

# Matsuri—Japan Festival

11am-7pm Saturday 10 December

*The theme for 2016 says it all - Enjoy Matsuri!*

Previously known as Matsuri in Sydney, this year sees a name-change but the same commitment to bring the best of Japanese festival fun to Sydney.

**Matsuri—Japan Festival** returns to its home-ground, Tumbalong Park in Darling Harbour. As always, there will be much for festival goers to enjoy.



Why not try your hand at traditional arts and crafts? There will be **workshop booths** demonstrating activities such as origami and calligraphy around the festival ground. You can marvel at performances of **martial arts** such as sumo and karate. Enjoy **music and dance** performances, from dynamic Japanese taiko drumming to the rhythm of traditional festival dances. The ever-popular **Yukata and Cosplay contests** return to the stage and are a great way for audience members to get involved. You can bring a picnic or buy lunch and snacks from the **food stalls** selling Japanese festival favourites.

The **Matsuri—Japan Festival** is a fun-day out for the family and anyone curious to experience a little of Japan in Sydney. **And it's free!**

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

## NSW Japanese language speech contest

**Ms Tomoko Koyama receives Consul-General's Commendation**

The annual NSW Japanese Language Speech Contest was successfully held on 10 September.



© Image courtesy MJS Centre

Director of the Macquarie Japanese Studies Centre, Ms Tomoko Koyama (above) was presented with a Consul-General's Commendation by Consul-General Masato Takaoka, in recognition of her promotion of Japanese language in Australia in her capacity as Director of the MJS Centre, particularly in regards to the New South Wales Japanese Language Speech Contest which has been held at the centre since 2010.



### 2017 Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme

The Government of Japan is calling for applications from young Australians who would like to spend at least one year in Japan on a highly successful international exchange program for university graduates.

Applications close 5pm AEDT Friday 18 November 2016.

[www.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr\\_en/education\\_jet\\_en.html](http://www.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/education_jet_en.html)

### 2016 Australia-Japan Relations Essay Contest for NSW and NT Secondary School Students

Thank you to all the students who entered this year's essay contest. We received 446 entries from 31 schools across NSW and NT, including a number of schools that are entering the contest for the first time.

The junior topic asked students to discuss the role of robots in Australian and Japanese society both now and in the future, and the senior topic asked students to explore the costs and benefits of introducing high-speed rail to Australia based on Japan's experience with the *shinkansen*. The questions prompted many interesting responses and the calibre of this year's essays has been particularly strong.

*Results will be published on the Consulate website at the end of October.*

[www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/english/education/essay%20contest.htm](http://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/english/education/essay%20contest.htm)

