

The Southland Secondary Interschool Japanese Speech Contest Report

The Southland Secondary Interschool Japanese Speech contest was held at Verdon College on Wednesday 1 July 2009. 80 students from the local secondary schools took part.

The Years 7 and 8, and Year 9 students presented a roleplay in pairs, where they showcased the language that they had learnt. There was a very high level of expertise shown, despite the fact that students had learnt the language for such a short time. Students from Years 10 to 13 presented an individual speech, and then faced questions in Japanese about aspects of it. The National Advisor for Japanese, Tomooka Sensei, and other local teachers of Japanese sat on the judging panels.

Mayor Tim Shadbolt presented vouchers for the Award for Expression and Passion, and he mentioned the great rapport that has been built up between Kumagaya and Invercargill. He described his first visit there, where everything was regimented (7.00am - line up at bus stop; 7.01am - bus arrives; 7.03am - bus leaves, etc) and how things have become much more relaxed now that friendships and confidence has been built up. He was keen for people to experience the different language and culture, so the study of the language is a great step.

We are very much indebted to the Sasakawa Fellowship Fund for Japanese Language Education, for their sponsorship, which helped to make this competition such a great success. The students exposure to Japanese and confidence with the language has increased as a direct result of this.

ありがとうございました。

