JSANZ 10th Anniversary

Special Edition Newsletter

# Kia ora and greetings from outgoing president

Congratulations to all, Executive Committee and members of the JSANZ family, whose commitment and passion for Japan and Japanese studies have brought JSANZ to this significant anniversary. It is with huge pride that we send you a Special Edition of our regular newsletter, also turning ten this year, reminding ourselves of our achievements and landmark projects over the past decade. I’m sure you’ll be amazed at the range of projects and initiatives we’ve undertaken, and agree we’ve have had some crazy-busy super-productive years. I thank you all personally for your creativity, hard work and vision.

In 2014 JSANZ was established to advocate for Japanese studies in Aotearoa New Zealand in the face of declining enrolments and dwindling postgraduate programmes. Our specific concern was tertiary-level Japanese which, until JSANZ was formed, had no formal advocacy or representative network. I am pleased to report that, despite the grim fact that three tertiary Japanese programmes have been disestablished in recent years, and the huge obstacles we are facing - the pandemic ‘hangover’ and radical restructure of university language programmes - Japanese is holding up well. The Education Counts website shows that Japanese now enjoys, by an impressive margin, the highest international languages enrolments at tertiary level in this country, and, even more remarkably, has avoided the plunge in enrolments experienced by others. Many other factors are at play, not least the irresistible appeal of Japanese popular culture, but I think JSANZ can allow itself to take a small measure of credit.

JSANZ must in turn express its heartfelt appreciation to its staunch and generous sponsors and benefactors – the Japan Foundation, the Embassy of Japan, the Consulate-General of Japan, the Japanese Consulate in Christchurch, the Sasakawa Fellowship Fund for Japanese Language Education, NZJEP (New Zealand Japan Exchange Programme), Nisui-kai (The Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Auckland Inc.), Air New Zealand, private businessmen and others too numerous to list. None of our projects and successes would have been possible without your financial support, mentoring, encouragement and investment of time. We cannot thank you enough.

Sadly, my term as President has now come to an end, more abruptly than intended after a set of circumstances, work and personal, caused me to decide to step down in March. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr Masa Ogino for graciously taking on the role of Acting President. Masa has picked up the baton promptly, efficiently and thoughtfully, and will ensure that JSANZ starts its second decade in top shape.

I wish JSANZ the very best in its next phase. Languages in general face many issues – A1 and adequate resourcing in particular — so let’s summon all the energy and creativeness we have already shown to tackle them.

With my continuing support

Ngā manaakitanga

Penny Shino

Outgoing president, Japanese Studies Aotearoa New Zealand **ニュージーランド日本研究学会**