



John Waddell

(profiled by Stephanie Gollan)

John first went to Japan in 1991, on a money-making venture on his way over to London. Prior to this first visit to Japan, John had not formally studied the Japanese language at a secondary or tertiary level, something he said in hindsight that he regrets.

He returned briefly to Japan in early 1993 before heading back to England and Europe again and then on to Africa. It was not until John returned home in 1995 to complete his final year of a Bachelor of Science at Auckland University that he formally studied Japanese in New Zealand, taking two Japanese papers. He thoroughly enjoyed studying Japanese and formed a club (called the Shiriyaki Club) with other like-minded language students and some Japanese friends, including his future wife, Naomi.

Back in Japan, John taught English at an *Eikaiwa* (an English conversation school) until late 1997 and then ran a vehicle export company till early 2007. During this period, he traveled extensively throughout Japan on business and consequently, has an in-depth knowledge of the country, language and culture. John lives in Ota, Gunma-ken with his wife and two daughters and is currently running a NZ-manufactured-vehicle-diagnostic-device import company. John is highly proficient in the Japanese language, spending a great deal of time hunting down new potential customers and talking to existing ones.

John first went to Japan 18 years ago and has lived there continuously since early 1996.