

ISANA 2013 INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

YVONNE FOGARTY



DECADE OF DISCOVERY

“I KNOW ABOUT THE WORLD’S WIDTH”
“I GROW MY HUMANITY”

Celebrating the relationship between Otago Polytechnic
and Kanazawa Technical College





Kanazawa –Ishikawa prefecture, Japan



Kanazawa Technical College - KTC



Kanazawa
Technical
College



Otago Polytechnic - OP



Doctor Horioka and KTC English Department staff host Keiko Garrity and Yvonne Fogarty in Kanazawa, 2003



KTC President expectations



Doctor Horioka

Technical engineers:

- Capable of working in a global environment
- More independent
- Culturally aware
- More objective view of Japan

Doctor Yamada

Students with:

- Flexible minds
- Improved English

KTC student statements

- **Grow my humanity**
- **Know about the world's width**
- **Gratitude to other persons**
- **Better English skills**
- **More global values**
- **Becoming independent**
- **See various points of view**
- **Confidence and perseverance**
- **Broaden my outlook**



KTC teacher observations



- **Improved English ability and general communication with non Japanese people**
- **Development of critical thinking**
- **Better able to express themselves**
- **Able to question their culture**
- **More confidence in their ability**
- **More motivated and willing to participate**

In Toru's words



“If we go to a foreign country then we get many difficulties because it is a different culture and different people . . . experiencing these difficulties is the first stage of understanding myself”

In Shinya's words



“I got confidence in everything . . . I see that everyone has got a strong spirit because our life in NZ was not very comfortable . . . big confidence has come from being in a painful life”





CHALLENGES



1. LIVING WITH HOST FAMILY

2. COMMUNICATING IN ENGLISH

3. CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

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Hide's comments



“ When I arrived in Dunedin I couldn't talk with my host family because I did not have perfect confidence in my English . . . also I could not understand what my host family were saying.”

Host family support

- **Careful matching of student and host family**
- **Student / family information shared before student arrival**
- **Pre departure visit to Kanazawa by OP staff**
- **Cultural awareness training for the host families**
- **Information on the Code of Practice discussed**
- **Social activities**
- **Handbook in English and Japanese**
- **24/7 support available**

OP Host Families



OP Host Families



Example of favourite Japanese lunch and favourite Kiwi lunch



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Haruka Iwatsubo

- **In Japan**
 - didn't like talking in class
- **In New Zealand**
 - talk to each other
 - students become teachers





OP Engineering School staff at KTC student graduation



Strategies to assist with communicating in English



- **Conversational English only**
- **Interactive visual learning techniques**
- **Student blogs**
- **Kiwi student mentors**
- **Conversation assistants**
- **Interaction with students from other OP schools**

















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3. CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

Tomoki Kitagushi

Tomoki . . .

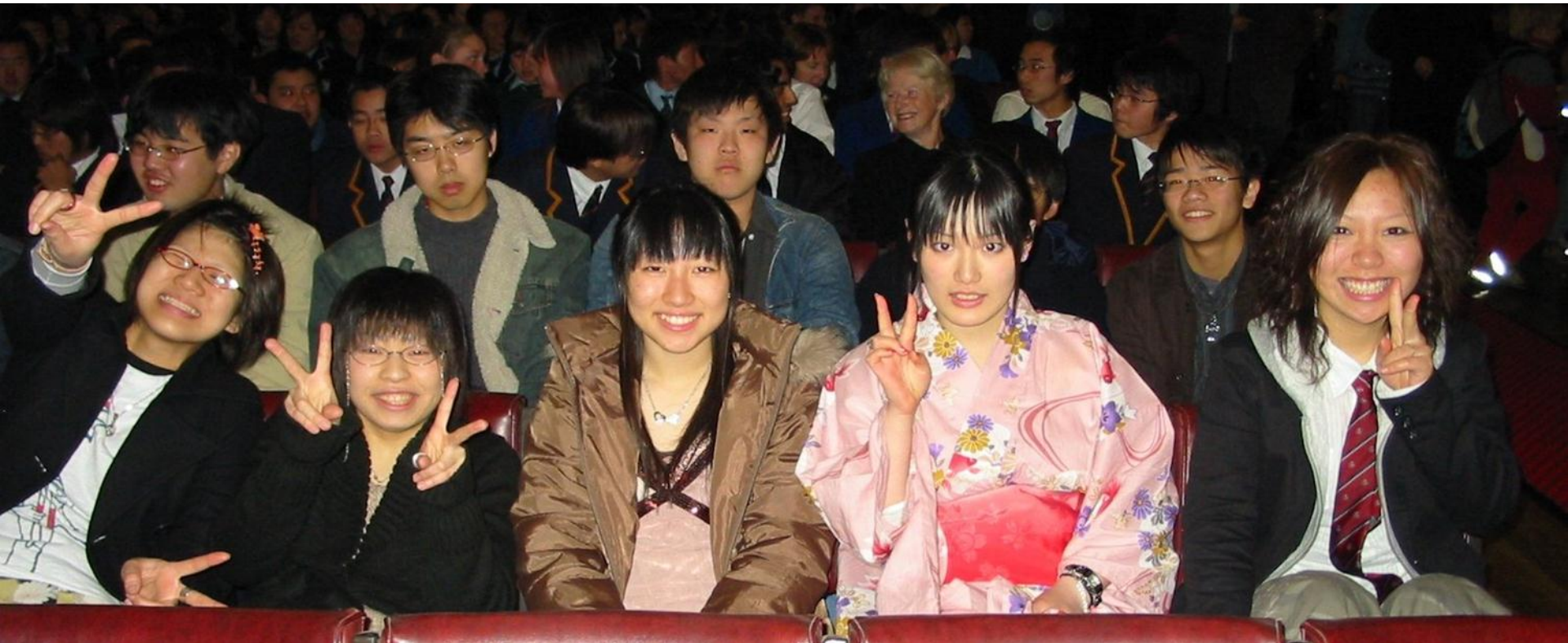
- **Opportunities to talk with people from other countries**
- **Learn about other cultures**
- **In Japan we can't say negative things – it can cause trouble**

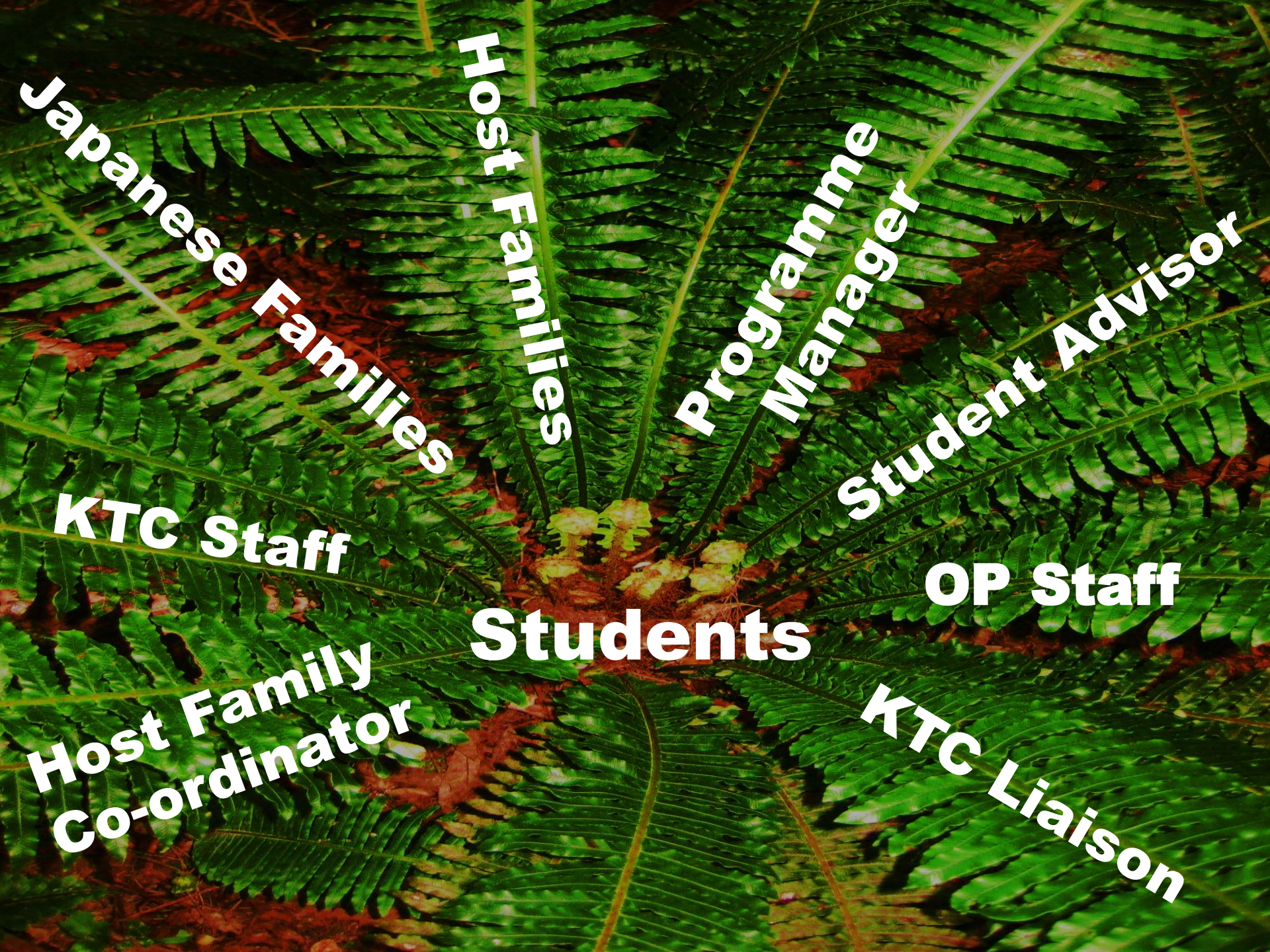


Otago Polytechnic Cultural Festival



KTC students at Civic welcome to Dunedin





Japanese Families

Host Families

Programme Manager

Student Advisor

KTC Staff

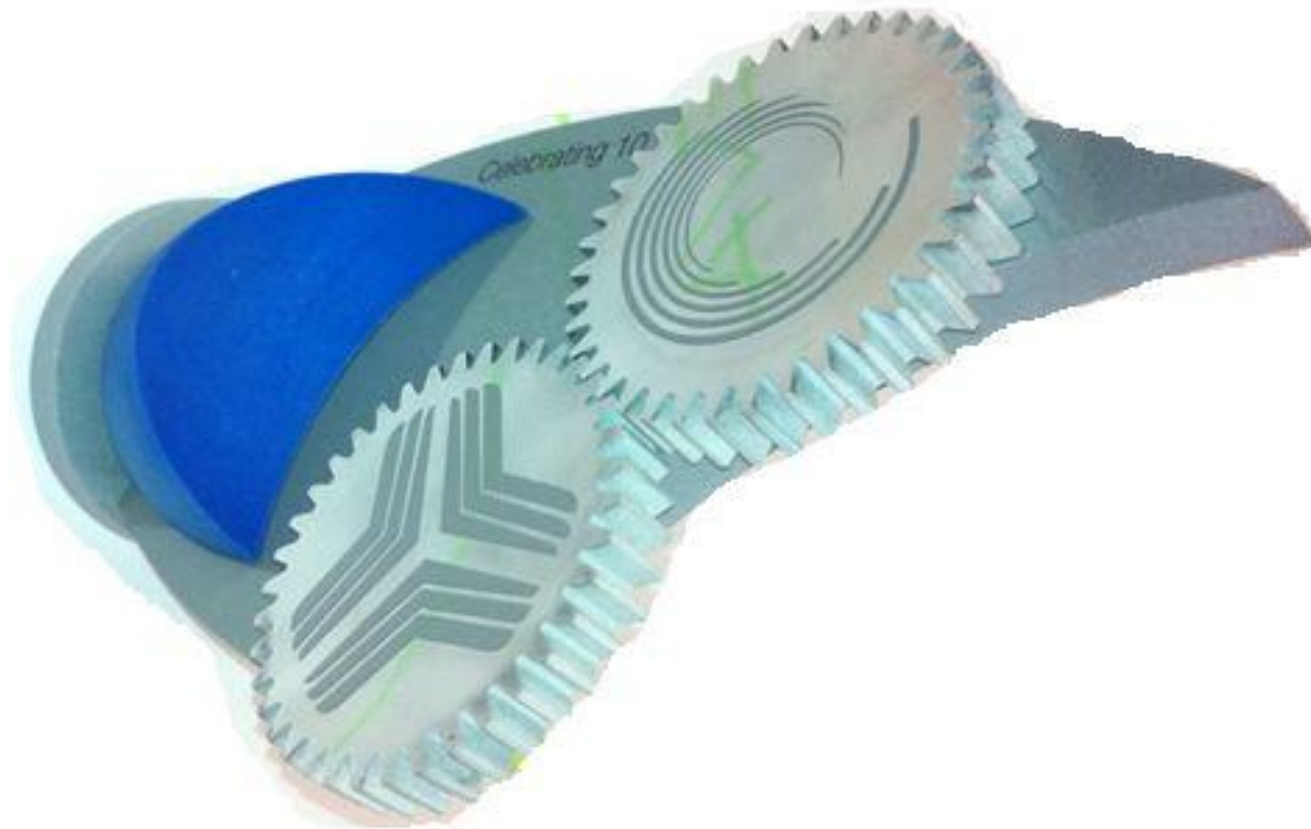
OP Staff

Students

Host Family Co-ordinator

KTC Liaison

Image of gift given by OP to KTC to celebrate this relationship



Exchange of gifts at celebratory dinner between Kathy Grant chair of OP council, and Mr Izumiya owner of KTC, November 2013



