



# THE HYOGO TIMES

The Monthly Publication for HyogoAJET Members

The Hyogoajet Official Website: <http://hyogoajet.org>

March 2003 - Spring Issue



**Inside this issue**  
**The New Guide to Rogues, Villains and Eccentrics**  
**and the all-important Entertainment Schedule!**

# The March issue...

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Editorial</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>PR Note</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>World News</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>The Wonders of Spring</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Hyogo Times Travel Guides</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Life as a JET</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Japanese Public Holidays and Festivals – March</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>HyogoAJET 2003/2004 Committee Positions</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Reviews</b>	
<b>Film</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Book</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Music</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Restaurant</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Hyogo Times Staff</b>	
Editor Steve Wilkinson	
Design Editor Fiona Cubie	
PR Matters Rachel Tenzythoff	
Advert Editor Julie Turbide	
Features Amanda Betts, VACANT	
Life as a JET Clairissa Myschowoda	
Travel Reviews Eliana Busheikin	
Book Reviews Victoria Vaughan	
Film / Movie Reviews Ronan McCaughey	
CD Reviews Colin Erickson	
Restaurant Reviews Kenia Lopez-Mohedano	
Jokes Sophie James	
Illustrations Tonya Bamberger	
Proofreaders Leslie Kersey, Kenia Lopez-Mohedano, Helen Green	

## Editorial



### The winter is over! Welcome to the March 2003 Hyogo Times.

First of all, I'd like to extend my thanks to all this month's writers and contributors, and welcome those new staff that have joined since last month.

Please see below the contents to the left of this page for a full staff list. We have one more vacancy in features. If you'd like to fill it and become part of the Hyogo Times, please e-mail your name and a daytime telephone number to me at [times@hyogoajet.org](mailto:times@hyogoajet.org) by Monday, the 10th of March.

This is the last month for the current Hyogo AJET committee. **Most of the committee positions are now available for the next committee year (April 2003 – March 2004).** If you think you've got what it takes to lead Hyogo AJET forward, **be sure to check out the committee job descriptions printed within this issue.**

Along with a new Hyogo AJET committee, next month also sees the start of a **new column in the Hyogo Times, JET Profiles.** On **Wednesday, the 5th of March**, I shall advertise on the Hyogojets

listserv for a volunteer to be the subject of the first JET profile. He or she will then be asked to answer a short set of stock questions about his or her life in Japan. **The interview will then be printed in the next issue of the Hyogo Times.** If you'd like to take part, make sure that you have **subscribed** to the **Hyogojets listserv** by e-mailing a blank email to **hyogojets-subscribe@yahogroups.com** - more information about joining this list can be found on our website **http://hyogoajet.org** - check the Message Board link!

How could it be spring in Japan without cherry blossoms? This month's features also include rogues, villains and eccentrics and holidays in March. There's also life as a JET, thatched-roof farmhouses, the Lord of the Rings, Osaka's Korean quarter, the 'Gangs of New York', the Roots and what happened to the man who went to a seafood disco.

This month's **World News Opinion** is by first-year **American JET Ferele Hubbard of Itami.**

Submissions to this column, designed to provide Hyogo AJET members with a forum to discuss a matter in the world news, should be **2-300 words long** and sent to me at **times@hyogoajet.org** by **Monday, the 10th of March.**

My thanks again to everyone who contributed articles to this issue. **The deadline for any articles for the April Hyogo Times is Wednesday, the 12th of March.**

**Steve Wilkinson**  
Hyogo Times Editor  
times@hyogoajet.org



## PR Note

### Spring is in the air!

I hope last month you all got the chance to devour your crunchy soy beans during Setsubun, the first day of spring, not forgetting to scatter some around the perimeter of your house, at the Oni (devil) himself, chanting, 'Oni wa soto, fuku wa uchi', (get out evil spirits, come in good luck).

My thanks to all involved in organising the Valentine's party on February the 15th, raising over ¥40,000 for this month's Habitat For Humanity expeditions to Nepal and the Philippines. Although I personally wasn't able to attend the Inter Hyogo game played on Awaji Island in the afternoon, I would like to extend my thanks to all the JETs and friends who attended to mark their respects for Duncan Barnes.

I'd also like to say a big thank you and welcome to all who attended the Hyogo AJET committee information session on February the 15th. For anyone else who would like to join the **Hyogo AJET committee for 2003-2004**, join us in Kobe on **March the 15th** to see what we do. **See the Hyogo AJET committee job descriptions inside.**

Be sure also to check out the advert inside for this month's big event, a hike to the magnificent forty-eight waterfalls of Akame National Park on **Saturday, March the 8th.** Join us for an invigorating hike around the park during the day (don't forget to bring something for a picnic lunch), and unwind in an Osaka izakaya in the evening.

Have a good March!

**Rachel Tenzythoff**  
Prefectural Representative  
pr@hyogoajet.org



# *Akame Waterfalls Hiking*

## **Sick of looking at buildings?**

Join us for a hike in the gorgeous Akame waterfall park in Nara prefecture.  
Get to see up to 48 different waterfalls on a 2, 4 or even 8 Km hike.  
Soak in the spring!

**Saturday March 8th 2003**

### ***What you need:***

- a packed lunch
- good trainers, or hiking boots
- warm clothing and rain gear  
(We are going rain or shine)
- ¥1200 (one way) for the train ride from Osaka to Akameguchi stn. on Kintetsu line, and ¥200 for the bus to the park.
- Admission to park ¥300. This includes entrance to the Great Salamander museum! Neat!

### ***Schedule:***

- 9:45 Meet at Hankyu Umeda stn (in front of big man T.V.)
- 11:30 Great Salamander museum & Hiking  
\*Rest for lunch
- 4:00 Departure for Osaka.  
Izakaya anyone?

**Free admission for  
Hajet members!!**

Please RSVP to [events@hyogoajet.org](mailto:events@hyogoajet.org) or call JULIE (090-9868-7461)

# World NEWS

## **World News: Nato envoys break deadlock** (source: [www.bbc.co.uk/news](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news))

The Nato alliance has resolved its internal disagreement over American planning for a war against Iraq. Nato Secretary General George Robertson said the 18 members of the organisation's defence planning committee had agreed on the deployment of military defences in Turkey. France, Germany and Belgium had been blocking the move, saying it would imply that war with Iraq is inevitable.

But during Sunday's talks, Germany and Belgium dropped their objections. France, which is not represented on the committee, did not take part in the discussions.

## **UK News: Prince plucks up courage to pop the question** (source: [www.timesonline.co.uk](http://www.timesonline.co.uk))

The Prince of Wales, who last week had a rare private dinner with the Queen, is trying to pluck up the courage to ask his mother for permission to marry Camilla Parker Bowles.

But even if the Queen gives her approval, the Prince will still have another difficulty ahead of him: how to persuade Mrs. Parker Bowles to become his wife.

The Times has learnt that although most opinion polls show that Mrs. Parker Bowles would be acceptable to the public as wife to the Prince, though not as Queen, she is content with her current lifestyle. She divides her time between her Wiltshire home and St James's Palace and is not convinced of the need to marry, which would inevitably thrust her more into the public spotlight.

## **USA News: Rice urges U.N. to stand up to Saddam** (source: [www.usatoday.com](http://www.usatoday.com))

Faced with broad opposition to war at the United Nations, President Bush's national security adviser said Sunday the White House might push a new

UN plan to force a showdown with Saddam Hussein. Condoleezza Rice said it was becoming more obvious that the Iraqi president would not disarm voluntarily and that the U.N. was letting him get away with it.

"Continuing to talk about more time and more time and more time is simply going to relieve pressures on the Iraqis to do what they must do," Rice said on NBC's Meet The Press.

## **Canada News: Huge crowd for Vancouver peace protest** (source: [www.cbc.ca](http://www.cbc.ca))

Up to 35,000 people marched and rallied for peace in downtown Vancouver on Saturday, as part of a global day of protest that drew millions around the world.

Vancouver Mayor Larry Campbell told the crowd that a US led war against Iraq would be wrong, harking back to the city's long tradition of peace protests.

"When you marched in the '80s for peace, there were two superpowers – the United States, and the then Soviet Union. Today we see a single superpower who's trying to tell us what our world will look like. I say that's wrong, and I reject it."

## **Australia News: Thousands tell PM he's wrong** (source: [www.news.com.au](http://www.news.com.au))

MOST of them had never attended a protest rally – and none had been to one this big. But the hundreds of thousands of Australians and their families who yesterday marched on Sydney's CBD in the name of peace managed to send one through sheer volume.

At least 200,000 people - organisers' estimates put the figure closer to half a million - crammed into trains, buses, ferries and cars for the largest protest march ever seen in the harbour city.

They defied the crush, the humidity and their Prime Minister's dismissive views to unite against a possible war with Iraq.

**New Zealand News: NZ's last World War I soldier fades away** (source: [www.nzherald.co.nz](http://www.nzherald.co.nz))

New Zealand has lost its last home-grown link to World War I with the death in Hastings of 105-year-old Bright Williams.

Mr Williams, whose funeral will be held today, was the last survivor of 100,444 New Zealanders who left to serve on foreign soil in what was supposed to be "the war to end all wars" of 1914-1918.

The Returned Services Association says there is one more survivor of the war living in New Zealand, 101-year-old Greymouth resident Bob Rudd, but he was born in Britain and served with that country's forces.

**South Africa News: Select team gets ready to help Iraq** (source: [www.sundaytimes.co.za](http://www.sundaytimes.co.za))

A small, select group of former apartheid scientists and chemical and biological weapons experts is being assembled this weekend to assist Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to disarm.

Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Aziz Pahad yesterday said that his department was putting together a team of people who had "actual participation" in destroying South Africa's weapons of mass destruction between 1990 and 1993.

Senior department officials refused to disclose the names of the experts yesterday as none of them has yet confirmed that they will travel to Iraq. Former Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha will however not be part of the team as it will be a "technical, not a political mission".

**Japan News: Government eyeing various Iraq scenarios** (source: [www.yomiuri.co.jp](http://www.yomiuri.co.jp))

The government is now uncertain if a new U.N. resolution allowing the use of force against Iraq will be passed. Therefore, it will continue lobbying non-permanent members of the Security Council to adopt a new resolution authorizing the use of force.

The government has begun preparing its case for supporting an attack even if the United Nations does not adopt a new resolution, government sources said Saturday.

The government basically supports the calls by the US and British governments for military action against Iraq. A close aide to Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said, "we also have asked the United States to keep pushing efforts for international cooperation".

## World News 'Opinion'

Ferale Hubbard

### Iraq: A Question of Oil

According to the United States, the Saddam Hussein regime is harboring weapons of mass destruction and, as such, is a threat to the security of the United States as well as international security in general.

However, the issue is not so much one of security but one of oil. The US has had a stake in the oil in the Middle East, including Iraq, since as far back as the 1920s. For as long as the US has had that stake in the Gulf, they have blurred the line between national security and protecting their oil claim. The Carter Doctrine laid down that the US was willing to use military force 'to prevent an outside power from conquering the Gulf', and former Secretary of State Harold Brown argued that 'protection of the oil flow from the Middle East [is] clearly part of our vital interests'. Whatever it masquerades as, the current crisis represents nothing but the continuation of the US's efforts to protect their oil supply.

Many US government officials would directly benefit from oil in the Middle East with Hussein out of the way. That is their concern, not the many civilian or even military casualties that would result from any eventual military engagements in the Gulf.



Source: Time Magazine <http://www.time.com/time/cartoons/20030221/4.html>

# The Wonders of Spring



**Amanda Betts**

Last week the windows that are flung open during cleaning time were left open for an entire afternoon.

As we experienced our first rush of mild, pre-spring temperatures (and as the kerosene heater sat eerily silent for the first time in two and a half months) I stripped off a layer of fleece and went outside to watch a sannensei class playing soccer in the sun. The promise of spring in Japan – fresh green rice paddies, short sleeves, rooftop beer gardens – and, of course, sakura, for spring is the season of the cherry blossom.

We can expect the first explosion of snowy blossoms to hit the Kansai region in early April. The sakurazensen (cherry blossom front) moves from south to north, first emerging in Kyushu and concluding its springtime appearance in Hokkaido.

It's meticulously monitored by weather stations dedicated to providing an accurate estimation of when and where one may observe the trees in

bloom, thus allowing the Japanese to plan their hanami and book prime viewing spots well in advance.

Sakura viewing parties began among the Japanese nobility in the eighth century, when Kyoto became the capital of Japan, but they didn't become a standard festivity among the general populace until the 1600's. Now a nationally anticipated springtime event, the cherry blossom has become an important symbol – some would even say a metaphor for life – in Japanese culture. The delicate blossom lasts for only seven to ten days, a brief period during which traffic stops, passers-by stare and tourists flock to absorb its beauty, made more poignant by its inevitable decline.

The image of sakura is a major element of the cultural language of Japan. It appears in poetry, art, traditional song, and even on the one hundred yen coin. Its bloom is emblematic of international friendship, a gift from Japan to countries including



South Korea, the United States, China, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Kansai residents are lucky to have a multitude of sakura viewing sites to choose from; a massive cherry blossom tree grows at the center of Kyoto's Maruyamakoen park, around which stalls selling sakuramochi, sake and souvenirs are continually bustling. If you prefer a little more tranquillity, the temples Kiyomizudera and Kinkakuji provide exquisite backdrops for both daytime and night-time viewing. On April the 10th, Hirano Shrine celebrates a festival, complete with its own well-reputed parade, honouring the cherry blossom. Neither is the sight of Himeji castle nestled in a bubbling sea of white and pink anything less than majestic, again not to be missed in early April.

Leaving behind the snow flurries of January for the sakurafubuki of spring, we'll be anticipating the new academic year for our students. A vision to be shared with friends, good food and warm sake, sakura inspires a renewed appreciation for life at its most vital and most fleeting.



## Hattori Ryokuchi Museum of Traditional Japanese Farmhouses

**Toyonaka City, Osaka Prefecture**  
**06-6862-3137**



Were you to describe Osaka in one word, “busy,” “crowded,” or maybe even “overcrowded,” may spring to mind. Fear not though for relief is at hand; a short ride north on the Midosuji subway line from Umeda will find you in Ryokuchikoen □ □ □ □ □, □ □ □ □ □ (¥310) and the sedate and green Hattori Ryokuchi Park (take the west exit from the subway station).

Here the crowds dissipate and one can inhale deeply that rarest Osaka commodity, fresh air. The park is indeed full of it. Pick a sunny Sunday afternoon to stroll around the botanical gardens, the flowerbeds and the woods of Chikaku; the park

is sure to be a treat when the cherry blossoms open. There's a good array of leisure facilities including a swimming pool and tennis courts, there's even a youth hostel (what a location!) and, to the north end of the park, the museum of traditional Japanese farmhouses.

This museum is open-air, and comprises eleven complete farmhouses moved from within the prefecture or as far afield as Amami-Oshima island, to the south of Kyushu, and Nagano Prefecture. The museum was opened just over forty years ago, when the buildings were transported piece-by-piece from where they originated to be dexterously reconstructed around the museum site.



One may pick up an informative guide in English upon entering the museum, a great aid to appreciating and understanding the different styles of architecture used in each building, as are the bilingual signs outside each farmhouse. It's possible to enter the buildings, too, to see how the families who lived inside would have passed the time; each house contains an excellent collection of genuine artefacts from the time of their inhabitation.

This museum is a great portal through which one may glimpse a thoroughly rural economy; a peaceful and agrarian Japan predating the technological and electrical revolutions of the twentieth century. Fires are sometimes lit in the giant hearths at the centre of the farmhouses around which the life of the houses would have gravitated; here meat was roasted, nabe stewed and kettles heated for tea, a cup of which is complimentary in one of the larger farmhouses towards the end of the museum's circuit.

The museum is open from 10am to 4pm, November to March and until 5pm between April and October.

Admission is ¥500.

It's the (annual)

# AJET **PUB QUIZ** in support of



More than 1,000,000,000 people worldwide live in sub-standard housing.  
What are you going to do to help?

To **take part in the pub quiz**, all you need to do  
is sign in with three of your smartest friends.

Ten JETs from Hyogo are going to Nepal in the spring to build homes  
for some of the most needy people on Earth.

Come support their trip, have a good time and see  
if you really are smarter than Ben Stein\* .

**Where:** The Hub, Sannomiya, Kobe

**When:** 6pm, Saturday, the **15th of March**

**Price:** ¥500 entry, ¥500 team registration (teams of 4)

**RSVP to:** Melissa, 078-791-6075

\*NB Ben Stein will not be attending the pub quiz.



**Tom Cruise himself invites you to**

## **The HyogoAJET Sayonara Party 2003**

Guess some of you guys heard about the Kyoto Christmas Party? Swanky Hotel, Black tie, Ball gowns . . .

**WELL, this is going to rip their nighties!**

(Of course some of them will be there – chotto jealous – bygones)

**Mark your JET diaries with the most important date of this social year**

**Saturday the 5th of July**

*and decorate that baby well.*



More to be revealed later . . .  
all we want to say now is  
this one is going to be massive!



~ Miss it ~ Miss out ~

# Got Your Card Yet?

Join HyogoAJET for **HALF PRICE!!!**

Tell your friends that we've got **half a year** of HAJET Services, Events, The Hyogo Times and even more discounts **to go**.



Join HyogoAJET **NOW** for **half the price** of a full year's **membership** and save even more!!.

Need more information?

Email PR Ten-cents-off @ [pr@hyogoajet.org](mailto:pr@hyogoajet.org)

<b>New Members</b> <del>3000 Yen</del> Now ¥1500	<b>Renewing</b> <del>2500 Yen</del> Now ¥1250
<b>Special Discount For Couples!</b>	
<b>New Shared*</b> <del>4500 Yen</del> Now ¥2250	<b>Renewing Shared*</b> <del>3500 Yen</del> Now ¥1750
<small>*In order to qualify, you and your partner must officially reside at the same address.</small>	

## **New HyogoAJET Membership Discount JET Thursdays (5pm-10pm)**

**SALLY'S CLUB**  
K O B E • J A P A N

**¥150 off any drink for HyogoAJET Members**  
*(Show your Membership Card)*

¥100 yen off any drink for all JETS with ID

*You can also now play your own CDs through Sally's sound system!! (at Manager's discretion)*

**Join HyogoAJET at any of our Events for this special deal!**

# Hyogo AJET Presents...

## The Annual Calendar of Events 2002 - 2003

- August** ~~Himeji Beer Garden, Himeji~~  
~~Kobe Night Out, Kobe~~
- September** ~~Kobe Back to School Beer Garden, Kobe~~  
~~Camping & Hiking, Mt Hyounosen (northern Hyogo near Tottori Pref)~~
- October** ~~Terry Fox Charity Run (Kobe)~~  
~~Halloween Party & Charity Event~~
- November** ~~Mid-year conference after hours bash & Charity Event, Kobe~~  
~~Ruriji Temple Stay, Nanko-cho Hyogo~~
- December** ~~Shopping trip in Kyoto~~
- February** ~~Valentine 'Love' Party, Kobe~~  
~~Hachikogen Ski Trip Weekend, Sekinomiya-cho, Tajima~~
- March** Trek to Akama (48) Waterfalls National Park & Izakaya party  
Nara Prefecture.
- April** Hanami Cherry Blossom viewing PARTY at HIMEJI Castle Himeji
- May** THE Hootinanie (Variety show) at Theatre Pochette, Kitano Kobe
- June** Hamasaka BEACH party in HAMASAKA, Northern Hyogo  
Climb Mount FUJI Adventure, Mount Fuji TBA
- July** All Hyogo JETS & FRIENDS 'Sayonara' PARTY, Kobe



*FYI: The exact dates have not been listed as they are subject to change.*

**For up-dated information on UP-COMING events please check out:**

**<http://hyogoajet.org>**

# Life as a JET

Clairissa Myschowoda

## RIP Duncan Barnes - Friendship in the Fast Lane



I took a long time thinking about the appropriateness of this topic. I do not intend to offend anyone or to assume I understand the feelings anyone has experienced. A tragic event has opened my eyes to a pain we may all at one time have to face and I feel compelled to offer a sweeter sentiment than that.

It hit me, going up the escalator, that the gaudy exterior and familiar smells of the Kobe Hard Rock Café were not their customary comfort. At a loss for any meaningful or expressive words I turned to my friend, also a new JET and said, "this sucks." At once I was struck by the complete inadequacy

of such a comment measured against the graveness of the circumstances. What an understatement!

A crowd, larger than anticipated, had gathered to drink in memory of a friend, to express condolences to a family and to show support and admiration for the souls misfortune chose to bear witness that evening. Everybody seemed to feel the loss of someone mysteriously missing in such a tightly knit community. Nobody was themselves and very few knew just what to say. What could you say, really?

There were no questions that could be answered and all the usual platitudes seemed particularly banal.

Over six months ago, now, my first night in Tokyo was spent thinking about how my life would be different. When I arrived in my host city a friend who was already on the JET Programme explained to me, straightaway, the strength of relationships in Japan. All emotions are magnified and bonds grow tighter in a shorter period of time. He was absolutely right.

For all the times we feel alone or without friends, one has only to remember the show of support at that memorial. Whether you know someone well or have only seen them a few times, we all have something in common. We all depend on each other, almost from the first day, for the comfort, companionship and understanding shared by people who come from a similar background. Without trying even, we can fundamentally empathize with each other's feelings and situations because, more often than not, they are our own. I sat up late that Saturday night thinking about what my family of fellow



foreigners meant to me. In just six months I have grown as close to them as many of my life-long friends back home. Friendship in the fast lane.

I never could have anticipated the strength of the relationships I have built here. I expected to be isolated; to become versed in the art of watching paint dry, in my tiny apartment, by myself. On the contrary, I quickly became integrated into a community of really amazing people with very similar interests and goals as myself. Sometimes I have to pinch myself because, all the daily trials aside, this is as good as it gets!

Whether they're spent getting to know a few new friends in an isolated cabin or bar-hopping with a horde of rowdy gaijin, my weekends are spent living out the movie I would like to be made of my life. My fellow party-goers are my confidantes, my support system, my family away from home. When a patient ear and a warm hug are needed, they are always there. When there is a need for support and unity, we are there for each other.

As I lay awake that night I thought about the solidarity there had been at that gathering. The other diners at the Hard Rock Café that night might even, I suppose, have thought it was someone's birthday or another after-seminar party; spirits had been low, of course, but there had certainly been a comforting warmth and compassion in all of us.

At the official memorial, my thoughts were uplifted by the kind words and warm sentiments of supporters both from Duncan's closest circle of friends and his more casual associates. They spoke about his mesmerizing smile and all-encompassing humor. Friendship here is the closest it can get, strong and unbelievably reliable. The stakes are high, as high or as low as our emotions can fluctuate in our unpredictable and sometimes difficult new lives.

Let us be grateful that the one thing that seems to be a steadfast constant is the comfort and support of the friends around us.

# I WANT YOU



*For the*

## HyogoAJET Team 2003/2004

### Many positions available!!!!

### Check out page 22 for details!

# Japanese Public Holidays and Festivals – March



## □ □ □ □ □ Hina Matsuri - Doll's Festival

**Monday, the 3rd of March**

(source: [www.geocities.com/mindysensei/hina.html](http://www.geocities.com/mindysensei/hina.html))

The Doll's Festival, also known as the Peach Festival *momo no sekku*, takes place on March 3. The *hina matsuri* (*hina* means dolls and *matsuri* means festival) is a time to pray for the well being of young girls. Most homes with young girls will set up a display of *hinaningyo* (*hina* dolls). The dolls were originally handmade, but have since become mass-produced.

The main dolls used in the displays are *Odairisama*, a prince and *Ohinasama*, a princess, who sit at the very top tier, surrounded by their courtiers. Around the display peach blossoms, rice cakes, special colored and diamond shaped rice cakes called *hishimochi* and white sake are placed as offerings.

This festival has been celebrated in Japan since the Edo Period (1603-1867).

## □ □ □ □ □ Shunbun No Hi - Vernal Equinox Day

**Friday, the 21st of March**

(source: [www.jinjapan.org/kidsweb/calendar/march/higan.html](http://www.jinjapan.org/kidsweb/calendar/march/higan.html))

The vernal equinox is the day when the sun crosses the equator making night and day equal in length. In Japan it's a day to commune with nature and to show affection for all living things. The seven-day period starting three days before the vernal equinox and ending three days after is called *higan*. This also occurs around the autumnal equinox and is, along with New Year's Day and the *bon* festival in the summer, a time when many pay their respects to their ancestors. Visits are made to family graves, for cleaning and offering flowers and incense to console the spirits.

Following the vernal equinox the days gradually get longer and the nights shorter. An old Japanese saying is that the chill of winter finally disappears after *shunbun no hi*, and temperatures do get higher from around this time. Cherry blossoms, the most popular symbol of spring in Japan, begin to bloom.

# Guide to Rogues, Villains and Eccentrics

Ronan McCaughey

I've always been fascinated by rogues, villains, and eccentrics. I had the dubious pleasure of living with many during my student life in Belfast before coming to Japan (for example, there was Veronica, the alcoholic, bohemian, habitually pot-smoking social worker, who left our fleapit of a home to organize a drug rehabilitation programme in Siberia! I hope that the cold hasn't hindered her efforts.) I've been delighted to find that Japan, too, has got its fair share of rogues, villains, and eccentrics (having met quite a few of them in the staffrooms at the schools where I teach...)

First, though, I'd like to introduce you to an interesting British eccentric, Mr. John Arlington (1795-1863). This farmer believed he had a responsibility to educate the workers on his Letchworth estate in rural Hertfordshire, England. He read them Shakespeare and transformed a pond on his farm into a scale model of the world. While they rowed him round the different countries represented on his pond, he gave introductory lectures on geography, followed by discussions and quizzes. Talk about grass-roots internationalization!

Arlington was a gregarious man, holding open house six days a week. Tramps, gypsies and outcasts of all sorts, it seems, were particularly welcome. Indeed, those on horseback could even ride straight into his drawing room, where Arlington would entertain them with ribald songs on the piano. This eccentric fellow even enjoyed being carried round his garden in an open coffin. Yet you could never say he did anything but live life to the fullest, defying the grim reaper as long as he could. In his last illness, he refused to take his prescribed medicine though his gardener begged him to do so for three days. At last, he called for a tumbler of brandy, drank it and fell backwards, dead.

## Amagasaki Culture Day

Rachel Tenzythoff

There will be a **Japanese Culture Day in Amagasaki**

**Sunday, March the 9th.**

Come to see and take part in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, the playing of Koto instruments, omochi (rice cake) making, rakugo (comical storytelling) performances, taketaonbo (a flying bamboo game) and bonsai displays.

### Location

Miyauchi Park and Tarutani Tea House  
(a five minute walk from the north exit of Hanshin Deyashiki Station)

### Time:

**10am – 4pm Sunday,  
March the 9th, 2003**

### RSVP:

Rachel Tenzythoff  
[tencentsoff@hotmail.com](mailto:tencentsoff@hotmail.com)  
by **Monday, March the 3rd**

# Jokes

Sophie James

A sandwich walked into a bar. The barman said, "sorry, we don't serve food in here."

Two aerials met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony was rubbish but the reception was brilliant.

Two cannibals were eating a clown. One said to the other, "does this taste funny to you?"

A man walked into a bar with a roll of tarmac under his arm. "A pint please, and one for the road."

Two cows were standing next to each other in a field. Daisy said to Dolly, "I was artificially inseminated this morning." "I don't believe you," said Dolly. "It's true," said Daisy, "straight up, no bull!"

Two hydrogen atoms walked into a bar. One said to the other, "I think I've lost an electron." The other asked, "are you sure?" to which the first one replied, "yes, I'm positive."

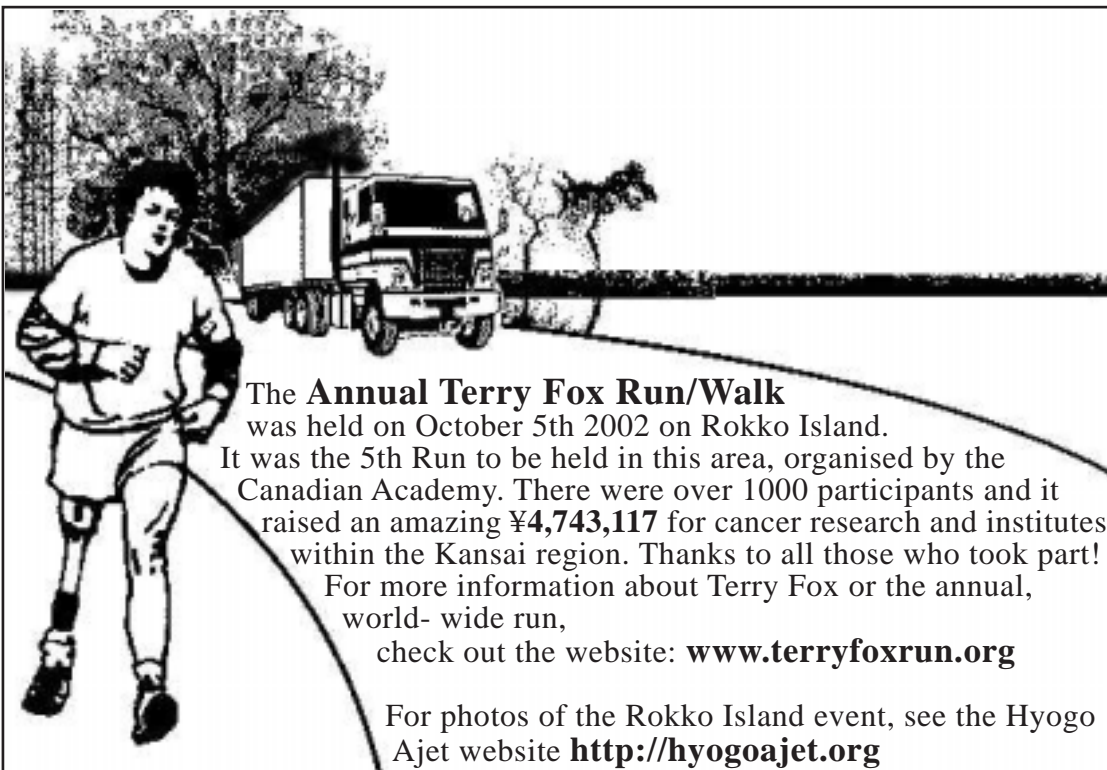
deja moo n. the feeling that you've heard this bulls\*\*t before

A man took his rottweiler to the vet. "My dog's cross-eyed, is there anything you can do for him?" "Well, let's have a look at him," replied the vet. So he picked up the dog, examined his eyes and checked his teeth and general health. Finally the vet told the man, "I'm going to have to put him down." "What!" exclaimed the man, "just 'cause he's cross eyed?" "No," explained the vet, "because he's really heavy."

I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day, but I couldn't find any.

I know a man who went to a seafood disco last week and pulled a mussel.

A man walked into the doctor's office. "What seems to be the problem?" asked the doctor. "Well, er... I have five penises," replied the man. "Blimey!" exclaimed the doctor, "how do your trousers fit?" "Like a glove!"



The **Annual Terry Fox Run/Walk** was held on October 5th 2002 on Rokko Island. It was the 5th Run to be held in this area, organised by the Canadian Academy. There were over 1000 participants and it raised an amazing ¥4,743,117 for cancer research and institutes within the Kansai region. Thanks to all those who took part! For more information about Terry Fox or the annual, world- wide run, check out the website: **[www.terryfoxrun.org](http://www.terryfoxrun.org)**

For photos of the Rokko Island event, see the Hyogo Ajet website **<http://hyogoajet.org>**

## **Keep in the loop - know what is going on!**

### **Subscribe to the JET email list!**

This list will keep you updated with news and information applicable to YOU!

**This is open to all JET's in Hyogo as a means of communication...** AJET or not. Please use it considerately and if file attachments are necessary, keep them to a reasonable size (<100Kb) as any messages posted go out to all members of the list.

**To Subscribe:** (send a blank email to) **[hyogojets-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:hyogojets-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)**

**To Unsubscribe:** (send a blank email to) **[hyogojets-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:hyogojets-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com)**

**To post a message:** (send your email to) **[hyogojets@yahoogroups.com](mailto:hyogojets@yahoogroups.com)**

# Hyogo AJET Committee Job Descriptions

There will be a meeting for all interested in joining next year's Hyogo AJET committee in **Sannomiya, Kobe on Saturday, the 15th of March**. Meet at **3pm, outside the Häagen-Dazs** to the north of Hankyu Sannomiya. This will be a good chance to meet the current incumbents and learn what each of the jobs entails. The next **Hyogo AJET committee will take over from the 1st of April, 2003** and hold office until the following March. **RSVP by the 7th of March** to prefectural representative **Rachel Tenzythoff** at [pr@hyogoajet.org](mailto:pr@hyogoajet.org) or call **090-8194-0309**.

**NB: All prospective HyogoAJET committee members must be fully paid-up members of HyogoAJET and be available to attend the monthly HyogoAJET Meetings!**

## Positions Available

### 2 Prefectural Representatives

The position of prefectural representative calls for someone who is both organized and willing to work in a multi-task environment. You've got to be a team player, a person able to forge relationships

within the Hyogo AJET committee, with JETs in the prefecture at large and with other prefectural representatives across Japan.

Hyogo AJET is run as a semi-autonomous group, which means we are largely left to act independently of national AJET. The prefectural representative is, however, still responsible to the AJET National Council, the chief policy-making body of AJET.

If you aren't frightened by the idea of representing the second largest prefecture in Japan and its over 250 JETs then this is the job for you.

For more information contact the current prefectural representative, Rachel Tenzythoff, at [pr@hyogoajet.org](mailto:pr@hyogoajet.org) or call 090-8194-0309.

### Webmaster

The responsibilities of the Hyogo AJET Webmaster include designing and maintaining the Hyogo AJET website and managing the Hyogo AJET committee e-mail and e-list accounts. The Hyogo AJET Webmaster is required to possess enthusiasm for design and computing and have advanced web design skills. You must have your own personal computer, appropriate software and internet access (preferably ADSL) that allows for FTP connections. Applicants must be proficient in software packages such as Dreamweaver, Photoshop and Flash. You should also have your own digital camera.

For more information contact the current Hyogo AJET Webmaster, Fiona Cubie, @ [admin@hyogoajet.org](mailto:admin@hyogoajet.org)

### City Guide Publications Editor

Do you think you get around Hyogo? Do you know where all the fun places are? The city guide publications editor is responsible for updating all the information currently available to Hyogo AJET members regarding restaurants, bars, clubs, sightseeing and other outdoor adventures in the Kansai region.

For more information contact the current city guide publications editor, Isabel Lim, at [isabel\\_lim@onebox.com](mailto:isabel_lim@onebox.com) or call 0795-32-4085.

### **Social Events Coordinator**

The social events coordinator plans fun and interesting events to meet with and get to know fellow JETs in Hyogo. Requirements include initiative and good organizational and problem-solving skills.

For more information contact the current social events coordinator, Julie Turbide, at [events@hyogoajet.org](mailto:events@hyogoajet.org)

### **Charity Coordinator**

This position is suited to someone who is interested in volunteer work, researching causes worthy of support and actively raising money for charity. The charity coordinator is the link between JETs wanting to volunteer their time and various non-profit making organisations in Japan and overseas. It is incredibly rewarding to generate funds for so many deserving and needy people.

For more information contact the current charity coordinator, Sophie James, at [hajet\\_charity@hotmail.com](mailto:hajet_charity@hotmail.com)

### **Tajima Representative**

Become the voice of Hyogo AJET in the north. You'll be responsible for creating the second annual Tajima Living Guide, organizing the Tajima sayonara beer garden, the Hamasaka beach camp-out, various onsen weekends, and the skiing weekend.

For more information contact the current Tajima representative, Sabine Sengmueller, at [TajimaJETs@communities.msn.ca](mailto:TajimaJETs@communities.msn.ca)

### **Librarian**

It is the responsibility of the librarian to maintain a catalogue of all of the books in the Hyogo AJET library.

For more information contact the current librarian, Katie Rosecrans, at [librarian@hyogoajet.org](mailto:librarian@hyogoajet.org)

### **Treasurer**

The treasurer maintains the finances of Hyogo AJET. For more information contact the current treasurer, Andrea Sparrow, at [hajet\\_treasurer@hotmail.com](mailto:hajet_treasurer@hotmail.com)

### **Sempai Coordinator**

The sempai coordinator organizes and promotes the sempai system, whereby all first-year JETs in Hyogo are teamed up with a second or third-year JET to facilitate their transition to life in Japan.

For more information contact the current sempai coordinator, Joanne McKay, at [events@hyogoajet.org](mailto:events@hyogoajet.org)

## **Positions Being Held**

### **Hyogo Times Editor**

The Hyogo Times editor is responsible for all areas of production of the monthly Hyogo Times magazine. You must be able to write captivating prose and to motivate and support a growing team of authors. The good editor will have enthusiasm, ideas, the ability to work under pressure and to deadlines and an exemplary standard of English. You must have free access to your school's computer lab, the internet and, of course, a good English dictionary.

For more information about the Hyogo Times contact the current editor, Stephen Wilkinson, at [times@hyogoajet.org](mailto:times@hyogoajet.org)

### **Hyogo Times Design Editor**

The Hyogo Times design editor is responsible for the layout of the Hyogo Times and converting the completed Hyogo Times to pdf format for display on the web. You must also print the Hyogo Times within the set deadline. This position requires excellent design and production skills, unlimited access to the internet, your own personal computer with advanced graphic software, a digital camera and easy access to printing facilities.

For more information contact the current design editor, Fiona Cubie, @ [admin@hyogoajet.org](mailto:admin@hyogoajet.org)

# Film Review: 'Gangs of New York'

(Miramax Films, 2003)

Ronan McCaughey

'Gangs of New York' recreates the America of the Age of Iron and Steel. Acclaimed director Martin Scorsese ('Goodfellas', 'Taxi Driver') presents the era in which America was building its base of industrial power; an age of entrepreneurial spirit. This was a time of flux and change as waves of immigrants streamed off coffin ships into Manhattan; an era whose conflicts helped define who and what makes an American.

We see starving, filthy, diseased immigrants leave the 'old world' in search of a new beginning, only to find that the allegedly glorious New York can offer only scorn, prejudice and chaos. This film explores the Five Points, a dark, teeming corner of New York known for vice and chaos. Against the hope for a brave new world unfolds a story about a fatherless son's struggle to maintain his honour and muster the courage to remake his life, while seeking vengeance. Young, orphaned Irish-American immigrant Amsterdam Vallon, played by Leonardo Di Caprio, is the son of the slain Priest Vallon (Liam Neeson), once chief warrior of the Five Rabbits gang that rallied the Irish immigrants of The Five Points.

After sixteen years in a house of refuge, Vallon has returned to hunt for his father's killer. His target is William Cutting (Daniel Day-Lewis), infamously known as Bill the Butcher. Bill is the ruthless leader of the neighborhood and detests the "foreign invaders", as he refers to the immigrants. Working his way into the Butcher's inner circle, Vallon is led astray to play a surrogate for Bill's son while keeping his real identity a secret. Once his identity is revealed, he has no alternative but to organize an Irish rebellion to take on the Butcher's mob. Thus the destitute orphan becomes the gang leader. His struggle brings him close to Jenny Everdeane (Cameron Diaz), herself a pickpocket, whose beauty and independence bewitch the young Vallon. How will he react when he hears of Everdeane's previous affair with the Butcher?



This film is set at the time of the Civil War draft riots of 1863, an explosive episode of unrest when the Civil War almost tore the country asunder. This was a time when a new America was being born in the streets. Indeed it was, in part, due to the grim determination of those starving immigrants that landed in New York to break free from their squalor and corruption that the city has risen to become the beacon of wealth and liberty that it is today.



# Book Review: J.R.R. Tolkien, **The Lord of the Rings** (Ballantine Books,

2002)

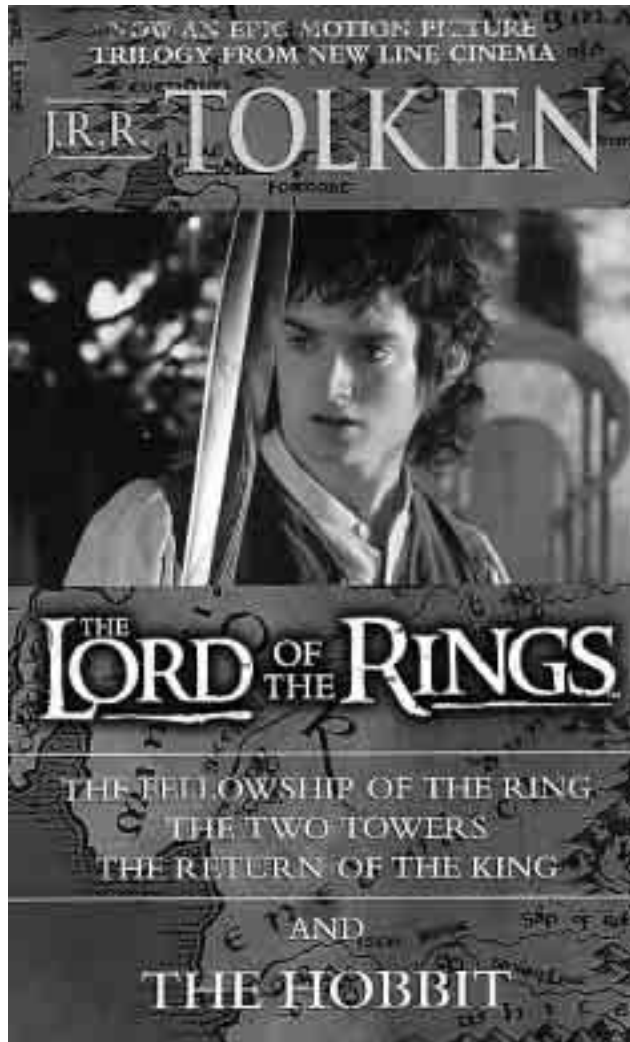
Victoria Vaughan

J.R.R. Tolkien (1892-1973)'s masterpiece, *The Lord of the Rings* has been around for decades and, unless you've been living under a stone, you'll know has recently undergone a rapid revival in interest thanks to director Peter Jackson taking on the trilogy to storm box offices worldwide. Its story is centered on a quest to destroy one all-powerful ring, which were it to fall in the wrong hands would, inevitably, bring about the end of Middle Earth. The humblest of creatures and unlikeliest of heroes, the three-and-a-half foot tall hobbit Frodo Baggins is unwittingly chosen to make sure that doesn't happen.

The story follows him and his marvelous companions on a journey into the horrifying wastelands of Mordor. Elves, dwarves, men and hobbits unite in a final fight for liberty. As with much of the literature of this genre, the journey is an allegory for personal and global salvation. It is this applicability that has made this novel profound for so many people.

Jackson, along with an army of computer imaging wizards, has done well in the films to recreate Tolkien's world as vividly as the technology permits. Reading the novel, itself a cinematic experience, illustrates the depths of Tolkien's vision. What Jackson has succeeded in doing is to omit some of the smaller details, where the books can become slightly long-winded, to focus in on the larger issue of impending war.

Yet, to give the author his due, it is from Tolkien's attention to detail that the Middle Earth of the books gets its grit and memorable characters and encounters along the way ensure that the novel is still worthy of attention beyond the film. One could even say that taking the time to read the trilogy (it is long) is a quest within itself, thus ensuring empathy for Frodo and his friends on their journey.



# CD Review: The Roots, 'Phrenology' (MCA Records, 2002)

Colin Erickson

When the Roots came out on the scene with their first major label release in 1995, they were doing something entirely new, using a live band rather than relying on a DJ cutting breakbeats on two turntables. This was, in their own words, 'organic hip hop jazz.' Four albums later, they are still doing things their own way, and doing them very well.

Their new album, 'Phrenology' sees the band continue to expand their sound, and come slightly closer to the mainstream. Guest artists on the album include, most notably, Nelly Furtado, Talib Kweli, and Cody Chesnutt.

The Roots have pushed hip-hop in new directions since the beginning, and this album is no exception. Rock, old school rap, soul, punk, and jazz fusion are some of the different styles represented. The best thing is that the transitions between them are seamless and effortless. This is still very much a hip-hop album, but the Roots have a broader definition of what hip-hop is than the average artist or fan.

The first single from the album, 'Break You Off' has fellow Philadelphia soul musician Musiq singing the hook. This song is a little too slick for college radio, but not quite slick enough for the commercial stations. Nevertheless it stands out and is an obvious choice for a single. The last three minutes feature a vocal breakdown, and a good showcase of the band's talents.

Another stand-out song on the album is 'The Seed (2.0).' From the clash-esque guitar, to the raw emotion of singer Cody Chesnutt's falsetto vocals, the song flat-out rocks. It is a remake from Cody Chesnutt's solo album, 'The Headphone Masterpiece,' but it has a much more polished sound here.

The lines between rock and rap in the States are becoming increasingly blurred. It seems like any rock band that wants to make it on MTV these days needs to have a DJ. As far back as 1986 even, when Run DMC started it all with their version of Aerosmith's 'Walk This Way,' hip-hoppers have been fusing the two genres with good results. Songs like 'The Seed (2.0)' and 'Water' show that the Roots aren't afraid to experiment with previously untried formulas. The second half of 'Water', for instance, is the sort of thing that most artists can't get away with until they are about four albums deep in the industry.



The voice of the Roots is Tariq Trotter, aka Black Thought, one of the most underrated talents currently out. If Black Thought is the voice of the Roots, then the drummer, Ahmir 'Questlove' Thompson, is the soul. 'Quest' has produced the bulk of the Roots' music, as well as songs for Common, D'Angelo and Nikka Costa. It is a hard call to say whether he is a better drummer or producer, suffice to say that he is excellent at both.

The Roots have moved beyond the 'organic' and 'jazz' to blaze a new path in hip-hop and are among the finest bands currently making music. Not content to play simple loops behind an MC that could be accomplished by a drum machine, their level of skill is rare. For the Roots, the MC is more another instrument in the band, rather than the only thing that matters.

# Restaurant Review: Tsuruhashi District, Osaka: Korean Culture and Delicious Barbecue

Kenia Lopez-Mohedano

Japan often shows a homogenous face to the world and it might, for those overseas, be easy to forget about some of the interesting foreign cultures that have made Japan their home. Koreans are the largest immigrant group in Japan, and according to the latest figures there are just over five hundred thousand living here. Tsuruhashi, in the south of Osaka, offers a vibrant showcase of Korean culture.

This month, I would like to recommend the bulgogi, or Korean barbecue, restaurants in Tsuruhashi (the Japanese for bulgogi is yakiniku). Thin strips of marinated beef are cooked on a small grill in the middle of a table. They can be accompanied with kimchi (a mixture of fermented vegetables with spices) and white rice. As you'd expect, the food is of the highest Korean authenticity available in Japan and it's got a taste that quite surpasses the average stock of Japanese yakiniku. When choosing a bulgogi restaurant in Tsuruhashi, go for one of the restaurants with the longest lines, as these are the best ones. It's worth the wait!

It's fun to take some time before dinner to stroll through the International Market located right under Tsuruhashi station. The market offers Korean delicacies, traditional Korean costumes and other Korean products at low prices. Expect to hear Korean spoken around you and a Korean translation on most of the signs around the market and the station.

To get to Tsuruhashi take the JR Osaka Loop Line train to Tsuruhashi Station.



# Headspin



## Hey! Grandad is back!

**Venue:** Café Park,  
Shoei-cho,  
Tottori

**Date:** Saturday  
8th March

**Time:** 9pm - 2am

**Price:** ¥1200

For further information contact  
[tottoribanana@hotmail.com](mailto:tottoribanana@hotmail.com)

# HAJET Committee 2002-2003

Position	Name	Contact Number(s)	Group & Personal Email
Prefectural Representative	Rachel Tenzythoff	hp: 06-6491-1447 cell: 090-8194-0309 wk: 06-6421-0132	pr@hyogoajet.org tencentsoff@hotmail.com
Hyogo Times Editor	Steve Wilkinson	hp: 06-6433-1124	times@hyogoajet.org smbwilkinson@hotmail.com
Web Mistress & Hyogo Times Design Editor	Fiona Cubie (Fi)	hp: 0787-91-0548 cell: 090-2068-1035	admin@hyogoajet.org fionacubie@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Andrea Sparrow	hp: 078-802-8207 cell: 090-4297-8045	hajat_treasurer@hotmail.com sparrow143@hotmail.com
Librarian	Katie Rosecrans	hp: 078-597-2566 cell: 080 3035 2717	librarian@hyogoajet.org ktwthwings@aol.com
Charity Coordinator	Sophie James	hp: 0799-42-5823 cell: 090-6901-3209	hajat_charity@hotmail.com sophiejames22@hotmail.com
Living Guide Co-editor	Isabel Lim	hp: 0795-32-4085 wk:0795-32-2385	events@hyogoajet.org isabel_lim@onebox.com
Sempai Coordinator	Joanne McKay	hp: 0790-72-2500 cell: 090-5972-9761	events@hyogoajet.org jokirsty@mars.sannet.ne.jp
Tajima Representative	Sabine Sengmueller	hp: 0796-79-4408 cell: 090-5672-7069	randomgirl01@hotmail.com TajimaJETs@communities.msn.ca
Event Coordinator Kobe Representative	Julie Turbide	hp: 0798-54-8434 cell: 090-9868-7461	events@hyogoajet.org julieturbide@yahoo.ca
Committee Member	Wendy Jones	hp: 0795-72-5111 cell: 090-5668-2001	events@hyogoajet.org batofinku@yahoo.co.uk
Committee Member	Annie Kates	hp: 0795-36-3099	anniekates@hotmail.com

## Other Important Contacts

National AJET chair:	Anthony Hall	ajetnchair@yahoo.com
Vice Chair:	Amelia Barkley	ajetvc@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Donna Kim	ajettreasurer@yahoo.com
Database coordinator:	Amanda Cornaglia	ajetdba@yahoo.com
Block 7 Representative	Hyogo: Connie Kong	ajetblock7@yahoo.com
CIR Prefectural Advisor	Jack Hankins	hyogo_PA@yahoo.com

**For more updated information check out: <http://hyogoajet.org>**

The Hyogo Times, contains original essays written by Hyogo JETs, teaching ideas, travel pieces and advertisements for events happening in and around Hyogo.

Check the back issues archived on our website.

## Hyogo Times Submissions

**The closing date for submissions is the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Submissions can be e-mailed in plain text format to [times@hyogoajet.org](mailto:times@hyogoajet.org)**