



## Report on the High School Haiku & Shodo Competition 2012

This was the third Haiku & Shodo Competition run by the NZ Japan Society of Auckland. Entry was open to high school students between year 10 and 13 who are studying Japanese at schools in New Zealand, and participants were required to submit a Haiku poem composed in Japanese and written in calligraphy.

The competition was advertised through the following website and mailing lists.

- NZJNET
- Website for the NZ Japan Society of Auckland Inc. ([www.nzjapan.net](http://www.nzjapan.net))
- News Letter posted by National Advisor of Japanese at ILEP (International Languages Exchanges and Pathways, Ms. Tomoko Semba)

We had 100 entries from six schools this year. All entries were displayed at Taste of Japan held at Auckland Museum on 27 October, 2012. The prize-giving ceremony was also held during the opening ceremony of this event and the prizes were presented to the winners by Mr. Vinod Hira, a representative of Mitsubishi Corporation and Sonja Gallagher from AUT.

We asked the Japanese teachers at Auckland University of Technology to judge the entries and shortlist eight haiku works. After being interviewed by three council members of the NZ Japan Society of Auckland, Andrew Saunders from Orewa College was selected to go to Japan and won the NZJS special award. He will be going to Japan for one-week homestay programme in Chiba prefecture from 10 to 16 December hosted by Nagareyama International Friendship Association (NIFA). The first, second and third prize winners were selected based on the haiku and shodo works by the judges from AUT.

### The following are the winners and their haiku:

1st prize: Helen Ho, Macleans College

あやとりの 橋のむこうの 桃の花

Beyond the bridge of the cat's cradle, Lies peach blossoms

2nd prize: Rebecca Urquhart, Orewa College

空の花 花火大会 犬かくれ

Flowers in the sky, firework festival, dogs are hiding

3rd prize: Jinny Kim, Auckland International College

せみがなく にぎやか夏の がっしょうだん

Cicadas Cry, Noisy summer's Choir

NZJS special prize: Andrew Saunders, Orewa College 青い海 夢の国まで 僕自由  
Blue ocean, To the country of dreams, I am free

The following prizes were given to the winners.

NZJS special prize: a return economy air ticket to Japan sponsored by Mitsubishi Corporation and the Sasakawa Fellowship Fund for Japanese Language Education

1st prize: \$300 book vouchers and a book on Japanese conversation sponsored by the Japan Foundation

2nd prize: \$200 book voucher and a book on Japanese conversation sponsored by the Japan Foundation 3rd prize: \$100 book voucher and a book on Japanese conversation sponsored by the Japan Foundation

We also gave a set of calligraphy practice sheets and a brush to four other students who were shortlisted, and to all the schools which entered the competition.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries and the NZJS's Taste of Japan provided the communities with a great opportunity to celebrate this anniversary through various cultural activities including tea ceremony, origami, *tatami* making, fusion cooking competition, *wagashi* & *sushi* making workshops. There were also displays of art works, NZ & Japan earthquake recovery display and business expo stalls. (<http://nzjapan.net/tasteofjapan/>) The display of the students' haiku works also impressed people who visited the museum on the day and made people aware of the richness of Japanese language and culture.

On behalf of the NZ Japan Society of Auckland, I would like to express our gratitude to the Sasakawa Fellowship Fund for Japanese Language Education for your sponsorship and on-going support since we started running the essay & shodo competition in 2007. All the winners we have sent to Japan in the past came back with wonderful experiences and were thankful for the hospitality they had received from their host families and people they had met in Japan. We believe these young students will serve as a bridge between the two countries in the future.

Michiyo Mori  
The NZ Japan Society of Auckland Inc.

