



JLTASA Hiroshi Haga Teacher Recognition Award

History of the Award

In 2017, the Committee of the Japanese Language Teachers' Association of South Australia endorsed a new set of criteria for awarding life membership of the association. After recommendations from Mr Hiroshi Haga, who proposed the changes, it was agreed that Life Membership would specifically recognise formal contribution to the JLTASA as well as to Japanese language education in general. From 2018 onwards, Life Membership is awarded to a member of our association who has served at least 10 years as an active member of the JLTASA Committee and/or a hub group. This is not necessarily an annual award.

Following the changes to the Life Membership criteria, the Committee proposed to set up a second award which would recognise the contribution of an individual JLTASA member to Japanese language education in South Australia. This award would acknowledge excellence in the field of Japanese teaching and promotion of Japanese language education. Fellow JLTASA members would nominate their peers for this award. This award was to be known as the JLTASA Teacher Recognition Award and presented annually at the JLTASA conference.

From 2017, the recipient has been selected by the JLTASA Committee from nominations received from the JLTASA membership.

Following Mr Haga's passing in 2018, the award was renamed in his honour. The Hiroshi Haga Teacher Recognition Award is now a perpetual memorial to the outstanding and lasting contribution he made to the teaching and learning of Japanese in SA for over 40 years and to the pivotal role he played in the JLTASA.

Winners of the Award

The following teachers have been recipients of this award since its inception:

- 2017 – Yuki Akita: inaugural winner of JLTASA Teacher Recognition Award
- 2018 – Chikako Oguma: JLTASA Teacher Recognition Award
- 2019 – Belinda Schmitt: inaugural winner of the JLTASA Hiroshi Haga Teacher Recognition Award
- 2020 – Melissa Weinert
- 2021 - Linda Davis
- 2022 - Cindy Pitkin
- 2023 - Jodie Wallace

Criteria for the Award

While there are no fixed criteria for this award, its aim is to recognise a teacher who “goes above and beyond”. Examples could include teachers who:

- demonstrate outstanding advocacy for Japanese language and culture in their school community
- are always willing and ready to support colleagues at school and/or hub group level
- are always prepared to “go that extra mile” for their students

Words to consider for a possible nomination: *creativity, collegiality, curriculum, coordination, cultural knowledge, collaboration, cooperation, consistency, contribution to JLTASA events and activities*

Nomination process

JLTASA members wishing to nominate a fellow JLTASA member are requested to:

- Confirm that the person they wish to nominate is a current financial member of the JLTASA
- Submit a written statement of 200-300 words outlining the reasons for the nomination via email to the JLTASA Committee: jltasa@jltasa.asn.au