

JETAA Journal



Canberra Chapter

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CONTRIBUTORS

Jenny Fielden, Christie Harvey, Tracy Lam, Julia Minty, Lucy Shields, Georgia Wemyss-Julian, Murray Woodford

Introduction from our new President...

Minasan, yoroshiku onegaishimasu!

I'm Lucy Shields, JETAA President for 2005-06. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Roderick and his committee for all their hard work over the last year... and recognise the new committee (introduced in the following pages).

I'm very excited about the prospects for the year ahead—our first year as JETAA Canberra Inc! Incorporation means that for the first time we are liable only for the amount of money held in the JETAA bank account, rather than being liable as individuals. That means that we can now participate under our own banner in community events such as the Canberra-Nara Candle Festival and the Multicultural Festival. I look forward to seeing everyone out in force to support us at our inaugural Candle Festival stall on 22 October!

We have just farewelled the 2005 cohort of JETs. Itterashaimase everyone and I hope you're having a wonderful time! This year's group consisted of 10 ALTs and one CIR:

Milena	Mie-ken
Alexandra & family	Gifu-ken
Ewan	Fukushima-ken
Helen	Fukuoka-ken
Richard	Saitama-ken
Evan	Niigata-ken
Samuel	Hokkaido
Joanne	Kagawa-ken
Timothy	Hokkaido
Andrew (CIR)	Oita-ken
Mark	somewhere in Japan!

Thanks to all who were at the farewell dinner to see these guys off and share their JET insights. A great night was had by all—see the pics later in the newsletter!

Please keep in touch throughout the year—you can contact me or any other member of the committee via president@canberra.jetaacanberra.org

Ja na,
Lucy yori
CIR, Kagawa-ken 2001-03

THE DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IS

1st NOVEMBER

Please send articles, photos and anything else that would work well in the newsletter to president@canberra.jetalumni.org by 1 November. Don't forget to include "Newsletter" in the subject title. Yoroshiku ne!

A new-look JETAA Committee...

VICE-PRESIDENT/SECRETARY -

Georgia Wemyss-Julian

I was a Ken-CIR/Prefectural Advisor, the only English-speaking CIR in my Prefecture of Saga (just below Fukuoka) and was on the Program during 2002-03 with my husband Daniel (an ALT). Returning to Australia I was in Tracy's shoes, the national JET Program Coordinator at the Embassy of Japan for 12 months. I am now working for the Governor-General out at Government House on the beautiful shores of Lake Burley Griffin. The GG is nice, so is Mrs Jeffery, but they don't tolerate stuff-ups (something which I am exceedingly good at). I got to meet Prince Charles, Prince Frederick and Princess Mary, and the Sultan of Brunei just recently (yes, I shared the same air as them! I will let you stand next to me and shake my hand...).

NEWSLETTER EDITOR - Julia Minty

I'm new to JETAA, and actually haven't been on the JET program at all...but I studied on exchange at Hitotsubashi University in 2002, and went back to Japan (just for fun!) in 2003. I'm heading back to Japan in August for the world orienteering championships in Aichi-ken - not competing, but in the role of assistant manager/team translator. I'm a Canberra girl, and am currently working at the Department of Finance.

ORIENTATION COORDINATOR -

Jenny Fielden

I'm Canberra born and bred, and now working at the Department of Immigration...and don't talk to me about what's in the media, I don't want to know!! I was a CIR in 2000-02 in Minamata-shi, Kumamoto-ken, Kyushu (think mercury Poisoning...). I'm hoping to go back to Japan to work later this year - so far it's a trip to Europe in August with a stop in Japan on the way home, but if all goes well with job-hunting, the stop may be for a year or so!

TREASURER - Murray Woodford

I was a JET from 1999-2002, working as an ALT in Muroto-cho, Kochi-ken. I taught English at seven junior high schools and 11 primary schools as well as adult conversation classes and occasional high school and kindergarten visits. I also helped out the in the Muroto City-Port Lincoln Friendship City Committee acting as guide/interpreter and preparing Japanese students and their chaperones for homestays in Australia. Kochi provided some excellent opportunities to learn about traditional culture, participate in outdoor activities, enjoy great onsens any many local festivals. I'm now working at the Department of Finance.

WEBMASTER - Tracy Lam

Like Julia, I wasn't on the JET Program either...*moshiwakenai, shitsurei, meiwakukakeshimasu*, etc, etc... I guess I'm a *Monbusho* Scholarship alumni (?), but since there's no official MonbuAA, here I am!!! I'm originally from Sydney, spent seven years in Japan doing a couple of degrees and was mostly in Kobe (the best city in Japan!!!) and Tokyo (a nation unto itself). I got back in April 2004 and moved to Canberra in October. I'm now working at the Embassy as a break (*shhhh!*), and to work out what I'm doing with my life!!! (Seven years in Japan can really disorient!) Hope to meet you all soon!!

SOCIAL COORDINATOR - Christie Harvey

I first visited Japan on a 2-week school trip in 1997 and returned as a JET in Mitake-cho, Gifu-Ken in 2003-04. I was an ALT at three junior high schools and four elementary schools. I had a really rewarding year, and as well as getting to see heaps of Japan. I also learnt tea ceremony and ikebana with a group of local women. I'm originally from Melbourne and have been in Canberra since February. I now teach ESL at the Secondary Introductory English Centre at Dickson College, which is my absolute dream job. I plan on sticking around Canberra for a while but definitely want to visit Japan again in the next year or so. Hope to see you at some of our events this year!

JETAA International Conference

The JETAA Western Japan Chapter hosted 50 country and chapter representatives from around the world at the 2005 JETAA International (JETAAI) Conference, held on 11-15 June in Nagoya and Kobe.

This was the last International Conference for awhile—the next one is scheduled for 2010 in Japan. In the meanwhile, JETAAI Executive Committee Meetings (attended by country reps only) will continue to be held annually, and chapters will be kept informed of activities through their country rep (ours is Brendon Lutwyche, from Queensland).

Much discussion was held on the future of JETAA and on how to promote the JETAAI 'brand'. Suggestions included an annual report, an international happi coat with the JETAAI sakura emblem on it, a brochure and certificate for ex-JETs explaining the program and our marketability to employers. A focus of the conference was that Chapters will have to increasingly self-fund, so discussion also centred around how to make the most of sponsorship.

The development of the Content Management System (CMS)—the new international member database—has been of concern to the Canberra Chapter and we were initially opposed to its development. Development has proceeded, although there is not yet a test system running. I took the opportunity to reiterate our privacy and security concerns about the system and the CMS Team is being very careful about the sensitive nature of the personal information to be held on system. While data will be initially downloaded from the CLAIR database of past JETs, only your name will be visible to other users. Members will initially be registered as 'do not contact me', and upon logging on you'll have the option to change that setting to remain invisible, open contact to specific people or organisations (ie. your chapter President!), or 'only contact me through my Chapter rep'. I'll keep you posted of developments, but in the meantime, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me to let me know of any concerns or queries (president@canberra.jetalumni.org).

In closing, it really was a once in a lifetime opportunity to meet like-minded people from around the world and discuss ideas for our individual Chapters and for the future direction of JETAAI...not to mention visiting the Aichi World Expo! Thanks JETAA Canberra for the opportunity!

To view conference material on the JETAAI website go to:

http://www.jetalumni.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=38&Itemid=2



Natsukashii for JET life...internationalization activity with local high school kids and Kobe Earthquake Museum volunteers



Farewell to new JETs...

The new JETs recently departed for Japan. Here's a few words from each of them, including a "departing quote".

Tim McInerny

...has never lived in Japan before.
He'll be an ALT in Sapporo, Hokkaido.

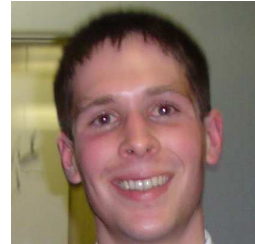
"A man travels the world over in search of what he needs and returns home to find it" - George Moore



Evan Terry-Whyte

...had an all-too-brief holiday in Japan in 2003. He'll be in Niigata-ken, working as a municipal ALT.

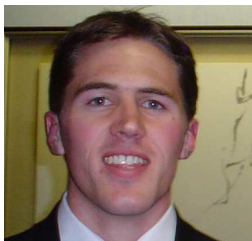
"If you go outside, make sure you're wearing pants."
(Japanese proverb)



Ewan Morris

...has never lived in Japan before.
He'll be in Fukushima-ken as an ALT with the Board of Education.
He'll be teaching mostly at elementary and junior high schools, and possibly some senior high schools and adult education.

"Wakarimasen!"



Andrew Hine

...studied for a year at the Fukuoka University of Education, He'll be in Oita-ken, working as a CIR, teaching English, organising some multicultural events, and maybe even helping out with the fishing if required!

"Ittekimasu!"



Joanne Wong

...did a school tour for two weeks in 1997. She'll be in Kanagawa-ken, working in a junior high school and an elementary school. She'll also be teaching an adult class one night a week.

"To all the JETs (past and present) and JET organisers that I have met so far: *o-aidekite ureshii desu.* (I think that's how you say it in Japanese!!)"



Richard Shumack

...has never lived or worked in Japan. He'll be living in Saitama-ken, working in various schools.

"Show me a sane man and I'll cure him for you."



Nihon, here I come!

Helen Newman

This will be Helen's first visit to Japan. She'll be an ALT for a senior high school in Fukuoka-ken, Kyushu.

"I will miss my dog Angus, but hopefully my husband will take care of him!"



Alexandra Burke

...will be an ALT in Gifu-ken, Honshu. Her husband and two daughters are also going over to live.



Milena Badger

...will be teaching in a couple of senior high schools in Mie-ken.

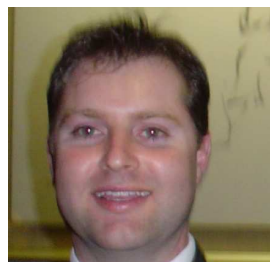
"Ready or not..."



Mark Keenan

...isn't sure yet where he'll be living or what exactly he'll be doing...

"This will be AWESOME".



Samuel Wilson

...will be living in Hokkaido.



And a photo from the JET farewell dinner at Zeffirelli's...



Bits'n'pieces

~ ONSEN MAGIC ~

Contributed by
Georgia Wemyss-Julian
CIR and Prefectural Advisor
Saga-ken, 2002-03

For centuries, the Japanese have embraced hot springs as a part of their culture. Hot springs (onsen) were considered much more than relaxing, there were said to be healing properties in the thermal spring water. As time has gone by, hot springs have become more and more popular, and many large complexes have been built for the domestic tourist market.

Under the 1948 Hot Spring Law (Onsen Hou), the Japanese Government only recognises hot springs as onsens if they are of certain temperatures and mineral contents. In 1990 there were 2300 hot springs in this category. Since 1954 the Ministry of Health and Welfare has recognised 64 onsens as capable of providing medical treatment.



A hot spring, as defined by the Hot Spring Law, is 'hot water, mineral water, water vapour and other gases (except natural gas containing hydrocarbons as their main element) that issue from the ground with a temperature in excess of 25 degrees, or that contain more than the prescribed amount of designated substances. Northern and north-western Kyushu are famous in Japan for the quality of their onsens. Here are a few examples I experienced in Saga-ken when I was there with my husband on the JET Program in 2002.

URESHINO ONSEN (Ureshino town, Saga-ken)

Ureshino sprung up during the Edo period (1600-1868) as an onsen resort, on the Nagasaki to Fukuoka Highway of the time. Ureshino is proud of their onsen that provides large quantities of very hot water. It is said that once you touch the spring water you cannot leave Ureshino. The temperature of the water is between 47-96 degrees. It has sodium bicarbonate and trace compounds in it. I thought that it felt really soft and silky to the touch.



TAKEO ONSEN (Takeo town, Saga-ken)

The 'Feel like an Emperor' onsen. Takeo onsen was discovered before 1600. The public bath was once owned and provided by the Feudal Lord of Saga-Han. In the Meiji era, the onsen became privately owned (the lucky devils!). The spring water temperature is between 18-52 degrees. We visited a "Family Room" at Takeo and had our own private onsen bath. Boy it was HOT HOT HOT! The water is slightly alkaline and sparkling clear. Takeo onsen is well renowned for healing fatigue.



FURUYU ONSEN (Fuji town, Saga-ken)

Furuyu Onsen is situated beside the Kase River. This onsen was discovered 2100 years ago by the Jofuku (the right-hand man) of the Chinese Emperor of the time. The spring is clear with no smell or taste. The temperature ranges between 34-43 degrees, which is quite low when compared with other onsens. The quality of the water is said to help arthritis.

TOSHOKA ONSEN (Kumanokawa village, Saga-ken)

By far my favourite onsen for its quaint atmosphere, intimacy, privacy and outdoor beauty, this onsen is also on the Kase River not far from Furuyu and has the same waters. The best time (in my opinion) to go to an onsen is when you are sitting in your little apaato freezing your socks off. Go sit in the luxurious waters for an hour and you'll be warm for the rest of the day!

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT...

Saga-ken has some fantastic onsens to experience and being part of Kyushu it is a great way to experience the Kyushu ONSEN MEGURI!

You know you have been in Japan too long when...

You think it's weird when you have a dream in English.

When given the choice between a fork and chopsticks, you NEED chopsticks.

When you're "pretty sure" English is your first language.

When you start thinking, "Ah Gaijin!" when you see a foreigner you don't know.

When you start eating spaghetti just like ramen or udon.

You are disappointed if a package doesn't have an 'easy open' slit.

When you go into the "reflesh" room to make an oishii cup of ocha.

When you use the flushing sound to cover the noise of your pee.

You are appreciative of the early Sunday morning loudspeaker advertising driving through the streets.

Upcoming events

NEXT JETAA COMMITTEE MEETING

13 August, Georgia's house (Charnwood)

WATTLE DAY

3 September

HANAMI

Mid-October (when the flowers bloom!)

AJS-JETAA SOFTBALL COMPETITION

15 October

EMBASSY OF JAPAN IN CANBERRA FILM FESTIVAL

17-19 October

CANBERRA-NARA CANDLE FESTIVAL

22 October

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND JETAA REGIONAL CONFERENCE

22-23 October

...and keep an eye out for:

RETURNING JETS WELCOME HOME FUNCTION

Date and venue TBA

AJS ANNUAL DINNER

27 August