

24 August 2022



Japanaroo 2022 is about to begin – it starts on Saturday 3 September and finishes on Sunday 11 September. Already pre-events are taking place in Sydney. Japanaroo, a festival of Japan-Australia exchange and cooperation, was launched last year as a public-private partnership initiative to coincide with the Tokyo Olympics and look ahead to post-COVID times, and in this its second year, Japanaroo is evolving.

In this issue of my newsletter, I would like to give you an overview of the diverse range of events that will be part of Japanaroo 2022, including several pre-events. I also invite you to think with me about what the Japanaroo initiative aims to achieve and its significance.



Visiting “The Handcrafted Home” exhibition (9 August 2022)

● **Pre-events – traditional craft exhibition, concert and symposium**

A Japanaroo pre-event is already on in Sydney. The exhibition called “[The Handcrafted Home](#)” is organised by Simply Native in collaboration with Books Kinokuniya Sydney and introduces traditional crafts from around Japan. It has been on at Wedge Gallery (in Kinokuniya) since Friday 5 August and runs until Monday 29 August. Each item on display has the story of the craftsman who made it, and the exhibition illustrates the best of regional Japan. I was surprised to see that such a refined art exhibition wasn’t publicly funded, but was rather part of a business plan. This sort of development should not only be supported in Australia, but also around the world.

On Saturday 27 August, the “[Japan Music WAVE](#)” concert will be on at the Seymour Centre at the University of Sydney. The concert has two parts and will be performed by Japanese musicians active in Sydney and Ms TAKADA Nami who performs in Japan.

In addition to the above, on Friday 2 September, the University of Sydney Law School will hold a hybrid-format symposium, “[Global Sports Law: Hot Topics in Australia and Japan](#)”. Planned discussion points are sports governance in Australia, and the trading system and overseas activity of Japanese baseball players.



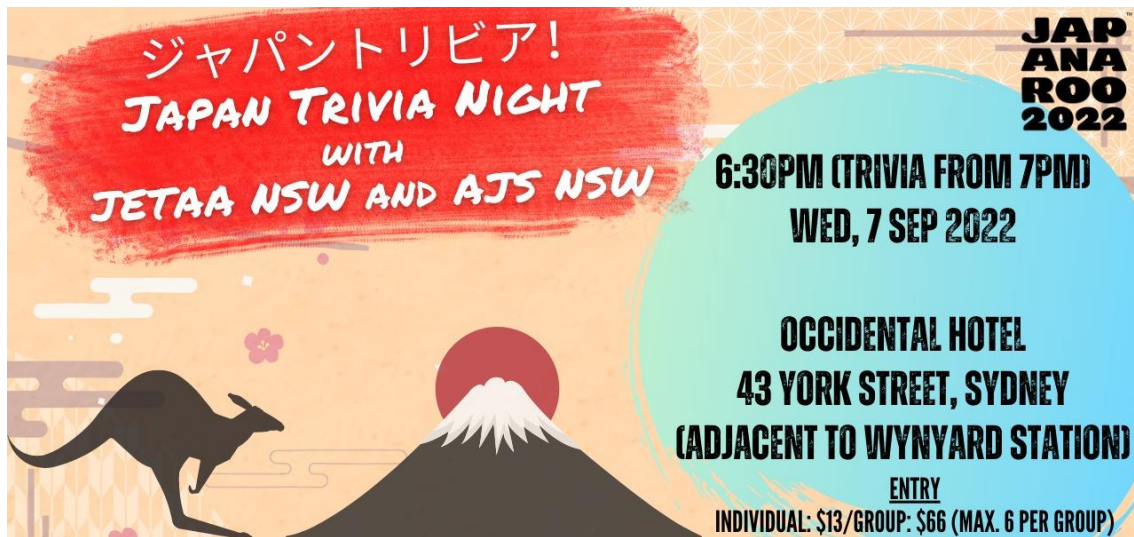
JAPAN EXPO 2022 (3 September 2022)

- **Opening events – JAPAN EXPO 2022 and Okinawa Festival**

On the first, Saturday 3 September, the Japanaroo opening event [“JAPAN EXPO 2022”](#) will be held at The Great Hall in the University of Sydney. There will be more than 30 booths and presentations, displaying Japanese products, tourism, culture, and sports among others – so many of Japan’s attractions will be promoted.

Of particular note are new Japanese food products not yet on the market. It will be possible to taste and buy products such as top Japanese bread and bread knives, *gyudon* (beef *domburi*) and roast beef using Kagoshima wagyu, *onigiri* made using rice imported directly from Japan, *natto* hand-made in Sydney, organic malt pickles, additive-free grape juice, perfectly ripe peaches from Fukushima, and more than 20 types of sake. There will also be a presentation about the latest shinkansen technology. Entry is free.

In the evening of the 13<sup>th</sup> at the same venue, [Okinawa Festival](#) will showcase various performing arts of Okinawa, with performers not only from Sydney but also special guests from Perth and Okinawa. This is a ticketed event (see prices via the above link). Why not come along and enjoy the first day of Japanaroo? I’ll be there.



### Japan Trivia Night! (7 September 2022)

- **JETAA NSW and AJS NSW**

The Japanaroo Committee which is managing Japanaroo 2022 includes the [JET Alumni Association of NSW \(JETAA NSW\)](#) and the [Australia-Japan Association of NSW \(AJS-NSW\)](#); these Japan-Australia exchange organisations have at their core Australians who have deep connections with Japan. For me, one of Japanaroo's pluses is that it's not only the Japanese and Nikkei communities managing the event – groups largely comprising Australians are also managing it.

In the evening of 7 September (Wednesday), JETAA NSW and AJS NSW are jointly holding a [Japan Trivia Night](#) at the Occidental Hotel near Wynyard Station. I hope many Australians and Japanese will come together to enjoy this quiz event.

In addition to the trivia night, AJS NSW will be joining up with Overdue Studio X Women Can Fly.Co to hold the "[Contemporary Asian Craftsmanship & Cultural Exchange](#)" on 4 September (Sunday), and on 8 September (Thursday), they will be working with Macquarie University to hold an evening "[Film Screening and discussion of Kamikaze Girls 下妻物語 & Cosplay Contest](#)" on 8 September (Thursday). I am happy to see how AJS, whose members include Australians from diverse fields, is using the occasion of Japanaroo 2022 to collaborate with other organisations, thereby broadening their base.



Bonsai Exhibition at the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney  
(9-11 September 2022)

- **Japanese cultural events**

There will be many Japanese cultural events as part of Japanaroo 2022. From Friday 9 to Sunday 11 September, there will be a [bonsai exhibition](#) at The Calyx in the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney. In Chatswood, there will be two different ikebana exhibitions: on Friday 9 September, Sogetsu NSW Branch will hold a [Sogetsu Ikebana Open House](#), and on Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 September, members of Ikebana International Sydney Chapter will hold an [ikebana exhibition](#). On Sunday 11 September, there will be a [Japanaroo cultural exhibition](#) of ikebana, bonsai and pottery in Ulladulla. Also on Sunday 11 September, Urasenke Chado Tankokai will hold a [tea ceremony workshop](#) in the Blue Mountains.

Sydney has a wide range of Japanese cultural specialists working in the city. Origami artist Midori Furze, who recently received a Foreign Minister's Commendation, will be giving an [origami workshop](#) for adults on Sunday 4 September. Sumie artist Masayo Colley's ["Dragon God" exhibition](#) will be at Kyushu Restaurant in Neutral Bay from Saturday 3 September to Friday 30 September. Kintsugi Australia will hold [kintsugi workshops](#) for beginners between Saturday 3 and Sunday 11 September.

Turning to sports, NSW Aikido Association will give an [aikido demonstration](#) at the Matsuri Japan Festival in Chatswood on Saturday 10 September, and on the following Saturday, 17 September, a beginners lesson will be held in Roseville.



Jingisukan Hokkaido BBQ Night (5 September 2022)

- **Japanese cuisine and tourism**

As for Japanese cuisine, at the opening event [JAPAN EXPO 2022](#) described above and the [Matsuri Japan Festival in Chatswood](#), which I will introduce later, there will be many food booths. In addition to these, there will also be food-related events throughout Japanaroo 2022 around Sydney.

On Monday 5 September, Robata Jones in Artarmon will have a [Jingisukan Hokkaido BBQ Night](#), and from Friday 26 August to Sunday 11 September, Sushi Kaido in Chatswood will run a [taste comparison experience between otoro \(fatty tuna\) imported from Japan and Australian white fish](#). Both will be specially priced menus.

Origami Café will hold a [“Collaboration of Art and Café”](#) during Japanaroo 2022 (3-11 September), creating anime character desserts which can be enjoyed alongside chalk art and latte art.

In addition, [“Australian Sake Festival”](#) will be held on Saturday 1 October. This is a ticketed event, and more than 200 kinds of Japanese sake will be showcased. You can taste them all and also purchase what you like.

As far as travel, Kintetsu International Express has [Japan Holiday Deals for Groups & Families](#) which can be accessed from Saturday 3 September to Monday 30 January next year.



**“Attack” – an exhibition by Ken Done (3-11 September 2022)**

- **“Attack” – an exhibition by Ken Done**

The Japanaroo 2022 [key visual](#) (at the start of this newsletter) has been designed by Ken Done, a Sydney artist active in both Japan and Australia, and it has been created to reflect the aim of “Japanaroo”. The artist explains the key visual as follows: “These two symbols represent our two countries - iconic shapes that remind us of the deep and important ties and friendship between our two nations. The word Japanaroo is a wonderful way to symbolise this union.”

From Saturday 3 to Sunday 11 September, [the exhibition “Attack”](#) will be held at the Ken Done Gallery. Ten years ago on the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attack on Sydney Harbour by Japanese midget submarines, Mosman Art Gallery commissioned [15 works](#) for an exhibition. All works were donated to Mosman Art Gallery. In May this year, on the occasion of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attack, the works were again [displayed at Mosman Art Gallery](#), and following on from this, during Japanaroo 2022, the works will be displayed at the Ken Done Gallery.

This series of images explains the actual historical facts, including the feelings of the submarine crew and the naval burial after the attack in an easy-to-understand manner. Please take this opportunity to see them.



**Matsuri Japan Festival in Chatswood 2022**  
(10 September 2022)

- **Matsuri Japan Festival in Chatswood**

Coming to the closing weekend of Japanaroo 2022, [Matsuri Japan Festival in Chatswood](#) will take place on Saturday 10 September.

[The Japan Club of Sydney \(JCS\)](#) is a group largely comprising Japanese permanent residents, and every September since 2015 in Chatswood, JCS has brought together many people to hold a Japanese festival. It is the largest Japanese cultural event in Sydney's north, and this time there will be 10 food stalls, 8 booths and 20 groups giving performances.



The year before last, the festival unfortunately had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, and last year, it was postponed until December. It was my first time to attend the event. The festival sees Chatswood Mall lined with Japanese food stalls and booths found at fairs such as yo-yo scooping. The combined efforts of the local Japanese community behind this event really made an impression on me. Please go along and experience it for yourself.



[Messages](#) from Ambassador YAMAGAMI Shingo,  
NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet and me

#### ● Expectations for Japanaroo

“Japanaroo 2022” is an initiative under a public-private partnership, managed by 11 Japanese and Australian organisations and companies. It is also supported by the Japanese and NSW Governments and has received messages from [His Excellency YAMAGAMI Shingo, the Ambassador of Japan to Australia](#), and the [Honourable Dominic Perrottet, Premier of New South Wales](#). In [my own message](#), I shared the expectations I have for Japanaroo as below.

The vision of “Japanaroo” is developing. It aims to promote exchange and collaboration between Japan and Australia across culture, food, tourism, education, career development, sports, and technology and innovation.(...)

“Japanaroo” will build on Australia’s multiculturalism and innovation, while drawing on Japan’s globalisation and regional connectivity.

“Japanaroo” is more than just a showcase of Japanese culture. It is a “Japan-Australia Exchange and Collaboration Festival” through which event organisers and participants develop organic networks with a sustainable impact for their futures.(...)

I am hopeful that the friendship and ties between Japan and Australia will deepen further through “Japanaroo” for years to come, for the benefit of Japan, Australia, and the world.



Japanaroo Networking Reception (3 August 2022)

● **Towards creating and developing a “Japan-Australia community”**

A month before the opening of Japanaroo 2022, on 3 August, a Japanaroo networking reception was held at my official residence. Around 60 Japanaroo committee members, supporters and event organisers came together for the first time and exchanged views about how to prepare for and promote Japanaroo 2022 and about how to collaborate afterwards.

Although we were not able to invite them to the reception, Japanaroo stakeholders spread beyond the reception attendees, as there are more than 30 major organisations and companies involved in JAPAN EXPO 2022 and almost 40 involved in Matsuri Japan Festival in Chatswood.

I believe that the holding of Japanaroo in an ongoing manner will further advance exchange and cooperation between Japan and Australia if it creates a sustainable place for organisations and companies involved in Japanese exchange and collaboration to meet and cooperate beyond existing frameworks – in other words, if such a “Japan-Australia community” is born.

The “Japan-Australia community” is centred on people who have a deep understanding of and affection for Japan and Australia – people who identify with both countries. For these people, developing and deepening Japan-Australia cooperation is in a sense directly connected to their own happiness and their families’ happiness. And it is surely for this very reason that they will become the important players, driving forces, sources of knowledge and catalysts in future Japan-Australia exchange. For this future, it is also important to nurture and further develop such people.

I hope everyone involved enjoys what they are doing as part of Japanaroo 2022 and that their efforts lead to the creation and development of a “Japan-Australia community” through which a wide range of exchange and cooperation develops between Japan and Australia. Please join us!

Kiya Masahiko, Consul-General of Japan in Sydney