



Takehashi



President's Report Spring 2016

Report on the National Federation of AJS Societies Conference.

Diary Dates

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY 11TH
OCTOBER 6.00 PM

Baldessin Precinct
Building
(ANU Map #110)
Staff Common
Room, 4th Floor

CANDLE FESTIVAL

Saturday October
29 3.00 - 9.00 PM

Canberra-Nara
Peace Park

To join in and
participate contact
Stuart Forsyth
0401 549 540.

ANNUAL DINNER

Wednesday
12th Nov.

Details to be
advised shortly

A trip to sunny Cairns would for most people would be the excitement of seeing the sights. However, for myself recently it was the setting of the National Federation of Australia-Japan Societies Conference. So while it would have been great to see the sights, what I experienced was the bringing together of an interesting and thought-provoking Conference. It was also my first National Conference, so it was a delight to meet representatives from all the states of Australia who hold the same passion as myself when it comes to Japan.

Day One was opened by the President of the National Federation Mr Ross Humphreys, who has worked tirelessly as President of the Federation. During the day we heard from Mr Murray McLean AO the Chairman of the Australia Japan Foundation, Ms Wendy Holdenson the Director and Chief Operating officer for Mitsui(Australia) Limited, Professor Donald Staines from the Menzies Health Institute at Griffith University, Mr David Lane Chairman, Partner Thomson Adsett Architects and Mr Alex de Waal Chief Executive Officer Tourism Tropical North Queensland. The Conference theme was: "New opportunities in the Australia Japan Relationship". Surmising from the presentations, there is still a plethora of ongoing and new ventures being developed between Australia and Japan, which is encouraging for young people who still wish to study the language and find employment in fields working with Japan.

In the evening, we received a warm welcome from the Mayor Bob Manning OAM and celebrated the 40 years of Australia-Japan Societies. Day 2 presentations came from the Mayor of Cairns, the Consul General Hidehiro Hosaka, CLAIR – Celebrating 20 years of the Jet Program, Educationalists, Mr Paul Campbell, Mr Lee MacMaster and Ms Florence Boulard and lastly presentations from AJS Societies around Australia. During the day, we had some fantastic demonstrations of Kendo, Taiko Drumming and dancing from local groups in Cairns. Some of the focuses of the day, were building our sister city relationships, learning about the Jet program, understanding how Australia Japan relationship through education can be strengthened.

Day 2 in the evening was the Conference Dinner, where we raised over \$1,000 dollars to help a local volunteer organization called, 'Smile with Kids', who are also bringing children affected by the Tsunami and Earthquake of 2011. Their goal is to engage the children with nature and what better place to do this than the surrounds of Cairns. Yours truly, bought a rather over-priced bottle of sake, but all for a good cause! During the dinner, we were again treated to local talent by a Taiko Drumming group and a group of Shamisen players.

Day 3, in the morning, some rather tired faces turned up for the AGM. I am pleased to announce; I am now a Committee Member of the National Federation of AJ Societies. Michael Hodgkin has been re-elected as the Public Officer. We have a new President Mr Phillip Mitchell, President of AJS NSW and new Vice President, Mr Ben Sparrow, President of Jafa Adelaide. Thanks for AJS Far North Queensland for an amazing three days!

Dianne



AJS Conference Cairns 2016



JAPANESE LANGUAGE & CULTURE COURSE

Kanazawa, JAPAN.

The next course will run from 9th-21st April 2017. These courses are organised by AJS ACT in collaboration with the Ishikawa Foundation for International Exchange. The program is generously subsidised by the Ishikawa Prefectural government so it is quite a bargain - Japanese language tuition, cultural excursions and home stay for a fortnight with a Japanese family for, usually, around A\$1,000 per person, depending on fluctuations in the ratio of the Japanese Yen versus the \$A.

The two week program provides Japanese language classes from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon each day (tailored to the skills of the participants) and four afternoon cultural excursions during the week, plus an excursion on the middle Saturday. Participants are expected to attend all classes and excursions.

Participants in the April courses are expected to have, at least, Elementary level Japanese language skills (the September/October intake offers classes for complete beginners).

If you are interested in the program contact Michael Hodgkin via ajscoursecoordinator@gmail.com

In early August a group from the AJS Canberra met with some visitors from Joetsu for an informal lunch in Civic. This letter was sent to the President following the lunch.

Greetings,

Upon returning to the blazing heat of mid-summer Japan, I am remembering fondly the clean air and fresh breezes of Australia, and the vast expanses of nature in your country.

Please accept my sincere thanks for the wonderful, warm reception given to our group by you, President Fitzpatrick, as well as by the members of the Australia-Japan Society of Canberra.

It was such a pleasure to attend the exchange party with President Kondo of the Japan-Australia Association of Joetsu. Talking over each other's activities in such a relaxed atmosphere will remain one of my fondest memories of our visit.

In the forty-plus years since it's founding, the Australia Japan Society of Canberra has become a bridge between Australia and Japan. I have a renewed respect for your Association, which by expanding projects to foster mutual understanding, has been instrumental in promoting friendly exchanges between our two countries.

In closing, I'd like to wish you and your family good health and best wishes, and to pray for the continued success of your Society. Thank you again for helping make our visit so successful.
Best Regards,

*Hideyuki Murayama,
Mayor of Joetsu City*

TOHOKU YOUTH PROGRAM

Barry Jarman writes:

Once again we have had another successful visit of four lovely young ladies who participated in our program last month (August).

Three of these young ladies had sadly suffered the loss of both parents and the other had lost her father in the disastrous tsunami of 2011.

We are truly grateful to the Australia-Japan Foundation for the continued support that they give this program, and am happy to announce that we were successful in our application for another grant for our 2016/17 program. We have now had 30 young people take part in this program and could not have accepted that number without the AJF support.

We asked the participants to fill out a questionnaire the last night they were in Australia and this group gave 10 out of 10 for the following.

The Lyons Family of Mc Keller.

The Matthew Family of Farrer.

Sincere thanks to both families for the warmth you all gave to these young girls; the host families play a very important part in our program, and for that we are very grateful.

The Chaperone, Mrs Misa Tamagawa, and Questacon, as usual, also rated 10 out of 10.

I would like to thank all who give their time and effort in making this program the success that it is.

Barry Jarman, Program coordinator.



O-SUMO

The Autumn Sumo Grand Tournament is currently underway at the Tokyo Ryogoku Kokugikan without the all-conquering Hakuho - he has had an operation on a big toe and is sitting this one out. The operation is reported as being successful. In his absence Kisenosato was expected to use the opportunity to push forward for his promotion to Yokozuna, but he has suffered two defeats already and will have to win the rest of his bouts if he is to have a chance of promotion.

The giant-killer to date is a maegashira called Okinoumi who in the space of four days has defeated two yozozunas and two ozekis in his four bouts to date.

KEIBA

As the Autumn approaches in Japan the October Carnival will soon arrive with four different Group 1 races on four Sundays. Japanese horses are again doing well overseas: Derby winner Makahiki has won the Prix Niel, an important prep race for the famous Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, won of the best turf races in the world. Makahiki is close to starting favourite but he didn't win by that much in the Niel. On the other hand that race had a very small field and there was no pace. The Arc will however be a different proposition.

The first Korea Cup was run on 11th September and the first two over the line were Japanese runners - Chrysolite (photo below), ridden by Kanichiro Fujii who spent a number of years in Australia, and Kurino Star O. The Korea Sprint (also Group One) saw Grape Brandy, ridden by Yoshihara Hiroto (photo below) run third, so the three Japanese horses returned home with a good report card. The Korean racing was at Seoul and it was on a dirt track. Japan and Korea have some "exchange races" and the next of these will take place in Ohi, a NAR track, in November.



The Australia Japan Goodwill Golf Day was held on 18 July 2016 with more than 70 golfers participating for the lots of lovely prizes.

Again the weather was perfect. Actually it has never rained on the Golf Day for the past 15 years!

Many companies donated prizes, such as Qantas Airways, ANZ Bank, Iori Japanese Restaurant, San Masamune Sake Company, Hakubaku Noodle, Mitsubishi Australia, Rolfe Classic BMW, Subway Canberra House and the Embassy of Japan.

The winners of Men was Jim Gledhill and Ladies was Barbara Gray, both members of the Federal Golf Club. They were very pleased to win \$300 Qantas Flight Ticket.

This Golf Day is becoming quite famous for giving out some prizes for most of the participants as there were so many prizes available.

Any golfers are welcome to participate next year. Please contact Eriko Prior on **0412 910**



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