

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

### No. 53 Japanaroo+

1 December 2021

It's already December. How are you spending this busy month of the year? "Japanaroo+", a Japanese festival originating in Sydney, is starting very soon, running from Friday 3 to Sunday 19 December. "Japanaroo 2021" was held from August to October, during the lockdown, and it was a great success with around 10,000 unique participants. However, many specially planned on-site events had to be cancelled. Japanaroo+ has been planned to enable these on-site events to be held. In this issue of my newsletter, I will introduce some of the highlights of Japanaroo+.



### Japanaroo+ Opening Night (3 December 2021)

#### ● Japanaroo+ Opening Night

[Japanaroo+ Opening Night](#) will be held from 5.30pm on the first day of the festival, Friday 3 December. It's an online event with many fun activities – origami and lacquerware workshops, a Japanese drumming workshop and a Japan-fact trivia quiz among them. Chef Saeki Terushige, who is the chef at my official residence, will be making his debut, introducing how to make a green tea (matcha) roll cake. I'm looking forward to it!



**“Eat the Feast of Nagoya” tasting event  
(29 November 2021)**

### ● Regional cuisine and culture

An unmissable part of any festival such as Japanaroo+ is food and drink. The future frontiers of tourism, culture, economy and youth exchange between Japan and Australia will be the regions of Japan. There will be many events related to regional cuisine and culture as part of Japanaroo+.

Last year, Sydney and Nagoya cities welcomed the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their sister city relationship, and YAYOI Restaurant will hold [“Eat the Feast of Nagoya”](#) at its 6 restaurants in Sydney. Authentic Nagoya flavours will feature in typical local dishes - *hishumabushi* (a type of grilled eel dish) and *miso katsu*.

The [“Flavours of Fukuoka”](#) can be experienced at [Gogyo Surry Hills](#), [Ramen Zundo](#), [Sakana-Ya](#) and [Sekka-Dining](#) in Sydney city - menus including *tonkotsu ramen* and *teriyaki* chicken will come with free tastings of sake from Fukuoka Prefecture.

Okinawa-related groups are preparing a program to experience Okinawan culture such as *Awamori* (a local liqueur), *Eisa* dancing and *sanshin* music at [“Okinawa Night”](#) on Thursday 9 December, and JTB is organising a [“Hokkaido Night”](#) program on Sunday 12 and Monday 13 December with “Genghis Khan”, a type of Hokkaido BBQ.



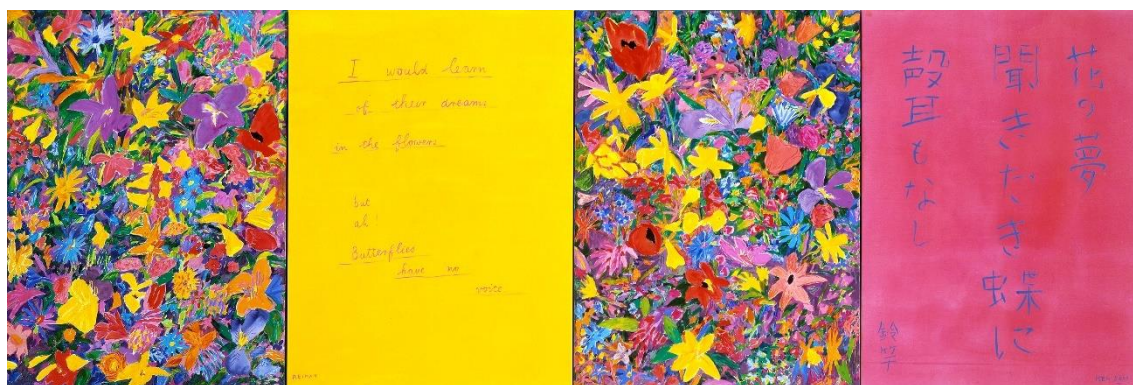
**Kanpai Now! Japanese sake free tasting campaign  
(until the end of January 2022)**

In addition, Japanese sake is being promoted by JETRO in its [“Kanpai Now! The Tastes of Japan”](#) campaign of free Japanese sake tastings which is running from 26 November until the end of January 2022. At 15 restaurants in Sydney and Melbourne, by just responding to a simple questionnaire you can try Japanese sake for free.

Also, SAKEYOU AU is having a [Japanaroo promotion of six 10-litre taru](#) (sake barrels) sent directly from Saitama and Nagano Prefectures, three *taru* from each, as a special item during the festival. Sushi Kaido in Chatswood has prepared a [special Fatty Tuna ‘Otoro’ menu](#) during Japanaroo+.

I hope these opportunities for people living in Australia to enjoy an authentic taste of Japan during Japanaroo+ will make them want to visit the different regions of Japan.





“Butterfly Dreams” by Ken Done (1991)

### ● Exhibitions and lectures

Many exhibitions and lectures relating to Japan and Australia will be held. Sydney artist Ken Done first visited Japan in the 1960s, and among many other activities, he painted the cover image for the Japanese weekly magazine *Hanako*. [Ken Done : Japan](#) was an online exhibition held as part of Japanaroo 2021, and during Japanaroo+, it will be on display at the Ken Done Gallery in The Rocks from Monday 13 to Sunday 19 December.

The Art Gallery of NSW not only has numerous Japanese art works in its collection, but Japanese architects SANAA are involved in the construction of the new Gallery building known as the Sydney Modern Project. Curator Ms Melanie Eastburn, who worked on the AGNSW’s *Japan Supernatural* exhibition, will give a talk, [Meiji to Murakami: Japanese art at the Art Gallery of NSW](#), on Thursday 9 December.

Also running from Tuesday 30 November to Tuesday 25 January is [Revisiting Shoei Yoh](#) – an exhibition by the University of New South Wales and Kyushu University at the Australian Design Centre about the Japanese architect and pioneer of digital design, Shoei Yoh. The two universities are currently undertaking a project to digitise the archive of his architectural works.

Visualising Japan is a [photographic exhibition](#) organised by the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program NSW Alumni Association (JETAA NSW). The exhibition was postponed due to the lockdown and will now be held in central Sydney from Saturday 4 to Tuesday 14 December. Please enjoy Japan through the eyes of the photographers whose evocative works were selected from the competition entries.



Ikebana International meeting  
(23 November 2021)

#### ● Arts, crafts and fashion

Various organisations and companies involved in Japanese culture are holding events on the occasion of Japanaroo+. The Sogetsu School of Ikebana Sydney/NSW is holding an exhibition of ikebana [“Sogetsu Ikebana Awakening”](#) at the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney from Saturday 4 to Sunday 12 December. Chado Urasenke Tankokai Sydney will hold a [Japanese tea ceremony and demonstration at Leura](#) in the Blue Mountains on Sunday 12 December.

Sydney Kyudo Kai is conducting a demonstration [“Sydney Kyudo Kai Open Doors”](#) at its inner city location on Sunday 19 December. On the same day at Sydney City Ballet School in North Sydney, a [Japanese dance \(Nihon Buyo\) workshop](#) will teach some basic dance moves and participants can also enjoy Tokyo Ondo (festival dance).

Fashion designer Akira Isogawa, the Japanese designer who has had fantastic success in Australia, will sell a very limited stock of handmade Japanaroo T-shirts at the [“AKIRA Family Sale”](#) on Friday 17 and Saturday 18 December.

Other events include [Journey to Kyoto](#) organized with the support of Kyoto Prefectural Government by Simply Native Japan, which sells Japanese traditional craft items and architectural materials in Sydney. Also Kintsugi Australia is holding [two-hour kintsugi experience workshops](#) aimed at beginners.



Ms Goto Aiko's InstaLive Concert at my official residence  
(6 December 2021)

- **Online events**

Online tools are now so widely used due to COVID-19, and Japanaroo+ will make use of these platforms, including for its online [Japanaroo+ Opening Night](#).

On Monday 6 December from 5.30pm, Ms Aiko Goto, who has been active for many years as a member of the Australian Chamber Orchestra (ACO), will give an [InstaLive concert](#) performance, live from my official residence. Please be sure to join us via our [Instagram](#) to enjoy her performance.

The Japanaroo 2021 event that had the highest number of individual users was Kintetsu International's Japan travel quiz. This time they are running a quiz with Japanese cuisine as its theme – "[Are you a Japan travel expert? Food edition!](#)" Why not give it a go?



Happy JP Designs is a shop in Queanbeyan in NSW selling traditional Japanese craft items. For Japanaroo+, it will be holding an [earring workshop](#) on Thursday 16 December and a [table art workshop](#) on Friday 17 December.

A Japanese comedian performing in English, Takashi Wakasugi, is also participating in Japanaroo+ and has uploaded a funny [stand-up video](#) (includes coarse language). Please take a look. He is also performing in Sydney on Thursday 2 and Saturday 4 December.



Japan Expo (Saturday, 17 December 2021)

- **Large-scale events**

With its focus on reviving onsite events, Japanaroo+ will fittingly conclude with a large-scale in-person event. On Friday 17 December, at Sydney's iconic Town Hall, [Japan Expo](#) will be held during the day followed by the [Japanaroo Festive Season Concert](#). Japan Expo will feature many booths related to culture, tourism and Japanese cuisine, and if you register ahead, you can enjoy the event for free. The Japanaroo Concert will present different Japan-Australia collaborations - music, performing arts and fashion, and more.

The following day, Saturday 18 December, [Matsuri Japan Festival](#) will be held in Chatswood Mall (many Japanese people live in Chatswood). The festival has been a tradition in Sydney for many years and it will be revived for the first time in about 2 years since overcoming COVID-19! It is a free event, so please drop by!

Anyone taking part in the Japanaroo+ events I introduced above can enter the [prize campaign](#) and the chance to win 2 pairs of return tickets to Japan to win, one offered by All Nippon Airways (ANA) and the other by Japan Airlines (JAL). Explain what your favourite part of the event was in 30 words or less together with a picture proving your participation. After applying, you can download Japanaroo 2021's key visual as an original wallpaper for your mobile phone or PC.



Messages of support for Japanaroo+ from Ambassador Yamagami, NSW Premier Perrottet and me (November 2021)

- **Messages of support for Japanaroo**

Japanaroo+ exists thanks to all those people who belong to the organisations and companies holding individual events. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to them for their contribution to raising the profile of Japan in Australia and for contributing to the development of Japan and Australia through promoting deeper Japan-Australia exchange.



His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan to Australia, Mr Yamagami Shingo, and the Premier of New South Wales, the Hon. Dominic Perrottet MP, have both sent [warm messages of support to Japanaroo+](#). I will also strive to open up a new frontier of exchange between Japan and Australia through Japanaroo+. I would be delighted if you took part in a Japanaroo+ event or two, or more, and shared in the enjoyment and excitement of Japan-Australia exchange.

Kiya Masahiko, Consul-General of Japan in Sydney

(Ends)