

The **Japan Exchange and Teaching Program Alumni Association of NSW** (JETAA NSW) elected a new president at the AGM held in late February 2015. Mr Eden Law was an Assistant Language Teacher on the JET program in Fukushima Prefecture from 2010 to 2011. Here he shares his aims for JETAA NSW in the coming year.

Over the last few years, JETAA NSW has been quietly building up connections and relations with our JET community (both domestically and internationally), and with Japanese cultural groups and institutions in Sydney. For example, we will begin working closer with Japan Foundation, and for the first time ever, collaborate with AJET, our equivalent group in Japan that is made up of currently serving JET participants. By forging these kinds of closer links, we want to realise the potential of the JETAA network, and become more relevant and useful to the community we seek to serve. We can already see the positive effects from this strategy, as the new committee is made up of new faces, filled with a sense of purpose and energy. We want to be seen as being more inclusive and accessible, so that new people,

new ideas and new innovations will continue to enrich our organisation, and ensure the long-term viability of JETAA NSW.



JETAA NSW President
Mr Eden Law

I feel very fortunate to be working with this group of enthusiastic and dynamic people, and excited to be part of the next chapter in JETAA NSW's history. I thank everyone who elected me as their president and especially would like to thank long-serving committee members Ben Trumbull, Sharon van Etten, and David Boyd, who have stepped down after serving for so long in JETAA. I would also like to thank everyone who has supported our organisation, and I hope we can continue to rely on your support through this year.

THERE ARE TWO MAIN POSITIONS ON THE JET PROGRAM, ALTs AND CIRs.

ALTs Most participants are engaged as ALTs (Assistant Language Teachers) and work together with a Japanese Teacher of English in government schools. They also introduce their own culture to the school and wider community.

CIRs There are fewer CIRs (Coordinators of International Relations) on the program—their role is to assist local authorities maintain and develop international relations. They may also visit schools as a part of their duties.

Close to 4,000 young Australians have been on the JET Program to date, creating many links between the people of Australia and Japan.

Applications for the 2016-2017 program should open in around October 2015. See our website for information sessions and links:

www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/english/education.htm

CONTESTS

There are several annual contests that teachers of Japanese might like to use to encourage their students to develop their language skills and knowledge of Japan.

第八回 'Art Speaks Japanese' Comes Alive!

The Japan Foundation Sydney's *Art Speaks Japanese* is now in its ninth year.

The artworks used to inspire students are introduced in the *Art Speaks Japanese* kit which was developed in conjunction with the Art Gallery of New South Wales. These works give students access to authentic expressions of thoughts, feelings and creativity of Japanese artists.

www.jpf.org.au/artspeaks



第46回 弁論大会 46th Japanese Speech Contest

Last year's national final was held at the Japan Foundation Sydney and participants impressed judges with the high level of their Japanese language and public speaking skills.

There are state level competitions first—the winners in different divisions go on to the national final. Details are still to be decided.

It's definitely challenging, but why not give it a go?

www.jpf.org.au/speechcontest

ビデオ祭り Video Matsuri

Budding actors and film makers can try their hand at the Japan Foundation's Video Matsuri (festival).

Use the one-word theme to let imaginations take flight and make a 3-minute film.

Last year's theme was apple and 2014 winning works can be viewed at the online Hall of Fame <http://video-matsuri.jpf-sydney.net/halloffame.html>

For 2015 the item to include in entries is ... clock!

Information is available at:

www.jpf.org.au/videomatsuri

AND DON'T FORGET THE CONSULATE-GENERAL OF JAPAN'S OWN ESSAY CONTEST.

The **2nd Australia-Japan Relations Essay Contest** for NSW and NT high school students will be held in 2015. Details will be made available in Term 2.

www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp