



Adam Wojcinski

Japanese Tea Ceremony

Adam Wojcinski is founder and head of the first Australian branch of the Ueda Sōko Tradition of Japanese Tea Ceremony. He regularly holds tea ceremony practice as well as performances.

In a tea ceremony, powdered green tea or 'matcha' is prepared in front of guests according to a highly structured procedure. The practice of the tea ceremony, however, involves much more than what its English name suggests. The tea ceremony, or 'chanoyu' in Japanese, involves all the activities leading to tea drinking; all the utensils used in the tea ceremony; the entire atmosphere surrounding the procedure; and the most important phase, the frame of mind or the spirit which grows out of the combination of all these factors.

While studying the tea ceremony, one learns about many arts that are themselves separate disciplines outside the tea ceremony. These include many of the major Japanese arts such as ceramics, calligraphy, poetry, flowers and kaiseki cuisine.

Adam will teach students the importance of tea to the Samurai; teach students etiquette for bowing and drinking tea like a Samurai; and the values of harmony, respect, purity and tranquillity that are central to the tea ceremony. Adam also demonstrates the tea ceremony and explains with the use of funky Manga pictures.

Maximum number: class size (approximately 25 students).

Adam can also do lecture format (maximum 90 primary or 150 secondary students).

Duration: 45-50 minutes.

Please enquire regarding costs.



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Feedback

Students commented, “It was so **calming**” (Lauren); “**Best** event for me” (Sarah); “I got to learn so much different cultural and historical information about Japan, like the samurais, and how they effected the growth of the tea ceremony” (Alicia).

Students found this session to be fascinating.

Teachers commented, “I LOVED the Tea Ceremony – thanks for letting me be a part of it (Deb, accounting teacher); “Everyone who missed out on the Tea Ceremony is jealous! I am so glad I got to go.” (Lucy); “**The Tea Ceremony was the hit of the day.** It was certainly my favourite! You should make it part of the curriculum! The kids were so quiet!” (Telsa)

“It was lovely Adam!” - *Shelley Warner, Nossal High School, VIC*

“A big thank you for giving us a fantastic opportunity last week. It was amazing!! We have learnt a lot. I think it was a life changing opportunity for students to open their eyes to their aesthetic sense.”

- *Eriko Miyagi, Syndal South Primary School, VIC*

“Very positive! The students were **highly engaged and completely fascinated** with the culture of the tea ceremony. It was particularly good to see the boys make a connection with this (typically female driven) art form through the imagery of the samurai story.

The students enjoyed trying the tea and sweets, which made this experience more **authentic**. Our younger students in particular appeared to benefit from experiencing the stillness and calm that comes with the contemplative and reflective nature of the tea ceremony. It was an **enriching engagement with Japanese culture**, and made accessible and easy to understand through Adam’s presentation. **We would like to have Adam back again.**”

- *Leah Santilli, St Monica’s College, VIC*

“Adam related to the Year 7 students very well and they found his talk interesting, such as introducing samurai using manga or using a manly voice in greeting. **I’m Japanese, but even I learnt about the philosophy and the background of tea ceremony.** I felt like learning it more.”

“Students were highly engaged. The performer kept the audience interested, was highly prepared and easy to follow and understand. **Excellent. I would highly recommend this performer.**”

“Adam’s demonstration was **very informative but also highly entertaining.** From the moment Adam started the students were engaged the entire time. The students seemed very excited and were very curious about the tea ceremony.”

- *Keiko Ishihara, Lucie Dickens & Paul de Winter, Kilvington Grammar School, VIC*

“We loved Adam last year and I want him to come back for our grade 5’s this year.”

- *Yayoi Nikakis, Head of LOTE, Wesley College Elsternwick, VIC*

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Feedback

“It was great to have a young male, non-native speaker to display his passion for Japanese culture. Student response was very positive.”

- *Julie Campbell, Cornish College, VIC*

“Great presentation as always, and well pitched for the age group.”

- *Methodist Ladies College, Kew, VIC*

“Kids were **extremely engaged for every second** of the presentation. Adam has a brilliant manner with the students. His Aussie occa accent and casual style of speaking draws the kids in instantly. **He had them wrapped around his little finger for the entire hour.** When he says, try saying this word in Japanese “cos I reckon it sounds really cool” they don’t look at him as if he’s crazy, they do it with enthusiasm!! Any challenging behaviour or manners from kids, Adam managed with his beautiful wisdom and humility. When I asked the kids they said they loved him and I should definitely get him back into school in the future. **Adam explains Tea in way I have never heard before.** It is really difficult to explain to most Australians and he does it brilliantly. As a tea lover and tea ceremony student myself I would have thought it impossible to explain to Aussie kids but he does it and they get it! They don’t just get it but become genuinely interested in it. **Adam’s passion is completely infectious.**

Adam went to a lot of trouble to prepare his presentation to fit in with my project/unit of work and **really inspired the kids.** I have seen Adam before speaking to very different audiences and he is a master at adjusting his presentation to maximise audience engagement. He also came **impeccably prepared** with everything he needed. He conducted the same session 5 times in a row which I know only too well can become wearing but he put just as much passion into the last session as the first.”

- *K. Vimpani, Roberts McCubbin Primary School, VIC*

“Adam was a big hit. The children were **enthralled** and all the staff that saw him were super impressed. One staff member was so moved by his ceremony that she went home and googled Tea ceremony and found a video of him and watched it again!”

- *Helen Atkins, Williamstown North Primary School*