

45th NSW Japanese Language Speech Contest & National Final

NSW students shine at the 2014 National Final

The **NSW Japanese Language Speech Contest** was held at Macquarie University on Saturday 20 September 2014. The Consul-General of Japan in Sydney, Mr Masato Takaoka, was pleased to attend and give a few words of encouragement to the participants. Also in attendance was Deputy Consul-General of Japan in Sydney, Mr Katsutoshi Miyakawa, who acted as one of the judges on the day.

The Consul-General said the contest participants deserved praise for entering, remarking: "It is no easy task to make a speech in your own language and it's even more of a challenge to do so in a foreign language." He also noted that studying a foreign language was not merely acquiring a communication tool; it also involved knowledge of its background culture and way of thinking. He hoped that they would continue with their study of Japanese, making many friends along the way. Mr Takaoka concluded by thanking teachers and Macquarie University for their effort and hard work.

Congratulations to all who took part and to the 2014 prizewinners.

In the newly created **Wakaba (new leaf) High School Division**, Ashleigh Doyle, Helen Li, Sasha Patterson-Rajak and Annie Zou received Excellence Awards for their talks on *Letter to myself from 2014*.

In the **High School Senior Division**, First Prize went to **Jinny Minjoo Kim** (Happiness), Second Prize to **Lisa Wei** (What's Beautiful), and Third Prize to **Lina Yang** (We are not for sale).

In the **Open Beginner Division**, First Prize went to **Chanu Choi** (Food is Love), Second Prize to **Dominic Balasuriya** (A new language, a new life), and Third Prize to **Sarah Wilcoxson** (Reverse culture shock).

In the **Open Division**, First Prize went to **Dhonjae (Kyle) Koo** (Thank you, Firefighters), Second Prize to **Joyce Cheok** (The Right Answer) and Third Prize to **Hyouon Sil Im** (What I learnt from 'tadaima' and 'okaeri').

In the **Background Division**, First Prize went to **Minami Nakaseko** (From depression to hope), Second Prize to **Monica Flint** (100% Mixed up: What if means to be hafu) and Third Prize to **Karin Nishimuta-Jang** (A new challenge).

Special prizes were also awarded to Sami Park in the high school division and Miso Lee in the open division.



NSW prizewinners and judges (20 September)

The top speakers joined their counterparts from other states at the new Japan Foundation Sydney office for the **National Final** on Saturday 11 October, and NSW participants achieved well.

In the High School Senior Division, **Jinny Minjoo Kim** from Strathfield Girls High School came second with her speech on 幸せ/Happiness.

NSW participants took first place in the three other divisions: Open Beginner—**Chanu Choi** from the University of Western Sydney (食べることは愛/Food is Love); Background Speaker—**Minami Nakaseko** from the University of Sydney (絶望を希望へと/From Depression to Hope); and Open Division—**Dhongjae Koo** from the University of NSW (ありがとう、消防士/Thank you, Firefighters).

祭 Matsuri in Sydney

Saturday 13 December 2014

10am-7pm Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbour, Sydney



Thousands experienced the 2013 Matsuri in Sydney. Don't miss all that the 2014 Festival has to offer!

The program was still being finalised at the time of writing but there's no doubt the 2014 Matsuri in Sydney will have a **packed program of stage performances**—dynamic dancing, modern and traditional music, martial arts, and cultural demonstrations.

Stalls selling **Japanese food** will be around the park and they always prove very popular. There will also be booths showcasing Japan and others giving visitors a chance to try their hand at Japanese skills.

If you have a *yukata* (summer cotton kimono), why not wear it to the Matsuri and perhaps go watch the ever-popular **Yukata Show**? If you're more into cosplay, there's something for you too as the **Cosplay Contest** will be back again in 2014.

<http://matsurisydney.com>