

Canberra JETAA

Asahi super dry was sold for \$5. Perhaps the lowest price to be found anywhere in the world

Feeding the Masses

Canberra - The festival to end all festivals occurred from the 7-16 February 2003. This celebration of multiculturalism came at a time of great hardship for Canberrans. Only a few weeks before that more than 500 houses were burnt out in the worst fire storm in Australia's history. People really needed a pick me up. A calm me down was more appropriate for some however. Canberra's diverse cultural communities, Mexican Australians to Tamil Australians put on cultural displays from Flamenco to the controversial movie *Buddha's Tears*.

It was into this milieu that the intrepid members of Canberra JETAA offered to help out at the Australia Japan Society stall at the Food and Dance Spectacular. They kindly allowed us to take charge of the beer. Asahi Super Dry was sold for \$5 Perhaps the lowest price to be found anywhere in the world. So as the punjabi kids busted a move we made mounds of Yaki soba. Whilst the grannies line danced and clogged, we sold many cups of Sake for \$1 each. As the Latin Americans pouted and whirled all over the stage, we sold out of Tsunami: sake's answer to West Coast Cooler.

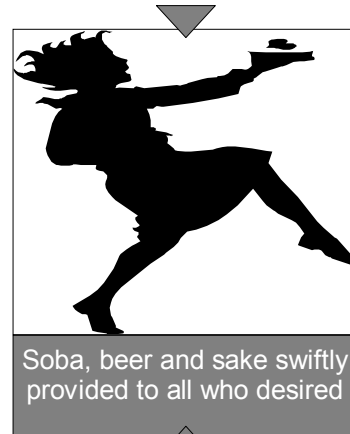
It stretched on into the night and the superb organisation that characterises all AJS/JETAA events ensured that there

was enough cabbage for all!

Considering the heat and the massive number of people crowding the pedestrian malls of Civic, it's amazing that not one bottle of beer was embezzled for the temptation was great!

It was a great turn out for Canberra and it was characterised by a positive atmosphere.

We couldn't have managed it ourselves so thanks to the AJS for letting us be involved. Also a big arrigato to the Ambassador for keeping us hydrated.



Ainu Culture

One of the most famous stories for Ainu is "Yukar", an Ainu epic. It is a full-length, heroic epic about a man who uses magic. Yukar is one of the most representative epics of the Ainu culture, like the Odyssey of Greek and Roman cultures. The story has undergone some changes among the Ainu people, after many recitations over several hundred years, but most of story is the same, with some minor

name changes.

The presence of a strong Ainu culture in Japan challenges the outside view of Japan as culturally monolithic. There are some resources on the web but beware the name Ainu has been borrowed by the 'Magi' game players and it means something in Finnish

Contents

<i>Feeding the Masses, The Ainu</i>	1
<i>President's Report, Onomatopoeia, Recipes, Il Presidente Continues</i>	2-3
<i>Lesson plans, Treasurer's Report, Cristy Speaks, Scientific Break Through</i>	4-5
<i>The Cover</i>	6

President's Report

Hi everyone. As most of you might have heard through the email list, I was elected president of JETAA Canberra in early December last year. This is my first column as president – and late as it is...

I would like to introduce you to the fantastic executive team on board this year.

- Catherine Wallace, the president since before I went to Japan in 1998, is vice president.
- Cristy Burne (originally from Perth via Hyougo), is the treasurer and web master.
- Joanne Legge-Wilkinson, another former president, is the social coordinator.
- Jackie Tucker, recently returned from Fukui, is the orientation coordinator.
- Murray Chisholm, a former JET newsletter editor in Fukui, is the newsletter editor. Fukui 97-99.
- A number of our other former executive members – Cherie and Max Whitby, Sara and Nick Hillier, Keith Parker, Bici Byrnes - are still active committee members and we will welcome their input over the coming year (and a bit).

New committees and new years mean new agendas. I remain committed to the founding philosophies of the organization – of providing support to the JET Programme and in fostering understanding between Australia and Japan. Of course I've got some ideas of my own for the organization based on my own experience of it, from speaking to other members and from my recent attendance at the JETAA International Conference.

Firstly, we are expanding the orientation coordinator's role to focus not only on guiding the orientation process (that is shortly to begin), but to keep in touch with members in Japan and overseas. This will free up the membership coordinator to concentrate more time on members in the ACT and surrounds. Please do not be concerned if, in the next few weeks, you get emails removing you from the jetaacanberra@yahoo.com list and signing you up to another list. We have designed this new list especially for our members overseas where you will receive fewer emails about committee meetings and happenings in Australia and more about international goings on.

Even so, I would like to see more contact being done by phone and in person, rather than by email. Of course, email will be our main source of communication but I hope a committee member will speak to each member personally at least once over the coming year. Already we have taken practical steps in this direction. I made about a dozen calls to members in January after the recent bushfires in the ACT to see how our alumni were affected. Other members did a similar ring around a few weeks later regarding the recent multicultural festival stall. In many cases we are lacking essential information like a phone number or a valid email address, so it makes

it hard to know where our newsletters are going. We hope to update the database over the coming months and I encourage you to update your contact details at the website (www.geocities.com/canberrajetaa).

Even our limited database audit has borne fruit – if only just to touch base or introduce ourselves to people. I realize that after 15 years of the JET programme (plus another 15 or more for its' other incarnations), there are a number of members whose experiences on JET are well and truly part of their past. Nevertheless we are hoping to offer something for everyone, even if it's just keeping a good stack of photos on the website, or ensuring that we have a variety of social events that cater to both the newly returned as well as those who have been well and truly settled in Canberra for a while. On that note, I would like to welcome a bunch of new members back to Canberra from Japan or back to JETAA Canberra. Off the top of my head, these are Jane Azurin, Alison Jost, Richard Stark, Alex Manning, Kim Roberts, Lisa Ryan/Honeysett, Caroline McGregor, Jennifer Fielden, Richard Fox, Jill Hill, Maxwell Wang, Bridget Boag, Fareeha Ibrahim, and Samuel Dye. Sorry if I have left you out.

We have also taken some practical steps in creating links to other Japan related organizations in the ACT. I had the pleasure of meeting the presidents of both the Canberra Japan Club and the Australia Japan Society in December 2002. Our informal agreement (in front of the ambassador's residence) to get more involved with each other's organisations came to fruition in February when JETAA supplied nine members to work at the very festive AJS stall at the 2003 Multicultural Festival Food and Dance Spectacular. Since then I have attended the AJS shinnenkai later in February and have been to various CJC functions in the last few weeks, and of course my on-going (personal) association with the ANU Japan club. I have always been welcomed and enjoyed meeting with others with similar experiences to me.

In terms of supporting the JET programme administration, the embassy recently selected alumni Bici Byrnes, Cherie Whitby, Lisa Ryan, Jackie Tucker, Cristy Burne and Jen Fielden to mark JET application statements or interview potential participants. Thanks to all alumni who nominated for these positions. I am sure that your advice has helped the embassy enormously. If you would like to help out with some subsequent preparations for our departing JETs – eg conducting beginner and intermediate Japanese lessons, updating our JETaway handbook or attending some of the QnA sessions - please let me know.

Japanese Onomatopoeia

For the grammatically challenged, an onomatopoeia is a word that sounds like the thing it is describing be that a verb, noun or descriptor. This concept bringing as immortal lines like “Ding, dong dell, pussy’s in the well” and “Hickory Dickory Dock the mouse ran up the clock.” The Japanese too have a rich tradition of these rather childish terms. Seeing many of us deal with Japanese children it might be best to know what they are saying behind our backs or be able to talk on their level.

There is a little book called *Nihongo Pera Pera!* by Susan Millington that can give you a lot of them. Here are a few ruthlessly ripped off from her immortal tome. A double vowel shall indicate a long sound.

zatto zatto - a sudden downpour of rain.
Doa o aketa totan, ame ga zatto furihajimemashita.
As soon as I opened the door there was a sudden

downpour.

shobo shobo - drizzle, gloomy, bleary eyed, depressed.
Shobo shobo furu ame desu. It is depressing drizzle.

Kiri kiri - sharp continuous pain
Shigoto ga tmaru to itsumo i ga kiri kiri itamu.
When work accumulates, I get stomach aches.

ira ira - irritated, on edge
Kodomo no yakamashi koe ni wa ira ira suru.
The children’s noisy voices irritate me.

So there are words for three very important occasions.

Food, glorious food!

Can one ever get enough food? Maybe, but I haven’t yet.

Ebi to riku no Karashi-sumiso-ae Shrimps and Leeks in Mustard- Miso Sauce

100 Recipes from Japanese Cooking
Hata, Koichiro, Kondo, Kazuki, p. 107.

4 fresh shrimp (25g)

1 leek (175g)

Mustard-Miso Sauce

5Tbsp white miso

1 egg yolk

3Tbsp sugar

2Tbsp vinegar

1Tbsp light soy sauce

1tsp yellow mustard

2Tbsp dashi (basic kelp and bonito stock)

Tarragon (optional)

1. De-vein and decapitate the shrimp.

2. Parboil on a skewer head first in the water so you don’t hear them squeal. Torture for three minutes.
3. Return to fridigity in cold water.
4. Slash a cross on the root end of a leek, making sure it is not upside down lest the meal is dedicated to satan. Subject to high temperature water for three minutes and cool in cold water. Cut into 1cm thick slices. The circle being a cosmic symbol of wholeness should give your guest good karma.
5. Incarcerate sauce ingredients in a bowl: eggs, miso and then the rest. Beat till repentant.
6. Strain the sauce through a seive.
7. Pool sauce in four small bowls.
8. Make an island of a roundel of leek with a shrimp on top in each bowl and admire its prettiness before serving to gasping and grateful guests.

Il Presidentę Continęs

Finally, I would like to mention that the chapter committee meets once every three months, with the next meeting scheduled for May. We are always looking for people to host a meeting at their place. You don’t have to be an elected official to either attend or to host a meeting. You don’t even need a house – as all you need to do is undertake to organize a venue (a park table with a nearby BBQ would be fine) and buy some food (for which you will be

reimbursed). I hope to see you all soon at the up-coming shinnenkai.

Roderick Siebel (Nagasaki 1998-2001)
roadwreck@bigfoot.com

Treasurer's Report

JET Alumni Association Canberra

TREASURER'S REPORT

8 December 2002 - 9 March 2003

Opening balance: \$1,198.85

RECEIPTS

Bank interest \$2.66

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$2.66

PAYMENTS

Bank charges \$1.50

Meeting - Refreshments \$34.29

TOTAL PAYMENTS \$35.79

Closing Balance: \$1,165.72

Hey all,

This is my first treasurer's report - apologies for the delay, but I think I've got it figured out now!!!

Cheers,

Cristy

Cristy Burne

Acting Editor

Scientriffic

<http://www.csiro.au/scientriffic/>

Ph: 02 6276 6017

The Science Report

A Word from Cristy

'We have four seasons'

'We have four seasons'

'We have four seasons'

We all know that Japan has four seasons (and aren't they proud!), but not until recently did we have any scientific evidence to back up the rumour that Japan's seasons have a role to play in triggering earthquakes in the region.

Research suggests that winter snow on the Alps is heavy enough to inhibit earthquakes, a weighty claim indeed! However, when you think that snow weighs about 1000 kg per square metre, this idea starts to gain muscle. The idea is that heavy snow compresses the ground, and when this snow melts, it's like taking weight off a spring.

Japanese geologist Kosuke Heki has been studying Japan's earthquakes for years. He's found that, in areas of snowfall, major earthquakes are three times more likely to hit in spring and summer, than in autumn or winter.

'It's been known for 20 years that we have more inland earthquakes in spring and summer,' says Heki. 'This could be a confirmation of snow's role'.

Maybe if you're planning a trip to snowy Japan, you should keep the four seasons in mind — and give the respect they deserve. On the other hand, Heki thinks he will need another 1000 years of data before the trend can be confirmed. Don't sell your skis just yet.

Did you know: The 1964 Niigata earthquake followed a winter of record-breaking snowfall.

The Editors Report

I am the new editor of this publication, Murray Chisholm, late of sunny Ono-shi, Fukui-ken from 1997-1999. Don't let the name Ono fool you. It is a great town with a castle and the oldest continually operating open air vegetable market in all of Japan. It is also home to the third purest water in Japan. It tasted so good when walking home from a few drinks

Now I am back in Canberra teaching at Stromlo High School. I did detour via my home town of Wagga Wagga before returning to Canberra. In Wagga I taught ESL/EFL at Charles Sturt University. Neither place can claim particularly clean water, but the dust is 100% fertile.

All I ask, dear members, is that you send many articles for publication. Murray Chisholm

Scientific Break Through

A new study in Wisconsin showed that the kind of male face the woman finds attractive can differ depending on where a woman is in her menstrual cycle.

For instance, if she is ovulating she is more attracted to men with rugged and masculine features.

And if she is menstruating she is more prone to be attracted to a man with scissors shoved in his temple and a bat rammed up his ass while he is on fire.

A well-known cardiologist died and was given an elaborate funeral, with many of his fellow MDs in attendance. A huge heart covered in flowers stood behind the casket during the service. Following the eulogy, the heart opened, and the casket rolled inside. The heart then closed, sealing the doctor in the beautiful heart forever. At that point, one of the mourners burst into laughter. When confronted, he said "I'm sorry, I was just thinking of my own funeral -- I'm a gynecologist." At that point, the proctologist fainted.

Teaching for the new Millenium

Pardon the purple title but education departments like that kind of title. This is a time to pass on pieces of teaching wisdom for those new to it or merely bored and jaded.

Mystery Story

Take the new words from the chapter in the text and use them as the parameters to write a simple mystery story. We've all seen Scooby Doo so its easier than you think. Split the story into; the story that everyone knows; forensic evidence; and, a statement from each character in the story.

Divide the class into groups and have them appoint the following positions: scribe, spokesperson and an interveiwer for each of the other groups.

Each group will have the general story and one character statement. One group will have the forensic evidence e.g. foot prints.

Then give time for each group to read and understand their own statement. This allows the strong to support the weak.

Then the interviewers must go get the information from the other groups and report back to their own group. Depending on the level of the class, this could be done in English or the first language.

Once all the information is gathered, the group must decide who done it. Then the spokesperson delivers the findings to the group. A 'fill in the blanks' speech should be provided if they haven't been trained to deliver speeches yet.

Then play Hercule Poirot and explain the case. To complete the task, the students can retell the solution in English or Language One to check understanding. That depends on your abilities and time.

Pronunciation- Houwz to sey et rioght.

Language interference is when one's target language has elements that don't translate well into the first language. Thus when teaching pronunciation its best to target those areas because they can do the rest themselves.

Small poems, (doggeral might be a better term actually!), that hit those sounds are a nice idea. Songs also depend upon rhythm and sounds and can work well to drill those sounds. You can even write them yourself, just choose a popular tune that everyone knows. One idea is, after providing a model, get the kids to write a simple song/poem themselves, Provide a 'toolbox' of familiar words and phrases to choose from.

The big problem is shyness! People would generally be boiled alive rather than recite in public. So, you

have a number of choices. The first one is used by psychologists and trauma workers- puppets. Fun to make and no can see you talking, only the puppet. Thus people will say all sorts of things they normally wouldn't say aloud. Second, a video. They draw a picture story. The pictures are then filmed whist they do the voice over. This can then be shown to the class. Third, pair work is an option for the older and more confident. Finally, you can coerce/ bribe them into it. I've had the most success with video provided you rehearse a little before hand.

In the end the successful language learner just gets over it and tries regardless but there will never be many of those, for the rest - pander to them.
Murray Chisholm

My Monsters

This type of activity is good for the young ones. The first decision is whether to provid pictures or to have them draw them. The key word is kaibutsu! Monsters!

Drawing the monster or cutting up pictures of other animals to assemble one can take a bit of time.

Then they need to learn some stock phrases. My monster is called.....

My monster can.....

It is.....

It has.....

It goes.....insert sound...

They can then present their monster to the class. The sound part is the most exciting. (earplugs!)

Canberra JETAA

Canberra JETAA
PO Box 853
Civic Square
Canberra ACT
2608

Mailing
Address
Goes
Here

Canberra JETAA

Letters from the Members



This comic by Gwen Muranaka of the Japan Times, 2 Sep 2000 was sent in by Lisa Honeysett. Let's play pin the name on the comic!

Lisa was in Mukurazaki Shi but is now back in Canberra.