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# Tomodachi



## President's Message

On behalf of the Board of the Australia-Japan Society of NSW, it is my great pleasure to bring you this latest newsletter. We hope that members will find the information here both relevant and useful.

### Membership renewals

As we start another financial year for the Australia-Japan Society of NSW, I would like to thank you for your support.

As members will know, the annual subscriptions for membership are due for renewal on 1 July 2017. Thank you to all members who have already renewed, and a reminder to others that we are looking forward to receiving your renewal online or via the form [here](#).

Membership of AJS-NSW is a means to support the Society as we strive to reinforce and build relationships between the Australian and Japanese people. The Society has been instrumental in this field since 1968, however, challenges always remain. It is only through your membership that we can achieve our objectives.

If you are not a member but would like to be, please download and fill in the [membership form](#) from our website and send it in by email or post.

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## Events

In this newsletter, you will find information on upcoming events and we have more in the pipeline.

In the past year, we have continued to strengthen our business, cultural and social events. There have been some highlights: talks by the CEO of Uniqlo Australia, Sho Miyasaka, and by Masterchef winner Adam Liaw; a presentation at the Art Gallery of NSW about the Sydney Modern Project (design by Japanese firm SANAA); and a recent event on [Innovation for Japan and Australia](#), which attracted over 100 people. Our annual University Awards evening is proof of our commitment to encourage the new generation of Japanese language and culture graduates. And our social events such as Shaberanaito and food-related events such as the recent [whisky-tasting](#) are always popular.

### AJS member/friend offer

Also, Economist Conferences has offered members and friends a discount on attendance to Innovation as Competition: Australia's Asian Future Summit 2017 on September 1. [Find out more](#).

### Survey

We also have a survey to understand our members and our community of supporters better. It should only take a minute or so to complete, so we look forward to your responses.

[Complete the survey](#)

With best wishes

**Philip Mitchell**

### **Upcoming event:** **Annual sumo party**

Share the excitement of watching Tokyo Basho sumo with friends and family while enjoying delicious Japanese food!  
Find out more and register [here](#).

### **Hotel review:** **The Hilltop Hotel**

One of our members, Philip Porter shares his experience and the history behind one of the old-world hotel in the middle of busy Tokyo, The Hilltop Hotel. [Read more](#).

## Recent Events

### *AJS Whisky-Tasting*



Osaka Bar in Potts Point was the location for our first AJS-NSW whisky tasting on June 22.

Owner-Chef Kazu was able to procure some rare whiskies through unexpected channels and served them with complementary Japanese dishes, including some Osaka specialities. [Read more.](#)

### *Innovation - Solving Big Problems for Australia-Japan*



Innovation, changes, disruptive, VR, AI, problems, solutions and passion - these were the words that were bandied about at the event on Thursday 25th May.

The full house event was held at the event sponsor and AJS-NSW corporate member PwC's office in Barangaroo. [Read more.](#)

## Economist Conference - supported event

AJS-NSW is a supporter of this Economist Conference event and members and friends can access a special 20% discount to attend. Be part of a high-level conference where policymakers, leaders in regional and Australian business, academics and pioneering entrepreneurs debate the role Australia can play in boosting Asia's capacity for innovation. For details and program see the [flyer](#). Access the registration page and input code AJS3337 for a discount.

## Welcome to new members

In the last few months, a number of new members have joined AJS-NSW. Please join us in making them welcome!

Damien Drew	Sorin Ridgeway-Brown
Dr Michael Dureau	PwC (Jason Hayes, representative)
Alexander Boden	Ken Takahashi
Mie Tsuru	Letitia An
Craig Saphin and family	Yukari Wilson
Diane Vukelic (UTS)	

*And our student awards winners for 2017:*

Sandy Tran (WSU)	Yu-Hsin Kao (U Sydney)
Jisun Shin (Macquarie)	Anita Gallagher (UTS)
Rena Ma (UNSW)	Claudia Blanche (Uni Wollongong)

## **Community/member announcements**

### *Experience Japan*

Location: Sydney Opera House Date: August 2-3 2017

Experience A Different World of Japanese Cuisine, Culture & Tourism! Meet the producers and purveyors from various prefectures. Watch, learn and taste premium products direct from Japan.

This is a free event but registration is mandatory. For more information and to book, visit [their website](#).

### *City of Sydney Sister City exchange trip to Nagoya*

Date: October 15 - 29 2017

For information contact Kieran Tonge - Tel. 4285 5685, e.mail: [kjsptonge@bigpond.com](mailto:kjsptonge@bigpond.com)

### *Volunteer English tutoring*

Wishes to tutor Japanese adults as a volunteer. If interested, contact Helen Gunnis: [helenm0987@gmail.com](mailto:helenm0987@gmail.com).

### *Japanese antiques for sale by a collector*

[Find out more information.](#)

### *Photography show entitled WABI-SABI by member Damien Drew*

Exhibition duration: September 5 - 24, 2017

Opening night: September 8, 6-8pm Location: Black Eye Gallery

[Find out more.](#)