

## NEW TERM 3



**27<sup>TH</sup> JUN TO 17<sup>TH</sup> SEP**  
**12 WEEK COURSE**

## TERM 2 EVENT



**DATE:**

**TIME:**

**PLACE:**

**COST:**

*Let's enjoy a fun evening of  
Japanese cuisine!*

## HANABI - Japanese Fireworks

We can see fireworks on special occasions such as New Year's or national holidays, concerts or entertainment events in Australia.

While in Japan, Firework shows (Hanabi taikai) is a seasonal tradition and held mainly during summer in July, August and September. More than 5,000 fireworks events are held throughout the country during that time every year. The display of fireworks in the night sky is one that highlights the Japanese summer. The firework shows themselves typically start from after sunset and last for one to two hours. You can see many types often ending with a grand finale consisting of hundreds of shells launched simultaneously. The fleeting moments of beauty never fail to captivate the crowds. Usually 5,000 -10,000 shells are launched at each firework event. The biggest is in Nagano Suwa Lake that has been reported to launch 40,000 shells in the night. Food stalls crammed side by side on the streets, people arrive dressed in yukata (cotton kimono) soaking up the relaxed and playful atmosphere of the traditional summer festivals.

The big fireworks at the events is called 'Uchiage Hababi (fireworks display)', on the other hand small stick fireworks are

called 'Temochi hanabi (hand-held firework, sparklers)'.

Unlike Australia, temochi hababi is legal in Japan and you can buy them everywhere, such as convenience stores, supermarket, even 100yen shops during the summer season. They cost around 1,000yen (\$10).

Letting off the small fireworks with your family and friends is just as much a symbol of summer in Japan as the big displays. People enjoy the temochi hanabi in their backyards, on beaches and at camping sites, especially for kids, it is quite a high-light during summer.



Firework for Japanese people is probably the same feeling as 'sakura (cherry blossoms)' in spring, the sense of beauty of Japanese traditions.

*By Noriko*



# Student from iJapanese

## Zarina Pooley san

First time I went to Japan in 2006 to conduct media research. Back then I was 24 and single. I did not speak a single word of Japanese. I was quite nervous thinking how I would get around and do my research just with English. But I started getting help from Japanese people as soon as I landed in Narita airport.

A man approached me and offered his phone to use it when he saw me struggling to use the phone booth to call my parents back home (My plane was delayed for 24 hours and I wanted to let my parents know that I was ok). That man became the best friend of my family since then. His name is Nakamura-san.

Nakamura san and his family helped me enormously during my time in Japan. I could write a book about Nakamura san and his family; the warmest, hospitable, friendly and welcoming people on earth.

Everybody in Japan is tourist friendly. The country has a long history, great culture and delicious food. It is so different to the rest of the world.

This is the culture where people respect each other; give change to customers with both hands, constantly bow, apologise, do not psychologically push customers to buy items in stores, talk quietly, help tourists to find their address and get around in the country. Japanese people are very polite and caring. This is the country where looting does not happen during chaos and no queue jumpers in the society. During my first visit, Nakamura-san showed me the Edo museum. It is in Tokyo and a place to go if you want to see how Japanese people lived in old times.

Everything in Japan is amazing. Apartment rooms are smaller comparing to other countries' apartments. Remember, the island has more than 127 million people. And it needs to fit us, the coming tourists, and its growing population. But at the same time everything in apartments is so practical, functional and built smartly. I loved their little bath tubs which is the half size of the western bath tubs, but it is deep and cute. Their toilets are fantastic. The seat is always heated. You can do your "business" while listening to Zen or classical music. It also washes you after you finish using their toilet.

I stayed in Tokyo for more than a month and left it making best friends and memories.

After I got married, Japan has become our favourite destination. Or we got married since both of us had a common interest-Japan. Now we visit it for skiing, for sakura, for seeing shows, sumo- festivals, for going to Moi dix Mois' concert and/or just to see "kawaii" things.

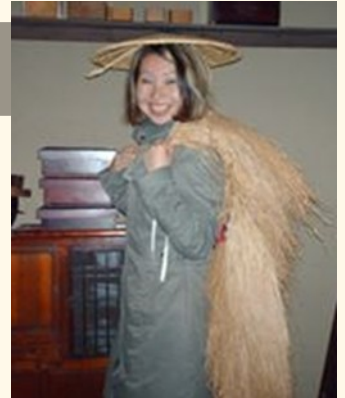
One of my favourite places is Kyoto which is full of history and temples. The golden Zen Buddhist Temple is impressive. It's located among green trees next to the pond. It is quite and refreshing. The golden temple creates reflection on the pond when the sun shines.

I love Japan's railways, starting from their train station music, taking Shinkansen (bullet trains) to a different town, taking their cute lunch sushi, tempura boxes away and eating them on the train.

I love their noodles especially slurping. Slurping noodles in Japan means you like the chef's food, so it is ok to slurp unlike in other countries.



Oh and the Ginza area, Takashimaya stores! The best thing to do for women. The shopping! I like when sales assistants don't bother you trying to be helpful or pushy. They do let you browse in the store and do not approach you unless you ask for help. Once you buy, they hand your money/card back to you with both hands bowing nearly "90 degrees" and carry your goods until the door for you. That's customer service!



## I'm back! Kisai

Hi everyone, long time no see! Hisashiburi. My name is Kisai and I previously worked at iJapanese as a teacher back in 2013 and 2014. I then went back to Osaka for my wedding in 2015 before coming back to Melbourne in January this year.

I am glad to be back in Melbourne to see iJapanese has grown with so many new students while most of the previous students remained.

For those who do not know me well, here's a little bit of an introduction about me. I have been teaching Japanese for about 7 years. I taught in Korea for two fun years before coming to Australia. In Australia, I worked at MacRobertson Girls High School as a Language Other Than English (LOTE) assistant and most memorable one was working at iJapanese.

I also like Japanese culture like anime, manga and dramas which I'm keen to share with you all. So if you have any questions about anything, please feel free to ask me. I am looking forward to meeting and sharing good experiences with you all.





## MUJI's largest product – HOME!

For MUJI fans, one place that can not be missed when visiting Tokyo must be Yurakucho, where the world's largest MUJI emporium is located. Since MUJI's start in 1980, the number of products has grown from 40 to 7,500, and all of them can be found at Yurakucho. Amongst numerous MUJI stores all over the world, what is special with this one is that, there are models of the largest products of MUJI here, that is, "MUJI's home"(無印良品の家).

"Wooden home(木の家)" is introduced in 2004, designed by architect Kazuhiko Nanba, professor of Tokyo university. The design considered 20 different sizes of constructing and 80 different ways to segment the area. As the first type of "MUJI home", wooden home is mainly designed for countryside.



**Wooden home 木の家**

"Window's home(窓の家)" is introduced in 2007, design of architect Kengo Kuma, also professor from Tokyo university. Compared with wooden home, window's home is smaller in size, as it is mainly designed for city areas. As the name is, this house's design features on its window. Windows are

designed in a simple shape, which makes them work like frames to capture the view outside.

Introduced in April 2014, "Vertical house(縦の家)" is particularly designed for narrow city spaces that are difficult to utilize. In order to proficiently use the limited yet expensive land of modern cities, vertical house



**Vertical home 縦の家**



**Window home 窓の家**

aims to make use of spaces "in the air". Since Japanese houses are normally not highly built, this idea is really innovating, as MUJI's promotion: "誰もみたことのない家です." (A household that nobody has ever seen before.)

*By Yueeie*

## New teacher – Keiko Arita

Hajimemashite. My name is Keiko Arita and I am from Osaka.

Osaka people are famous for being friendly and having a great sense of humour. In that Osaka spirit, I would like to share my top 3 favourite things about Japan with you. They are Japanese History, the Shiba Inu and Arashi.

**Japanese History** – There is so much history in Japan. I could write about it for days! Have you heard of Sakamoto Ryoma? He was the key in overthrowing the Tokugawa Shogunate during the Bakumatsu period in Japan. He united Japan into a single country and changed the world! I am inspired to think that one person had such an influence over the future of a country. Unfortunately, he was attacked and murdered in an inn when he was only 31 years old. If you ever visit Kyoto, there are many interesting places of historical significance related to Sakamoto Ryoma's life and achievements.

**Shiba Inu** – Much Doge. What makes the Shiba Inu different from other dogs is their independent nature, intelligence and curly tail. Do you walk your dog without a lead? You can't do this with a Shiba Inu, they always need to be kept on a lead or you will spend the next hour trying to catch your Shiba unless he/she decides you can put their lead back on. They have two coats, during summer the outer coat will shed and in winter it will grow back. I own 2 Shiba Inus. When I take them walking they are often confused for foxes or dingos which makes me think the Shiba Inu breed is not very common in Australia.

**Arashi** – I saved the best for last! Arashi translates to 'Storm' and is the name of a popular boy band in Japan. It is made up of 5 members that can sing, dance and act. It is nearly impossible to buy tickets to their concerts in Japan, you need to join a special fan club and be randomly selected to even have a chance of buying a ticket. In Japan they currently host a variety show every Saturday night. They also had a program called 'Vs Arashi' in which they would team up with the Arashi team against another popular Japanese team (usually another band, a TV show cast or comedians) to compete in some crazy challenges. 'Vs Arashi' was shown on SBS, you may even find clips on YouTube.

I am really excited to be joining the team at iJapanese and I look forward to meeting you all. If you see me at school, feel free to come and speak with me about my top 3 (or anything else about Japan).



## Japanese family style

How long do you spend time with your family?

Japanese families have changed a great deal in the past few decades; they tend to be large, extended families, housing many generations under the one roof. Majority of modern families are straying from this tradition, opting for much smaller families.

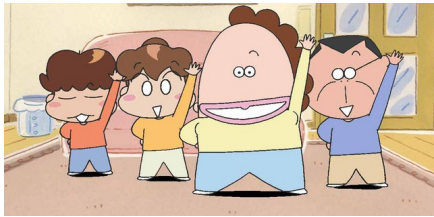
When I was a child, I used to watch an anime named "Chibi Maruko Chan" (1990 - present). The main character is a 9 year old girl whose name is "Momoko Sakura". She is called "Chibi Maruko Chan" since "Chibi" is Japanese slang meaning "small child" and "Chan" is a title referred to as small girl. She lives with her parents, grandparents and her older sister in Shizuoka. This anime portrays the simple things in their lives; it is very funny and enjoyable to watch.

Maruko is a primary school student raised in relatively poor family of six. She is lazy and disorganised. She tries to avoid doing homework and chores. She loves reading comics instead of doing her homework, but she has a kindness to people and animals.

Maruko has dinner with her family every evening. They talk about what they did during the day. Although their conversation is nothing special, their attentiveness to listen to each other is comforting and interesting.



Chibi Maruko chan



Atashinchi

"Atashinchi" (2002 - 2009) was also a popular anime in Japan. "Atashinchi" means 'my home'. This anime is about an outrageous misadventures family with a housewife, her husband, and their two kids Yuusuke and Mikan. This stands for nuclear family. The wacky humor of this weird family daily life is what made it a success. The main character prides herself on a clean home, a balanced budget, and tasty meals. She is also a very strict mother to her two children and tries to have them waste less money, electricity and food. She is always thinking about her family, worrying about her children and also her husband.

Although Japanese family structure is changing, I think the most important thing is to have a good relationship with your family, think about them and try making conversation. Whenever I watch both of these animes, I miss my family. Please watch and remember to talk with your family.

*By Tomoe*

## Yamaguchi - The Center of Politics

Do you know who the prime minister of Japan is, now?

His name is Shinzo Abe who is the youngest prime minister (52 years old) after the war. He is from YAMAGUCHI!! Actually eight previous prime ministers were from Yamaguchi making it the highest amongst all other places in Japan.

The first prime minister was also from Yamaguchi. His name is Hirofumi Ito who became prime minister four times in his life (1855, 1892, 1898, 1900). He used to be a samurai in Choshu (Yamaguchi was Choshu and Suoh in the past) and studied under Shoin Yoshida (1830-1859) who was the main person of Meiji ishin (Meiji Restoration 1868 - 1912).

Samurais in the Edo period became stronger then the Emperor thus acquiring political power (Tokugawa Shogunate 1603 - 1867). However Shoin Yoshida respected the Emperor and attempted to give political power back. We call this "Meiji Ishin".

Hagi city in Yamaguchi was developed by Terumoto Moori as the political center of Choshu over 250 years during Tokugawa Shogunate. Then it became the important base for great historical significance, Meiji Ishin.

It was believed because Choshu had well-developed education, military affairs and economy. So probably no wonder there are so many Japanese statesmen and Prime Ministers born and brought up in this city?



If you ever plan to visit Hagi enjoy the amazing Samurai architecture, learn about the samurai history, make Hagi-yaki (Hagi pottery) while you enjoy eating Natsumikan (Orange), and after all that enjoy a relaxing onsen!!

*By Mihono*

