

Japan REPORTS

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

Volume 55 No.3
February 2021

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- NSW recipients of 2020 Autumn Imperial Decorations Page 2
- Prime Ministers Suga and Morrison meet in Tokyo Page 2
- Foreign Minister Commendations awarded to NSW residents Page 3
- Ambassador Yamagami meets AOC President John Coates Page 3
- NSW-Japan economic ties — growing connections Page 3
- Japan-Australia ties in regional centres Page 4
- Consul-General Kiya's online newsletters — a round-up Page 4
- Awards Ceremony for the 2020 Australia-Japan Relations Essay Contest Page 5
- Heritage Japanese in Australia — a new online network Page 5
- The Japan Foundation, Sydney — steaming sento and classic films Page 6
- Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme — experience Japan Page 6
- A winter wonderland of festivals Page 7
- Kyoto's rich World Heritage Page 8

Ryoanji, Kyoto

Find us on Facebook



2020 Autumn Conferment of Imperial Decorations

On 3 November 2020, the Government of Japan announced the foreign recipients of the 2020 Autumn Imperial Decorations. Two New South Wales residents were among the recipients:

Mr David Harley Jacobs AM, CEO of the Australia-Japan Business Co-operation Committee, and
Mr Manuel Panagiotopoulos, Managing Director of Australian and Japanese Economic Intelligence.

Both gentlemen were awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette.

The late **Mr David Harley Jacobs AM** was recognized for his contribution to the promotion of Japan-Australia business relations and mutual understanding.

Mr Jacobs contributed greatly to fostering the relationship between Japan and Australia through regularly organising events to promote Japanese culture and Japanese-language learning during his tenure as the president of a non-profit organisation, the Australia Japan Society of NSW, from 2007. In 2015, he was appointed as the CEO of the Australia Japan Business Co-operation Committee (AJBCC), and he worked to raise the profile of Japan and Japanese companies in Australia, while promoting business between the two nations and strengthening the Japan-Australia relationship.

In January 2020, Mr Jacobs was appointed a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM) by the Australian Government for his achievement in the development of Japan-Australia business.

The Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney was deeply saddened to learn of Mr Jacobs' passing in the same month of the announcement, on 16 November.



Mr Manuel Panagiotopoulos was also recognized for his contribution to the promotion of Japan-Australia business relations and mutual understanding.

Mr Panagiotopoulos contributed greatly to the development of mutual understanding between Japanese and Australian business communities through organising economic seminars and providing them with relevant economic information and liaison services as the Managing Director of Australian and Japanese Economic Intelligence, which he established in 1998. Australian and Japanese Economic Intelligence is the only organisation

in Australia which specialises in the area of Japan-Australia business and economy, and provides information and business research services, as well as networking opportunities through the Australia-Japan Roundtable, to Japanese and Australian public and private organisations.



Prime Ministers Suga and Morrison meet in Tokyo



The first leaders' summit to be hosted in Japan by the new Prime Minister Suga Yoshihide was with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison on Tuesday 17 November 2020.

The Japanese and Australian leaders first met one-on-one, with interpreters, for approximately 20 minutes before their formal meeting which lasted approximately 50 minutes. Later, Prime Minister Suga hosted a working dinner which lasted just over an hour.

Prime Ministers Suga and Morrison also held a joint press conference where they released a joint statement of their intent to further strengthen their cooperative relationship in fields including security and defence cooperation and the economy.

For a summary of the meetings and of the Prime Ministers' Joint Statement see:

https://www.mofa.go.jp/a_o/ocn/au/page3e_001080.html

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

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

Foreign Minister's Commendations awarded to NSW residents

On 1 December 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed the recipients of the Foreign Minister's Commendations for FY 2020. Among the recipients (individuals and groups) were two from New South Wales:

Mr Funayama Seiji, Proprietor of Jun Pacific Corporation Pty Ltd, is among the individual recipients, and **JETAA-NSW**, the NSW Chapter of the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme Alumni Association, is among the groups.

Mr FUNAYAMA Seiji: for services to the promotion of Japanese food culture in Australia

As a Japanese wholesaler, Mr Funayama has contributed to the distribution of Japanese food products for more than 40 years, laying the foundations of the Japanese food market throughout Australia.



JETAA-NSW: for services to the promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and Australia

For more than 30 years, JETAA has promoted Japanese language and Japanese culture by organising various cultural activities. It has also been deeply involved in the administration of the JET Programme, supporting former participants and other JET alumni associations.



[Read more about Mr Funayama's and JETAA-NSW's contributions here](https://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/20201201.html)

https://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/20201201.html

His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan to Australia, Mr YAMAGAMI Shingo, who recently arrived in Canberra in December 2020, visited Sydney from 21 to 23 January 2021.

One of his many meetings was with the Chair of the IOC Coordination Commission for Tokyo 2020 and President of the Australian Olympic Committee, Mr John Coates AC.



NSW-Japan economic ties—growing connections



In his opening remarks at the webinar, Consul-General Kiya Masahiko expressed his gratitude to the NSW Government, conveying how he valued the cooperation between Japan and NSW and their achievements in 2020 given the very challenging environment.

Despite the many difficulties since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, activity in the economic arena has continued to strengthen thanks to cooperation between Japan and NSW in both the public and private sectors.

On 17 December, the NSW Government and the Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney presented a briefing session (webinar), exclusively for the Japanese business community, on the NSW Government's procurement process. Senior leaders from the NSW Government spoke about NSW Government's procurement processes, unsolicited proposals, as well as opportunities in Western Sydney.

If you would like to learn more about Japanese business in NSW, please see our webpage:

www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/japanese_business.html

Japan-Australia ties in regional centres

As COVID-19 restrictions eased in November 2020, Consul-General Kiya took the opportunity to visit NSW's largest cities outside Sydney—Wollongong, Newcastle and Central Coast City, where he met with people engaged in business and exchange with Japan. Through his visits to these cities, he realised that it is not only in the Greater Sydney area that there is a significant Japanese presence and he reflected on how regional ties can contribute to the Japan-Australia relationship.

On 16 November, the Consul-General made a courtesy call on **University of Wollongong** Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Wellings [photo left], and paid a visit to **NEC Australia** located within the Innovation Campus of the university. He also got to see the traditional Japanese 'drum' (arched) bridge at the Wollongong Botanic Garden, which was presented to the City of Wollongong by its **sister city, Kawasaki** (Japan).

and he visited the vineyard of a female Japanese winemaker in the Hunter Valley.

On his way to Newcastle, he was a guest at **Merewether High School's** award ceremony to present them with the "School of the Year" award in the 2020 Australia-Japan Relations Essay Contest (run by this Consulate), and the



On 19 November, the Consul-General made a courtesy call on Newcastle Lord Mayor Nuatali Nemes for the **40th anniversary (21 November) of the sister city relationship between Newcastle and Ube** (Yamaguchi Prefecture, Japan) [middle photo], and paid a visit to **the defence and aerospace Special Activation Precinct** located near Williamtown RAAF Base, which is currently being promoted by the NSW Government.

While in Newcastle, he had the opportunity to exchange views with employees of Japanese companies located there,

next day he sat in on a vibrant Japanese language class at **Newcastle High School**.

On his visit to Central Coast City on 20 November, the Consul-General enjoyed the Edogawa Commemorative Gardens [photo right], which was built with the help of **Central Coast's sister city Edogawa** (Tokyo Metropolis), and he spent time in the tea fields of **Kunitaro's Waratah Farm**, a fine producer of matcha tea in the locality. He also visited **Gosford High School**, another thriving hub of Japanese language education.

The Consul-General reported on the outcome of these visits in issue #30 of his newsletter:

Major Regional Cities in NSW: Promoting Business and Exchange with Japan

www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/document/CGKiya_30newsE.pdf

Consul-General Kiya's newsletter

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.33 Japan-Australia startup and innovation cooperation (January 29, 2021)
- No.32 Learning the history of Australia for the benefit of Japan (January 15, 2021)
- No.31 Raising children using the Japanese language in Australia (December 18, 2020)
- No.30 Major Regional Cities in NSW: Promoting Business and Exchange with Japan (December 4, 2020)
- No.29 JET Programme: For experiences in Japan with a life-long impact (November 20, 2020)
- No.28 Japanese language education in Australia: Fostering Japan-Australia exchange and cooperation (November 13, 2020)
- No.27 The Northern Territory and Japan: Towards deepening and widening business and exchange (November 6, 2020)

All previous issues are available online: 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

2020 Australia–Japan Relations Essay Contest for NSW and NT Secondary Students Awards Ceremony



Consul-General Kiya Masahiko's opening remarks

The awards ceremony commenced with Consul-General Kiya's opening remarks, followed by finalist judge **Dr Wes Robertson** giving the judges' comments. School of the Year went to **Merewether High School**, who was awarded in-person by the Consul-General during a pre-planned business trip in the Newcastle area. The two first prize winners, **Ms Sreeja Goureddy (Sydney Girls High School)** in the junior division and **Ms Annette Kim (Barker College)** in the senior division, both gave wonderful speeches.

Congratulations once again to all the prize-winning students and a heartfelt thank you to those who supported the contest, including our wonderful pre-readers, judges, sponsors **Japan Airlines** and **Tokyo Mart**, and supporter **Kinokuniya**.

On 11 December, Consul-General Kiya Masahiko hosted the award ceremony for the 2020 Australia-Japan Relations Essay Contest at his residence.

We were pleased to see that the competition in 2020, despite the impact of COVID-19 on educators and students, was strong with our Consulate receiving over 410 entries. Of those, 23 students in total were awarded across the junior and senior divisions. While we would have liked to have been able to invite all of our award winners, unfortunately COVID-19 restrictions meant that we had to limit attendee numbers to the top prize winners in each division.



Prize winning students with the Consul-General, Dr Wes Robertson (second right front) and sponsors

View the full results online at:

www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/education_essay_contest_2020_results.html



オーストラリアで日本語を使う子どもを育てる

プライベートグループ・メンバー133人



情報 ディスカッション アナウンス ルーム メンバー イベント メディア ファイル

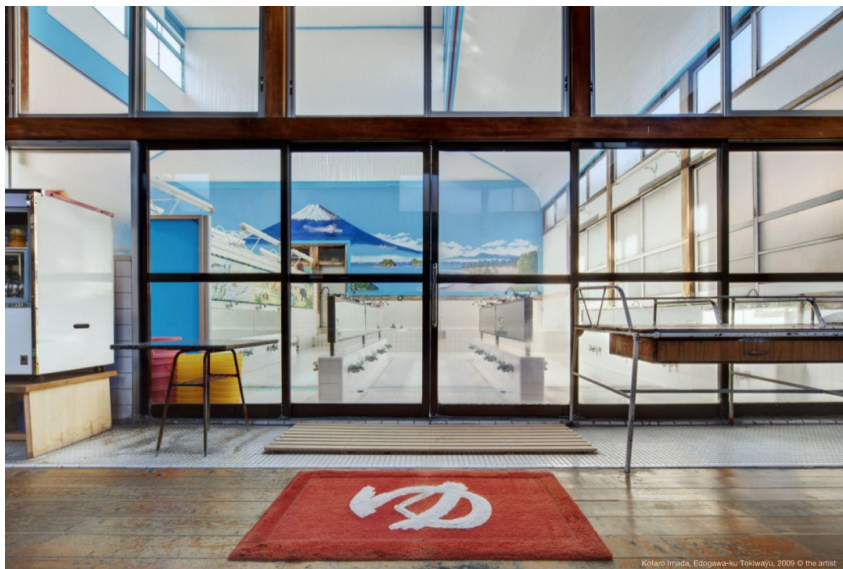
A new network is being created via a Facebook group established in October 2020 — “Raising children using the Japanese language in Australia” (オーストラリアで日本語を使う子供を育てる).

The group's aim is to create a broader network of teachers and parents who are educating and raising Japanese-speaking children in Australia.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/735510927090013>

Heritage Japanese in Australia

Did you know that Australia has the third largest number of Japanese nationals in any country outside Japan? Many of the children of these Japanese nationals attend a local Australian school during the week and attend a Japanese language community school on the weekend. Some of these children have no plans to return to Japan. What role does Japanese language education have in the lives of these children and what sort of Japanese language education should be offered to them? These questions and the latest efforts regarding Japanese language education were introduced and discussed by Consul-General Kiya in his recent #31 newsletter (see link on p.4).



steam dreams

The Japanese Public Bath

Feb 12 – May 22, 2021
The Japan Foundation Gallery

Many Australians have already discovered the joy of a good Japanese *onsen* (hot spring). *Onsen* resorts have long been a favourite holiday destination for Japanese, and a good soak in a bath at the end of the day is an essential part of life in Japan.

Before it was common to have baths in ordinary private homes, public baths called *sentō*, were common. Even today, there are still people who favour a relaxing end to the day at a local *sentō*.

The Japan Foundation Sydney is bringing the Japanese *sentō* public bath to Sydney in the exhibition opening 12 February
Steam Dreams: The Japanese Public Bath.

Explore the history of the public bath, the importance of its preservation and the future of Japanese communal bathing culture through a diverse selection of works. Accompanying the exhibition is an event series with free film screenings, kids' workshops and more.

www.jpff.org.au/events/steam-dreams-the-japanese-public-bath/



Provocation and Disruption: Radical Japanese Filmmaking from the 1960s to the 2000s

This free JFF Classics program of boundary-shattering masterpieces is part of the annual Japanese Film Festival presented by The Japan Foundation, Sydney. It was delayed due to COVID-19. *Bookings are recommended.*

6 February—3 March at the Art Gallery of NSW

www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/calendar/japan-film-festival-provocation-disruption/



**Want to learn more about living
and working in Japan?**

www.jetprogramme.org/en/

Congratulations to the **2020 JET Programme participants** who successfully arrived in Japan in November last year.

Applications for the **2021 JET Programme** closed on 11 December 2020 and the selection process is currently underway.

The theme of issue #29 of the Consul General's newsletter is "JET Programme: For experiences in Japan with a life-long impact"

www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/document/CGKiya_29newsE.pdf

A WINTER WONDERLAND OF FESTIVALS

Shoes squeaking on a bed of fresh, powdered snow—that's the daily luxury one gets to experience when living in the northern Tohoku region of Japan. That and a myriad of snow festivals to draw you out of your winter hibernation and the never-want-to-leave-it warmth of a Japanese *kotatsu* (heated table). So get your gloves, scarves, coats and *kairo* (heat pads) ready to explore my top 3 recommended winter festivals the next time you head to Japan!

- By Jessica Scott

Sapporo Snow Festival— Hokkaido

This festival is a show of **craftsmanship and skill at its biggest, boldest and finest**. Intricate ice and snow sculptures taller than houses will greet you at every turn, with impressive light displays and show areas so you can also enjoy the fun at night. With so much to see, I guarantee you will be a happy photo-snapper here. And make sure you try a cone of Hokkaido's famous ice-cream, too—it won't melt even if you're too busy sightseeing!



Otaru Snow Light Path Festival — Hokkaido

A charming snow and light festival in this small port city only 30 mins away from the heart of Sapporo City. In winter, the lights glitter off snowy statues and the canal, reminiscent of **a fairy tale painting come to life**. The festival runs for 10 days and overlaps with the Sapporo Snow Festival, making it easy to visit.



Yokote Kamakura Festival — Akita

Warm, inviting human-sized *kamakura* huts offering grilled *mochi* and *amazake* (non-alcoholic sweet *sake*) inside are **a must-do experience**. But the real star of the show is the Yokote riverbank dotted with mini *kamakura* — you might even spot some famous characters, such as Godzilla or Totoro. All the mini *kamakura* you see (over 3,500) are the combined efforts of the local school children, who pitch in to make this **the most spectacular Kamakura festival across Japan**.



For more info on things to do in winter,
read JNTO's Winter in Japan Guide:

www.japan.travel/en/guide/winter-guide/

Jessica was based in Akita Prefecture as an Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) on the JET Programme (2017—2019). She now works at the Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney and is an Executive Board member of JETAA NSW.



Kyoto's rich World Heritage A TREASURE TROVE OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND GARDENS AWAITS



For more than 1,000 years, Kyoto was the imperial capital of Japan, from the city's foundation in 794CE through to the middle of the 19th century when the Imperial Household moved to Tokyo after the Meiji Restoration (1868).

In 1994, UNESCO listed a new property as a World Heritage site—the Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto (Kyoto, Uji and Otsu Cities). As the listing explains:

*Kyoto was the main centre for the evolution of religious and secular architecture and of garden design between the 8th and 17th centuries, and as such it played a decisive role in the creation of Japanese cultural traditions which, in the case of gardens in particular, had a profound effect on the rest of the world from the 19th century onwards.**

The property 'Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto' consists of seventeen components, which include 198 buildings and twelve gardens in total. Most of the components date from between the 10th and 17th centuries. All but one of the seventeen components are religious establishments; the exception is the wonderful **Nijo Palace**.

Given the age of the buildings, they have of course been restored and reconstructed over time. However, the Japanese tradition of respecting the original form, decoration and materials of such structures means that the buildings reflect the original construction.

Many of Kyoto's most famous temples and shrines are part of the listing. For example, there is **Kiyomizu Temple** with its wide veranda overlooking the city from the eastern slopes. The temples **Kinkakuji**, the Temple of the Golden Pavilion (above right),

and **Ginkakuji**, the Temple of the Silver Pavilion—both former villas of shoguns—are also part of the listing, as is the temple of **Ryoanji**—home to Japan's most famous Zen-style rock garden (above left) and a less famous but just as serenely beautiful mossed garden (see cover image). Some are less familiar to overseas visitors, such as **Ninna Temple** (bottom left), also highly regarded for its garden. While it is possible to see the best known temples in a relatively short time frame, it is worth taking your time to discover them at your leisure.

And make time to travel beyond the city limits! The temple of **Byodoin** in Uji city is home to one of the finest examples of Heian Period (794-1185) architecture—the Phoenix Hall.

It's not just the built environment that makes Kyoto so special. It is a city known for refined crafts, beautiful art and excellent cuisine. There is so much to explore and enjoy!

*UNESCO (United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation) <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/688/>
List of all 17 components www2.city.kyoto.lg.jp/bunshi/bunkazai/sekaiisan-e.htm



Kyoto Tourism

encourages you to
“Discover your own Kyoto”
www.kyototourism.org/en/