

**JAPANESE TEACHERS' NETWORK TASMANIA (JATNET)
PRESENTATION OF STUDENT AWARDS FOR THE
2025 TASMANIAN JAPANESE SPEECH COMPETITION
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2025**

Good evening, everyone, and a very warm welcome to Government House for this presentation of student awards for the 2025 Tasmanian Japanese Speech Competition.

May I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose land we gather. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise their enduring culture and deep connection to land, sea, sky and waters. In recognising the Muwinina people and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community, we also honour the importance of cultural understanding—something deeply reflected in language learning.

The Japanese Teachers' Network Tasmania is a dedicated volunteer organisation supporting Japanese language education across our State. Each year, the Network organises a range of competitions – including poster, calligraphy, and speech contests – that celebrate students' engagement with Japanese language and culture.

This year, over 190 students took part in this Japanese speech competition. I am pleased to know that Japanese is taught in over 80 schools across Tasmania, supported by around 60 teachers.

For these awards, students present speeches to a panel of judges and are judged on their pronunciation, memorisation, fluency, and presentation. Today's students receiving certificates were chosen for the best speeches in their age group or category.

May I acknowledge the dedication and commitment of all the students who participated in this competition. Your confidence to speak in another language and share your thoughts is a fine achievement.

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

Learning languages is important and brings the gift of communication across borders and cultures. May your language learning continue to open doors to new friendships, opportunities, and global understanding.

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

David ...