

**JAPANESE TEACHERS' NETWORK TASMANIA (JATNET)  
PRESENT STUDENT AWARDS FOR THE  
2023 TASMANIAN JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, HOBART, FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2023**

**VICE-REGAL SALUTE**

Please be seated.

Good evening, everyone, and a very warm welcome to Government House for this presentation of student awards for the 2023 Tasmanian Japanese Speech Contest.

I pay my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community and recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea and waters.

The Japanese Teachers' Network Tasmania (JATNET) is run by volunteers who conduct various competitions. These include poster, calligraphy and speech competitions throughout the year and around our State. The main competition each year is our statewide Japanese speech contest for students learning Japanese.

This year, I am advised, a total of 206 students from all over our State took part in this Japanese extension opportunity. I was interested to learn that Japanese is taught in schools across our State, and to primary, high school and senior secondary classes and we have some 60 teachers of Japanese supporting these classes.

For these awards, students presented their speeches to a panel of judges. They were judged on their pronunciation, memorisation, fluency and presentation, in a very competitive and enthusiastic field. The students receiving certificates today were chosen for the best speeches in their age group or category.

I would like to acknowledge all the students who were motivated by their learning of the Japanese language and chose to participate in this competition.

May I also acknowledge and thank the students' greatest supporters in their language learning journey – their teachers and their parents.

Learning languages is important and brings with it the gift of communicating across borders and cultures. I hope that all of you young language learners across our State will continue to develop your language skills.

Now I shall award certificates to students judged as the best in their year categories. May I congratulate each and all of you on your achievements.

David ...