



NEWSLETTER OF THE SYDNEY JAPAN EXCHANGE TEACHING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

# JET Journeys

February 2007

## President's Message

Phew! It has been a busy year during 2006. We're all taking a very well deserved break over the summer months, and recharging for another year.

This coming year sees a busy but much more toned down itinerary, our usual Predeparture Orientation, Careers Night, Christmas Party and various other social events that we have.

I'd also like to take a moment to thank the Consulate-General of Japan's office, as well as CLAIR Sydney for their continued support of our Alumni.

For those of you looking to become more active with the committee, we have our Annual General Meeting coming up on 22 February, where we will have all our positions open for election. Come along, we look forward to seeing you there!

Michael J Adams  
JETAA Sydney President

## Contents

	Page
President's Message.....	1
AGM.....	2
TaikOz Workshop.....	3



### Useful Contacts

#### Sydney JETAA

Website: [www.sydnejetaa.org](http://www.sydnejetaa.org)  
Email: [jetaasydney@yahoo.com.com](mailto:jetaasydney@yahoo.com.com)

#### Japanese Consulate

Contact name: Julio Santana  
Phone: (02) 9231 3455  
Website: [www.japan.org.au](http://www.japan.org.au)  
Address:

Level 33 and 34  
Colonial Centre  
52 Martin Place  
Sydney, NSW 2000

#### CLAIR

Contact name: Sharon van Etten  
Phone: (02) 9241 5033  
Website: [www.jlgc.org.au](http://www.jlgc.org.au)  
Email: [sharon@jlgc.org.au](mailto:sharon@jlgc.org.au)

#### The Japan Foundation, Sydney

Contact name: David Boyd  
Phone: (02) 8239 0055  
Address:

Shop 23, Level 1  
Chifley Plaza  
2 Chifley Square  
Sydney NSW 2000

Website: [www.jpf.org.au](http://www.jpf.org.au)

Send new contact details to:

Michael Adams, President

Address:  
PO BOX 395  
Glebe, NSW 2037

Phone: (02) 9858 2494  
Fax: (02) 9221 8807  
Email: [jetaasydney@yahoo.com.au](mailto:jetaasydney@yahoo.com.au)

### 2007 Calendar

#### February

JET Interviews

#### Thursday, 22 February

Annual General Meeting

#### April

Submission of treasury report

#### June

Predeparture Orientation

## Annual General Meeting

**T**he AGM for the Sydney JETAA chapter will be held on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2007 at the Consulate's office from 6.30pm.

The main agenda for the meeting will be reports from Committee members on the activities of 2006 and the nomination and election of 2007 Committee members.

The positions up for nomination are:

- ❖ President
- ❖ Secretary
- ❖ Treasurer
- ❖ Social Coordinator (x2)
- ❖ Newsletter Editor
- ❖ Web Master

Members meet once a month and are responsible for organising events throughout the year such as the Predeparture Orientation for new recruits on the JET Programme, Careers Day for new returnees, the Christmas Party, the quarterly newsletters and many other cultural events.

Other responsibilities include liaising with the Sydney Japanese Consulate, CLAIR, AJS, and represent JETAA at social events.

We would like to encourage newly returned as well as our more longstanding members to attend and consider running one of these roles.

Finally thank you to all the current committee members for their diligence and enthusiasm in the past year – unarguably the busiest in JETAA history.



Dinner at the Consulate General's house.

## TaikOz Workshop

By Samantha Ishizuka

**H**aving lived in Japan, we are familiar with the distinctive beat of the Taiko drum but have you ever had a go at playing? Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2006, was my first ever attempt and what a great experience it was!

A small group of 25 of us gathered at the TaikOz practice hall in Ultimo on a hot afternoon and after a brief introduction to the long tradition behind this historical art, our hosts Ian Cleworth, Graham Hilgendorf and Masae Ikegawa, took us through a vigorous warm-up. After 10 minutes of star jumps, stretches and jumping up and down we were handed our bachi (wooden sticks). We were divided up between the large drums the size of a wine barrel, where a few of us sat on the floor to play, up to the small drums about the size of a large dinner plate that you stood next to.

Masae carefully took us through the correct posture and the way to strike the drum, ignoring our precarious bangs and clashes. Through her teachings and encouragement, we slowly built up, note by note until we had a few bars.

After a gradual build up, we had a whole song and before we knew it, it was like we were back in Japan playing at the local Matsuri mesmerised by the beat of the Taiko drum. Taking sips of water throughout, we were sweating away yet entranced by the underlying rhythm that we were playing. Then, our teachers expertly signalled a few of us to move between drums until we had all had a go at playing each size of drum, without stopping the uninterrupted beat. It was truly amazing and an experience I shall never forget and what a workout! I can see why TaikOz run team-building sessions as they are great for breaking the ice between groups and getting everyone working together in a certain degree of harmony. Many thanks to Ian, Graham and Masae for their efforts and expertise in creating such a fantastic workshop.

# Pictorial of 2006

# Kure Kids

Partnership - JETAA taking part in an AJS initiative.



Sydney Alumni members mingling with international delegates and members of the Japanese press.

# TAIKOZ



# WORKSHOP

Thanks to our Social Coordinator, Tammy (center, in photo) for organising this fabulous workshop. We look forward to holding another in the near future. Special thanks to TaikoZ for their professionalism and giving us such a great workout!

International Night

Canberra



Canberra JETAA Regional Conference



Summer  
Summer  
Festival

Kimono Workshop



### Thank You

Thank you to the 2006 Committee members for their dedication and commitment to the JET Alumni.

Also special thanks to Ms Cosmo Arai and Julio Santana for their ongoing support.

### Sponsors

Special thanks to our sponsors for their generous donation to our raffle prizes at our Christmas party:

- ❖ CLAIR Sydney
- ❖ The Consulate-General of Japan, Sydney
- ❖ Taka Tea Gardens
- ❖ TaikOz
- ❖ Broadway Mortgages.

