



Japanese Australian Poetry Festival 2017 – Program

The Japanese Australian Poetry Festival is a cross-cultural event celebrating poetry by the Japanese-Australian community and Japanese poetic influences in Australia. The festival is a collaboration between the Creative Writing and Japanese Studies programs at the University of Melbourne.

The festival presents poetry readings, a tea ceremony, discussions, a tanka performance with music, and a spring “ginko walk” where participants write haiku in the Botanical Gardens. All are welcome, and all events are free.

Program of Events:

Japanese Australian Poetry Festival Launch Monday 25 September, 7:00-8:30pm

The launch will feature a taste of the festival’s poetry, and a welcome to all guests. Speeches by Prof. Akihiro Ogawa (Japanese Studies) and Dr. Grant Caldwell (Creative Writing); poetry readings by Takanori Hayakawa, Myron Lysenko, Sato van Aacken and Bonny Cassidy. “Greeting haiku” will also be written on the night for guests by Myron and Takanori. Drinks and nibbles provided.

Location: Linkway, John Medley Tower, The University of Melbourne.

Poetic Spirit: Tea Ceremony, Haiku, and Discussion Tuesday 26 September, 5:30-7:30pm

This event begins with a tea ceremony, conducted by Ms. Yuko Jansen of the Chado Urasenke Tankokai Melbourne. The ceremony will be followed by a reading of haiku “masters”, and a discussion on the theme of “poetic spirit” with readings and contributions by Dr. Jun Ohashi, Dr. Elizabeth Beaton, Dr. David Gilbey, Takanori Hayakawa, and Chris Lynch.

Location: Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room, Sidney Myer Asia Centre, The University of Melbourne.

Barry Hill and Leith Morton: A Reading and Conversation Wednesday 27 September, 5:30-7:30pm

Eminent literary figures Barry Hill and Leith Morton have both been immersed in East Asia. Leith is a prolific and acclaimed translator of Japanese texts, the author of *Three Japanese Poets, Tokyo*, and the upcoming *Writing Catastrophe*, and Barry has most recently produced *Grass*

Hut Work, poems written in Japan over the last decade, and *Peacemongers*, a major study of Indian and Japanese pacifist thought leading up to the atomic bombing of Japan and the Tokyo War Crimes Trials. The event will include bi-lingual readings of poetry, and combative discussion of their prose.

Location: Linkway (Fourth Floor), John Medley East Tower, The University of Melbourne.

Ginko Walk: Spring Haiku
Sunday October 1, 10:00am-12:30pm

A walk through the Botanical Gardens with an introduction to haiku and two haiku writing sessions (with a break in between). Run by poets Myron Lysenko and Takanori Hayakawa.

A ginko is a leisurely stroll in a scenic setting where poets will write observations using sensory images. The focus will be on kigo (seasonal phrases). Myron Lysenko will guide you in the writing of English language haiku and Takanori Hayakawa will help those wishing to create Japanese language haiku. Suitable for beginners and experienced haiku poets.

Enquiries: Myron Lysenko 0475 062 067

Location: Terrace Tearooms (meeting point), Melbourne Botanical Gardens, St Kilda Rd, Melbourne.

Tanka no Shirabe: Melody of Tanka – Closing Event
Sunday October 1, 2:30-4:30pm

The Mel-Tanka-kai in the Japan Club of Victoria, a Japanese-Australian group of tanka poets based in Melbourne, present poetry, traditional Japanese music, and discussion in the festival's closing event.

Mel-Tanka members will read their poetry in Japanese, along with readings of English translations produced for the festival. Mel-Tanka leader Sato Itoh Van Aacken will introduce the art of tanka. In a Q&A session, poets will discuss the translation process with their translators, Monash graduate students Lauren Hunter and Haydn Trowell.

Finally, Japanese-Australian musicians and singers will share melodies. The event will feature traditional instruments, shamisen and koto, a reading of ancient tanka, and a choir performance with keyboard and flute.

Location: Linkway (Fourth Floor), John Medley East Tower, The University of Melbourne.

Biographies of Festival Participants:

Jun Ohashi is Senior Lecturer in Japanese Studies at The University of Melbourne. His ongoing research interests include interpersonal pragmatics, (im)politeness, critical discourse analysis, media literacy and linguistic rituals. Jun is the author of *Thanking and Politeness in Japanese* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013), and has published papers in the *Journal of Pragmatics*, *Multilingua*, *Journal of Japanese Studies*, and many more. Jun's current research is on small talk, investigating how conversationalists evaluate small talk.

Grant Caldwell has published 8 books of poetry, including haiku and senryu, which he has been writing and studying for over 30 years. He is a Senior Lecturer in the Creative Writing program at the University of Melbourne. Recent publications: *Love & Derangement* (Arcadia: Australian Scholarly Publishing) 2014; *Reflections of a Temporary Self: New & Selected Poems* (Collective Effort/Trojan Press) 2015.

Akihiro Ogawa is a Professor in Japanese Studies at the University of Melbourne. He is the author of *The Failure of Civil Society?: The Third Sector and the State in Contemporary Japan* (SUNY, 2009), which won the Japan NPO Research Association Book Award in 2010, and *Lifelong Learning in Neoliberal Japan: Risk, Knowledge, and Community* (SUNY, 2015). He holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Cornell University, and completed post-doctoral work at Harvard University. Previously he was a staff reporter at Kyodo News, a Japanese wire service, where he covered the Tokyo Stock Exchange and the Bank of Japan.

Ms. Yuko Jansen is the Chief Administrator of the Melbourne branch of the Chado Urasenke Tankokai, a worldwide organisation for the "Way of Tea". Chado "is basically concerned with activities that are a part of everyday life, yet to master these requires great cultivation. In this sense, this tradition is well described as the Art of Living. Having been nurtured on Japanese soil, it represents the quintessence of Japanese aesthetics and culture." (Chado Urasenke website, <http://www.urasenke.or.jp/texte/index.html>)

Myron Lysenko began writing haiku towards the end of the 20th century. His first book of haiku and senryu, *a rosebush grabs my sleeve* was published in 2005 by Flat Chat Press. His short form poems have been published in many haiku journals including Frogpond, Modern Haiku, The Mainichi, Windfall, and Creatrix. He has led over 30 ginko since 2008.

Takanori Hayakawa was born in Tokyo, Japan. Takanori's greatest loves are the kimono, the traditional Japanese clothing, and studying and exploring languages and haiku. In Taka's words, the seasons dictate the style and patterns of the kimono and are also an integral part of haiku. He has participated in haiku activities run by the Red Kelie Haiku Group and Ginko with Lysenko.

Barry Hill is a full-time writer who has won Premier's Awards for poetry, non-fiction and the essay. His short fiction has been widely anthologised and his major works are *Broken Song: TGH Strehlow and Aboriginal Possession* (Knopf 2002) and *Peacemongers* (UQP 2014). His recent poetry has been published by Shearsman Books: *Naked Clay: Drawing from Lucian Freud* (2014) was short listed for the UK Forward Prize, and *Grass Hut Work* (2016) is a companion book to *Peacemongers*. He was a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Melbourne 2005—2008 and Poetry Editor for the Australian, 1999—2009. He is currently working on a poetic study of Chuang Tzu with the translator Ian Johnston. He lives in Queenscliff, Victoria.

Leith Morton is a poet, scholar and translator, with over 25 books on Japan, and numerous poetry collections published, including: *Tokyo: A Poem in Four Chapters*, 2006; *The Alien Within: Representations of the Exotic in Twentieth-Century Japanese Literature*, 2009; *Masayo Koike, Ishigaki Rin, Tanikawa Shuntaro: Selected Poems*, 2014 and *Minashita Kiryū, Yotsumoto Yasuhiro and Soh Sakon: Selected Poems*, 2017.

Sato Itoh Van Aacken was born in Hiroshima, and studied Japanese Literature at Keio University in Tokyo. She learned Tanka from her grandmother, a member of the local Araragi group in Nagano-ken. Sato earned a B.A, MA, and PhD in Applied Linguistics, and has taught at universities in U.S. and Australia for over 30 years. Sato has presided over the Tanka group in the Japan Club of Victoria since 2011.

The Mel-Tanka group was organized as one of the cultural salons in the Japan Club of Victoria six years ago. Currently, there are 17 members. The topics of tanka vary widely from family, nature, overseas life to war and peace, social issues, etc. Each month, members contribute their tanka to various competitions in Japan such as NHK Broadcasting and the Imperial Household Agency. This year the group published their first Melbourne Tanka anthology, *Mel-Tanka shū Aozora*, including around 350 tanka. Fifty of these poems are being translated into English for the Japanese Australian Poetry Festival. The group states: "We are excited to recite our own tanka at the festival."

The poetic names of the Mel-Tanka members reading in the festival are Sadako, Haruka, Kazu, Hiiragi, Setchūka, Kosumosu, Zui, Saika, and Kei.

Elizabeth Beaton's first chapbook, *Unbroken Circle*, will be published by the Melbourne Poets Union in 2017. Elizabeth's poetry has been published in Japan's World Haiku and Poetry Kanto, among other journals, and she was shortlisted for the ACU Prize for Poetry in 2017. Her poetry is also being translated into Japanese at Monash University in 2017. Elizabeth completed a PhD in Creative Writing, and has recently signed with a literary agent.

Bonny Cassidy is a poet and critic living in Naarm Melbourne. She is author of three poetry collections, most recently *Chatelaine* (Giramondo,

2017). Bonny is Feature Reviews Editor for Cordite Poetry Review and coedited the anthology, Contemporary Australian Feminist Poetry. She manages the BA Creative Writing at RMIT University.

David Gilbey is Adjunct Senior Lecturer in English at Charles Sturt University. His collections of poetry include *Death and the Motorway* (Interactive Press, 2008) and *Pachinko Sunset* (Island Press, 2016). He is the President of Booranga Writers' Centre and Editor of *fourW: new writing*. Three times he has been Visiting Professor of English at Miyagi Gakuin University, Sendai, Japan. He prefers *haibun* ...

Chris Lynch was born in Papua New Guinea and is now based in Melbourne, on Wurundjeri country. His poetry has appeared in Cordite, Tincture, Apex, Peril, bottle rockets, and Failed Haiku, among others. In 2008 he walked the length of Japan, writing a haiku a day.

Additional Information:

The festival is coordinated by Elizabeth Beaton and Grant Caldwell of Creative Writing at the University of Melbourne in collaboration with Jun Ohashi, Akihiro Ogawa and other Japanese Studies staff of the Asia Institute at the University of Melbourne.

The festival thanks the School of Culture and Communication at the University of Melbourne for contributing funding and the Fourth-Floor Linkway for events.

The festival also thanks Monash University graduate student translators Lauren Hunter and Haydn Trowell and interpreters Kyoko Hirai and Jo-Ann Breen. We encourage participants to also take a look at Monash's Spring Translation School, featuring Japanese translations:
<http://www.cvent.com/d/55qv62>