberekai*. *Oshaberekai* is a good chance to meet new and old members, to discuss events and to meet Japanese Assistant Language Teachers (JALTs) working in Canberra.

JETAA implemented a 'buddy' program whereby a JALT is matched with a JETAA member. The buddy system is designed to help JALTs enjoy their life in Canberra.



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JALTs are volunteers and JETAA wants to 'give something back' to Japan, hence the birth of the buddy program. JETAA and their buddy are encouraged to 'hang out' and all JALTs are welcome to attend JETAA social events free of charge. JETAA also held an essay competition for JALTs won by Ms Saori Kimura. The essays submitted by JALTs have been uploaded to our website..

This year JETAA Canberra was invited to a tea ceremony cultural event hosted by the Japanese Embassy. Participants learnt the art of making tea as well as tasting the end result. Organised by Yuko and hosted by Mr Shinki (Master of Tea Ceremony) and Mr Miyazaki at the Embassy. A wonderful cultural insight and such a relaxing way to spend an afternoon. JETAA Canberra is very thankful for the invitation to both of the occasions that that this event was held.

In November, JETAA held a cherry picking field trip in Young. JETAA car pooled to the town of Young and participants ate and picked delicious cherries.

Speaking of food, JETAA enjoyed the *Bonnenkai* dinner in a Japanese restaurant in December 2008. A fantastic event held in appreciation of the hard work of everyone during the year at Iori for the 3rd year running. Participants comprised of JETAA Members, friends of JETAA and Mr Shinki's family (as guests of JETAA Canberra) at a cost \$20 for members and \$50 for non members plus drinks.

Finally, JETAA concluded the end of one JETAA year and welcomed another at the Annual General Meeting in April. Members enjoyed a roast dinner together after the AGM.

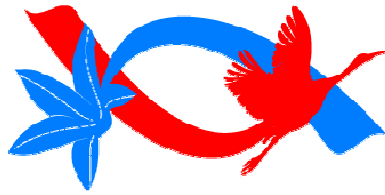
Sub- committee Reports

Trivia:

The third annual JETAA Australia-Japan trivia night was another sell-out with a lot of fun being had by all who participated. Once again P.J.O'Reilly's was crammed full of Australians and Japanese all mixing and enjoying the event in the best of spirits.

Despite having the same number of participants (81 this year, 83 last year) the profit was way down, at only \$72.40. This is attributed to higher costs for beer and prizes this year. It would be worthwhile re-considering the entry fee or the budget for prizes and food for next year's event.

The trivia sub committee of Lucy Shields, Nicole Lawes, Andrea Rogers, Rachel Rawlings and Christie Harvey all worked hard to ensure the success of this event and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their contribution. I would also like



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to thank, *in absentia*, Mr Satoshi Shinki for his support of JETAA in general and this event in particular. Mr Shinki is indeed a worthy successor to Mr Kazuhiro Yagi.

I recommend that JETAA consider holding this event again in 2009-10.

Candle fest:

The 2008 Canberra Nara Candle Festival was held on 27 September. Vanessa did a fantastic job organising this, and the event was a huge success. Approximately 10,000 people attended the annual event. Over 20 volunteers, including four families from CLAIR Sydney, helped on the JETAA gyoza and beer tent contributing to high sales and a very successful day. Almost 200 bags of gyoza and 22 cases of beer were sold. The profit for Candlefest was \$2 805.19, similar to previous years.

A thank you breakfast was held at the botanic gardens the following day for the volunteers. Photos from both the event and the thank you breakfast have been uploaded to the JETAA website.

Next year's Candle festival will be 26 September 2009.

Multicultural Fest:

This event was wonderfully organised by Megan with an army of support from JETAA Canberra and the Embassy. It was an incredibly hot day (perhaps Canberra's hottest) which meant that customer numbers were down and it was hard for us to sell all of our gyoza and beer. A poor tent site allocation (not something we could control), the heat, reduced crowds and a larger number of stalls this year all contributed to a smaller profit of only \$976.83.

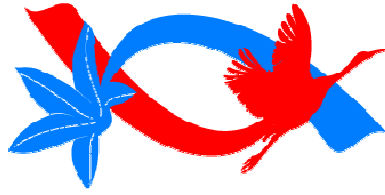
We sold a lot of the left over beer to members at cost price and the gyoza was devoured by members at a gyoza night hosted by Rachel the following week. This is an event that we need to think about whether we want to continue to support given the work and costs involved in participating. Megan also organised a 'thank you' dinner for all participants at Sammy's Kitchen Chinese Restaurant.

It was decided not to participate in the Multicultural Festival in 2010 because of the long hours involved (6am to midnight).

Election of 2008-09 Committee

President:

Murray Woodford nominated by Nicole Lawes, seconded by Lucy Ryan.



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Murray Woodford elected unopposed.

Treasurer:

Nicola Savage nominated by Murray Woodford, seconded by Amanda West.

Nicola Savage elected unopposed.

VP/Secretary:

Vanessa Hegarty nominated by Nicole Lawes, seconded by Lucy Ryan (?).

Nomination not accepted (by text).

Amanda West nominated by Murray Woodford, seconded by Nicole Lawes.

Amanda West elected unopposed.

Social Co-ordinator (NB can have multiple incumbents)

Andrea Rogers nominated by Murray Woodford, seconded by Nicola Savage.

Rachel Rawlings nominated by Nicole Lawes, seconded by Amanda West.

Nicole Lawes nominated by Murray Woodford, seconded by Nicola Savage.

Andrea Rogers, Rachel Rawlings and Nicole Lawes elected.

Newsletter Editor:

No election was held for this position.

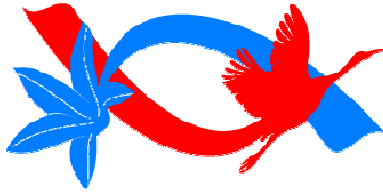
Webmaster:

Aler Locus nominated by Murray Woodford, seconded by Amanda West.

Aler Locus elected unopposed.

Orientation Co-ordinator:

No nomination was received. Murray Woodford advised he may be able to undertake this role.



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Election of Sub Committees

Orientation – Sub Committee

Nicola Savage

Trivia Night - Sub Committee:

Murray Woodford (Chair), Amanda West, Nicole Lawes, Nicola Savage, Lucy Ryan, possibly Aler Locus (flyer design).

The first trivia Sub committee meeting will be on Sunday, 21 June 2009 at a place TBA.

Candlefest - Sub Committee:

Vanessa Hegarty (Chair), Murray Woodford,

The next Candle Festival meeting will be on Wednesday, 3 June 2009 in Civic.

Multicultural Festival Sub Committee:

It was decided not to participate in Multicultural Festival in 2010.

Other sub committee(s)?:

No other sub committees were proposed.

Regular Events/activities – thoughts and reports

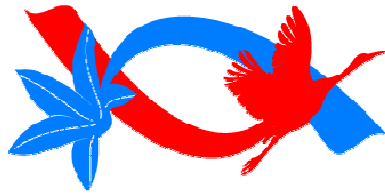
O-Shaberikai

It was decided to change the O-Shaberiaki to the first Wednesday of the month.

The Holy Grail, Civic will remain the venue for the O-Shaberiaki.

It was decided to make the next O-Shaberikai (Wednesday, 1 July 2009) a “Welcome to JALTs” event. Outgoing JETs will also be advised of the event and encouraged to attend. JETAA will provide a few snack platters (wedges & etc) on the night.

Committee e-mails from president



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It was decided that these semi-regular e-mails are useful and that they should be continued in 2009-10.

Weekly e-mails to all members

It was decided that, despite misgivings about the formatting, that yahoogroups can impose on it, that the weekly e-mail is a valuable resource and should be continued.

Other Business & Special Events

Letter to CLAIR & Embassy re: JET Programme recruiting strategies

Informal replies have been received from both CLAIR and the Embassy of Japan. These replies were distributed to AGM attendees. It seems that it really is up to CLAIR Tokyo to decide what direction this will take.

Encouragingly, it seems that the Embassy will run events at both ANU and U Can.

AJS – proposal to link with AJS as an “umbrella” organization.

This proposal was considered by the AGM and it was decided not to proceed with any formal linking with the AJS.

JETAA does, however, hope to continue the current good relations we have with the AJS and looks forward to co-operating with them in the future.

Amanda West will draft a letter to the AJS to formally advise them of this decision.

JALTs

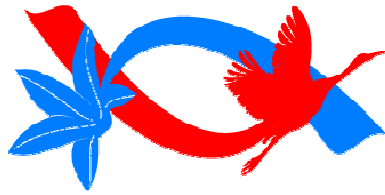
Megan Vidgen volunteered to be the JALT contact officer and arrange JETAA buddies for them.

It was decided to continue with the JALT Essay contest and to continue to use funds raided to subsidise JALT participation in JETAA activities.

Movie nights

The next JETAA movie night will be at Narrabundah on Friday, 31 July 2009. The movie screened will most likely be “Tanpopo”, this will be decided on the night by the attendees.

JETAA will subsidise snacks and drinks for this event.



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Field Trip

It was proposed to again go to Young for cherry picking. Instead of a pub lunch, the possibility of a picnic was discussed. This will be decided closer to the date.

This will occur in November 2009 at a date tba.

JETA will arrange car pooling and subsidise fuel costs for JETAA members to participate in this event.

Membership Audit

Murray Woodford has been maintaining the membership list. There are currently 115 people on this list as full members and 82 as associate members.

It was noted that as members do not always make the notification of JETAA a priority when they move, change e-mail addresses & etc that some elements of the list may be dated.

CJC Softball team –

CJC have advised that they have approved the formation of a CJC softball team to compete in a local league and allocated funds for equipment purchase.

In the short term there is unlikely to be much happening, but JETAA has advised CJC that they are willing to support this venture.

JETAA T-shirts

It was decided that another batch of JETAA t-shirts should be produced. Details will be decided at a later committee meeting.

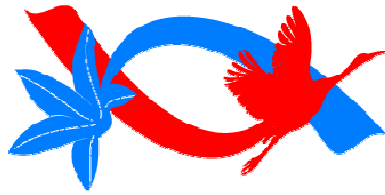
JETAA Mailbox

Keys were allocated to Amanda West and Nicola Savage.

JETAA Bank Account

Signatories are currently:

- Murray Woodford;
- Christie Harvey
- Amanda West;



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- Lucy Shields; and
- Andrea Rogers.

It was decided that it is a matter of some urgency to include Nicola Savage as a signatory. Christie Harvey will be removed as a signatory.

Incorporations Act Responsibilities (to ACT Government)

The Change of Committee Members and the Annual Return (relating to our audit) forms were filled out for submission to the ACT government to advise them of the result of the 2009-10 JETAA AGM.

The position of Public Officer was also discussed. Lucy has been the Public Officer for a number of years now, and it was thought we should change Public Officer to a more relevant committee member. No one was willing to take on this position. Lucy informed us that the role of Public Officer does not require any work, but the Registrar General's Office does send out mail from time to time, and this mail will be sent to the home address of the Public Officer.

Lanyon High School

Materials have been received from Lanyon High School following the \$1,500 that JETAA donated towards their overseas study tour in 2009.

These materials will be incorporated into the website.

All other business

Murray Woodford undertook to advise CLAIR and the Embassy our 2009-10 committee and our planned schedule of activities for 2009-10.

Lucy Ryan noted that the position of Australian Country Representative for JETAA-International will be vacant in the latter half of 2009. Nominations for this position will be sought in the next few months. The election may possibly be held at the 2009 Oceania Regional Conference in New Zealand.

The next full JETAA committee meeting will be held at Narrabundah on Sunday, 16 August 2009 from 3.00pm.

Meeting closes

The meeting was declared closed at 6.00pm