

## Japanese Royal visit to Samoa

In response to an invitation from the Government of the Independent State of Samoa, Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino visited Samoa from 2-5 October 2003. It was their first visit to this country.

Prince and Princess Akishino arrived at Faleolo International Airport on the evening of 2 October and were welcomed by Hon. Tagaloa Sale Tagaloa, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment.

On Friday, 3 October, the royal couple made a courtesy call on His Highness Malietoa Tanumafili II, Head of State, and Prince Akishino called on Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi. They also visited the National University of Samoa, the headquarters of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme and Apia Port. (Please refer page 4).

The Government of Samoa hosted a reception for the royal couple at the Robert Louis Stevenson Museum. In his speech Prince Akishino thanked the Government for the invitation to visit Samoa and said, "We have seen just a few of the many examples of the broad range of cooperation which already exists between Japan and Samoa. I am pleased to note that these have contributed to our friendship and to the growing prosperity and well-being of the people of Samoa." He added, "I have also been impressed by the efforts of the people of Samoa to develop their homeland in harmony with their traditions."



Prince and Princess Akishino visit the National University of Samoa (Home Economics Department)

The Prime Minister later hosted a dinner in their honour at Aggie Grey's Hotel.

On Saturday, 4 October, the Prince and Princess visited the Prime Minister's home village, Aufaga, and spent time at the Fugalei fruit and vegetable market. They also visited the Samoan branch office of Yazaki Corporation.

H.E. Mr Masaki Saito, Ambassador of Japan to New Zealand and Samoa, hosted a reception at the Hotel Kitano Tusitala where the Prince and Princess met members of the Japanese community and people with links to Japan. After a private dinner, the royal couple returned to Aggie Grey's Hotel to rest before their early morning flight to Auckland, en route to Japan.

Prince Akishino is the second son of Their Imperial Highnesses Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. The royal couple have two daughters, Princess Mako (13 years) and Princess Kako (9 years).



Their Imperial Highnesses with the Samoa Head of State

# Elections in Japan, November 2003

The Liberal Democratic Party coalition was returned to power in the House of Representatives following elections on Sunday, 9 November. The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has 244 of the 480 seats. This includes former members of the New Conservative Party, following its decision to merge with the LDP, and independent Diet members who joined the party after the elections. The LDP coalition partner, New Komeito, won 34 seats. The largest opposition party, the Democratic Party of Japan, won 177 seats, an increase of 40 seats.

On 19 November 2003, members of the House of Representatives re-elected Mr Koizumi for a second term as Prime Minister of Japan. He beat Mr Naoto Kan, leader of the Democratic Party of Japan with a 281-186 vote majority. In the House of Councillors, Mr Koizumi beat Mr Kan with a 136-81 majority. Mr Koizumi retained all members of his previous Cabinet in their respective posts.

Contacts: House of Representatives: [www.shugiin.go.jp/index.nsf/html/index\\_e.htm](http://www.shugiin.go.jp/index.nsf/html/index_e.htm)  
Foreign Press Centre: [www.fpcj.jp](http://www.fpcj.jp)



Prime Minister Koizumi's Cabinet

## Members of Prime Minister Koizumi's Cabinet as of 19 November 2003

<i>Prime Minister</i>	Mr Junichiro KOIZUMI
<i>Minister of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications</i>	Mr Taro ASO
<i>Minister of Justice</i>	Mr Daizo NOZAWA
<i>Minister of Foreign Affairs</i>	Ms Yoriko KAWAGUCHI
<i>Minister of Finance</i>	Mr Sadakazu TANIGAKI
<i>Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology</i>	Mr Takeo KAWAMURA
<i>Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare</i>	Mr Chikara SAKAGUCHI
<i>Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries</i>	Mr Yoshiyuki KAMEI
<i>Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry</i>	Mr Shoichi NAKAGAWA
<i>Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport</i>	Mr Nobuteru ISHIHARA
<i>Minister of the Environment</i>	Ms Yuriko KOIKE
<i>Minister of State, Chief Cabinet Secretary (Gender Equality)</i>	Mr Yasuo FUKUDA
<i>Minister of State, Chairman of the National Public Safety Commission (Cultivation of Youth and Measures for Decreasing Birthrate, Food Safety)</i>	Ms Kiyoko ONO
<i>Minister of State, Director-General of the Defense Agency</i>	Mr Shigeru ISHIBA
<i>Minister of State (Okinawa and Northern Territories Affairs, Protection of Personal Information, Science and Technology Policy, Information Technology)</i>	Mr Toshimitsu MOTEGI
<i>Minister of State (Financial Services, Economic and Fiscal Policy)</i>	Dr Heizo TAKENAKA
<i>Minister of State (Regulatory Reform, Industrial Revitalization Corporation, Administrative Reform, Special Zones for Structural Reform)</i>	Mr Kazuyoshi KANEKO
<i>Minister of State (Disaster Management and National Emergency Legislation)</i>	Mr Kiichi INOUE

## Seriously Asia Conference

**Seriously Asia** is an Asia 2000 Foundation project that aims to identify the main challenges and opportunities in New Zealand's relationships within the Asian region. The project was launched by Prime Minister Helen Clark on 29 August 2003 and a major forum was held at Parliament on Wednesday, 26 November. It has been funded jointly by government and the private sector and is intended as a starting point for developing long-term strategies in Asia.

**Seriously Asia** focuses on the area extending from Japan in the east to Pakistan in the west, and from China in the north to Indonesia in the south. It was based on four inter-connected

themes: trade, tourism and investment; political and security issues; society and culture; and innovation and sustainable development. Workshops have been held throughout the country and individuals and organizations could also contribute to the website, [www.seriously.org.nz](http://www.seriously.org.nz).

The forum on 26 November included six overseas speakers. Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong gave the keynote speech at the opening dinner hosted by Prime Minister Helen Clark on Tuesday, 25 November. Ambassador Hiroaki Fujii, Advisor to the Japan Foundation, was a member of the forum's "Seriously Strategies" panel. H.E. Mr Masaki Saito attended the opening dinner and forum.

# APEC meets in Bangkok

The twenty-one member countries of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) group met in Bangkok, Thailand, 14-21 October 2003. The member countries are Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong (China), Indonesia, Japan, R.O.K., Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, the U.S.A., and Vietnam.

Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi attended the Ministerial Meeting on 17-18 October and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi attended the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting, 20-21 October. Prime Minister made the following comments at his press conference in Bangkok on 21 October, as follows:

1. "First of all, I believe a major result we achieved was that we put together a message that we shall strive to expeditiously revitalize the new round of the World Trade Organization in the interests of greater trade and investment liberalization and facilitation in the APEC region."
2. "The second result achieved was that we confirmed, on the basis of Japan's proposal, the leaders' determination to address structural reform in the economies of the APEC region in order to achieve economic growth in the APEC region."

Website: [www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/apec/2002/activity.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/apec/2002/activity.html)



APEC Leaders at the Ananta Samakhorn Throne Hall, Bangkok, Thailand on 21 Oct 2003

3. "The third result was that we were able to evince the APEC leaders' understanding that the fight against terrorism will last for a long time and that cooperation amongst us will be very necessary."
4. "I felt very strongly that this conference was an important forum for the world's security as well as economic development."

The 4th APEC Ministerial Meeting on Regional Science and Technology Cooperation will be held at the Christchurch Convention Centre, 10-12 March 2004. It is the first of next year's ministerial level meetings.

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## Yōkoso Japan – Tourism Promotion



Photo by Japan National Tourist Organization ©

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi announced in the Diet in January 2003 that the government would take measures to boost the tourism industry in Japan.

At present, fewer than 5 million tourists visit Japan each year and the aim is to double that number by 2010. (France, the world's leading tourist destination, attracts about 75 million tourists per year.) The Prime Minister established the Japan Tourism Advisory Council to develop a plan to achieve this goal. The Council is chaired by Mr Shosaburo Kimura, a

professor emeritus at the University of Tokyo.

The Japanese Government has since launched a worldwide advertising campaign, Yokoso Japan, Welcome to Japan. Special committees have been set up in China, Hong Kong and South Korea to promote the campaign and a similar committee may also be established in New Zealand.

The Yokoso Japan section on the Embassy's homepage, [www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp](http://www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp), has information about accommodation, transport and activities in different regions. It also has requirements for visas and customs. Pamphlets setting out itineraries for visiting twelve different parts of Japan are available at the Japan Information and Cultural Centre in Wellington.

Visitors and travel agencies are welcome to contact the Embassy in Wellington, Consulate General in Auckland and Consular Office in Christchurch for further assistance. Please see back page for contact details.

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## People to People

The Embassy of Japan has set up a "People to People" web portal at [www.japan.org.nz](http://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 with Japan.

Please contact the Japan Information and Cultural Centre at [japan.cul@ejj.org.nz](mailto:japan.cul@ejj.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](http://www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp)

## Japanese newspapers

Japanese newspapers are available for reference, as follows:

**Japan Information and Cultural Centre, Embassy of Japan, Wellington**

Asahi Shimbun (Japanese)

Japan Times (English)

**Consulate-General, Auckland**

Asahi Shimbun (Japanese)

Yomiuri Shimbun (Japanese)

**Consular Office of Japan, Christchurch**

Asahi Shimbun (Japanese)

Nikkei Weekly (English)

# Ambassador Saito: Credentials in Samoa



H.E. Mr Masaki Saito (far right), accompanied by Mrs Makiko Saito, presented his Letters of Credence as Ambassador of Japan to Samoa to His Highness Malietoa Tanumafili II, Head of State for Samoa, on Friday, 8 August 2003. The ceremony took place at the Head of State's official residence at Vailele.

Ambassador Saito, who is based in Wellington, is accredited to both New Zealand and Samoa.

## Completion of Apia Port Development

On 11 November 2003, the Government of Japan and the Government of Samoa jointly held the official handing-over ceremony celebrating the completion of the Second Development of Apia Port as part of a grant of two billion 245 million yen (approx. 64 million Samoan Tala) to the Government of Samoa.

This project began with the Exchange of Notes on 29 May 2001 between H.E. Koichi Matsumoto, then Ambassador of Japan to Samoa, and Hon Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa. Work on the project began on 18 October 2001 and was completed in October this year.

H.E. Masaki Saito, the present Ambassador of Japan to Samoa, and Prime Minister Tuilaepa Aiono Seilele Malielegaoi represented their governments at the handing-over ceremony. Hon. Faumuina Liuga, Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, unveiled the commemorative plaque.

The development of port facilities is one of the most important issues in the Government of Samoa's national development plan. The main objective of this project was the



Ambassador Masaki Saito and Prime Minister Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi shake hands by the commemorative plaque.

construction of a new wharf to help reduce port congestion caused by the condition and size of the previous wharf. The Government of Samoa requested assistance from the Japanese Government for this work.

This is the fourth grant aid project undertaken by the Japanese Government in the development of Apia Port and is the largest since it started grant aid programmes in Samoa in 1977.

## Second Japanese movie show in Apia

The Japanese Embassy in New Zealand showed two Japanese movies in Apia on 11 and 12 November 2003: IZAKAYA-YUREI (Ghost Pub) and TSURIBAKA-NISSHI (Free and Easy), both comedies.

This is the second time the Embassy has shown movies in Apia and the aim is to introduce Samoan people to current Japanese society and to develop good relationships between the two countries through this medium. This second movie show was also part of the celebrations for the handing-over of the Apia Port Project between the Governments of Japan and Samoa.

The venue for the movies was again the National University of Samoa. The Japanese Ambassador, H.E. Mr Masaki Saito, gave a brief speech before the movie on the first night. A total of 268 people attended over both nights. A small gift of a Japanese fan and puzzle was given to film-goers as they left the theatre.

The Embassy is planning to introduce Japanese traditional craftwork (kites and chiyo boxes) to Samoan primary school students in September 2004, during the Teuila Festival, as well as to show more Japanese movies in Apia. The Teuila Festival is the biggest in Samoa and the teuila (the red ginger plant) is Samoa's national flower.

## 2003 Media invitation to Japan

Mr Colin James, a New Zealand Herald columnist, visited Japan from 15 to 24 September under the 2003 Media Invitation to Japan Programme. He writes:

"I looked principally at security issues: the impact of China's rise and recent international events on Japan's attitude to security issues, particularly the Article 9 constitutional restrictions on the armed forces. I also examined the prospects for economic reform and recovery, in the light of the November elections. I talked to representatives of minority groups, notably the Ainu and Koreans and I took the opportunity, which I had skimmed on in earlier visits, to brush up on Japanese ancient and modern culture, both in Tokyo and Kyoto. I also visited Hiroshima.

And I ate some excellent food.

While I would not claim to know Japan, this visit, my fourth, did give me more insights into a society I instantly liked when I first visited 30 years ago. And the more insights I get, the more I want to know."

# Second International Languages Week

This year's International Languages Week took place from Sunday, August 10, until Saturday, August 16 and schools throughout New Zealand took part in the event. Monday, 11th, was designated Ni hao Day (Chinese), Tuesday, 12th, as Bonjour Day (French), Wednesday, 13th, as Guten tag Day (German), Thursday, 14th, as Konnichi wa Day (Japanese) and Friday, 15th, as Buenos dias Day (Spanish). All languages were celebrated but these are the five main foreign languages taught in New Zealand schools.

Prime Minister Helen Clark officially launched the week at a parliamentary reception hosted by the Hon Marian Hobbs, Associate Minister of Education, on Tuesday, August 12. The Prime Minister has some knowledge of Spanish, French and German and she strongly supports New Zealanders learning other languages.

H.E. Mr Masaki Saito hosted a lunch for a group of Wellington high school students at his Residence on Konnichi wa Day (14th). Japanese-influenced activities during the week included karaoke (any language) and Bon Odori dancing at Cuba Mall, greeting people at the airport with



Upper Hutt College Students perform the Bon Odori Dance in Cuba Mall, Wellington on Sunday, August 10.

## Language course at JICC

A six-week Japanese language course is planned for early next year to help students prepare for the Level II Japanese Language Proficiency Test. Classes will be on Wednesday evenings, 6:00-7:30, and run from 4 February until 10 March 2004. They will be held at the Japan Information and Cultural Centre in Wellington. There is no fee. If you would like to attend, please contact Centre, Tel. 04-472-7807, Email. [japan.cul@eoj.org.nz](mailto:japan.cul@eoj.org.nz).

More classes will be held throughout the year. Please check the "What's New" pages on the Embassy's website, [www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp](http://www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp), for details.



Pupils from Masterton International School at the JICC, Tuesday, 12 August, learn about toys in Japan

"Konnichi wa" (Hello) and school visits to the Japan Information and Cultural Centre. The Centre also showed some children's films at Te Papa's Soundings Theatre.

A Japanese Role-Play Contest for Year 10 and 12 students was held at Aotea College, Porirua, on Friday, 15 August. Year 10 winners were Onslow College (Team 2), and Onslow College also won the Year 12 section. (For more details, please check the website, <http://www.international-languages-week.org.nz>.)

In Auckland, the Japanese speech contest at UNITEC Institute of Technology, was also on Friday, 15th. Bella Kim from Macleans College won Category 1 (Year 12 students), Tricia Mcuaid from Manurewa High School won Category 2 (Year 13 students) and a trip to Japan, and Dong Joon Byun from Auckland Grammar School won Category 3 (students who have stayed in Japan for 10 months or more).

One of the more unusual activities were visits to Auckland zoo for groups of Year 11 students. The students were given a Japanese worksheet and asked to answer questions about the animals.

The nationwide haiku competition was also held again this year. Some of the top entries in the poster and haiku competition last year are on the International Languages Week website.

Hiroshima Day, August 6, was included too. The Sasakawa Fellowship Fund for Japanese Language Education, <http://sasakawa.massey.ac.nz>, sponsored a Cranes for Peace project to commemorate Hiroshima Day and to celebrate International Languages Week. A group of schools in Otago, another in Palmerston North and a third group in Auckland each made 1000 cranes which were sent to the Mayor of Hiroshima City

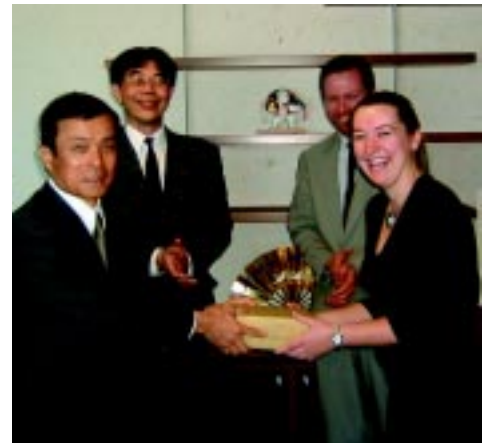


(From left to right) Winners of the Unitec speech contest, Bella Kim, Tricia Mcuaid and Dong Joon Byun.

There were many activities throughout the country. Judith Geare, a Member of the ILW Steering Committee, said there was very positive feedback from people and "a huge leap in the general recognition of the week, compared to last year." She also said that the event has given schools a national context for a week of language activities, something she considers very worthwhile. Another International Languages Week is planned for 2004.

## Ambassador's book prize 2003

Ambassador Masaki Saito presents the annual Book Prize on 6 November to Ms Nadine Smith, top student for Victoria University's Course JAPA211, Modern Japan. Nadine is in her second year at university, majoring in Japanese and International Business. Also in the photo are Dr Yushi Ito, Director of the University's Japanese Programme, and Dr Andrew Barke, one of the programme's Japanese lecturers. The Ambassador's Book Prize was first presented in 1980.



# Hawkes Bay Speech Competition

The Hawkes Bay Japan Society has regularly held a speech competition for secondary school students since Japanese was introduced into schools in the 1980s. This year's competition was held at Napier Boys' High School on Friday, August 1, and there were 23 competitors from eight secondary schools.

The students could choose the topic for their speeches. Form 5 (Year 11) students had to speak for at least three minutes, Form 6 (Year 12) for at least four minutes and Form 7 (Year 13) for at least 7 minutes. The winners were as follows:

**Form 5:** 1st: Susan Cooper of Iona College; (Topic: "Visiting Hawkes Bay")

2nd: Jivan Mavani of Havelock North High School;  
3rd: Kjanya Tanabe of Woodford House.

**Form 6:** 1st: Gerard Freeman of Napier Boys' High School; (Topic: "My School")

2nd equal: Adam Strang, Taradale High School and P.J. Gerbes, Iona College;

3rd: Simeon Phillips of Havelock North High School.

**Form 7:** 1st: Jonny Mole of Lindisfarne College; (Topic: "Visiting New Zealand")

2nd: Natalie Hunt of Iona college;

3rd: Avinash Rao of Lindisfarne College.

Prize winners received medals from the Hawkes Bay Japan Society - 1st, gold; 2nd, silver and 3rd, bronze. First prize winners also received \$100 each, sponsored by Pan Pac Forest Products Ltd. Second and third prize winners received book vouchers, sponsored by the Port of Napier and Classic Sheepskins Ltd.

Japan society vice-president Robert Arrell, who organized the competition, said, "It was very successful. All the boys and girls thoroughly enjoyed themselves and it was a good opportunity for them to see students from other schools doing the same sort of thing. They could compare their work and that's very valuable."

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## Osaka visit highlight for New Zealand Symphony Orchestra

The New Zealand Symphony Orchestra was invited to Japan to take part in the International Performing Arts Festival: Asia Orchestra Week 2003. Five orchestras - the NZSO, the All Kansai Orchestra, the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Suwon Philharmonic Orchestra and Tianjin Symphony Orchestra - performed at the Osaka Symphony Hall from 6-10 October. The Istanbul State Symphony Orchestra and Mongolian State Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra performed at the Tokyo Opera City Concert Hall Tekemitsu Memorial on 2-3 October.

Each country's concert had three components: an orchestral work by one of its best composers; a concerto with one of its soloists; other compositions the orchestra could play with confidence. The NZSO programme consisted of Douglas Lilburn's Aotearoa Overture, Elgar's Sea Pictures (soloist Helen Medlyn), Bartok's Miraculous Mandarin Suit and Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet. NZSO music director James Judd conducted the orchestra.

The NZSO gave the opening concert at the festival and chief executive Peter Walls gave this report on the orchestra's visit:

"The concert in Osaka's beautiful Symphony Hall on 6 October had about an 80% house, and the audience clearly loved the orchestra's performance. Personally, I was thrilled with what I heard and immensely proud of our

orchestra. The players' performance was both virtuoso and committed. The entire audience was swept along by the intensity evident in their playing. Soloist Helen Medlyn was completely assured in her performance and music director James Judd was at his best. Philip Gibson, New Zealand's ambassador to Japan, attended the concert.

The rest of our brief visit to Osaka was enjoyable and productive. On 5 October (the day before our concert), orchestra members Ed Allen, Yury Gezentsvy, David Chickering, and Douglas Mews accompanied James Judd and me to Sakai, which has a sister-city relationship with Wellington. In the first part of the afternoon, we attended a rehearsal of a massed symphonic band from the combined junior high schools of Sakai. James Judd conducted and our players

coached the students. The players then presented a short chamber-music recital in the Sakai City Hall. This went very well.

On the day after our concert, the Nevine Quartet (Elizabeth Patchett, Janet Armstrong, Peter Barber, and Robert Ibell) performed an hour-long programme of New Zealand music. The concert had been arranged by Asia 2000 for the Kansai-New Zealand Centre in association with the Kuboso Memorial Museum of Arts in Izumi and the Izumi City Cultural Association.

All in all, the NZSO players did brilliantly. The tour to Japan has been a resounding success."

The first International Performing Arts Festival was held last year and the aim is to let audiences experience the culture of different countries through their orchestral music, a common language throughout the world.



The NZSO rehearse with Helen Medlyn at the Osaka Symphony Hall on 6 October 2003

# NZ-Japan Friendship Society, New Plymouth



Past presidents (from left) Mr Bryan King, Mr Russell Clearwater and Mr Ken Brown and Mrs Vivienne Brown (current president) with the anniversary cake.

The Society held their 30th Anniversary Dinner on Tuesday, 4 November, at Pukekura Park Kiosk and thirty-six people attended the function. Addresses were given by Mr Lyn Bublitz, Deputy Mayor of New Plymouth, and Mr Russell Clearwater, a former president and joint founder of the society.

The society was formed through the efforts of the late Mr Neil Rowe, his wife Hiroko, and Mr Clearwater and had its first meeting in October 1973.

Members were strongly involved in the establishment of the New Plymouth/Mishima sister city relationship, formalized in 1991, and have provided homestays and support for school groups and other Japanese visitors. Then Ambassador Sadakazu Taniguchi presented Mr Clearwater with the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Rays, in November 1993 in recognition of his contribution towards fostering closer relations with Japan, through the society and its association with Mishima. The current President is Mrs Vivienne Brown.

There are fourteen Japan Societies in New Zealand and contact details are on their website, [www.nzjapan.org](http://www.nzjapan.org).

## People-to-people functions in Wellington

A dinner was held at the King Wah Restaurant in Wellington on Saturday, 26 July, to bring together people interested in Japan. About 100 attended, including New Zealanders and the Japanese community in Wellington. A Wellington JET Alumni Association initiative, the dinner was jointly subsidized by JETAA, the Wellington Japan Society and the Wellington-Sakai Association.



Quiz night winners, Kiwi no Toki, lead by Jackie Owens (second from right).

A similar function, a quiz evening, was held at the Japan Information and Cultural Centre on Friday, 17 October. Japan Society president Mr Dean Rabbitt was quizmaster, with Ms Annette Oldfield, Ms Sam Oakley and Ms Catherine Patton from JETAA marking the questions. About 40 people took part, divided into 7 teams. The 10-round competition included making an Ikebana arrangement which was judged by Mrs Nanette Kwok, President of Wellington Ikebana International. The overall winners were the Kiwi no Toki team, with the Japiwis second and the 5-Stars third. Mr Rabbitt said there are plans for the quiz to become an annual event.

# Canterbury Ballet to Japan

Twenty-one dancers from the Canterbury Ballet Company went to Japan in October as part of the Christchurch-Kurashiki 30th anniversary celebrations. The troupe, aged from 13 to 21 years old, was led by Mr David Bolam-Smith, deputy chairman of the Christchurch-Kurashiki Sister City Committee, and Ms Taisia Missevich, director of the Canterbury Ballet. Dancers Lana Panfilov, Kate James and Maddy Krenek wrote a report which included the following comments:

"16 October: The company went to the Gebukan Theatre for warm-up class, tech rehearsal and finale rehearsal with the Japanese dancers. We were faced with a theatre that was unimaginable. With over 20 tech advisors and hundreds of lights which shone from all possible angles, the company truly felt inspired. Rehearsals finished and the dancers were introduced to The One Day Kurashiki Ballet Company. These 75 dancers ranged from 9-26 years old and did everything they could to make us feel at home."



The Canterbury Ballet Company and One Day Kurashiki Ballet Company at the Gebukan Theatre, Kurashiki, 18 October 2003.

"October 18: The company awoke full of nerves and determination. We combined with the senior members of the Kurashiki Company for a warm-up class taught by "call me Di", the Company director. After applying makeup and getting dressed in our costumes, the electronic curtain was minutes away from being raised. The performance began with Sleeping Beauty Act I, performed by the Kurashiki Ballet, followed by Canterbury Ballet's neo classical piece entitled 'Fugue'. After the interval, The Kurashiki One Day Ballet Company performed a neo classical/contemporary item. Canterbury Ballet's La Bayadere Act 3 finished off the performance before the exciting finale. After great applause on and off stage, the two companies got organized for their evening performance."

"We departed Kyoto on Friday, 24th, with mixed emotions about coming home. We bonded so well with the Japanese and the whole experience was truly amazing. It is definitely an experience which everyone will remember and treasure forever."

## Mayor visits Christchurch

Mr Takeshi Nakada, Mayor of Kurashiki, and a 47-member delegation, visited Christchurch in October. Mr Eiichiro Yamada, Consular Officer in Christchurch, attended the 30th anniversary Commemoration Ceremony on 26 October and read a message from H.E. Mr Masaki Saito, who was unable to attend the function.

More celebrations are planned, including a visit by the Kurashiki Youth Choral group in March 2004. For more details, please contact Ms Barbara August, International Relations Co-ordinator, Christchurch City Council (Tel. 03 941-8251) or check [www.christchurch.org.nz/SisterCities/Kurashiki](http://www.christchurch.org.nz/SisterCities/Kurashiki).

# Kimonos at WOW Awards in Nelson

The 2003 Montana World of WearableArt Awards (WOW Awards) were held at Nelson's Trafalgar Centre over two weekends, 12-14 September and 19-21 September. The seven main categories were the Nelson City Council Red Section, the American Express Open Section, the Port Nelson Illumination Illusion Section, Air New Zealand Oceania Section, Tourism New Zealand Avant Garde Section, Scenic Circle Hotels Bizarre Bra Section and the Bowater Toyota Children's Section.



2003 Montana World of WearableArt Awards 'Blue Lagoon' by Susan Holmes, Auckland. Highly Commended, Creative New Zealand Artistic Excellence Section – Reinterpret the Kimono. Photo credit: World of WearableArt

A new special category was introduced this year, the Creative New Zealand Artistic Excellence Section, and the theme was Re-interpreting the Kimono. Entry was by invitation and limited to previous winners of the Supreme WOW Award, former judges of the Awards and senior practicing artists. Their brief was as follows:

"The kimono is one of the oldest designs still relevant today. Artists are invited to reinterpret this sculptural shape with a New Zealand flavour."

The winner was Ms Letty MacPhedran of Nelson with her entry, Yoi Yasa. Ms Susan Holmes of Auckland was highly commended for her creation, Blue Lagoon. They won \$7,500 and \$2,000 respectively.

A model wearing a traditional kimono provided contrast to the designs in the show. The kimono was on loan from the Embassy of Japan in Wellington.

An increasing number of entries for the WOW Awards now come from outside New Zealand, including Asia, the USA, United Kingdom and Australia. Ms Yoshiko Ikezawa from Japan entered a garment, Mermaid, in the Air New Zealand Oceania Section and was a finalist in this category. Ms Kiyoko Kubomura's entry in the Oceania Section was Obi Concerto, but did not reach the finals.



2003 Montana World of WearableArt Awards 'Yoi Yasa' by Letty MacPhedran, Nelson. Winner of the Creative New Zealand Artistic Excellence Section – Reinterpret the Kimono. Photo credit: World of WearableArt

About 150 creations were selected for the final Award shows, with prizes for winners in each section. Nelson designer, Greta Tapper, won the 2003 Montana Supreme WOW Award with her entry, Binding Thoughts. She received a trophy, cash prize of \$10,000 and a \$10,000 travel prize.

H.E. Mr Masaki Saito attended the WOW Premier Awards Performance on Friday, 12 September. Prime Minister Helen Clark, Cabinet Ministers and other dignitaries also attended that evening.

Garments from the Creative New Zealand Artistic Excellence Section were used for a brief fashion show at a dinner hosted by the Prime Minister on 25 November. The dinner was part of the Seriously Asia Forum which was held at Parliament Buildings on 26 November.

## New JET participants to Japan

More than 170 young New Zealanders joined the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme in 2003. Most are Assistant Language Teachers and will spend 1-3 years at schools in cities, towns and villages throughout Japan. Seven are Coordinators for International Relations, a position that requires fluent Japanese, and they are based in local government offices. Stuart Innes, a Sports Exchange Advisor, is also part of the group. He is New Zealand's first sailing coach under the JET Programme and is in Iwate Prefecture.

Information about the JET programme is on the Embassy website, [www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp/cultural/JET.html](http://www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp/cultural/JET.html)



New JETS at Wellington airport on Saturday, July 26.

## JET Alumni Association conferences

The JETAA Australia and New Zealand Regional Conference 2003 was held in Perth, Western Australia, 12-13 September. Mr Peter De Valda (Auckland) and Ms Shelley Keach (Christchurch) attended the conference along with ten Australian delegates from Canberra, Melbourne, Queensland and Sydney and members of JETAA Western Australia and Northern Territory.

Workshops included "Enhancing One's Contribution as a JETAA Member", "Recruiting & Orientating JET Participants", "Overcoming the Tyranny of Distance" and "JETAA at a Regional and International Level". Conference members shared and gathered ideas to take back to their own chapters.

The 2004 JETAA International Conference will be held in New York, 26-29 February. Representatives from New Zealand, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Scotland, South Korea, the USA and the United Kingdom will attend the meeting. Website: [www.jetalumni.org](http://www.jetalumni.org)

Regional contacts for JETAA in New Zealand:

Auckland: [jetaaa@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:jetaaa@yahoo.co.nz), <http://www.geocities.com/jetaaa/index.htm>; Wellington: [jetaawgtn@hotmail.com](mailto:jetaawgtn@hotmail.com), <http://www.jetaawgtn.org.nz>

Christchurch: [jetaa\\_south\\_island@paradise.net.nz](mailto:jetaa_south_island@paradise.net.nz) [http://homepages.paradise.net.nz/jetaa\\_south\\_island](http://homepages.paradise.net.nz/jetaa_south_island)



# Ikebana

H.E. Mr Masaki Saito opened the 2003 Ikebana exhibition at the Japan Information and Cultural Centre on Tuesday, 9 September. The flower arrangements were by members of the Wellington Chapter of Ikebana International and were in the Sogetsu, Ohara, Ichiyo and Koryu styles. The seventy guests included the Wellington floral art community and members of the diplomatic corps. The exhibition was open to the public until Friday, 13 September.

Ikebana or kado, the way of the flowers, had its origin in Buddhist flower offerings. Since the 15th century, however, it has developed into a distinctive art form with many styles and schools. Ikebana emphasizes the individual character of each branch and flower. The container, too, is important and the simple lines of the composition have balance, rhythm and strength - an overall harmony. Ikenobo, Ohara and Sogetsu are the most popular styles today.

Ikebana International, founded in Tokyo in 1956 by Mrs Ellen Gordon Allen, encourages the teaching of Ikebana throughout the world. Their motto is Friendship through Flowers. Mrs Ruth Scott, founder and patroness of the Wellington Chapter of the organization, was living in Japan during the first years of Ikebana International and was its third President.

There are Ikebana International groups in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. They have monthly meetings and

welcome newcomers who would like to learn about this Japanese art form. They also hold regular workshops, demonstrations and exhibitions. Contact details: Auckland - Mrs Val Flavell, Tel. 09-445-9495; Wellington - Mrs Nanette Kwok, Tel. 04-386-1221; Christchurch - Mrs Natalie Morgan, 03-



Mrs Jessie Lines and her daughter admire an arrangement at the Ikebana Exhibition, 9 September.

355-2389. Details about meetings are on the Embassy's "People-to-people" website, [www.japan.org.nz](http://www.japan.org.nz).

The Wellington Ikebana International group did sixteen arrangements for the Dominion Post Flora Flora 2003 event at the Michael Fowler Centre during Labour Weekend, 25-27 October. They represented the Embassy of Japan at this event.

The Wellington group will also host the 22nd Australia/New Zealand Ikebana International Regional Conference at Labour Weekend in 2005. The guest demonstrator will be Mrs Kimiko Okada, Iemoto Designate of the Kozan School. The Ninth World Convention of Ikebana International will be held in Tokyo, 27-30 October 2006, [www.ikebanahq.org](http://www.ikebanahq.org). Wellington president Mrs Kwok said, "It is the love and artistry of the Japanese that has seen Ikebana attract a following worldwide."

The libraries at the Embassy in Wellington, Consulate-General in Auckland and Consular Office in Christchurch have books on Ikebana. Library membership is free. Please also check the Embassy website, [www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp](http://www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp) for a list of videos on Japanese arts and culture. (Video No.115, in the education section, is about Ikebana.)



Mrs Makiko Saito and Sogetsu teacher Mrs Brigitte Takanaka discuss an arrangement at the opening of the Ikebana Exhibition at the Japan Information and Cultural Centre, 9 September 2003.

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## Bonsai in Christchurch

The Avon Bonsai Society hosted the New Zealand National Bonsai Conference for 2003 at St. Andrews College, Papanui, Christchurch, 14-21 September. The convention coincided with the society's 10th anniversary and Mrs Lyn Connolly, their President, said the committee worked hard to make it a memorable event. She continued:

"The result of their enthusiasm was a record number of registrations, with 104 people attending, and I am told this number is comparable with numbers at many overseas conventions. Members travelled from clubs throughout New Zealand and we were pleased to receive guests from Sydney, Victoria, Tasmania and Canada.

Most important of all were our two world-renowned demonstrators, Craig Coussins from the UK and Reiner Gobel from Canada. Craig and Reiner were inspiring, both in their

demonstrations and during the workshops they ran throughout the weekend.

The trees styled by the demonstrators were auctioned at the end of the conference and their new home is the Christchurch Botanic Gardens bonsai collection, where they will be on display for all enthusiasts to view.

Club members exhibited about 100 trees. The weekend was a time to renew friendships, share knowledge and enjoy ourselves and we look forward to next year's conference in Hamilton."

The New Zealand Bonsai Association website, [www.bonsainz.com](http://www.bonsainz.com), has a list of clubs in New Zealand and includes contact details, meeting times and venues. Individual membership is available for people without easy access to a club or group.

# Games in Japan

The Japanese have played all kinds of games since ancient times. Although rules and materials may have changed, the games are still basically the same. Some traditional children's games are otedama (bean bag), ayatori (a string game) and origami (paper folding). There is also beigoma (played with spinning tops) and kite flying (often associated with New Year), as well kakurembo (hide-and-seek) and onigokko (tag), games that are played throughout the world. *(Traditional toys and games from different regions in Japan are on display at the Japan Information and Cultural Centre in Wellington.)*

Matching games or "comparisons" (awase) have a long

history in Japan. Two of the earliest are e-awase (picture-comparing contests) and uta-awase (poetry contests). Similar games involved comparing flowers, birds and also shells, kai-awase. At first the shells were simply matched according to colour, shape and size, but later, each half shell was painted with a scene or lines of poetry and players had to choose matching shells to complete a picture or poem.

Card games, such as hyakunin-issu, and word games are also popular. Many board games were brought from China and the most well-known are go and shoogi. The oldest go board in Japan is displayed at the Shosoin in Nara and the game is mentioned in the 11th century Tale of the Genji.

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## GO – a board game that challenges the mind



(From left) Allan Johnston, Tsuyoshi Asao and Jimmy Yuan (12 years old) at the Wellington Open Competition, 29/30 November, at Victoria University.

Go is played with round, lens-shaped black and white pieces called stones on a board marked with a grid. Two players compete for territory, either by surrounding vacant areas or by surrounding and capturing opponent's stones. The winner is the player with the most territory and prisoners.

According to legend, go was invented by a vassal named Wu in ancient China about 4,000 years ago. It spread to Korea and was later brought to Japan by Chinese missionaries in the 5th or 6th century.

Other accounts trace the game to India, where early forms of chess were also played more than 4,000 years ago. Chess spread widely throughout the West and East (it is called shoogi and played by different rules in Japan), but go was played only in China Korea and Japan. Although the rules are simple, there are numerous play sequences and some people consider it the world's most intellectual game, even more so than chess.

Modern go history begins in 1612, when the Tokugawa shogunate set up four go schools and annual official games were held at his castle in Edo (now Tokyo). Top professional go players formed a study group called Hoensha during the Meiji

period (1868-1912) and the Japan Go Association was formed in 1924. The association's website, <http://www.nihonkiin.or.jp/index-e.htm>, has step-by-step instructions on how to play the game. The International Go Federation, <http://www.nihonkiin.or.jp/igf/index.htm>, in Tokyo was founded in 1982 and now has more than 60 member countries, including New Zealand.

Go has been gaining more young players in Japan in recent years, partly due to a young woman, Umezawa Yukari, a professional go player who has tried to make the game more popular. A Japanese comic and cartoon called Hikaru No Go has also attracted people to the game ([www.senseis.xmp.net/?HikaruNoGo](http://www.senseis.xmp.net/?HikaruNoGo)). Hikaru discovered the ancient game when he found an old board in the attic and met the spirit of a past go master. Umezawa Yukari wrote a commentary for the comic version.

The game was probably first played in New Zealand in the early 1900s, when a series of articles was published in a Dunedin newspaper. There seems to have been little interest after that until the 1960s and 70's. The Auckland Go Society was formed in 1975 and a Wellington club in 1976. A group of professional players led by Haruhiko Shirae came to New Zealand in 1976 and the first New Zealand go congress was also held that year. The first secondary school go congress was held in 1977 with players from one Hamilton school and three Auckland schools.

New Zealand's first representative at the World Amateur Go Championships in Tokyo was Graeme Parmenter in 1979 and representatives have attended each year since then. For more details, please see, <http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~barryp/history.htm>

There are five go clubs in New Zealand and they are in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin and Masterton (<http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~barryp/clubs.htm> or [www.japan.org.nz](http://www.japan.org.nz)). Dan Reeve from Wellington, who writes the go newsletter, said there is renewed interest in the game in New Zealand. "We keep getting new people all the time in the last two years." He said some of these were through Hikaru No Go.

The 2003 national tournament was held in Auckland on 8-9 November and the 2004 tournament will be held in Wellington, probably in October.

# Message from Mr Shigeyuki Suzuki, the new Consul-General in Auckland



The connections between New Zealand and Japan are many and various. Situated on the Pacific Rim, both countries are affected by the Pacific Plate that burrows under the earth's crust causing seismic activity in both lands. For Japan's global trade, New Zealand is an important link on the Pacific sea route and the annual 150,000 or so Japanese visitors to New Zealand reinforce the reputation it has for being a land of outstanding scenic beauty.

Before Auckland, I was in Chiang Mai in Thailand, and when it became known that I was to be transferred to New Zealand, Thais and expatriates alike invariably greeted the news with envious

remarks on my good fortune to be going to live somewhere so beautiful. Although my experience, since arriving in September, is still limited to the North Island, now that I have seen New Zealand with my own eyes, I have discovered for myself why I was considered to be so lucky.

At a reception held in October to mark the 80th anniversary of the inauguration of the Auckland Consular Corps, as the most recent new arrival, over the course of many toasts, I was honoured to be asked to make a toast for those diplomats yet to come. Reflecting on that evening, I think this characteristic display of consideration for others and the desire to get on well together are wonderful aspects of New Zealanders that should be cherished.

It is my intention during my time in Auckland to promote exchanges between as many people as possible and to strengthen those relationships that already exist.

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## Japan Day in Auckland attracts more than 10,000



Taiko drum group, "Waikaito", giving a rousing performance at Japan Day in Auckland.

and participants throughout the day. Other attractions included food stalls, selling traditional Japanese festival-style snacks, mochitsuki (rice-cake making), and an Ikebana display.

Held at the ASB Stadium in Kohimarama, Japan Day was organized by the Japanese Society of Auckland, The New Zealand Japan Society of Auckland and the Japanese Businessmen's Society of Auckland, with support from the Consulate-General of Japan.

Drawing a crowd of more than 10,000 people, the third annual Japan Day, held on Sunday, 23 November in Auckland, was a spectacular success. The large crowd was entertained by a day-long programme of Japanese performing arts, martial arts demonstrations, food stalls, cultural activities and displays.

The festival programme got off to a spectacular start with dazzling performances by the Japanese drum group, "Waikaito", from Hamilton and the yosakoi soran dance group, "Southern Stars". Both groups performed twice more as part of an exciting programme of festival entertainments that also included aikido and shorinji kenpo demonstrations and bon-odori traditional folk dancing. During their final performance, the bon odori dance group successfully encouraged members of the audience to join in the dancing.

As in previous years, an origami workshop proved to be very popular with children, attracting a sizeable crowd of onlookers



The crowd at Japan Day fills the ASB Stadium floor to capacity.

# New Director at JICC



Mr Kazumasa Takane took up the position of director of the Japan Information and Cultural Centre in August 2003. Mrs Nari Takane and their two children, Masaaki and Mika, accompanied him to New Zealand. He replaced Mr Masaru Aniya who has been posted to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

## New Library Books at JICC

**Japanese Country Style: Putting New Life into Old Houses** by Yoshihiro Takishita. This book has photographs and plans of sixteen renovated villas and country homes. It includes a section on the structure of Gassho-style farmhouses.

**Traditional Japanese Furniture: A Definitive Guide** by Kazuko Koizumi. It describes the different types of furniture, e.g. kitchen furniture, seating and bedding, as well as different techniques used to make these articles, e.g. types of woods, joinery and metalwork. It also gives a history of Japanese furniture. Many photographs.

**Bamboo in Japan** by Nancy Moore Bess. This book looks at bamboo in the Japanese culture: its symbolism, its cultivation, the way bamboo has been used in the home, in gardens and architecture, in crafts and arts, etc. Again many photographs.

**A Japanese Touch for Your Garden**, by Kiyoshi Seike, Masanobu Kudo and David H. Engel. This is a practical guide to making a Japanese garden, including laying stones, creating sand patterns, fences and waterfalls. It includes plans for some Japanese gardens.

Also:

**Snow, Wave, Pine: Traditional Patterns in Japanese Design** by Sadao Hibi and Motoji Niwa.

**Memory on Cloth: Shibori Now** by Yoshiko Iwamoto Wada.

**The Book of Kimono: The Complete Guide to Style and Wear** by Norio Yamanaka

**Classic Japanese Inns and Country Getaways** by Margaret Price

**A Guide to Japanese Hot Springs** by Anne Hotta and Yoko Ishiguro

**The Insider's Guide to Sake** by Philip Harper

## Coming Events

**Japanism in Fashion** – the influence of Japanese culture and designers on European fashion. (Exhibition supported by the Japan Foundation.)

When: Friday, 12 December - Monday, 8 March 2004.

Where: Christchurch Art Gallery, Worcester Boulevard, Christchurch

Contacts: Tel. 03-941-7300,  
[www.christchurchartgallery.org.nz](http://www.christchurchartgallery.org.nz).

**16th Ship for World Youth Programme** – twelve New Zealanders will take part in the two-month programme

When: 21 January - 3 March 2004.

Where: Yokohama, Singapore, Mumbai, Dar-es-Salaam, Victoria (Seychelles), Singapore, Yokohama

Contacts: [www.swyaustralia.org](http://www.swyaustralia.org)

**Mediarena** – Japanese art in the 21st century: painting, photography, sculpture, digital animation and installations. (Exhibition supported by the Japan Foundation)

When: Saturday, 21 February - Saturday, 15 May 2004

Where: Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, Queen Street, New Plymouth (One outdoor installation may be at another site.)

Contact: Tel. 06-758-5149, [www.govettbrewster.com](http://www.govettbrewster.com)

**Fruits** – the extreme fashion styles of Japanese teenagers on the streets of Tokyo, photographed by Shoichi Aoki

When: Saturday, 21 February - Sunday, 30 May 2004

Where: The Dowse Art Museum, Laings Road, Lower Hutt

Contacts: Tel. 04-570-6580, [www.dowse.org.nz](http://www.dowse.org.nz),  
[www.nzfestival.telecom.co.nz](http://www.nzfestival.telecom.co.nz)

**Sister Cities New Zealand 2004 Conference** –

the conference themes are peace and friendship, culture, education and economic opportunities.

When: Wednesday, 24 March - Saturday, 27 March

Where: Christchurch Convention Centre, 95 Kilmore Street, Christchurch

Contacts: Tel. 03-343-5900, [www.sistercities.org.nz](http://www.sistercities.org.nz)

**The 2005 World Exposition, Aichi, Japan**

Theme: Nature's Wisdom

When: 25 March - 25 September 2005

Where: Nagoya Eastern Hills (Nagakute Town, Toyota City and Seto City)

Website: <http://www.expo2005.or.jp>

Also please check the Embassy's web portal, [www.japan.org.nz](http://www.japan.org.nz), for current events.

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