



The Southland Secondary Interschool Japanese Speech Contest Report 2010

The Southland Secondary Interschool Japanese Speech contest was held at James Hargest College on Thursday 1 July 2010. About 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, ex-pupils who are currently studying Japanese at University and other local teachers of Japanese sat on the judging panels.

Before the competition began we paid tribute to Mrs Joanna Reekie who passed away suddenly on the Sunday just before the competition. Jo had a major influence on the teaching of Japanese here in Southland over the past 20 years. She had taught Japanese at many of the local high schools, and even in her retirement she was still teaching part time at James Hargest College Junior Campus at the time of her death.

Jo who was an enthusiastic teacher, dear friend and colleague was instrumental in getting the competition up and running as an Annual Event. She wanted to showcase Japanese to students, parents and the general public, and at the same time, recognize and reward the efforts of Japanese language students.

Chosen representatives from each school placed a flower in a vase while we all had a minute's silence.

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。