JSANZ 10th Anniversary

Special Edition Newsletter

## **JSANZ projects**

**2015 – 2018. New Zealand Schools Japanese Trivia Championships.** The inaugural New Zealand Schools Japanese Trivia Championships were held jointly by NZAJLT (New Zealand Association of Japanese Language Teachers) and JSANZ in June 2015. The event was hosted by the Auckland University of Technology and took place simultaneously at nine venues across the country with Year 7–10 pupils from 39 schools participating. The event was very well received and was repeated annually until 2019 when NZAJLT took over the running of the event.

**2015 – present. Tertiary National Japanese Language Speech Contest.** This event has been held annually with generous funding over the years from the Japan Foundation, the Sasakawa Fellowship Fund for Japanese Language Education, Air New Zealand, and, most recently, Nisui-Kai (The Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Auckland Inc.). Our donors have met the cost of a return air ticket to Japan, or, during the pandemic, domestic travel, as well as prizes for second and third place. The aim of the contest is to encourage learners who are studying Japanese to showcase their language skills in a challenging context benchmarking themselves against their peers at other universities.

**2023. Our most recent Speech Contest: Winners and prizegiving.** Once again, we were honoured to have so many high-quality participants and to be able to congratulate three outstanding winners in the 2023 JSANZ Tertiary National Japanese Language Speech Contest. The winner was Sua Yoo from the University of Auckland and, in second place, Sang Lee Yun from the University of Canterbury. Raz Tripp, also from the University of Canterbury, was in third place.

See photo 1

**2016. Tertiary Japanese Graduate Profiles Project (‘Why Japanese? YouTube project’).** The Sasakawa Fellowship Fund for Japanese Language Education (SFFJLE) conducted this project in cooperation with JSANZ. The aim of the project was to collect stories from graduates of NZ tertiary institutions who had included Japanese in their programmes of study, to demonstrate how Japanese has helped them in securing their employment. SFFJLE completed an exciting collection of YouTube interviews of Kiwis strong in Japanese and employed in interesting jobs. The project was called ‘Why Japanese? YouTube project’. JSANZ held a launch of this collection as well as a mini symposium entitled Where Does Japanese Language Learning Lead You? coinciding with the launch of the JSANZ book (see below) on 30 September 2016.

**2016. Book Project.** Our JSANZ book *Creating new synergies: Approaches of tertiary Japanese programmes in New Zealand*, edited by Masayoshi Ogino, Penny Shino and Dallas Nesbitt, was published in August 2016 by Massey University Press.

See photo 2

**2021. Survey on Japanese-Language Education Abroad.** In 2021 JSANZ was contracted for the first time by the Japan Foundation to conduct the New Zealand 2021 iteration of the Survey on Japanese-Language Education Abroad. The survey, conducted every three years, generates key information for analysing the state of Japanese-language education worldwide - and in New Zealand. JSANZ Executive Committee member Naomi Collins coordinated the survey.

**2021/2022:** **JSANZ Japanese Firsts Awards.** Many Japanese teachers, students and those in the community working in the field of Japanese make a tremendous effort and leave a lasting impression on others. These people are seldom recognised for their work. The JSANZ Japanese Firsts Awards were an attempt to bring those JSANZ members into the public eye and reward them for the work they do.

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