

# JS Makinami takes part in the International Fleet Review on Sydney Harbour

In October, the JS Makinami took part in the historic International Fleet Review marking 100 years since the Royal Australian Navy fleet first sailed into Sydney Harbour.

The JS Makinami is a Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force vessel. The JS Makinami has been involved in several international efforts to assist coalition forces combat terrorism—in 2006 it assisted with refuelling anti-terrorist coalition forces in the Indian

for the centenary, as the vessel is the 100th destroyer to have been manufactured in Japan. He also speculated whether 100 years ago his predecessor at the then newly established Japanese consulate-general in Sydney had watched the new fleet of the Royal Australian Navy make its way into Sydney Harbour for the first time.

Mr Kobayashi also noted that Australia and Japan's strategic partnership has



Ocean—and it has taken part in anti-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia in 2010 and 2012.

On 9 October, Captain Yoshihiro Goka, Commander Escort Division Three, hosted a reception on board the JS Makinami which was attended by some 100 guests.

Among those attending were the Hon. Andrew Constance MLC, NSW Minister for Finance and Services, the Hon. Don Harwin, Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly, and Commodore Todd Willson, Commanding Officer of HMAS Kuttabul, Royal Australian Navy.

In his speech on the evening, Acting Consul-General Toshiaki Kobayashi congratulated the Royal Australian Navy on the 100th anniversary and said he felt it was particularly fitting that JS Makinami was included in the Review

assumed an ever more important role in recent years and that the Royal Australian Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force frequently cooperate together in the Indian Ocean and as part of peace-keeping operations in third countries. He also said that Japan and Australia would continue to strive for the wider peace and prosperity of the region.

A *kagami-biraki* ceremony (the breaking open of a barrel of saké) was performed at the reception to celebrate friendship.

The day before the reception an open day was held for the public [left] and the Japanese crew also took part in the parade down George Street [top].

# Cowra Sakura Matsuri 2013

The Cowra Sakura Matsuri (cherry blossom festival) is held annually in the beautiful Japanese gardens in Cowra, central New South Wales.



The Cowra Japanese Gardens: beautiful at any time of year; particularly fine in spring

Acting Consul-General Toshiaki Kobayashi was pleased to be able to enjoy the gardens firsthand and to see so many people taking part in the various activities on offer. Having practised *kyūdō* (Japanese archery) in his youth, he was especially impressed by the martial arts on display. This year more than 2,200 people attended the Sakura Matsuri family fun day on Saturday 28 September 2013.

Next year will mark an important anniversary—70 years since the Cowra Outbreak. Mr Kobayashi spoke at a reception held on the occasion of the Sakura Matsuri and he said, “[The anniversary] will be a time for reflection and I hope an opportunity for more people in the wider community to become aware of our shared history and



Potential sumo rikishi of the future?

the important role that the town and people of Cowra have played in contributing to the ties of friendship between Australia and Japan.”

Mr Kobayashi also attended the commemorative service (29 September) and laid wreaths together with other Japanese and Australians to pay tribute to those laid to rest at the Cowra Australian and Japanese War Cemeteries.