



Australia Japan Society of NSW Incorporated

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Co-Patrons: The Premier of New South Wales. The Consul General of Japan, Sydney

Established 1968

NEWSLETTER – JULY 2010

Message from the President

We are now half way through the calendar year and it is pleasing to report that the Society continues to go from strength to strength with a net increase in membership for the 30th June financial year just finished. Thank you to all those members who have renewed subscriptions by the due date.

I am also pleased for the support given by members to various events in the year to date. We are scheduling an array of functions for the remainder of this year, brief details of which are outlined below. Keep watching for our E-Invite emails for full details.

We farewelled the former Consul-General of Japan in Sydney, Mr Nobuhito Hobo during April and welcomed his successor, Dr Masahiro Kohara in May. We also note that Ms Keiko Egusa, who has provided very valuable coordination between the Society and the Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney, will return to Tokyo at the end of July after a three year posting. We wish her well. We are most grateful for the support shown by the Consulate-General of Japan.

PHILIP MITCHELL
President

1. New members

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

Kenzo Selby, Richard Bosanquet, Charlotte Deague, Emmanuelle Fonsny, Michael Priebe (corporate member Statecraft), Leon Bender, David Hill, Patricia and Graham Strauss, Beverley Rogers, Luke Badman, Riki Uehara, Caroline Bass, James Cummings and Ryoko Hozumi, Esther Ho, Louise Purcell.

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 remainder of the calendar 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:

11 August: Food Manga – Speaker Tetsu Kariya (nom-de-plume of Tetsuya Totsuka, creator of Oishinbo)
12 September: Wagyu Picnic – Megalong Valley
October: Business Series
November: Sumo Party

3. General items of interest

3.1 University Awards – Macquarie University

We are pleased to announce that Louise Purcell is the winner of the AJS NSW prize for Japanese language proficiency for 2009. Board member Anita Byrnes presented the award at the Prize Giving held at the University on 29 April. The cash prize is worth \$400 and a complimentary one year membership to the Society is also included. Congratulations to Louise, shown here accepting the award.



Winner Louise Purcell (middle) with Anita Byrnes (AJS Board) and Dr. Chavalin Svetanant of Macquarie Uni, Japanese Studies Dept

3.2 Fourth Annual Inoue Yasushi Award

The Inoue Yasushi Award was established by the Inoue Yasushi Memorial Foundation, Inoue family and AJS board member Masanori Ohtani at the University of Sydney, Japanese Studies, School of Languages and Culture in 2006. The purpose of the prestigious award is to encourage the research, researchers and scholars of Japanese literature in Australia.

A presentation was held at the Japan Foundation on 7 June 2010 to Dr Mats Karlsson, University of Sydney, winner of the Award for 2010, for his article “Writing Madness: Deranged Impressions in Akutagawa’s Cogwheels and Strindberg’s Inferno”. The award presentation was again well attended by over 100 persons in the presence of Consul General Dr Masahiro Kohara and Mrs Yoshiko Kuroda, Inoue Yasushi’s second daughter.

Following the presentation Mrs Kuroda recited a selection of Inoue Yasushi’s poems and his original film “Sen Rikyu” was shown. AJS NSW has proudly supported the award since 2006.

3.3 AJS NSW Website

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 National Federation of Australia Japan Societies

National Federation President (and AJS NSW board member) Leigh McClintock attended the National Conference of the National Federation of Japan Australia Societies in Hida, Takayama (Gifu Prefecture) in May 2010. This was Leigh’s 3rd Japanese National Conference at which 15 of the 33 member societies were present. Leigh has developed a good working relationship and ties with our Japanese counterpart societies and reported favourably on the proceedings.

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). The conference will be held at University House, Australian National University Canberra. Presentations include use of the internet to maintain relationships with organisations in Japan. Meet and network for a common purpose for promoting friendship and exchange between our two countries with members of like societies from around Australia. Canberra’s gardens are in full spring bloom. Visit www.austjapanfed/org.au for further information.

5. Japanese Language Speech Contest

The 41st Australian Japanese Language Speech Contest will be held at the Japan Foundation on Saturday 16 October 2010. First place contestants from State/Territory level contests will deliver their winning speeches. For further information about State contests visit <http://speechcontest.jpf-sydney.net/>

6. Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) – December 2010

Would you like to assess your ability in Japanese? The JLPT is open to all ages and levels of Japanese learners (including teachers). The JLPT is conducted primarily for assessment and accreditation of non native speakers of Japanese. In Australia the test is conducted by the Japan Foundation.

Visit <http://www.jpf.org.au/jlpt/> for further details.

7. Peace Boat – Japanese Language Courses

Peace Boat is promoting their 71st voyage to Australian students and interested parties. The voyage commences in Yokohama on 25 October 2010, returning to that port on 18 January 2011 (does not call at Australian ports). Fares are discounted and include return air fares to Japan. An alternative to the full voyage is to join the vessel in Barcelona on 1 December 2010. In this case air fare to Barcelona is for own account but air fare Japan/Sydney is included.

Peace Boat is a Japan based non-governmental and non-profit organisation that works to promote peace and human rights, sustainable development and respect for the environment. Peace Boat carries out its main activities through a chartered passenger ship that travels the world on global voyages. Peace Boat voyages has seen over 4000 students through the doors. The next voyage calling at Australian ports will be Voyage 74, scheduled for July 2011.

Further details are available from Rin Fujimatsu at pbglobal@peaceboat.gr.jp

8. 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.

8.1 Japan Foundation

Visit www.jpf.org.au for a round up of interesting events to be held including:

2-31 July – Hanga: The Art of Japanese Print Making

8-26 July/10-27 August/9-30 September – Facetnate! 2010 – Emerging visual artists whose work is strongly influenced by Japan

21 July/25 August – Wherefore Art thou? – Young artists from Japan and Australia discuss contemporary art and their work

1 August - Winter Koto Concert – Aiko's Violin Recital

Film screenings are also held fortnightly on selected Wednesdays in the Japan Foundation's multi-purpose room from 6.30pm.

8.2 Animania Festival 2010 – Sydney 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/>

8.3 Canberra Nara Candle Festival – 18 September 2010

Canberra's sister city relationship with Nara will be celebrated on 18 September. The festival features six hours of free entertainment, delicious Japanese food, cultural activities and a stunning display of more than 2000 candles. Venue is Canberra Nara Park.

8.4 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. The main events this year will be held on 25 September.

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>

9. 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://www.australia.or.jp/en/>

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