

**JAPANESE TEACHERS' NETWORK TASMANIA (JATNET)  
PRESENT STUDENT AWARDS FOR THE  
2024 TASMANIAN JAPANESE SPEECH COMPETITION  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FRIDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2024**

**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 2024 Tasmanian Japanese Speech Contest.

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.

The Japanese Teachers' Network Tasmania (JATNET) is a volunteer organisation that conducts various competitions – poster, calligraphy, and speech throughout the year and around our State. Each year's main competition is the Statewide speech contest for students learning Japanese. This competition provides an opportunity for students of Japanese in grades 3 to 12 to showcase their skills.

This year, some 201 students from all around our State took part in this Japanese speech competition. I was interested to learn that Japanese is taught in more than 50 schools at the primary level, 24 schools at the high school level, and a further 13 schools at the senior secondary level. Some 60 teachers of Japanese support these classes.

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 all the students who participated in this competition. 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 communicating across borders and cultures. I hope you will all 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 ...