

## **Consul-General of Japan in Sydney's Newsletter**

### **No. 46 Japanaroo 2021: Japan at your doorstep**

19 August 2021

The Tokyo Olympics are over. Japan has received many warm messages, including the Australian Olympic Team's "THANK YOU" banner unfurled at the Athletes' Village – we are so very grateful for these kind words. This consulate has also received some 17 messages by letter and e-mail, thanking Japan for having organised such a wonderful competition.

From next week, the Paralympics begin. The Paralympics will also be held under difficult circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope that the teams of athletes from all over the world achieve their very best in Japan, moving people around the world to experience new emotions and dreams.

Right at this time when Japan has a growing profile among Australians, Japanaroo 2021 is about to commence! It starts from tomorrow, Friday 20 August. As travel between Japan and Australia remains difficult, Japanaroo 2021 is an attempt to bring Japan to Australia. The tagline is "Japan at your doorstep". We have been preparing to hold more than 50 events, a mix of on-site, online and hybrid events.

The situation caused by the Delta variant of COVID-19 has meant that the final day has been pushed back from the original date of 29 August (Sunday) to 2 October (Saturday). As the lockdown continues to be extended, it is highly likely that most events will be held online, and for this reason, the possibility of holding a separate period in December for on-site events is currently being considered.

So, with Japanaroo 2021 launching during lockdown, what kind of events will there be? How can you enjoy them? In this issue of my newsletter, I would like to introduce some of the highlights of Japanaroo 2021 and reflect upon the future of Japanese cultural events in Australia.



### [Japanaroo Opening Night!](#)

(20 August 2021)

#### ● Japanaroo Opening Night

On the first day of Japanaroo 2021, Friday 20 August, the [Japanaroo Opening Night](#) will be held virtually by the Japanaroo Partners. Using Zoom, participants will be able to connect with each other, while enjoying a program that will have something for everyone. Among others, the program includes an origami workshop aimed at families, a Japanese food and sake *kampai* (toast) with a live broadcast from a sake brewery in Japan, a preview video of a cultural performance showcasing Japanese and Australian Indigenous traditions in harmony, a cheerleading performance sending a message of support for the Tokyo Paralympics, a talk and Q&A session with the Japanese and Australian artists who created the Japanaroo logo and key visual, and a quiz.

There will also be a photo contest using social media hashtags on the night, and prizes will be awarded. Japanaroo 2021 is an example of Japan's contribution to multiculturalism in Australia, and as part of the Japanaroo opening, NSW Government and City of Sydney representatives will deliver remarks.

During this strict lockdown, please join us for this inaugural attempt to enliven exchange between Japan and Australia via an online format. The Zoom link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84091516234>. The Japanaroo Opening Night will run from 5.30pm until 8pm. There is no need to register in advance and you are welcome to join and leave at any point during the program.



[Webinar on Japan-Australia business partnership featuring the Ambassador of Japan to Australia, HE Yamagami Shingo](#)

(20 August 2021)

● **Online seminars**

Also on the first day of Japanaroo 2021 (Friday 20 August), the Australia Japan Business Co-operation Committee (AJBCC) will be holding [a webinar on Japan-Australia business partnership called “Going for Gold! Building a Japan-Australia Business Partnership for the Future”](#) featuring the Ambassador of Japan to Australia, HE Yamagami Shingo. It will include a Q&A session with the audience. Please note, you must [register](#) ahead.

Then on 25 August (Wednesday), three academics, Japanese and Australian, will discuss the Japanese economy, legal system and socio-political regime at the [online symposium “Pandemic Pressure Points: Economics, Governance and Society in Japan”](#). The symposium is supported by the Australia-Japan Society of NSW (AJS-NSW), the Japanese Studies Association of Australia (JSAA), the Australian National University (ANU), the Australia-Japan Research Centre (AJRC), the Centre for Asian and Pacific Law at the University of Sydney (CAPLUS) and the Australian Network for Japanese Law (ANJeL).

In addition to these, various online seminars are planned, such as a [Japanese business law seminar](#) by JETRO (Friday 20 August) and a [webinar for partners about pregnancy](#) by WomenCanFly.co, an enterprise established by a Japanese woman living in Sydney (Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 August).

All the above events are free.



[A virtual Nikko Edo Wonderland Walking Tour led by an Aussie Abroad](#)  
(21 August 2021)

#### ● Online tour and travel events

During this lockdown, I hope you will all take the chance to enjoy online tours organised by travel companies including H.I.S., Kintetsu International and Nippon Travel Agency. For example, on Saturday 21 August, there will be an [Aussies Abroad Virtual Nikko Edo Wonderland Walking Tour](#). On Sunday 22 and Saturday 28 August, there will be [Virtual Walking Tour in Harajuku Tokyo & Dotonbori Osaka](#), and on Sunday 22, Wednesday 25 and Saturday 28 August, a former sumo wrestler will lead a [sumo tour](#). In addition, you can also take part in [online Japanese experiences](#) throughout the entire Japanaroo 2021 period such as homestays.

There will also be many recent Japan travel and culture videos that you can watch for free, such as an [AMAZING TOKYO](#) tour, [Sake Tourism in Hokkaido](#) and [Meet Wagashi – Flavors of Japan](#). Not only that, iDA Australia will be presenting a video [introducing shopping and omotenashi in Japan](#).

Kintetsu International's quiz project, [“Are you a Japan travel expert?”](#), is a chance to win travel and accommodation vouchers. The [“Share Your Japan Competition”](#) by JNTO is calling for videos and photos in three categories – nature, food, tradition – and there are prizes totalling in excess of \$2,000. Why don't you enter?

And looking ahead to ski tourism recommencing post-COVID, from the end of this year through to next year, WAmazing Snow is offering [early-bird ski lift tickets](#). Enjoy the ski video they've uploaded.



[Japanaroo virtual marathon](#)  
(20 August to 2 October 2021)

#### ● Online workshops and exhibitions

A variety of online workshops are also part of Japanaroo 2021 line-up.

JTB Australia is holding a [virtual marathon “Run to Japan close to you”](#). You can choose yourself what distance to run: from a 5km fun run up to a 42km full marathon. When you run, take a selfie showing of you and a place or item that has a connection to Japan. Submit it and you can receive a souvenir such as an exclusive Japanaroo T-shirt.

There will also be online sake tastings. Sakenet is holding an online [Kan-zake \(warmed sake\) tasting and talk](#) on 12 September (Sunday). Also, Sakeshop by Chef's Armoury is conducting an online tasting ["Sake 101 – Taste and Learn"](#) from 8 September (Wednesday) and 2 October (Saturday) where people can buy a set of 4 types of sake online and can do a tasting along with video link provided.

Among other events planned are cooking lessons by Mayuko's Little Kitchen - [Chicken Nanban Cooking Class](#) (Sunday 21 and Friday 27 August) and [Tuna and Mushroom Cooking Class](#) (Tuesday 24 and Sunday 29 August); a [Japanese Mizuhiki Earring Making Class](#) (dates TBA) by Canberra-based happy JP designs; and [Japanese BVS-pressurized Exercise](#) lessons (throughout Japanaroo) by the Japan Blood Vessel Stretch Association.

There are online shops joining Japanaroo 2021. [Matcha Yu Tea](#) and [Sakucha](#) were established to meet the demand from Japanese matcha loving Australians, and they have uploaded videos and photos conveying the Japanese matcha experience. I was interested to watch them myself!

Still more to experience – the ["Voice Collage"](#) project, led by a group of Japanese living in Sydney during the COVID lockdown, has brought together some 50 people living all around Australia and in various parts of Japan to sing "Furusato" and "Country Road" and record them on video. And there are plans to add another video – a group of around 35 Japanese residing in Australia singing "I Still Call Australia Home" as a thank-you to Australia.

Origami Café in Darlinghurst has created a [Collaboration of Art and Café](#). You can see examples of bento lunch boxes, desserts and latte art with designs of various characters, made in collaboration with an artist Naoko Saito, in their video.

Sydney artist Ken Done has close connections with Japan and an exhibition ["Ken Done: Japan"](#) was planned to be held at his Gallery in The Rocks from tomorrow. Due to COVID-19, the Ken Done Gallery is currently considering holding the exhibition online.





[Prize campaign](#)

(20 August to 10 October 2021)

● **Prize campaign**

Anyone who takes part in a Japanaroo 2021 event can enter a [prize campaign](#) throughout the entire period of Japanaroo 2021. You can enter once for each event you join. There are two Gold Prizes of a pair of return tickets to Japan – one offered by ANA (All Nippon Airways) and one by Japan Airlines! There are also Silver Prizes – one is tickets to the Japanaroo 2021 Festive Season Concert by J Culture Sydney and the other is tickets to SMASH! 2022 by the Sydney Anime and Manga Show (SMASH!). And you can also receive a pen and tote bag set from The Japan Foundation, Sydney.

Share your experience of the event you attended within 30 words and attach a photo or screenshot of you attending the event to your entry form. After submitting your entry, you can download the original Japanaroo 2021 key visual as a wallpaper for your PC or phone.

With on-site events being difficult, I think the odds of winning will increase accordingly. So please go ahead and apply!



### [Japanaroo 2021 Festive Season Concert](#)

(17 December 2021)

#### ● Towards on-site events

The events I have introduced above are online ones, and due to the strict lockdown regulations in Greater Sydney, it is difficult to envisage on-site events being able to be held in the near future. In fact, in addition to these events, more than 30 on-site events had been planned. I hope to have the opportunity to introduce them at another time.

Nichigo Press, a Japanese community newspaper, issued an 18-page [special Japanaroo issue as its August edition](#) and it included an English-language [guide to Japanese restaurants in the Sydney CBD](#). It is hoped that this type of initiative will further increase the popularity of Japanese restaurants post-COVID. Another outcome of this special Japanaroo issue is that Nichigo Press will continue to publish English articles that convey the charm of Japan to Australians. It makes me happy to think that this will help further deepen Australians' understanding of Japan and mutual exchange.

We are currently considering to produce a “Japanaroo Pop-up (tentative name)” from early to mid-December so that we can hold on-site events planned by a wide range of businesses and organisations for Japanaroo 2021. Already it has been decided to hold the [Japanaroo 2021 Festive Season Concert](#) in Sydney Town Hall's Centennial Hall on Friday 17 December. I am really looking forward to overcoming the current difficult period with online events and being able to come together at large on-site events at the end of the year.



This year is the first year of Japanaroo. I am delighted that so many organisations and companies have come together through public-private partnership to hold such a significant event and realise “Japan at your doorstep”. I am certain that the very overcoming of our current difficulties will demonstrate the true strength of the Japan-Australia relationship. From now on, I hope that, through Japanaroo, a new form and spirit of Japan-Australia cultural exchange that includes online events will expand and develop throughout Australia, long into the future.

Kiya Masahiko, Consul-General of Japan in Sydney

Japanaroo website

<https://japanaroo.com/>

[https://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr\\_en/Japanaroo.html](https://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/Japanaroo.html)

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