



Australia Japan Society of NSW Incorporated

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NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2010

Message from the President

My best wishes to all members for the 2010 year, now well under way. The 2010 event calendar has started with a flourish and several functions have already been held. The next in line is Hymn to Beauty, Art of Utamaro, the first exhibition in Australia of master Japanese print designer Kitagawa Utamaro. Members will gather at the Art Gallery on 7 April 2010 for a lecture by Professor Bill Coaldrake followed by drinks, or a tour of the exhibition. Although bookings have closed if you email Ian Stewart at iandistewart@bigpond.com he will endeavour to arrange a late booking.

PHILIP MITCHELL
President

1. New members

We welcome the following new members to our Society over recent months:

Catherine Paterson, Mark Whiting, Ann Bartlett/Joseph Fekete, Gensuke Hosomi and family, Christie McCredie and family, Christopher Sonter, Michael Channon, John Wigglesworth, Migaki Pty Ltd (Jim Watson), JAL International Airlines Co Ltd (Yuki Hino).

2. Forthcoming AJS NSW Events

The Events coordination committee is currently finalising details and dates for a number of functions to be held throughout the year. Once the details are complete we will give members advance information of these events. However, bookings can only be accepted once the flyer is released, usually about 4 weeks in advance of event date. In the meantime, the following information may assist your calendar planning:

7 April: Art Gallery (see above)
28 April: Japanese Shaberanaito
July: Sumo Party
August: Food Manga
12 September: Wagyu picnic (Megalong Valley)

Following our very successful seminar on Working for a Japanese Company held on 24 February 2010, we will also be continuing our AJS Business Series of events and networking this year. Once dates and topics are finalised with speakers, details and invitations will be distributed by email to members.

3. General items of interest

3.1 University Awards

Your Society has initiated a number of awards with certain universities to recognise proficiency in Japanese language. The awards of \$500 each will be presented by the Society to one individual assessed by each of the universities (Macquarie University, UNSW, University of Sydney). Criteria include a requirement for the recipient to have permanent Australian citizenship.

3.2 Australian Network for Japanese Law (ANJel)

The Society supported ANJel Team Australia with a grant for \$500 to attend the 8th Japanese Intercollegiate Negotiation and Arbitration Competition at Sophia University, Tokyo in December 2009. This is Japan's most prestigious mooted competition. Team Australia is a group of eight law students from the University of Sydney and the Australian National University and is the only foreign team to compete. They compete in both English and Japanese.

Once again Team Australia performed brilliantly and was placed in the top half of contestants from fourteen Japanese universities. Tokyo University was overall winner.

3.3 AJS NSW Website

We are pleased to announce that work is progressing on design for a new website. A committee headed by Anita Byrnes is well advanced on this project which will provide a more efficient source of information and communication with the Society. One of the features will be a facility for booking attendance at our functions. Watch this space for further details.

3.4 New telephone number

The Society will shortly have a new phone number. Details will be advised by email in the near future.

3.5 Annual General Meeting/Committee Members

The AGM was held on 12 November 2009 and the following committee members were elected:

Office Bearers	Other Committee Members
Philip Mitchell -President	Anita Byrnes
David Jacobs – Vice President	Terry Crotty
Ian Stewart – Secretary/Treasurer	Leigh McClintock
	Masanori Ohtani
	Teri Teramoto
	Seckin Ungur

The Committee welcomes a new member Terry Crotty. Philip Porter resigned as a committee member in September 2009. The Society thanked Philip for his contribution to the Society over many years.

3.6 Manly Council and the Sailor's Diary

As a footnote to the report on the above topic in our last Newsletter (August 2009), Elaine Kent, Sister City Co-ordinator at Manly Council reported that the diary had indeed been returned to Yoshihito Maruyama in Niigata Prefecture, a grandson of the late sailor, Tsuzuku Maruyama. Thus a successful chapter is closed on a very significant event for our corporate member, Manly Council and Australia/Japan relations generally.

4. Conference of the National Federation of Australia Japan Societies – 16/17 October 2010

The biennial conference will be hosted on this occasion by AJS (ACT) and will be held at University House, Australian National University Canberra. This is a great opportunity to network with members of like societies from around Australia when Canberra's gardens are in full spring bloom. Visit www.austjapanfed.org.au for further information.

5. Other forthcoming events

AJS NSW is not affiliated with events listed below and is not responsible for the content of events or linked websites. For further details please contact the organiser direct.

5.1 Sydney Opera House Playhouse Theatre – “The Voyage” (Michi-Nu-Sura) – 25/28 March 2010

The Kijimuna Dance and Music Troupe celebrate the joyous lives of the Okinawan people using movements of this region's classical dance. Seven dancers and three musicians transform into traditional characters, from fishermen to farmers to royalty.

Further details: http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/whatson/the_voyage_2010.aspx?start=yes

5.2 The Japanese Art of Storytelling and the Australian Connection – Rakugo Lecture – Japan Foundation – 26 March 2010

The Japan Foundation presents an introduction to Rakugo. Dr Ian McArthur, a leading expert in Rakugo will give a lecture discussing the art of Rakugo and its surprising Australian connection. Visit http://www.jpf.org.au/02_events/10-storytelling/index.html for further information.

5.3 Eigo Rakugo – Japanese “sit down” comedy performance in English – Japan Foundation – 1 April 2010

A sequel to the foregoing evening is presented by Rakugo performer Katsura Asakichi who is visiting Australia in March and April. See http://www.jpf.org.au/02_events/10-rakugo/index.html for details.

5.4 In Repose – Exhibition and Performance – Japan Foundation – 1 April – 14 May 2010-03-12

A solemn exhibition opens this Easter at the Japan Foundation Gallery. This is a collaborative multi-disciplined art project inspired by the Japanese graves that lie in Australia. Further information at http://www.jpf.org.au/02_events/10-inrepose/index.html

5.5 Japanese Cinema – Japan Foundation

Film screenings are held fortnightly on selected Wednesdays in the Japan Foundation’s multi-purpose room from 6.30pm. Visit http://www.jpf.org.au/02_events/w_jcinema.htm for details.

5.6 Animania festival 2010 – Sydney 20 March and 11/12 September 2010

Animania festival is Australia’s largest anime and manga event, attracting fans locally, from interstate and overseas.

Further details: <http://animania.net.au/2010/>

5.7 Cowra Sakura Matsuri – 20/26 September 2010

Sakura Matsuri is a major event on Cowra’s tourism calendar, celebrating the birth of spring. It attracts performers from across Australia and around the world. Locals, Australian and international visitors alike have the opportunity to experience traditional elements of Japanese culture.

Sakura at the Cowra Japanese Garden is celebrated annually in September when the cherry blossoms are at their peak.

If you haven’t been before, it is wonderful to experience the activities, displays and hospitality of Cowra, not to speak of the pleasant wines produced in the Cowra region.

Further information visit: <http://www.cowraregion.com.au/japanesegarden/?id=3171>

6. Useful Links

Australia Japan Foundation: <http://www.ajf.australia.or.jp/english/aboutajf/>

Japan Foundation: <http://www.jpf.org.au/>

Federation of Australia Japan Societies: <http://www.austjapanfed.org.au/index.php?MMID=387>

Cowra Matsuri: <http://www.cowraregion.com.au/japanesegarden/?id=3171>

Japanese Consulate General in Sydney: <http://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/index.html>

Australian Embassy Tokyo: <http://australia.or.jp/en/>
