

CrossTalk

January CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter 2006



Hachi ko, MEET “KELPI E”!

Most people are familiar with Japan's **legendary** Akita – A.K.A. “Hachiko” – who's loyalty and **devotion**

to his master earned him a bronze statue and a resting place at Shibuya Station in Tokyo. His daily vigil for nearly 10 years after his master, Professor Ueno Eizaburo, passed away finally ended on March 7, 1934. Hachiko's death made the front pages of major newspapers here in Japan at the time, and a day of **mourning** was declared.

However, Hachiko's story is not the only **tale** of a dog's loyalty to his master. Way back in the year 1830 the author Bowyang Yorke wrote a poem about a similarly loyal Australian cattle dog we'll call “Kelpie”*. The poem is called “Where the dog sat on the tuckerbox”. “What is a tuckerbox?” you might ask.... Tucker is Australian **slang** for food, so a “tuckerbox” is, indeed, a big (Australian size) obento-bako!

As the legend goes, it was common in those days for a dog to guard his master's tuckerbox while he was away in the bush working or off busily **shearing** sheep somewhere.

One day Kelpie's master went off into the bush never to return. Some say he died there. Kelpie, meanwhile,

stayed put on the tuckerbox and wouldn't let anyone near him, or the tuckerbox which he guarded with his life, until he, in turn, also died - of **starvation**!

And just like faithful Hachiko, a bronze statue stands today near the town of Gundagai in N.S.W., Australia as a **monument** to the loyalty of a brave dog.

(*Actually, nobody knows his real name, so we decided to call him “Kelpie” for this article!)

Here's one version of the famous “Tuckerbox” poem. We hope you like it!

My Mabel waits for me underneath the bright blue sky
Where the dog sits on the tuckerbox five miles from Gundagai
I meet her every day and I know she's dinky-di
Where the dog sits on the tuckerbox five miles from Gundagai
I think she's bonzer and she reckons I'm good-oh,
She's such a trimmer that I've entered her in the local show,
Yes, My Mabel waits for me underneath the bright blue sky
Where the dog sits on the tuckerbox five miles from Gundagai

The teachers and staff at Crossroads wish our students a happy New (Dog) Year!!

Glossary

(These words are in **color** in the story)

legendary 伝説

devotion 献身的帰依

mourning 服喪

tale 話

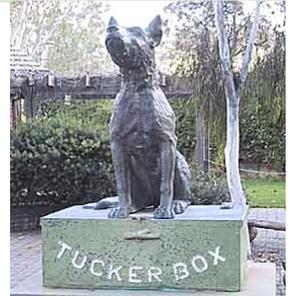
slang 俗語

shearing 毛を刈っている

stay put (動かず)留まっていた

starvation 飢餓

monument 記念碑



A Word From Us



Joshua Says: This is the year of the faithful dog and, so, we have brought you an article in this month's newsletter about two of history's most faithful; and what a great example they are to us all! Dogs also like to work in teams, so whatever you want to do this year, do it with a friend, or two! Happy New Year Everyone!

Junko Says: Coming up soon is your chance to do the TOEIC Test at Crossroads. This year, we are planning to hold the test at Crossroads with the support of the TOEIC Steering Committee. Please contact me in the office if you are interested as we want to enrol at least 10 students (the minimum number we must have to start) and select a date. Also, watch next month's Newsletter for further details.



Greg Says: Hey, what whacky weather!!!! I just got back from record high temperatures in Sydney to see that Japan is experiencing record cold temperatures, although it isn't that cold in Matsuyama. During the Christmas vacation in Australia there was one sizzling hot day of 44 in Sydney. Where I live is a little further west and the temperatures reached 47! Even with the air conditioners on full blast made little difference, as it was still 35 inside. After an overnight HAIL storm, the temperature the next day was 25.

Steven Says: I have been busy moving house during the New Year's holidays. One thing I've noticed is the amount of possessions I have collected since living in Japan. I've decided my New Year's resolution is to eliminate extraneous items from my living space and live a more "Zen" lifestyle. Well, at least that's my plan.



Magnolia Says: I spent a wonderful New Year's Eve with my family at Ishite temple. It was a cold night but there were open fires burning and the amazake was hot and delicious. Some Crossroads students were performing that night, playing Wadaiko and San Shin. It was a lovely way to welcome the New Year and say goodbye to 2005.

Iain Says: Over the holidays I had a great time doing very little. I spent a lot of my free time just reading. For many years I had been reading non-fiction. I was reading books about science, philosophy and politics. But recently I picked up Harry Potter. I was shocked how good it actually is. After finishing all of the books I have become very interested in the world of fantasy again. What types of fantasy stories interest you?



Marita Says: To flee the cold of Winter I went to Taiwan recently. To my surprise, it was not as warm as I expected, but at least I caught the smell of spring. A lasting impression was how strongly East Asian cultures are related. Although Taiwan's culture primarily derives from traditional Chinese culture, Japan's colonial rule left its footprints in Taiwan. Japanese words such as "obasan" are still in use. You can find many Japanese style houses, famous Japanese department stores, convenience stores and even one of the top "Hundred Yen" companies. It felt like visiting Japan's "little sister".

Yuka Says: Happy New Year everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday. What's your New Year Resolution? Are you going to start something new? My resolution is simple: eat less, sleep more and keep fit! Good luck with whatever resolution you make!



A Word From You



Notice Board

Here's some of the fun from last month's Christmas party...



Net News

NET LESSONS:

Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS to study? Try our *lessons on the internet* --- It's CROSSROADS in your home or office! You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, teaching programs, even classmates, *all on-line!* Call for details.

NET SITE OF THE MONTH:

Here's a page with one version of the tuckerbox story:
<http://www.pcug.org.au/~stmcdona/tuckrbox.html>

NET NOTEBOOK: Don't forget to take a look at the Internet Activity Notebook in our Open-house lounge. You'll find great games, news and English study sites.

Courses you can take at CROSSROADS

GENERAL COURSES:

2 x's 60mins / week
1 x's 90mins / week
Private 1 x / week
Semi-Private 1 x / week

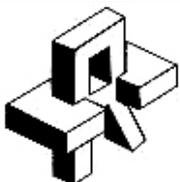
MOTHER & CHILD, group or private
KIDS, group or private

COSMOPOLITAN COURSES:

"Singing in English" with Steve
Yoga with Magnolia
Guitar with Steve
"Cooking in English" with Steve & Magnolia
"Magic in English" with Iain
Piano with Adrienne
Aromatherapy with Steve

GERMAN with Marita
SPANISH with Leo
RUSSIAN with Natasha
FRENCH with Bam & Natacha
CHINESE with Noriko
KOREAN with Kim

NETLESSONS:
group or private



CROSSROADS

ランゲージスタジオ
英会話スクール

〒790-0004 松山市大街道
2丁目1-3 2F, 3F



Phone: 0120-21-7594

Tel: (089) 921-7595

Fax: (089) 921-7319

E-mail: info@crossroadsco.com

Web Site: www.crossroadsco.com

