

Report on the High School Haiku & Shodo Competition 2013

This was the fourth 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 list.

- NZJNET
- website for the NZ Japan Society of Auckland Inc. (www.nzjapan.net)

We had 134 entries from eight schools this year. Prizes were given to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd winners as well as to those who were shortlisted for the final interview. All entries were displayed at Peace Exhibition from 19th November to 12th December at St. Paul Gallery three, 39 Symonds st. CBD Auckland. Around 1000 people visited this Exhibition in total. Although the main purpose of this exhibition was to convey the true extent of the damage caused by the atomic bombing and to promote peace around the world, cultural activities such as tea ceremony, shodo and craft making were also conducted at this exhibition to expose visitors at the exhibition to Japanese culture. The display of the students' haiku works, I believe, contributed to introducing different aspects of Japanese culture.

The first prize winner will be going to Japan for one-week homestay programme in Nagareyama city in Chiba from 6 to 13 July 2014, which is sponsored by the Sasakawa Fellowship Fund for Japanese Language Education and the New Zealand Japan Exchange Programme (NZJEP).

As we did in the past years, we asked the Japanese teachers at Auckland University of Technology to judge the entries and shortlist some haiku works. The winners have been decided by the AUT teachers based on the haiku and calligraphy works. The NZJS selected the winner who is going to Japan for one-week homestay programme based on their performance at the interview.

The followings are the winners and their haiku.

1st prize: Edward Popham, James Hargest College

赤い肌 触ると痛い 夏休み

Red skin, hurts to touch, summer holiday

2nd prize: Winnie Wang, Macleans College

さがしたら どこにでもある しあわせは

If you look, happiness is everywhere.

3rd prize: Nicholas Wood, Rosmini College
手の中に ぽかぽかボール ぼくのねこ
In my hand, warm ball, my cat

The following prizes were given to the winners.

1st prize: a return economy air ticket to Japan sponsored by the Sasakawa Fellowship Fund for Japanese Language Education and the New Zealand Japan Exchange Programme (NZJEP).

2nd prize: \$200 book voucher sponsored by the Japan Foundation

3rd prize: \$100 book voucher sponsored by the Japan Foundation

We also gave tickets to the Japanese drumming concert held in Auckland to the shortlisted students, and a set of calligraphy paper to all the schools which entered the competition.

The report on the competition will be uploaded on NZJS's website (<http://www.nzjapan.net/>).

The homestay arrangement has been made from 6 – 13 July next year, hosted by Nagareyama International Friendship Association (NIFA). A written report on the homestay programme has been requested on his return to Auckland, which will be included on our website pages. 2012 Winner report can be viewed on our website for reference. (<http://www.nzjapan.net/cms/index.php?page=pages&pid=170>)

We have run the essay/shodo competition in 2007 and 2008, and the Haiku/shodo competition for the last four years, which gave high school students of Japanese the opportunity to express themselves in Japanese language and to motivate themselves to improve their Japanese. It has been great to be able to provide the venue to display all the haiku works that the students wrote so people in public could see the achievement that the students attained through studying Japanese at schools.

We have sent five students to Japan for one-week homestay programme in the past, and all the students came back with wonderful experiences. They not only enjoyed Japanese food, shopping and visiting famous places in Japan, but also learned many aspects of Japanese culture and values through their homestay experiences. All the winners in their reports commented on the generous hospitality they had received from their host families and people they had met in Japan, and expressed their gratitude and respect for the people in Japan. This year's winner, Edward Popham will go to Japan in July 2014, hosted by Nagareyama International Friendship Association in Chiba prefecture and Mr Kohara, a calligraphy teacher at Chiba Municipal Chiba High School. He is the first student from

outside Auckland, who won the first prize. We are grateful for the generosity of the host families who have been hosting the winners of the competition in the past few years.

We believe this homestay programme will grant him the opportunity to appreciate various aspects of Japanese culture and also to present NZ culture as an ambassador to Japan. We hope that the student will share his experience in Japan with other students learning Japanese at high schools in New Zealand.

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 again this year.

Michiyo Mori

The NZ Japan Society of Auckland Inc.