

# Japan REPORTS

The Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney's  
Quarterly Newsletter

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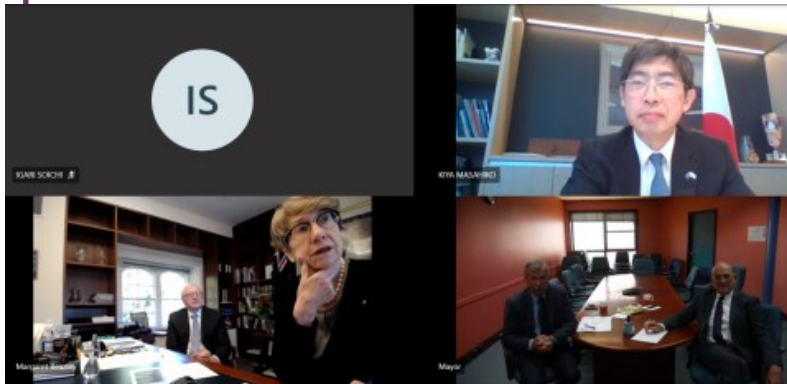
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Tokyo as night falls  
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# Governor Beazley's virtual visit to Cowra



On 27 August, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of New South Wales, and Mr Dennis Wilson, held an official virtual meeting with Cr Bill West, Mayor of Cowra Shire Council, and Mr Bob Griffiths, Chairman of the Cowra Japanese Garden and Cultural Centre.

Her Excellency, Mr Wilson, Cr West and Mr Griffiths discussed the history and the latest situation of Cowra and the Japanese Garden and Cultural Centre. The Consul-General of Japan in Sydney, Mr Kiya Masahiko, also participated in the meeting.

## And Consul-General Kiya visits Cowra with JSS to attend the Service of Respect

This year, the Cowra Sakura Matsuri (Cherry Blossom Festival) was cancelled due to COVID-19, but the decision was made by Cowra Shire Council to conduct the Service of Respect at the Cowra War Cemeteries as in normal years. On 27 September, Consul-General Kiya laid wreaths together with Cr Bill West, Mayor of Cowra, at the Australian and Japanese War Cemeteries [top right].

Mr Ishikawa Yoshikazu, Chairman of the Japanese Society of Sydney (JSS), also participated in the service [bottom right] and he wrote about the visit on the JSS website (Japanese language): [www.jssi.org.au/2020/09/30/4280](http://www.jssi.org.au/2020/09/30/4280)

The theme of issue #19 of Consul-General Kiya's newsletter is  
**Cowra as a Bridge between Australia and Japan**  
[www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/document/CGKiya\\_19newsE.pdf](http://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/document/CGKiya_19newsE.pdf)



## 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War

*This year, 15 August marked the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Consul-General Kiya laid a wreath at the Cenotaph in Martin Place in Sydney on the day.*

The NSW state memorial service commemorating Victory in the Pacific Day (VP Day) was held at the Cenotaph in Martin Place in Sydney. This year, consuls-general were unable to attend the ceremony because the number of participants was limited due to COVID-19 precautions. After consulting with the RSL (Returned and Services League) NSW State Branch, the Consul-General went and laid a wreath at the Cenotaph after the state memorial service had finished.

Consul-General Kiya shared some thoughts and observations in issue #22 of his newsletter: "75th Anniversary of the End of the Second World War: From Enemies to Friends"

[www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/document/CGKiya\\_22newsE.pdf](http://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/document/CGKiya_22newsE.pdf)



Photos of the Consul-General's visits and Consulate events are regularly uploaded to our website and Facebook.

Facebook: CGJSYD

[www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp](http://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp)

Consul-General Kiya's official Twitter account—[www.twitter.com/CGJapanSydney](https://twitter.com/CGJapanSydney)

## The new Prime Minister of Japan



© Cabinet Public Relations Office

On 16 September, **Mr SUGA Yoshihide** became the 99th Prime Minister of Japan.

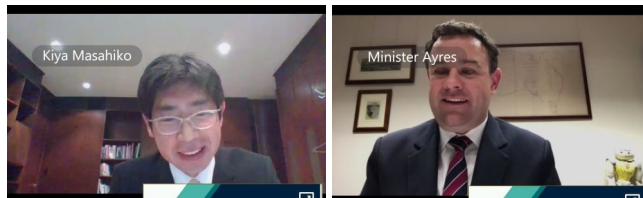
A native of Akita Prefecture, since 1996 he has represented the Kanagawa No.2 electoral district in the Lower House.

The Suga Cabinet was inaugurated on 17 September. Japan's Foreign Minister remained unchanged and Mr MOTEGI Toshimitsu has held the position since September 2019.

The full Cabinet list can be found on the website of the Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet:

[https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99\\_suga/meibo/daijin/index\\_e.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/meibo/daijin/index_e.html)

## NSW-Japan Engagement: A Shared Recovery



On 29 July, the NSW Government, in partnership with the Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney, hosted an online briefing session “NSW-Japan Engagement: A Shared Recovery”, exclusively for the Japanese business community.

The Hon. Stuart Ayres, Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney gave the keynote speech, and senior leaders from the NSW government spoke about NSW's response to the COVID-19 crisis and a framework for recovery.

In his opening remarks, Consul-General Kiya Masahiko expressed his gratitude to the NSW Government and said business opportunities in NSW would be significant for Japanese business communities.

Another important Japan-NSW business event is to be held on 4 November—the theme: “NSW–Japan: Engagement for the Future”. Presented by the NSW Government, in partnership with the Japan-Australia Business Cooperation Committee (JABCC) and the Consulate, it will feature an exclusive briefing by The Honourable Gladys Berejiklian MP, Premier of NSW, on her vision for the State and on the future of the NSW-Japan relationship.

If you would like to learn more about Japanese business in NSW or watch the video of the 29 July webinar, please see our webpage:

[www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr\\_en/japanese\\_business.html](http://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/japanese_business.html)

## Top level meetings continue between Japan and Australia

On 6 October, Mr MOTEGI Toshimitsu, Minister for Foreign Affairs, chaired the **Second Japan-Australia-India-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Meeting** and dinner with Senator the Hon Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Commonwealth of Australia, HE Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India, and The Honorable Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State of the United States. It was **the first ministerial-level international conference held in Japan since the outbreak and spread of COVID-19.**

The four Ministers shared the view to regularize this Foreign Ministers' meeting and hold the next one at an appropriate timing next year.

Earlier that day, Prime Minister Suga received a courtesy call by the visiting foreign ministers, accompanied by Minister Motegi, and on the following day, 7 October, Mr Motegi held a **Japan-Australia Foreign Ministers' Meeting** over lunch with Senator Payne. At the outset, he told his Australian counterpart:

*I welcome your visit. As 'Special Strategic Partners,' Japan and Australia have great potential to further reinforce our cooperative ties.*

An overview of the so-called Quad meeting can be found here

[www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e\\_000244.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000244.html)

and of the Japan-Australia bilateral meeting here

[www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002924.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002924.html)





The wonderful smiling faces in this picture belong to students from Kamaishi City, which is an Australian Host Town for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games!

*Tomodachi*, as many of our readers would know, means friend or friends. Creating ties of friendship is just what the **Australian Olympic Connect ともだち 2020** program aims to do. Tomodachi / ともだち 2020 is connecting Australian and Japanese schools to celebrate the shared Olympic values of friendship, respect and excellence ahead of the Tokyo Games.

**This great initiative is the first time any National Olympic Committee has brought together schools in their home country and those in the Games host country.**

At the time of writing the ともだち 2020 Pilot Program (24 Aug.-31 Oct.) is enabling more than 1,500 students in 40 schools across Japan and Australia to engage in cultural exchange. For schools unable to travel to their sister schools this year due to COVID-19, ともだち 2020 must be particularly welcome.

[www.olympics.com.au/community-and-schools/australian-olympic-connect-2020/](http://www.olympics.com.au/community-and-schools/australian-olympic-connect-2020/)

## Consul-General Kiya's newsletter

**Consul-General Kiya writes a fortnightly online newsletter.** The purpose of the e-newsletter is to introduce various activities he engages in as Consul-General and to share some of his thoughts and feelings as he goes about his duties. He hopes that through these newsletters more people will learn about the multi-faceted connections between Australia and Japan. Since the last issue, he has written on the following topics:

- No.26 **Japanese Food Stores and Japanese Restaurants in Sydney: Transcending Cultures** (October 10, 2020)
- No.25 **Australia's Energy Policy: Importance of Cooperation with Japan** (October 8, 2020)
- No.24 **Three Japanese Organisations in Sydney: Supporting the Japanese Community in a Multicultural Society** (Sept. 19, 2020)
- No.23 **Government House Sydney and Japan** (September 4, 2020)
- No.22 **75th Anniversary of the End of the Second World War: From Enemies to Friends** (August 21, 2020)
- No.21 **Capitalizing on the strength of the Japanese private sector in Australia for the planet: Latest business developments in NSW** (August 7, 2020)
- No.20 **Japanese language education in Australia: Fostering Japan-Australia exchange and cooperation** (July 27, 2020)
- No.19 **Cowra as a Bridge between Australia and Japan** (July 10, 2020)

All previous issues are available online: [www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr\\_en/about\\_consul\\_generals\\_newsletter.html](http://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/about_consul_generals_newsletter.html)

Also available in the Japanese-language original: [www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr\\_ja/about\\_consul\\_generals\\_newsletter.html](http://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/about_consul_generals_newsletter.html)

# A spring flowering of ikebana and kimono in Sydney



*The restrictions on gatherings this year have meant Japanese cultural and social groups have had to adapt. Some have offered online activities such as the **AJS-NSW online cultural series**. As spring came to Sydney, Consul-General Kiya had the pleasure of attending several cultural activities in person.*

On 17 September, **Ikebana International Sydney Chapter** held their Annual General Meeting (AGM). While taking precautionary measures against the spread of COVID-19, members exhibited beautiful works and gave an ikebana demonstration.

Consul-General Kiya attended the AGM and gave a speech about how the activities of Ikebana International Sydney Chapter have contributed to the development of multiculturalism and Japan-Australia relations.

[www.sydneyyikebana.org](http://www.sydneyyikebana.org)

In the morning of 26 September, Consul-General Kiya made a visit to “**Kimono Sale and Demonstration**” in Paddington, the very first cultural event organised by the **Japan Club of Sydney (JCS)** this year.

The kimono fair was held over the weekend of 26-27 September. There were already many people there when the Consul-General visited, and people dressed in stylish kimono brought a touch of Japan to inner-city Sydney.

[www.japanclubofsydney.org](http://www.japanclubofsydney.org)

NOTE: JCS is one of the three Japanese organisations in Sydney that Consul-General Kiya introduces in his newsletter No. 24.



## ABOUT THE SERIES

**J-Syd InstaLive** is an interview talk series that our Consulate hosts on Instagram and IGTV.

Discover more about various aspects of Japan and **Japanese culture**, as shared by guests and enthusiasts through the **lens of our local community**.

Through these talks, we aim to engage Australian youth, build upon strong Australia-Japan relations and connect the Japan community in Australia.



FOLLOW US NOW **@CGJapanSyd**

# JSYD INSTALive

## EPISODE LIST

You can find our episode archive list on our Instagram profile or by visiting our website:

[www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr\\_en/culture\\_instalive.html](http://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/culture_instalive.html)

- No.1** — Consul-General **Kiya Masahiko**
- No.2** — JETAA NSW President, **Ashlie O'Neill**
- No.3** — SMASH! Executive Director, **Sherina Yeung**
- No.4** — Wadaiko Rindo Sydney, **Koji Hiraki**
- No.5** — JNTO, **Sally Miles**
- No.6** — Japanese Sign Language, **Chikako Hara and Sara-Jane Seery**

**永井博**  
「ペインティング・フォー・ミュージック」

**HIROSHI NAGAI  
PAINTINGS FOR MUSIC**



**THE JAPAN FOUNDATION GALLERY  
SEP 25 2020 - JAN 23 2021**

THE JAPAN FOUNDATION GALLERY

The first international solo exhibition of esteemed illustrator Hiroshi Nagai is **ON NOW** at The Japan Foundation, Sydney!

"Hiroshi Nagai: Paintings for Music" surveys the relationship between Nagai's work and the city pop music genre through 20 original works from the 1980s to present, along with a collection of record jackets.

With the re-emergence of city pop in the 2010s, the work of Hiroshi Nagai has received renewed attention.

Learn more including about the related **Inspired Nostalgia** events online:

[www.jpf.org.au/events/hiroshi-nagai-paintings-for-music/](http://www.jpf.org.au/events/hiroshi-nagai-paintings-for-music/)

Listen to a **city-pop playlist** curated by Japan Foundation Sydney at <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/43q6oU1vV7rwWxj1zwUcWw>

The Japanese Film Festival is going online for 2020 with a 100% free selection of films streaming in Australia and New Zealand from 4-13 December.

The Japanese Film Festival Australia (JFF) is now one of the largest celebrations of Japanese films in the world. Last year, the Festival's 23rd year, the JFF audience was more than 30,000 Australia-wide.

JFF Plus will continue the Festival's practice of presenting newly released titles. And JFF Classics, a program of rare 35mm and 16mm films screening for free with partners returns to JFF 2020—in Sydney at the Art Gallery of NSW.

Sign up to the JFF newsletter to be the first to know the latest JFF Plus news!

[www.japanesefilmfestival.net/newsletter/](http://www.japanesefilmfestival.net/newsletter/)

日本映画祭  
**Japanese Film Festival 2020**



**JFF Plus**  
ONLINE FESTIVAL

**4 - 13 DEC**

Streaming Free Films

[japanesefilmfest.net](http://japanesefilmfest.net) | #JFFAU2020

**PLU**  
**20**

**JET**  
PROGRAMME  
JAPAN EXCHANGE & TEACHING PROGRAMME



**APPLY NOW**

**DEADLINE: 5PM Friday 11 Dec 2020**

**LIVE AND WORK IN JAPAN!**

Applications are **OPEN NOW** for the 2021 Japan Exchange & Teaching (JET) Programme

Download the application pack from the **Embassy of Japan in Canberra's** website:

[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)

All entries **MUST** arrive to the Embassy in Canberra by post **BY THE DEADLINE**

Contact [cginfo@sy.mofa.go.jp](mailto:cginfo@sy.mofa.go.jp) to learn more!

# Autumn Magic

Step back in time to feudal Japan and appreciate the magic of autumn in Kakunodate

By Jessica Scott

Growing up in the north of Australia, I had never experienced a typical four-season year; leaves were either lush and green or shrivelled and brown. The very first time I ever saw the golden hues and vibrant oranges of autumn was when I lived and worked in Akita Prefecture, Japan, on the JET Programme. Now, I would like to share—in my opinion—the most magical place of all: Kakunodate.



Kakunodate, located in the Senboku district within Akita Prefecture, has a well-earned nickname as the “**little Kyoto of Tohoku**”. The small, historic castle town was established in 1620 and flourished during Japan’s Edo Period (1603 - 1867). While the castle itself no longer remains, the town’s distinctive feudal architecture makes it all too easy to feel like you’ve stepped back in time.



Meandering through its streets, the town has two very distinct areas: merchant and samurai. The samurai district in particular, called *bukeyashiki* (武家屋敷) in Japanese, was once home to 80 families and has gained national and international renown as one of the best places to view **Japanese samurai architecture**.

While many of the homes continue to be lived in as private property to this day, six of them are open to the public, allowing you a true taste of what middle-class and wealthy life was like in Edo Period Japan.

One such manor, home to the Aoyagi family, has been transformed into a large museum, with armoury displays featuring samurai weaponry, galleries and even dynamic try-it-yourself experiences, such as traditional sword holding and donning a samurai helmet.

After working up an appetite admiring the feudal townscape, I would highly recommend trying one of Akita’s local specialties for lunch: **inaniwa udon**. *Inaniwa* is a type of flat noodle that is hand-kneaded and has history dating back to the Edo Period. It’s perfect for warming yourself up on a chilly autumn’s day.



Of course, a visit to Kakunodate just wouldn’t be complete without taking a short detour out of town to **Dakigaeri Gorge**—an idyllic hiking trail with stunning blue water that contrasts against the flaming reds and burnt oranges, tunnels to walk through,



© Shelby Stark, JET Programme

and a waterfall at the very end. Shuttle buses run out of Kakunodate as a season special, so it’s easily accessible by public transport.

Lastly, if you need even more reason to take a journey north during Japan’s autumn, there’s the **Kakunodate Float Festival** (角館祭りのやま行事), listed as one of UNESCO’s Intangible Cultural Heritages. The festival happens in early

September, and showcases a **rare combination of Buddhism and Shinto** with music and giant clashing floats topped with samurai figures.

This festival is still on my wish list of must-sees in Japan!



©Akita Prefecture/©JNTO

# WASHOKU: a designated UNESCO intangible cultural heritage

In December 2013, Japan's national cuisine known as *washoku* was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.

Here in Australia, Japanese food and a growing number of food products have been warmly embraced. A 2019 JNTO survey of Australians travelling to Japan asked them what they were looking forward to experiencing while in Japan and the most common response was ... the food!

But, contemporary Japanese food is itself international – curry rice is one of the most frequently eaten meals in Japan today. So, what is *washoku*?

The UNESCO designation is for 'traditional Japanese food cultures'. *Washoku* centres around rice, typically served with a bowl of miso soup and three side dishes, each served in their own bowl or plate. Fish, vegetables and edible plants were for centuries the mainstays of such dishes, with previously taboo meat only becoming acceptable during the Meiji Period (1868-1912) when Japan actively sought to modernise, absorbing Western influences, including in the world of food.

If we look at the word itself – *washoku*, written 和食 – the second character means 'food' or 'to eat' and the first means 'Japanese'. While the cuisine is centuries old, the term *washoku* came into common use as a way to distinguish traditional food from the newer Western imports, collectively referred to as *yoshoku* (洋食), foreign or Western food. The other main term is *chuka ryori* (中華料理) meaning Chinese food, long influential in Japan – one of Japan's best known dishes around the world is *ramen*, a Japanese take on a type of Chinese noodle.



## Achieving balance

Taking another look at the word *washoku*, the character 和 not only means 'Japan', it also means 'peace' or 'harmony'. A good traditional Japanese meal [photo a] should achieve this; the flavours of the various elements should be harmonious and not overpower one another, the meal should be nutritionally balanced and dishes should respect and celebrate the season.

Seasonality is highly appreciated in Japan and traditional Japanese cuisine reflects this. In autumn, a bright red maple leaf might be used to decorate a dish [b]. Great care and thought are given to presentation in traditional Japanese cuisine.

## A continuing heritage

The continuing heritage of *washoku* and its transmission from generation to generation were cited as significant elements behind its UNESCO inscription. This continuity is especially notable at the New Year, when food is integral to the celebrations. Elaborately prepared meals of *osechi ryori* [c] are among the traditional foods served at this time.

Food does not have to be complex to achieve greatness. A bowl of perfectly steamed rice topped with nothing more than a fine *umeboshi* pickled plum ... just how does it taste so good?

