
awa life



"TOPPY"

A monthly newsletter for international residents of Tokushima, produced by TOPIA, the Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association.

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claws, poison, water

by matthew "bucket of boiling wrath" shettler
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If you live in the city, you may not have to deal with them. I come from a country that has very cold winter weather, and so I haven't had to worry about them. Until I came here. This is their season, the time when the rains fall and drive them out of their wicked little hiding places and into your living space.

Mukade.

A year ago I encountered my first monster **mukade**, perhaps you know the type. Five and a half to six and a half inches long depending on how you count the antennae, blood red head, frightening neon orange legs. I had left a wet shirt on my floor for a day or so and when I picked it up to take it to the wash, suddenly this massive centipede dropped to the floor with a thud and rocketed into a corner behind my bookshelf. After all the surprised yelling was finished (somehow I managed to shut up and get control of myself), I did the only thing I could think of. I ran for help.

You see, I was aware of the volumes of pain that were possible from a **mukade**. The previous summer the gym teacher at our school had been bitten by a tiny little inch-long **mukade** while he was sleeping. He missed three days of school because his foot swelled up around the bite like a balloon and made it too painful for him to walk. I was at that time warned that a large one could kill you if it bites close enough to your head or heart; the poison can affect your vital functions.



mukade on the loose!

So needless to say I was worried having the thing in my apartment. Surely Murakami-sensei could help.

Murakami-sensei, the math teacher at the junior high where I work, lives with his newlywed wife in the apartment below me. It was late enough at night that if all my yelling didn't wake them up, I guess my knock at their door may have. Grabbing his trusty can of **Mukade** Poison Spray of Death, he ventured with me back up to my flat.

Wrenching aside the bookshelf to expose the wretched beast,

Murakami leapt forward and doused it valiantly with a poison fog. And yet it lived. Had it even noticed it was being attacked? I had seen this spray in action on small **mukade** and it seemed to kill instantaneously. Strange. Exclaiming "**Tsuyoi!**" in shock, Murakami once again leapt into the fray. Again he sprayed, focusing the blast on the monster's gaping claw-framed maw, and yet it lived. It began to acknowledge the attack and tried to flee up the wall. After a third concentrated blast lasting nearly ten full seconds, the multitude of legs began to slow. A fourth blast and it finally fell off the wall.

But neither of us were satisfied that it was dead. Perhaps it was just playing **tanuki** and would make its escape the moment we turned our backs. So while he watched it, I went for the meat tenderizer. And then I crushed its head with a mighty blow. Again. And again.

You're not meant to crush or squash **mukade**

mukade... con't on page 10

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from the editors

as the weather gets hotter, I continue to resist turning on the air conditioner at home, mainly because I know I have to take it apart and clean the dust out of the filter before I put it into service. So we've been sleeping with an electric fan aimed at the bed, and all the doors and windows open. Even on my fifth floor apartment, the mosquitoes manage to find their way in, so we've got one of those mysterious electric mosquito repellers - **katori no matto** - the ones that hold a little bottle of liquid that is sold in 30, 60, 90, and 120 day refill sizes. At first glance, the refills look like boxes of lightbulbs! I've also been drinking lots of those sporty amino drinks - I don't know if they are really all that much better than water, but I figure if I'm going to spend money on water, it might as well have something special added.

Love, Claire.



this month in Awa Life our feature article concerns the **mukade**. Reading Matt's piece has firmly destroyed any romantic fantasies I had of living in rural Tokushima. I still haven't managed to avoid the varied insect life of Shikoku though. A recent trip to the mountains brought me into contact for the first time with both the **tonbo** and **hotaru**. Dragonfly and firefly respectively. Insects are firmly ensconced in Japanese legend and myth. The **tonbo** is a national emblem and Japan is sometimes referred to as **Akitsu-shima** (the Dragonfly Island). This is because the first emperor Jimmu thought that Japan was shaped like a dragonfly. The **hotaru**'s light is thought to be the altered form of the souls of soldiers who have died in war. And last but not least the **mukade** apparently has the ability to find gold mines. So don't kill them, stalk them.

Peace, Martin.



awa life

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awa life welcomes announcements, articles, opinions, letters, art and photographs. Please send contributions to the editors at TOPIA. You can also write (or call in!) for a free subscription.

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Download a PDF file of **awa life** or view the online version by going to TOPIA's website!

http://www.topia.ne.jp/e_index/e_index.htm

English Information on FM Tokushima:

"Talk Up Tokushima" Thursdays @ 9:15am
Tokushima City 80.7 Ikeda 82.3
Anan 78.4 Hiwasa 77.7

awa ningyo joruri

awa Ningyo Joruri is the amateur puppet theater of Tokushima.

It was created in the Edo period and has been performed in Tokushima for over 300 years. It was first brought to Tokushima by way of Awaji Island. Many farmers in rural Tokushima began organizing amateur troupes by themselves. Affluent indigo traders patronized these troupes and Ningyo Joruri flourished in Tokushima. The tradition of rural theatres with amateur troupes is perhaps one of the reasons why Ningyo Joruri was popular in Tokushima long after it had declined in big cities.

I had the opportunity to experience Ningyo Joruri theatre first-hand on the 29th of May high up in the mountains of Kaminaka where the 2nd Haigyū rural village theater festival was being held. Kaminaka was really the perfect location for the event. The theatre was surrounded by forests and mountain streams and was set up beside an old temple. Walking around before the performance was an enjoyable experience due to the natural beauty of the place and the abundance of nature. Large colorful **tonbo** (dragonflies) swarmed everywhere and I even saw a snake in a mountain stream. After taking some explicit, close up shots of dragonflies I headed back to the stage to see the puppets in action.

The stage building was a long narrow rectangular structure made of wood, shed like in appearance it opened out towards the audience. The audience was seated on



Ebisu - god of fishermen and fortune doing his dance

wooden benches out in the open. The main performance was "Ebisu Mai" It concerns the god Ebisu, who travels to a village disguised as a nobleman, but carrying his characteristic fishing pole. The villagers welcome him with sake but he gets tipsy and rises to dance, but ends up flying around so everyone realized who he is. Later he goes fishing with one of the villagers and catches a fish of good fortune.

The play was difficult to understand and there was no interpretation provided but it was still an enjoyable experience because of the almost human-like qualities that the puppets possess. Three puppeteers dressed in black manipulate the puppets, and there are many moving parts. The action is accompanied by a narrator and a **shamisen** player.

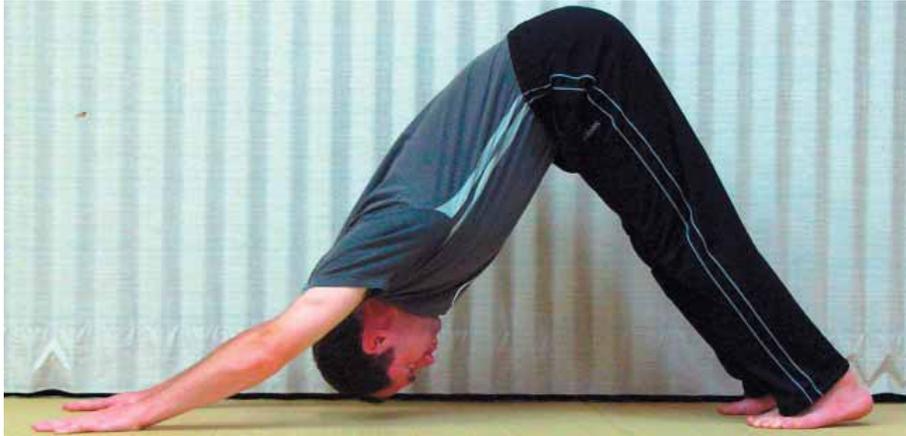
It is interesting when you realize that the western theater tradition of the time had no real equivalent (unless you count Punch and Judy), and relied on actors for plays. Conversely the Japanese theatre tradition of the 1600s/1700s consisting

of Kabuki, Noh and Bunraku (a.k.a. Ningyo Joruri) rarely uses actors, instead human emotion and experience is hidden behind masks and puppets.

Ningyo Joruri is a traditional art form that harks back to a distant era. It has declined in recent years but due to government support is now undergoing a revival. In any event the unspoiled, undeveloped mountains of Kaminaka provided the perfect place to watch the puppets doing what they have been doing since they started out in the 1700s. The novelty of seeing Ningyo Joruri for the first time, as well as the perfect rural setting allowed for a glimpse into a Japan that is uncommon these days.

If you are interested in seeing Ningyo Joruri then there are many places where it can be enjoyed in the prefecture. Visit TOPIA and pick up the free guide book "A Bilingual Introduction to the Puppet Theater of Tokushima" which has information on all the small puppet theaters spread throughout the prefecture as well as details on the various plays and history.





Jon demonstrates the downward facing dog pose

This pose literally means 'downward facing dog', it's well known as a part of the sun salutation sequence, also used as a resting pose between poses but on its own produces a really invigorating stretch and has a number of health benefits, such as;

- Calms the brain and helps relieve stress and mild depression
- An overall energizing of the body
- Stretches the shoulders, hamstrings, calves and hands
- Strengthens the arms and legs
- Helps relieve menstrual discomfort
- Improves digestion
- Relieves headache, insomnia, back pain, and fatigue
- Therapeutic for high blood pressure, asthma, sciatica, sinusitis

Step by Step

1. Come onto the floor on your hands and knees. Set your knees directly below your hips and your hands slightly forward of your shoulders, (shoulder width apart). Spread your palms, index fingers parallel or slightly turned out, and turn your toes under.

2. Exhale and lift your knees away from the floor. At first keep the knees slightly bent and the heels lifted away from the floor. Lengthen your spine and reach up towards the ceiling with your tailbone, keeping the arms straight.

3. With an exhalation, push your thighs back and stretch your heels down toward the floor, if your ankles and muscles allow you to, then heels touching the floor but don't overstretch. Straighten your knees and make your legs firm.

4. Straighten your arms, fingers spread and palms firmly down. Lift along your inner arms from the wrists to the tops of the shoulders. Relax the head and neck. If possible, rest the head on the floor. If you suffer from high blood pressure, menstrual discomfort or headache, then support your head on a cushion or block.

5. There are three main directions your body is stretching in; from your hands to your tailbone stretching upwards; from your tailbone to your heels stretching downwards; finally your upper body (torso) is moving

towards your legs, increasing the stretch in your arms and shoulders.

6. Stay in this pose anywhere from 1 to 3 minutes. Then bend your knees to the floor with an exhalation and rest.

Variation

If you want more of a workout, inhale and raise your right leg parallel to the line of your torso, and hold for 30 seconds, keeping the hips level and pressing through the heel, toes toward the head. Make sure you have an even weight in both arms, if you reach up too high with the leg you'll be unbalanced, keep the hips level. Release with an exhalation and repeat on the left for the same length of time.

In all yoga poses always remember to listen to your body, don't overstretch, otherwise you'll damage muscles and ligaments. Slowly breathe into your stretch, gradually increasing it with each exhalation, if you feel pain, back off a little and breathe back into the pose again.

Namaste
JON



hiroba cooking class

submitted by HIROBA
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bon appetit!

This spring, HIROBA International held their second cooking class event - judging from the photos, it was a raging success! Everyone who participated was eager for the HIROBA people to hold another class in the future. For those of you who missed the class, three of the recipes prepared are reprinted here.

Soup with Wakame Seaweed and Bamboo Shoots

(4 servings)

3c (600 cc) stock
3 3/4 cup water
10 cm **kombu** kelp
15g dried bonito flakes
2/3 tsp. salt
1 1/2 tsp. light soy sauce
80g boiled bamboo shoots
40g **wakame** seaweed
4 pieces **fu** (dried wheat gluten cakes)

- Thinly slice the bamboo shoots and cut the **wakame** seaweed into 3 cm long pieces. Soak **fu** (wheat gluten cakes) in water until soft and squeeze out water.
- Put **kombu** kelp in water and put it over medium heat.

Remove kelp from the pan just before it comes to a boil. Keep heating and add dried bonito flakes. Lower the heat, simmer for 1 minute and strain with cloth into another pot.

- Simmer the pot and add salt and light soy sauce to the stock. Put a few slices of bamboo shoots, some pieces of **wakame** seaweed and one piece of **fu** into the stock.

Spinach with Sesame Dressing

(4 servings)

250g spinach
(a) 1 tsp. soy sauce
2 tbsp. stock
Sesame dressing
3 tbsp. roasted sesame seeds
(b) 1 tsp. white sesame seeds
1 tbsp. sugar
1 tbsp. soy sauce
1/2 tbsp. stock

- Boil spinach in ample, salted (1/2 tsp) water for one to one and a half minutes. Rinse in cold water and squeeze out water. Pour (a) over the spinach and squeeze again and cut into 3-4cm pieces.
- Grind roasted sesame seeds in a mortar. Add (b) (seasonings and stock) and

mix.

- Dress spinach with sesame dressing. Serve in a small bowl and top with white sesame seeds.

Soft and Sweet Bean Jelly

(for one mold)

500g bean jam
1 package (4g) powdered agar
500ml water
100g sugar
a pinch of salt
cherry leaves
ice

- Sprinkle powdered agar (seaweed gelatine) into water, mix quickly and let it absorb water.
- Put over heat and melt, bring to the boil and cook 2 minutes. Add bean jam, sugar and salt and cook another 3 minutes over low heat. Keep mixing with a wooden rice paddle.
- Put the bottom of the pan in water for cooling down. Stir gently till thickened. Pour it into a moistened mold.
- Soak the mold in cold water until the jelly has hardened.
- Cut the jelly into pieces and wrap them with cherry leaves.



join in awa odori!

by claire tanaka and greg aurit
clairish@gmail.com

awa Odori is Tokushima's pride and joy. Every August 12-15, over a million people descend upon Tokushima, turning it into what some people call "Japan's answer to Rio's Carnivale." There is dancing and merrymaking all over the city centre. This is the one time of year when you want to make sure you have a hotel reservation, or a space reserved on a friend's couch before you come to Tokushima! The theme of Awa Odori is "The dancing fool and the watching fool are both fools, so why not dance?" It's true - the best way to enjoy Awa Odori is to join a dance team.

Anyone can join TOPIA's international dance group, Arasowa-ren, but you've got to be quick! There are only 80 places available, and they fill up fast!

The Vital Facts

What: Arasowa-ren, TOPIA's Awa Odori Dance Group

When: August 14 (Sunday)
3:00 - meet at Well City and get changed into dance costumes.
4:20 - Opening Ceremony
5:40 - Start Dancing

Where: Meet at Well City Tokushima (former Kosei Nenkin Kaikan) - behind Tokushima Station, near the City Gymnasium. Maps are available at TOPIA

Who: Anyone of any age can join - Japanese or non-Japanese, resident or visitor.

Why: It's fun! Joining a dance team is the best way to enjoy Tokushima's biggest festival of the year.

How Much:

¥3000 for Japanese
¥2000 for non-Japanese
discounted rate for children 12 and under
Free if you volunteer to play an instrument (apply in advance)

How to Apply:

The application period starts on July 10. Apply in writing by sending in a reply-paid postcard with your

1. Name
2. Address
3. Gender
4. Telephone Number
5. Nationality and
6. Age (if under 20) of everyone participating.

Please state if you would like a women's dancing costume (subject to availability.) On receiving your application, TOPIA will mail you a post office deposit form (**furikomi yōshi**) which you can use to pay the participation fee. Alternatively, you can pay in person at TOPIA.

TOPIA's mailing address is:

TOPIA
Clement Building 6F
1-61 Terashima Honcho Nishi
Tokushima City
770-0831

Note:

TOPIA can't accept applications by fax or telephone, and it is not

possible to apply to participate on the day of the event. Spaces fill up fast, so get your application in as soon as possible!

In case of rain, the dance will be held inside Well City, in the same room where the pre-dance party will be held. Please understand that TOPIA cannot refund the participation fee for any reason.

If you miss out on Arasowa-ren...

If you can't make it on the 14th, or TOPIA's dance group fills up before you have a chance to apply, your next best bet is to join Tokushima City's Nikawa-ren. Nikawa-ren invites all comers, foreign and Japanese, to dance together every day of the Awa Odori, August 12-15. You can meet Niwaka-ren at two locations: at the Tokushima City Hall Citizen's square, adjacent to the City Hall, and at the entrance to the Higashi Shinmachi Shopping Arcade (near the McDonalds, north of the Awa Odori Kaikan). Both locations will meet at two times, 6:30pm and 8:30pm.

For those of you who wish to get some practice in before you dance, the Awa Odori Kaikan will offer dancing lessons from 5:00pm every day of the Awa Odori. After an hour of practice, participants will be directed to the Higashi Shinmachi Shopping Arcade to dance with Niwaka-ren at 6:30pm.

For more information on Niwaka-ren, call the Tokushima City Tourism Office at 088-622-4010.



martin's anime corner

Title: Akira
Directed by: Katsuhiro Otomo
Creators: Akira Production Studio
Released: Japan & U.S. (1988)
Length: Approx 124 minutes

The film, *Akira* is the granddaddy of major anime motion picture epics. Created in 1985 by Katsuhiro Otomo, it has become the most influential, and one of the most popular Japanese animation films ever made. *Akira's* popularity and acclaim, is in some part due to magnificently detailed rendering of a not so distant future which is dominated by science and technology, and is rife with social disorder and chaos. The dystopian cityscape of Neo-Tokyo provides the setting for the action. Neo-Tokyo is a city that has risen from the ashes of World War 3 in which most of the world's major cities were destroyed. A strong militaristic government rules with an iron rod over the city. The rich and the poor live starkly different lives and violent biker gangs rule the night.

Akira revolves around the adventures of one of these motorcycle gangs. The gang is made up of a likable bunch of disaffected but enthusiastic teens led by the easy-going leader Kaneda who gets his gang involved in various roadway battles with rival biker gangs. During one altercation, one of the gang members, the insecure Tetsuo, with whom Kaneda has a complicated relationship, is seriously injured when he falls off his bike in a collision. As this incident takes place, a strange

encounter with mysterious wizened boy on the roadway brings the army down upon everybody. Tetsuo is taken away by the army and it's up to Kaneda to find out where Tetsuo is and why exactly have the military taken him away.

Tetsuo is taken away to a secret military hospital where the army performs tests on him. His contact with the child as well as with other strange children in the facility results in the development of special mental powers that are beyond his wildest dreams. After escaping from the facility, his fragile mental state declines as his otherworldly powers wreak havoc on the city of Neo-Tokyo. As Kaneda tries to see if his friend is safe, Tetsuo searches for Kaneda, in order to gain revenge for having to play-second fiddle to him in his previous incarnation as a biker gang member.

In his search Kaneda happens upon two members of an underground movement devoted to undermining the government. Their investigation of the strange yet powerful children leads Kaneda to the hospital. They soon discover that Tetsuo and the other children are part of a top secret government project and that Tetsuo and the others are the subjects of scientific research for the purposes of developing weapons of great power. All the time Tetsuo grows more powerful and out of control, as every small grudge he has had against anyone is magnified into a torrent of rage and destruction.

The title refers to another

boy with incredible mental powers who holds the key to the future of everybody in Neo-Tokyo. Akira's presence in the final climatic scene presents one of the most compelling endings in an anime film.

The vast conurbation of Neo-Tokyo is animated with great attention to detail. The animation is not as impressive as most major anime productions made today using CG but they are nonetheless imaginative and represent a pinnacle in 2-D cell animation. Although now showing its age somewhat, Katsuhiro Otomo's vision of a future Tokyo makes for a unique atmosphere in which the action takes place. *Akira* is a showcase for what makes anime great. The absence of limitations present in conventional motion pictures allows the creators to express their breath-taking vision completely. The typical criticisms that are thrown at anime films, such as clichéd representations of science and technology, excessive one-dimensional violence, not to mention one-dimensional characters do not apply to *Akira*. All the complexities of human relationships are present and accounted for in this film. Bonds of friendship between teenagers, and the loss that comes with separation and death are all well represented. As a sci-fi film in its own right *Akira* ranks up there with *Blade Runner* and *2001: A Space Odyssey*. Even 15 years after its release, it remains a benchmark in terms of what an animated film can achieve.



beach & hanabi time!

by junko kimura
snowbird@fastmail.fm

Komatsu Beach, Tokushima

●mid-July – mid- August
There will be a temporary bus service between Tokushima Station and the beach.

Kitanowaki Beach, Anan

●July 1- August 20
Get off at Mino-bayashi Station on the JR Mugi line, take a Tokushima Bus bound for Naka-bayashi and get off at Kitanowaki.

Awashima Beach, Anan

●July 1 – August 20
From Anan Station take an Anan Bus bound for Awashima-kaigan and get off at the last stop.

Tainohama Beach, Yuki

●June 26 - August 31
Get off at Tainohama Rinji Station on the JR Mugi-line.

Ozuna Beach, Kainan

●July 16- August 21
Get off at Sabase Station on the JR Mugi line and take a Nanbu-bus to Ozuna.

Shirahama Beach, Toyo

This beach is just over the border in neighbouring Kochi prefecture. Get off at Mugi line, transfer to Asa Kaigan Rail and get off at Kannoura Station.

Anan Marine Festival

●July 16 (Sat) - 18 (Mon)
Kitanowaki Beach, Anan

*Fireworks=July 16 at 20:00

Anan no Natsumatsuri

●July 24 (Sun) - 26 (Tue)
Hamanoura Park
*Fireworks=July 26 at 20:00

Komatushima Minato Festival,

●July 17 (Sun) - 18 (Mon)
Komatushima Port
*Fireworks=July 18

Yoshinogawa Festival

●July 29 (Fri) - 31 (Sun)
Yoshinogawa Ground
*Fireworks=July 31 at 21:00

There are some more festivals that are not on the list. Please contact me or TOPIA for more exciting events!



letter from suketo hoikuen

This month's theme is: Summer Illnesses
Winter colds: main symptoms are a cough and a runny nose
Summer colds: stomach problems and rashes are common

Types of Summer Illnesses:

1. Pool Fever
2. Herpangina (mouth blisters)
3. Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease

1. Pool Fever (**pūru netsu**)

Caused by the adenovirus, pool fever results in approximately five days of high fever, accompanied by a red throat. It's commonly caught by swimming in pools that have not been adequately disinfected, hence 'pool fever.'

2. Herpangina (**herupanjina**)

Symptoms of herpangina

include blisters in the throat and a high fever that lasts from 2-3 days. The patient has difficulty eating due to pain in the throat. In extreme cases, he can not even drink water, which can result in dehydration.

3. Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (**teashikuchi byō**)

As the name indicates, small blisters appear on the palms of the hands, soles of the feet, and inside the mouth. Sometimes blisters also appear on the buttocks and knees. Most cases have nothing more than a slight fever. The blisters on the hands and feet don't hurt, but the ones in the mouth are painful, making it difficult to eat.

Treating Summer Illnesses

There is no all-encompassing treatment for these illnesses, but try the following

treatments for these symptoms:

fever - fever-reducing medicine

pain - pain relieving medicine

eye symptoms - eye drops

sore mouth - ointment that will relieve the pain and protect the oral mucosa

dehydration - rest and water

Use these methods to deal with the symptoms and wait for the illness to get better on its own.

After your child has gotten over his illness, it may take a while for him to get his energy back. Just let your child do what he seems able to do and don't overdo it. If your child doesn't have much appetite, allow him to eat only the foods he can manage.

Kaori Sakamoto
Suketo Hoikuen
www.suketo.jp



Japanese lesson: passive voice

Next year, the World Cup will be held in Germany! Which team will you be cheering for? This month, let's take a look at using the passive voice when talking about things.

for example:

The World Cup will be held in Germany.

ワールドカップ は ドイツで 開かれます
 thing + wa/ga + (ra) remasu
 (verb tense for passive voice)

POINT : When an object or thing is the subject of the sentence rather than a person, we use the passive voice. In this kind of sentence, it doesn't matter who does it, but what is done.

①ビートルズの歌は世界中で（歌います）→ 歌われています。

The Beatles' songs are sung all over the world.

②アワライフは毎月（発行します）→ 発行されます。

AWA LIFE is published monthly.

We often use these sentences when explaining news and historical facts.

So, you will find these verb forms a lot when you read the newspaper or listen to the radio.

☆ let's practice! ☆

① ▲ : 日本語能力試験はいつごろ（行いますか → ）。

When does the Japanese Language Proficiency Test happen?

○ : 12月の初めごろに（行います → ）。

It happens in early December.

② ▲ : 何を読んでいるのですか。

What are you reading?

○ : これはマンガです。日本のマンガは人気がありますから、世界中で（読みます → ）。

This is **manga**. It's very popular, so it is read all over the world.



③ ▲ : 合格発表はいつですか。

When will the results of the exam be announced?

○ : あさって（発表します → ）。

They will be announced the day after tomorrow.

④ 8月12日～15日は阿波踊りです。

August 12 to 15 is Awa Odori.

阿波踊りのチケットはコンビニや、インターネットで（販売します → ）。

☆ Answers ☆

① 行われます

② 読まれます

③ 発表されます

④ 行われます

mukade con't from page 1...

because the scent of their carcass beckons their mate to come and wreak unholy vengeance. But I needed the release. To be safe, using my trusty metal chopsticks, we threw it outside into the neighbour's garden.

I felt better then, and thanked Murakami-sensei. Next I opened all the windows, because I didn't want the poison to kill me, too.

So that was a year ago. In the ensuing twelve months I had purchased my share of poisons and killed a fair few **mukade** and aquired repellants to keep the hordes at bay. About a month or so ago, there was a minor fire at a house nearby, and everyone in the community showed up to help how they could. When the fire was out, the furniture salvaged, and the cause being investigated by professionals, I walked back home talking with Mr. and Mrs. Murakami about the **mukade** coming out again. We related stories of the few we had seen in the apartment so far this year. They were telling me they had found a quicker and easier way to kill **mukade**. A way that was better than poison. We were in the parking lot of our apartment.

Speaking of the devil, there he appeared! A massive monkeyfeather of a **mukade** right there in our parking lot. Quick as a flash, our intrepid math teacher ran and grabbed his barbecue tongs, returning and snagging the sucker. Meanwhile his wife rushed inside and heated some water. We waited, watching the little melonfarmer squirm, trying

to bite his way out of those metal tongs. Wouldn't want to try to hold that guy with your fingers! Your arm could get swollen up to your elbow from a bite on the finger and it would not be fun. I say "little," but he was hardly smaller than the first massive monster a year before.

Anyhow, out came Mrs Murakami with a bowl full of nearly boiling water. She poured the hot water over the **mukade** and he squirmed and writhed and thrashed in a way that was very satisfying to watch. Not having quite kicked the bucket yet, he was forced to wait between the tongs for the second bowl of water which spelled his doom.

You hear it a lot from country folk, "Hot water kills **mukade** better than poison." But its hard to believe. Having seen it, I still scarcely believe it. It was like something out of a video game or a really cheesy movie: just hit it with a little hot water!

I have a machine in my apartment which until that time I had considered quite useless. It keeps water at 98 degrees. I don't drink nearly enough tea to ever justify keeping it plugged in, but now I have a great reason. It's my new ultimate weapon. I still have that poison spray which I had been using to kill the little monkeyfeathers, but I don't think I'll need to taint my living space with it anymore.

Since that time I have had two other very large **mukade** in my apartment this season (one in a set of outdoor slippers, one ran into my bathroom slippers), and the

water kills them FAST. The long **mukade** in the cover photo was strained enough after one cup of hot water that I could fearlessly put the ruler beside him for the record. It did take two more cups of hot water before he died, but the little guys go down in half a glass.

This year's mukade tally:

- 4 inch long **mukade** poisoned this season: 2
- 5 inchers painfully slaughtered in hot water: 1
- 6 inch long monster **mukade** vanquished this season: 3
- Number of said **mukade** found in slippers: 2
- Total **mukade** death count: 6
- Escapees: 0
- Let's shoot for a perfect season.



Tip: if you don't want to ruin your **tatami** floors by pouring water on them, get yourself some barbeque tongs. That way you can safely pick the **mukade** up and move them to a site appropriate for execution.

Interesting fact: the **kanji** for mukade is 百足 which is the **kanji** for hundred and the **kanji** for feet, making it the same as our word centipede, which also means hundred feet, though it really doesn't have that many.

Another interesting fact: apparently what drives the **mukade** out of the ground in the spring is mostly the water; they are said to absorb water through their shell, but when there gets to be too much in the soil, they look for high ground so they don't drown.

memoranda

Seiki Kuroda

黒田清輝展

The oil paintings of Seiki Kuroda (1866 - 1924), on display this summer at Bunka no Mori's Tokushima Modern Art Museum.

when: July 16 until September 4
9:30 - 17:00 (closed Mondays)

where: Tokushima Modern Art Museum at Bunka no Mori

cost: ¥600 for adults, ¥450 for students, ¥300 for children

for more info: 088.668.1088

<http://www.art.comet.go.jp>

Awa Dance Contest

外国人阿波踊りコンテスト

The Komatsushima City International Association presents an Awa Odori Dance Contest for Foreigners. Come on challengers! You can dance any way you want - it doesn't have to be traditional style. Costume is also up to the individual. Wear your national costume if you like! Dancers will be judged on rhythm, expression, and individuality. Prizes will be awarded to the winners and there will be a prize for participation as well. Limit of 10 people per nationality. There will be a party following the contest.

when: July 17 (Sunday) 5:30pm

where: Komatsushima Station Park, Tanuki Hiroba

cost: free

for more info, or to apply to participate: send your name, address, nationality, gender, address, and telephone number by e-mail or fax:

e-mail: komatsushima@hotmail.com

fax: 08853-2-0851

Photo Contest

国際協力フォトコンテスト

The 26th Annual JICA International Cooperation Photo Contest. Submit photos of people in developing nations, or of international cooperation. Grand Prize is ¥100,000. Submissions accepted from July 1 until September 15. Winners will be announced in October.

for more info: www.jica.go.jp (in English and Japanese)

Summer Japanese Lessons for Children

夏休み子ども日本語教室

"I just came to Japan and I want to learn Japanese as soon as possible"

"I have no problem playing with my friends, but I can't read or write very well"

"I can't really read kanji, so it's hard to do my homework"

"I'm the only foreign kid in my school, and I want to make more friends"

If this sounds like your children, why not enroll them in Summer Japanese Lessons for Children? Your children can do their summer homework in class, and there will be fun activities as well, such as games and quizzes.

when: July 25, 27, 29 & August 1,3,5 from 10:30 to noon

where: TOPIA (Clement Building 6F)

cost: free

participants: must be aged 6 to 15 and whose first language is not Japanese.

for more info: call 088.656.3303 or drop by TOPIA and fill out a registration form. Presented by JTM Tokushima.

Your Awa Life

あなたのアワライフ

Awa Life is mailed free to members of Tokushima's international community. If you currently live in Tokushima and you'd like a copy sent to you on a monthly basis, contact us with your mailing address. If you are currently receiving Awa Life but it is addressed to a former tenant, or if you get more than one copy each month, please contact us so we can correct our data base.

If you are interested in writing for Awa Life, please get in touch! We are always looking for people to write articles or short pieces. Submissions can be made in Japanese or English. Contact us for detailed submission guidelines.

e-mail: awalife@gmail.com

write to: Awa Life

c/o TOPIA

1-61 Terashimahoncho-nishi

Tokushima City, 770-0831

memoranda

Tokushima Vortis 徳島ボルティス日程

Upcoming home games for Tokushima's J-League soccer team, Vortis. Home games are held in Naruto at the Naruto Athletic Field.

July 13 (Wed) 19:00 - vs. Vegalta Sendai
July 30 (Sat) 19:00 - vs. Consadole Sapporo
August 6 (Sat) 19:00 - vs. Shonan Bellmare
August 20 (Sat) 19:00 - vs. Sagan Tosu
August 27 (Sat) 19:00 - vs. Avispa Fukuoka

web: www.vortis.jp

tickets: in advance: ¥1500 (B seats) ¥2000 (A seats)
at the gate: ¥2000 (B seats) ¥2500 (A seats)

Tickets can be purchased in advance at Lawson's convenience stores and at local sports supply shops such as Sasakura Sports and Alex Sports.

JTM Tokushima JTM 徳島教師リスト

Instructors based in:

Tokushima City: Kanematu Fumiko, Kamura Kyoko, Motoki Yoshie, Muramatu Sachiko, Tamaki Fusa, Tsuji Akiko, Yamamizo Toshiko

Kaifu-gun: Nishitani Isao

Hanoura-cho: Ozaki Sachiko

Naruto City: Shibutani Hitomi

Types of lessons:

Beginner to Advanced, Preparation for the JLPT, Business Japanese, Service Industry Japanese, Factory Trainee Japanese (both private and group lessons are available)

Fees:

Private Lessons: starting from ¥2500

Group Lessons cost less per person.

Ask for details.

JTM Tokushima Office

tel: 088.625.8387

fax: 088.625.5113

e-mail: jtmtokeu-lesson@mbk.nifty.com

url: <http://homepage2.nifty.com/jtmtokeu/eg/index.htm>

Hey International Families!

やあ、国際家族たち！

Tokushima City's Suketo Hoikuen and TOPIA present International Child-rearing Salons. Please come and meet other international families like yours! There is no fee for participation.

at TOPIA

(Tokushima City, Clement Building 6F)

when: every 3rd Sunday from **13:00 - 15:00** *new time*

cost: free

for more info: 088.656.3303

at Suketo Hoikuen

(Tokushima City, Nakayoshino-cho 1-61)

when: every Thursday from 10:00 - 14:00

cost: free

for more info: 070.5681.1230

also...

Contact Suketo Hoikuen about Japanese lessons for parents with small children, and Chinese and English language child-rearing consultation services.

The Japanese Language Proficiency Test 日本語能力試験

Take this annual test to see how far you've progressed in your language study, or to improve the contents of your resume! Application packs are available at Kinokuniya Books in Sogo, at Koyama Books in front of Tokushima Station, and other large bookstores.

application period: July 4 - September 5

test date: December 4 (Sunday)

test locations: Kobe, Takamatsu, Hiroshima, and other big cities nearby

cost: application pack costs ¥500, test fee is ¥5,500

for more info: www.jees.or.jp

memoranda

Tokushima Indigo Socks

徳島インディゴソックス

Upcoming home games for Tokushima's Shikoku League baseball team, the Indigo Socks. All games are held in Naruto at the Naruto Athletic Field Baseball Diamond.

July

6th (Wed) 16:30 - vs. Kagawa Olive Guyners
7th (Thu) 16:30 - vs. Kagawa Olive Guyners
30th (Sat) 18:00 - vs. Ehime Mandarin Pirates
31st (Sun) 18:00 - vs. Ehime Mandarin Pirates

August

6th (Sat) 16:30 - vs. Kochi Fighting Dogs
7th (Sun) 16:30 - vs. Kochi Fighting Dogs
17th (Wed) 16:30 - vs Kagawa Olive Guyners
18th (Thu) 16:30 - vs Kagawa Olive Guyners
20th (Sat) 16:30 - vs. Ehime Mandarin Pirates
21st (Sun) 16:30 - vs. Ehime Mandarin Pirates
27th (Sat) 16:30 - vs. Kochi Fighting Dogs
28th (Sun) 16:30 - vs. Kochi Fighting Dogs

Tickets are ¥1000, and can be used for entry to any game. Discounted tickets for students are ¥500 and must be purchased at the door. Children under age 5 are admitted for free. Tickets can be purchased in advance at Lawson's convenience stores and at local sports supply shops such as Sasakura Sports and Alex Sports.

Chat Salon in Aizumi

藍住町 日本語会話サロン

The Aizumi International Exchange Association will be holding regular Japanese Salons. Japanese learners of any level are welcome.

when: first and third Tuesday, 7:00 - 9:00pm

where: Aizumi Welfare Center, near Aizumi Town Office

cost: free

for more info: e-mail: aizumi_kokusai@garnet.nmt.ne.jp
tel. 088.692.9951
fax. 088.692.1626

Library Volunteers

図書室ボランティア募集中

Kevin McDowell is heading TOPIA's library updating project, and needs some volunteers to help out with labeling the books with the new barcode stickers.

Contact Kevin if you want to volunteer:

e-mail: mcdktm2@yahoo.com

Counselling Service at TOPIA

トピアの相談窓口

TOPIA offers a counselling and advisory service to all foreign residents to help with issues involving accidents, working conditions, housing, visas, international marriage, and more. Counselling is available in English and Japanese. Please note that although every effort will be made, we may not be able to deal with all cases.

Monday to Thursday

10:00 - 17:00

tel. 088.656.3303 or 088.656.3320 (allows three way conversations with an interpreter)

The Chiiori Project

チイオリ・プロジェクト

July

15 - 18 Long Weekend Open House
22 - 24 River Rafting Weekend
29 - 31 Straw Raincoat Making

August

5 - 7 Democrats Abroad Retreat
12 - 15 Obon Open House
19 - 21 River Rafting
26 - 28 Nagashi Somen and Bamboo Crafts

Basic rate: ¥6000 per night,

Extra charges apply for weekend events.

for more info: www.chiiori.org

contact: reservations@chiiori.org or tel. 0883.88.5290

memoranda

Speech Contest

徳島県日本語弁論大会

2005 Tokushima Prefecture
Japanese Speech Contest For Foreign Residents

Come and listen to what Tokushima's foreign residents have to say about international affairs, cultural exchange, and cooperation. There will be a question and answer period following the speeches.

date: 10 July, 2005 (Sunday)
place: Tokushima Kyodo Bunka Kaikan
cost: entry is free
for more info: TOPIA.
TEL: 088.656.3303 FAX: 088.652.0616

JTM Tokushima Annual Meeting

2005年度JTMとくしま日本語ネットワーク第一回定例会

講演: 「日本語能力検定試験2級の教え方」
日時: 平成17年7月23日(土)
午後1:00～4:00(12:30受付)
場所: 徳島県国際交流プラザ(TOPIA)大会議室
(クレメントプラザ6階)
講師: 山形美保子氏
朝日カルチャーセンター日本語科講師。(同
日本語教師養成講座講師。津田塾大学講師 他
参加費: 1000円(資料代他)(会員外1500円)
申込締切日: 7月15日

Your Message Here

このスペースを使ってください

If you have a non-profit activity that you'd like to promote, let us know and we can print it here.

contact: awalife@gmail.com

Badminton Club

バドミントンクラブ

Join this international badminton club, 'Freedom Club'

when: Saturday Nights 18:00 - 21:00
where: Seishonen Centre (Youth Centre) 2F
for more info: Joe - 090.4780.0609

tv movie schedule · june

Japanese television broadcasts most foreign movies in their original language as well as in Japanese. Bilingually equipped TVs can be flipped between these two audio channels by selecting the 音声切替 button on the remote control.

Date	Time	Place	Nat.	タイトル	Title	
Fri. 15	9:03	①四国	USA '90	ゴースト ニューヨークの幻	Ghost	♥
Sat. 16	9:00	⑧関西	FRN/UK '04	トゥー・ブラザーズ	Two Brothers	⊗
Tue. 19	late night	①四国	USA '97	マンハッタン恋愛事情	Two Girls and a Guy	♥
Thu. 21	late night	⑧関西	USA '89	ニューヨーク・ストーリー	New York Stories	⊗
Fri. 22	late night	④毎日	USA '94	きっと忘れない	With Honors	⊗
Sun. 24	9:00	⑥ABC	USA '00	シャンハイ・ヌーン	Shanghai Noon	☺
Sun. 24	late night	④毎日	USA '92	マルコム X	Malcolm X	⊗
Fri. 29	9:03	①四国	JPN '03	着信アリ	Chakushin Ari	⊗
Sat. 30	9:00	⑧関西	JPN '01	ウォーターボーイズ	Water Boys	⊗

⊗horror ? mystery ⊗suspense ☺comedy ⊗drama ●action ♥love & romance SF science fiction

This schedule is subject to change.

cinema guide

TOKUSHIMA HALL 徳島ホール (Saiwai-cho - near the Central Post Office) 088.653.1802	Star Wars Episode III/Revenge of the Sith 【USA】 スター・ウォーズ 北のソート 3/ シスの復讐	
	Regular tickets → ¥1800 1st of each month → ¥1000 Ladies' day / Tuesday → ¥1000 Men's day / Friday → ¥1000	
TOKUSHIMA TOHO 徳島東宝 (Kagoya-machi - in Higashi Shinmachi Arcade) 088.625.5311	Sengoku Jieitai 1549 【JPN】 戦国自衛隊 1549 (in Japanese)	until 7/15
	Shining Boy & Little Randy 【JPN】 星になった少年 (in Japanese)	from 7/16
	Regular tickets → ¥1800 1st of each month → ¥1000 Ladies' Day / Wednesday → ¥1000 Men's Day / Thursday → ¥1000	
TOHO CINEMA 東宝シネマ (Kagoya-machi - in Higashi Shinmachi Arcade) 088.625.5311	War of the Worlds 【USA】 宇宙戦争	
	Regular tickets → ¥1800 1st of each month → ¥1000 Customer Appreciation Day / Wednesday → ¥1000	
ATTACK HEIWA アタック平和 (Kuramoto 2 cho-me - near Kuramoto Station) 088.631.6490	Batman Begins 【USA】 バットマン ビギンズ (dubbed in Japanese)	until 7/22
	Daitoryo no Rihatsushi 【KRN】 大統領の理髪師 (in Korean)	from 7/16
	1st of each month → ¥1000 Customer Appreciation Day/ Wednesday → ¥1000	
HEIWA DOLBY 平和ドルビー (Kuramoto 2 cho-me) 088.631.6490	War of the Worlds 【USA】 宇宙戦争 (dubbed in Japanese)	
	Regular tickets → ¥1800 1st of each month → ¥1000 Customer Appreciation Day / Wednesday → ¥1000	
KITAJIMA CINEMA SUNSHINE *FUJI GRAND* 北島シネマサンシャイン (Kitajima-cho Tainohama) 088.697.3113 088.697.3111 (24 時間テープ案内 - 24 hour recorded message) Regular tickets → ¥1800 The 1st of each month → ¥1000 Ladies' Day / Wednesday → ¥1000	Sengoku Jieitai 1549 【JPN】 戦国自衛隊 1549 (in Japanese)	until 7/15
	Danny the Dog 【USA】 ダニー・ザ・ドッグ	
	The Ring 2 【USA】 ザ・リング 2	
	Shining Boy & Little Randy 【JPN】 星になった少年 (in Japanese)	from 7/16
	Ubume no Natsu 【JPN】 姑獲鳥の夏 (in Japanese)	
	The Island 【USA】 アイランド	from 7/23
	La Marche De L'empereur 【FRN】 皇帝ペンギン (in French)	
	Star Wars Episode III/Revenge of the Sith 【USA】 スター・ウォーズ 北のソート 3/ シスの復讐	
	War of the Worlds 【USA】 宇宙戦争	
	Batman Begins 【USA】 バットマン ビギンズ	
	Marathon 【KRN】 マラソン (in Korean)	
Hinokio 【JPN】 Hinokio (in Japanese)		

coming soon:

At Kitajima Sunshine Cinema in Fuji Grand this July:

Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith
 starring Ewan MacGregor and Natalie Portman

正しい知識で
 差別解消