

## Joylife Yusuhara : 6. *Tsuyu* is here

Ivan Shimats

*Tsuyu* is something that is unique to Japan, we don't have a rainy season in New Zealand where I am from. Many people complain about *tsuyu* season in Japan, especially us foreigners who are experiencing it for the first time. I decided to embrace this special time of the season because it is something that I cannot change.

Yes there are things that are difficult during this season, for instance everything in the house becomes damp and the daily fight against the gathering mould. I am consistently finding myself keeping a nervous eye out for sneaky *mukades* and I have had to say goodbye to long bike rides for the time being.

Yet somehow, despite these little nuisances brought on by *tsuyu*, I am loving the experience. Constant rain usually means I have to stay indoors which is ok because it provides me with the opportunity to do a lot of baking, reading and catching up on house chores. Speaking of baking, it helps is that the oven which I am using generates a lot of dry heat in the kitchen which I think helps dry out the humid air inside the house. So the more baking I do, the less dampness will gather!

I don't mind the rainy season and I will not be hanging up my "*Teru-Teru-Bozu*" any time soon. Weather, like many things in life cannot be controlled so I might as well accept it and make the most of it.



A happy *Teru-Teru-Bozu* helps me get through *tsuyu*!