

# Japanese Cultural Day in Darwin

Saturday 24 November 2012

On 3 November, the Japanese have a public holiday for Bunka no Hi or Culture Day. Throughout the month of November various cultural events are held. As the weather gets colder, it is a good time to visit museums and galleries or take in a concert.

The weather was far from autumnal as the Australian-Japanese Association of the NT (AJANT) held its annual Japanese Cultural Day at the Darwin Languages Centre. The hot Darwin day lent the event a summer festival feel.

There were Japanese summer festival favourites for people to enjoy—water balloon yo-yo fishing and goldfish fishing; festival food staples *okonomi-yaki* (savory pancakes) and *yakisoba*; calligraphy demonstrations and hands-on; Japanese toys to try; and dressing up in *yukata* (summer cotton kimonos) and *happi*.

The then AJANT president, Ms Sachiko Hirayama, was pleased to see that numbers were up on last year, with an



Deputy Consul-General of Japan in Sydney, Mr Toshiaki Kobayashi, attended the AJANT Japanese Cultural Day event in Darwin and presented prizes [left]. People enjoyed the chance to wear a *yukata* (summer cotton kimono), including in yellow, Her Honour the Honourable Sally Thomas AM, the Administrator of the NT.

estimated 250 people attending the event.

Mr Toshiaki Kobayashi, Deputy Consul-General of Japan in Sydney went to Darwin to attend the event.



Both the Administrator of the Northern Territory Her Honour the Honourable Sally Thomas AM and Chief Minister the Hon. Terry Mills MLA made time to visit during the day.

At a press conference held at the site during the cultural day event, Chief Minister Mills presented the first pictures of a Japanese pearling mother ship wrecked in 1937.

The event was sponsored by the Northern Territory Government, the Darwin Languages Centre and Japan Food Corp.

*The Australian-Japanese Association of the Northern Territory Inc was formed in 1989 and is run by volunteers. The Association aims to foster greater understanding between Australian and Japanese people, especially through cultural exchange, and be a channel and means of contact for new arrivals to the Northern Territory.*

# 祭りin日本 Expo & Matsuri in Sydney

Saturday 15 December 2012



PHOTO CREDITS: © Matsuri in Sydney 2012

Thousands of people attended the Japan Expo and Matsuri in Sydney held at Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbour. Rock bands, traditional music, martial arts demonstrations and dancing were part of a full day of performances on the main stage. Around the park were information booths and food stalls, providing information about travelling to Japan and a taste of Japan in Sydney.

The Traditional Japan and Cool Japan corners allowed people to try everything from CG anime workshops to Japanese calligraphy. Many people took the opportunity to dress up—not only was the yukata photo shoot corner popular, people came to the matsuri dressed in their own yukata and others added a Cool Japan edge in their own cosplay get-ups.

The Matsuri in Sydney is made possible by the cooperation of many Sydney-based Japanese government and community organisations, with the support of many generous sponsors and volunteers.

The Matsuri Executive Committee hopes you can join the festival in 2013!

For more photos see:

[www.matsurisydney.com](http://www.matsurisydney.com)