



THE HYOGO TIMES

The Monthly Publication for HyogoAJET Members

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

August 2002 Yashiro Issue



Okay - I'm here now ...what's next?

Welcome to Japan and to Hyogo Prefecture

**How to join HyogoAJET, useful info about 'Living in Hyogo'
and the all-important Entertainment Schedule!**

Welcome to Hyogo Prefecture!

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Welcome to Hyogo ken everyone and congratulations on being selected to be part of the 2002/2003 JET Programme. It all happens here because Hyogo is THE best place to be; at least we'd like to think so!

Konichiwa mina san! Genki desu ka? (FYI: Memorize this phrase and you'll be famous at school!) First of all, I'd like to congratulate and send Kudos out to everyone on making it to Yashiro despite the smoldering, sweat-laden heat of the summer. (Air con is a beautiful thing & Pocari Sweat, despite the name) I hope you're enjoying the work shops and shmooze-fests characteristic of Yashiro and are looking forward to building on this adventure you've embarked on. Gambate kudasai! (means = hang in there! Memorize this one too!)

Now, I know y'all might have a wee bit of 'relaxing' time to 'soak up' in over the next few days, and because of this (drum roll please) for your sheer reading pleasure we've put together the welcome edition of 'The Hyogo Times' newsletter just for you, care of the HAJET team.

Now you might be asking yourself - just who exactly are these people and what's this all about... well let me explain. The Hyogo AJET team (Association of Japanese exchange teachers) is a non-profit group of volunteer JETS comprised of 11 lovely lassies and 1 striking lad who all work together, as well as individually to make this team work. In a nutshell, we're here for you to help make your experience as exciting as possible. Take a look at the committee profiles on the next pages to meet this lovely bunch.

To start off, we have a serious group of social coordinators who are now in the midst of planning a plethora of events that will hit Hyogo this year. August will see them at such events as the HIMEJI BEER GARDEN on the 17th, the KOBE NIGHT OUT on the 30th and in September the BACK TO SCHOOL BEER GARDEN on the 7th. Later on in the month, we will take advantage of the natural surroundings and will guide you up to Mt. Seppiko to soak up pristine air, scenery and ONSEN (hot bath) delights. From then on there are temple retreats, holiday parties, onsen weekends, skiing, cherry blossom parties, theatre shows put on by JETS, climbing Mt. Fuji, barbecues, beaches and much more fun! See the Event Calendar for more information.

Discounts to Hyogo AJET events are offered to Hyogo AJET members, and often we use events to raise money for various charities, which we support in the community. Information about each and every event can be found in our monthly newsletter, The Hyogo Times, which also includes original travel essays, cooking tips, humor, random

banter and teaching ideas written by Hyogo JETs. We run a postage-paid library service (1000+ books) for use by members. We coordinate and publish the Hyogo Living Guide, City Guide and Tajima guide (if you live in Tajima) which you should have received by now; handy guides which help newly arrived JETs settle into life here in Japan. We also run a sempai / kohai system whereby a veteran JET (sempai) offers a friendly ear on the phone or may even organize a get-together for new JETs (kohai's) in the area. If you haven't been contacted by your sempai as of yet - please feel free to contact them!

This funky group of volunteer's work together to help make your stay in Japan jam-packed with fun and a whole lot of culture. You can get involved too! Flip over the pages and you'll see just what I mean.

Most importantly to have a better idea about what we're all about check out our web site: <http://hyogoajet.org> for all the updates and how to become a member. Or speak to one of the HAJET members directly at Yashiro. Say 'KONICHIWA' to Izzy Lim 2nd year JET, Sabine Sengmueller, 2nd year JET or Rebecca Dean, 2nd year JET at the conference and they'll give you 'the story!'

Last but not least, have a truly amazing time at Yashiro (yes, it's possible), make new friends, write down their contact information and keep in touch. Most importantly make the most of this adventure no matter how long you stay. Tread lightly, listen, learn, respect, participate, smile, and integrate during your stay here. This year is going to seriously whirl by, so get on board and as involved as you can. Enjoy the summer, explore the joys of Hyogo Ken and soak up the heat with us at the Himeji beer garden on the 17th. Stayed tuned and get involved in all the cultural treats we have in store for you.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, or would like to get involved don't hesitate to contact us at any time (see committee contact list at the back of 'The Hyogo Times'). If you'd like to chat send an email to me, PR Ten-cents-off, and I'll fill your ears with tales of joy and splendor.

Until then, 'Ja, mata ne' (means = see ya later) and Gambatte kudasai, 'fight-fight!'

Rachel Tenzythoff

Hyogo Prefectural Representative 'Ten-cents-off!'
Email: pr@hyogoajet.org
Home phone: 06-6491-0309
Work phone: 06-6421-0132
URL: <http://hyogoajet.org>

HAJET invites you to join the exotic annual beer-filled celebration of summer and welcome of the new JETs at the:

HIMEJI BEER GARDEN 2002

When?

Saturday 17th August 5:30 – 9:00pm

Where?

The roof of FORUS department store, Himeji.

How Much?

Girlies 2,550 yen Boys 2,800 yen

(ALL YOU CAN EAT AND DRINK!)

How do I get there? From JR Sannomiya take the Special Rapid Service train for JR Himeji Station (45 mins. – slower by local train). Follow the signs to the Central Exit and meet up with all the new and old JET faces in front of 'Baskin Robbins' outside the station (5pm SHARP!).

Or to make your own way there, come out of the central exit, head straight down Miyuki-dori to the first major traffic intersection. Turn right and FORUS dept. store will be on your left. Join us all on the roof!

For more information,

check out <http://hyogoajet.org>
or contact Hyogo Ajet Social Co-Ordinators
at: events@hyogoajet.org
or Sophie James hajet_charity@hotmail.com
Cell: 090-6374-4719

HyogoAJET Committee profiles

Yashiro Welcome Edition of The Hyogo Times - From the editor

Otsukarasamadeshita! (Great work everyone!) Sending out a great bit THANKS to all of you that participated this summer in helping to create THE welcome edition of The Hyogo Times. What a lovely read it is if I do say so myself.

This is the first edition of it's kind, not in content but in style. This little project would not be possible without the blood, sweat and tears of one Web Mistress & Hyogo Times Design Editor, ALT Fiona Cubie - thank you for your patience, insight and creativity Fi. Special thanks goes out to all our contributors this month, especially the HAJET committee, out-going C.I.R. Mark Wuebbels and Katia Therault, The Kansai Time Out magazine, ALT Ruth Kent, Nara ken's own Jason Pickens', our infamous Hyogo Times Editor Steve Wilkinson, and to all the new 2002-2003 JETs that are taking the time to read this.

This Welcome Edition has been created solely for our new 2002-2003 Hyogo JET friends. I hope you've enjoyed this little compilation. If you're interested in having your 'voice' heard, or would like to submit your own interesting bits and pieces of any nature, please EMAIL your work to Steve Wilkinson at times@hyogoajet.org by the 3rd FRIDAY of EACH month.

In September you should receive the 'Back To School' Hyogo Times edition (for August/September) at your host institution, another little literary treat for you. However, as of October only Hyogo AJET members will receive our monthly Hyogo Times newsletter, discounts to events, access to the library and other fun stuff - so please run on over to the AJET table at Yashiro and sign up with one of our 'genki' members. Thanks for your support and happy reading! For updated information and news click on <http://hyogoajet.org>.

Signing out for now,

HAJET PR Ten-cents-off!
Rachel Tenzythoff



HAJET PR:

Name: Rachel-Elizabeth Tenzythoff (AKA: Ten-cents-off) or Meg Ryan, whatever floats yer boat.

Homeland: Toronto, Canada. Land of the Canuck's, home of poutine, beaver tails,

northern lights, the Rockies, the Maple Leaf's and great BEER!

When I came to be: January 16th, 1976. Capricorn bones. Some funky blood type I can't seem to recall at the moment. (Word to the wise know your blood type. Bonus points at school!)

JET status: now in my third year as a JET if you can believe it, just can't get enough.

University highlights: running down the street with 5000 frosh clad in my Pokaroo PJ's and teddy bear.

Japan-land: English instructor for grades 1 through 3 at Amagasaki Senior High School in Amagasaki shi a hop skip and a jump from Osaka and Kobe.



(Thanks to English.com)

Japan o'phile obsessions: rice 3 times a day, miso soup, okonomiaki, Pokey, yukata, Papa Totoro, shodo (calligraphy), tea ceremony, temple stays and hot plates, endless.

Other weird stuff: salsa dancing is my passion and can be indulged in right here IN Japan, travelling, yoga, reading tragic love stories, & endless events-events-events.

AJET Position deets: As Hyogo AJET PR I'm here at you're every beck & call to represent all the needs of YOU the Hyogo Jets and pass on any comments or suggestions you have to National Council at any point during your stay.

Most importantly, I'm kicking around all year with the 2002 - 2003 styling Hyogo AJET committee members whom you'll have the pleasure of meeting at Yashiro (say 'hello' to Sabine & Izzy) and when you read on in the next few pages. In this coming year, we'll be hopping around Hyogo involving ourselves in planning **events**, to tempt your palate, publish the monthly **HYOGO TIMES newsletter** to keep you informed, and maintains the other services we provide such as the **library**, the **website**, **supporting charitable organizations**, Tajima area support, the **Living Guide**, the **Kobe city guide**, the **Tajima guide** and securing sponsorship to name a few. If you haven't already checked us out at <http://hyogoajet.org>, then get clickin.

We're here to help provide a support network for you, make you smile and most importantly help you to forge friendships that will last a lifetime. Even if you're in the boondocks, we'll find you.

Fond farewell: For now, it's been a slice! Enjoy this adventure every step of the way. My advice, try everything at least once (ok maybe NOT everything but you get me.) Don't compare and strike down, open up your mind to a new way of thinking and interacting and learn. You'll realize that although we're different we're all really, one and the same. So, go with the flow & get involved. Sooner than you know it it'll feel like home. Signing out...

Rachel (Ten-cents-off)!



Hyogo Times Editor

Name: **Stephen Wilkinson**

Committee Position: Hyogo Times Editor

Birthdate: 4th October 1979

Birthplace: Weston-Super-Mare, England

A Brief History: Run over in 1991. Black belt in karate.

A-levels in Maths, History

and English Literature. 2:1 in History and Politics from Exeter University, England.

People don't believe me when: I tell them I was run over, or that I've got a black belt, or any of my claims to fame.

Claims to Fame: Went to school with Wayne Bridge, England and Southampton defender. Went to university with Will Young, star of Pop Idol. Also, my mum's cousin wrote smash hit "I'm Walking on Sunshine"

Favourite things about Japan: My girlfriend, the weather, the weekends, payday.

But I can't get used to: Teachers talking to me when I'm standing at the urinals. Sorry, that's just weird. The best English I've ever seen: On a glass I can only assume is for children in my school's staff room, complete with smiley faces, and this slogan written around its rim: "We Are Hookers!" I kid you not.

Summer holiday this year: Mexico



Web Mistress



Hi there, I'm **Fiona Cubie**, a second year Kiwi living in Kobe, and Hyogoajet's Web Mistress!
Please call me **Fi** or I'll think I'm in trouble!
I also double as The Hyogo Times Design Editor from August 2002 (or I do the production)

for those in the know!

Hyogoajet's website <http://hyogoajet.org> is regularly updated with activity and event information, social snaps, news and useful links to make your life in Japan easier. Check out the 'Computing in Japan' link to get more info on ISPs and ADSL and buying English OS computers in Japan.

Email lists

There is also a Hyogoajet Group Email List which you can subscribe to. This is open to all JETs 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 (<50Kb) as any messages posted go out to all members of the list.

To post a message, send an email to:
hyogojets@yahoogroups.com

To subscribe to the list, send a blank email to:
hyogojets-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

To unsubscribe from the list, send a blank email to:
hyogojets-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

There are other email lists you can join - details on our website! - So if you have any images or information you would like to feature on the website, or have any questions or comments - feel free to email me @ admin@hyogoajet.org

Have a good one, see you at the Pub! - Fi

'Design is seductive propaganda'. Jennifer Morla

Treasurer

and... *(anything else I get dragged to do or volunteer to do)* - I am your friendly, smiling, and genki treasurer,
Andrea Ruth Sparrow.



I basically handle all the debits and credits of Hyogo AJET. Also, I run an

analysis to see where all the money that we receive is distributed. Therefore, in order to make sure that our Prefecture Rocks and continues the adventurous events we need your support. So PLEASE make sure to sign up for Hyogo AJET. Your generous contribution helps keep Hyogo AJET alive and

Librarian

Name: **Katie Rosecrans**

From: America, East coast

Year: 2nd

Lives in: Suzurandai, Kobe (towards the mountains)



School: University of Florida (and Kansai Gaidai, Osaka) Major: Anthropology
So I'm headed towards: Graduate school
Interests: Reading, DIY projects, Rainer Maria, red shoes, Domokun
Addictions: Sugar, lip gloss, pens

AJET Position: Librarian

Job Description: I have a whole bunch of books at my apartment. If you want one, just e-mail me and I'll send it to you. And, if you've joined **Hyogo AJET, it's free!** The books are all listed on the HyogoAJET website - <http://hyogoajet.org> - check it out!

Perks: I get to read all the books I want.

Drawbacks: I don't get to give you stern looks or tell you to be quiet.

Contact: librarian@hyogoajet.org

"There's more to life than books, you know. But not much more, not much more." -Morrissey

running. A little about me...Where to begin... From: Newport Beach, California (and NO it is not LA)

Current Location: Kobe, Japan Interests: Besides traveling, I enjoy Japanese shodo (calligraphy), Japanese cuisine, taking pictures (you have to buy a digital camera), and shopping for shoes.

Oh I almost forgot.... I love cooking and eating.

Nicknames: My good friends call me "Sparrow" and my students "Andy-sensei"

Email: hajet_treasurer@hotmail.com

Words of Wisdom. *"Smile when you are sad, Smile when you are happy, Smile when someone stares at you, return a Smile, if you get my point, JUST SMILE".*



Tajima Representative

Howdy everyone! I'm **Sabine**, your friendly neighbourhood Tajima Representative. What this entails is basically

helping the scattered northern folk of Hyogo bond. If you live up here with us, or want to come visit - check out our website:

TajimaJETs@communities.msn.ca

So, I help plan the social stuff up here in my free time, much like I did back home in Canada. I also like to experiment with teleportation in my free time.

On top of this busy schedule I am planning a trip next year with Habitat for Humanity to Nepal - give me a shout if you want to join us!

To those awesome JETs leaving - thank you for all your hard work! You guys rock, and surely made my first year here memorable. To everyone incoming - I can't wait to meet you and to get to know you - if there's anything I can do to help your stay here be awesome, let me know. Contact me if you would like to come up to Tajima, need any help, want to go hiking or to the beach, have questions or comments on the Tajima Living Guide, or just to get to know me at randomgirl01@hotmail.com

Charity Co-ordinator



Hi everyone! - I'm **Sophie James**, now a third-year ALT living in the Inaka paradise of Awaji-shima on the tail end of Hyogo-Ken.

Originally I come from Worcester in the middle of England (yes - the true home of the sauce!). Before coming

to Japan I lived in France on and off for some years, did a degree in English literature and backpacked around Thailand.

I love travelling and adventure. I enjoy the challenge of living in Japan and have been on a Habitat for Humanity International building project to Nepal and lead a team to Papua New Guinea during my time here. (And I am now the Habitat Special Interest Group National Co-ordinator). After JET I want to do more travelling and volunteer work around the globe.

I am very excited to be involved with Hyogo AJET this year as Charity Co-ordinator. We have a whole heap of events planned - and many of those will generate a lot of funds for various charities. If you would like to nominate a particular charity for us to support, please let me know.

Japan is perhaps not known for its national awareness of charity, but there are a growing number of worthy organisations that operate within and from Japan that I would like Hyogo AJET to work with. I know that so many JETs have a lot of spare time on their hands and I am keen to find you a way of using it!

The fantastic Hyogo Times and our wonderful web site will soon keep you posted with all the charity opportunities available to you. And please feel free to contact me anytime for anything charity related! I will be only too happy to help.

Sophie James - hajet_charity@hotmail.com
Work Tel: 0799-42-4433
Home Tel: 0799-42-5823



Sempai Coordinator

Hi! I'm your Sempai coordinator for the next year, so my aim is to make sure that all you new JETs have a fun, stress-free time in Japan. So, I'm going to make sure that you all

have someone who knows what they're doing around you. Here are a few details about me. I'll leave it to you to work out what kind of a bod I am!

Name: **Joanne Kirsty Mckay**...

(Please call me 'Jo'. 'Joanne', should only be used if you are angry with me!)

Location: In the heart of rural Japan, Ichinomiya-cho, Shiso-gun

Job: Teaching at Junior High School, Elementary school and at a really cute younger kiddies school
Birthplace: Colchester, Essex, England
Star sign: Capricorn

Blood Group: 'A' positive (Born in the year of the sheep)

Japanese rice or Japanese bread: Rice

If I weren't in Japan I'd be in France, eating French bread and cheese and drinking red wine.

Favourite thing about Japan? The smell from the chicken farm beside my house!

Biggest surprise in Japan? Japanese creepy crawly things!

Advice for surviving in Japan: Having a sense of humour.



Committee member

Name: **Isabel Marie Lim**

Age: turning 23 July 20th!

Favorite colors: silver and blue

Weird talent: I can throw tennis balls with my toes (like to pick stuff up too, kinda monkey like) one of the inaka girls

Pets: yes, 2 cute siamese/himalayan kittens! (miwa and shizuka)

Why i joined ajet? : I joined because I felt I could make a positive contribution to the quality of this year's living and sights to see guides. Ajet is one of the ways that all the jets can keep in contact and meet up. plus, the other committee members are great and we enjoy each others' company =)

Why you should join: because you can stay within the loop and not feel disoriented when you start your new life in japan! The Hyogo Times, the Library, the Social, Cultural, and Charity Events are a great way to interact with jets & non jets alike! It is your vehicle to move your ideas into motion, so if you want to start a project, Ajet is the way to go! Got AJET?

Committee member



WELCOME TO JAPAN! - **Rebecca Dean** here - HAJET member reserve. I am a utility player, lending a hand whenever my services are needed. I will be assisting with social events and other tasks that may come up. It's a

privilege to be able to spend time with the lovely HAJET group every now and then-they're a great bunch!

I hope you get the chance this year as well. I helped edit this year's Hyogo Living Guide, so if you have any suggestions, complaints, or discover some outdated information please give me an email. qcarpediemq@hotmail.com



Committee member

Role: erm... HAJET Fairy
Name: **Wendy Jones;**
(**Wend**), unless I'm in big trouble.

Likes: Peanut M&M's, the sea, dancing, David Bowie, Tom Yam Soup

Dislikes: people trying to feed me fish eggs, Mini Moni, being expected to function in 80% humidity. (or am i just being picky?) Not too fond of SLUGS. Blurb: 24 year old, inaka jet, with big expectations for 2002-03 having just rounded off an amazing year in Japan. Genkiness levels still running pretty high, so thought they could be channelled into HAJET. So as a new recruit, ready to contribute any blazing bright ideas and help organise any supercool events on the sunny horizon. Contact email wendjones@hotmail.com



AJET Block 7 Representative

Name: **Connie Kong**

- Age: people have guessed as young as 16 and as old as 82 (a very bad guess from a 1st grader!)
- Occupation:

Elementary School entertainer

- Alter-ego: **AJET Block 7 Representative**
- What is AJET? AJET is a volunteer organization within the JET Program. It's run by JETs & for JETs! On the national level, AJET works with CLAIR to identify issues affecting JETs and to find a solution. On the prefectural level, AJET is a great way to meet other JETs in your area.
- What is Block 7? Hyogo, Nara, Wakayama, and Osaka prefectures
- Favorite things: traveling, spicy food, onsens, sleeping in, good conversation
- Least Favorite things: all bugs that bite
- Re-curring question: Why am I in Japan?
- Little known fact: I've got about 800 books stored in my apartment for AJET. If anyone wants to buy a copy of the new Team Taught Pizza, ask me!!!
- contact emails: ajetblock7@yahoo.com if you need representing and ajetpubs@yahoo.com if you need a book.

HyogoAJET EVENT!

Kobe Night Out

'A Relaxed Night Out - Bar Hopping in Sannomiya!'

Where

The KRAC: (6:30 - 8:00)

The HUB: (8:00 - 9:00)

Sally's Bar (9:30 - close)

When:

Friday August 30th
6.30pm-11.40pm ('ish!)

Starting off @ the KRAC

Kobe Regatta and Athletic Club in Kobe
ALL YOU CAN DRINK for FREE + some munchies sponsored by the KRAC in Kobe.
Then it is off to the other bars....

A groovy opportunity to get everyone together - old and new and hit the hot spots in Sannomiya. Stay for a few brews & some grub or hang out the whole night... but BE CAREFUL the last trains and subway from Sannomiya leave at around 11:45 p.m. So if you don't want to be loafing around the whole night - make a run for it!

Meeting place 6:30 p.m.

Hagen Daas Ice Cream. From Hankyu Sannomiya station, take the East exit. Exit the train station and walk directly across the street. Turn the corner and you'll see the store 5 feet ahead on your left hand side. The peace park is directly across from Hagen Daas. Can't miss it. If you get lost call 090-8194-0309 otherwise see you at the bars!

Contact:

Katie Rosecrans
hp: **078-597-2566**

Email: events@hyogoajet.org

Web: <http://hyogoajet.org>

HyogoAJET EVENT!