

# Workshop 2017: Visible, Viable and Valuable

On 11 – 12 August, around 70 teachers of Japanese at primary, intermediate, secondary and tertiary levels, from all over New Zealand, came together at Massey University's Wellington campus for a workshop with two themes:

**Advocacy** – in an environment where New Zealanders – generally – do not see the value of a second language, how can we better present the case for learning Japanese to the different audiences who influence the subject choices of our students – the students themselves, their parents, school management, community?

**Confidence in creative technologies** – accessing and adapting for purpose, the amazing digital resources available to teachers out there in web-world.

Inspiring Keynote speaker Anne deKretser, Director of the Melbourne Institute for Japanese Language Education, offered many practical advocacy ideas which any teacher could start to incorporate with little extra effort. Several have since done exactly that with encouraging results for their enrolments. Around 20 NZ teachers and facilitators also offered short (7-minute-speed-sharing), half-hour or hour-long presentations in a wide a range of areas around the two themes. These included online World Café using the video conference system Zoom, capitalising on the sport connection with Japan (host of the next Rugby World Cup and 2020 Olympics), Flipped Classrooms, TPRS, Co-operative Quizzing, using Youtube clips in the classroom, and Digital Assessment. Representatives from each sector also participated in a panel discussion entitled: Knowing how we differ: how might we better prepare students for transition between sectors?

As is often the case with the language teaching community, where many are the sole Japanese language teachers or even sole language teachers in their school, the networking opportunity afforded by this Workshop, was felt by several to be one of the most significant benefits.

The Japan Foundation was the major sponsor, followed by SFFLE, but other organisations also contributed to make it possible for the Workshop to be offered at very low to nil cost to participants. These were: Massey University, New Zealand Association of Japanese Language Teachers (NZAJLT), IPU New Zealand, Education Perfect, Japanese Studies Aotearoa New Zealand, Language Immersion Awards, Asia NZ Foundation, JTB and ILEP.