

Japan Expo and Matsuri in Sydney 2013



This year's event was again a great success, thanks to the hard work of many groups and volunteers. It was wonderful to see so many young people and families turn up at Tumbalong Park in Darling Harbour to enjoy the performances on the main stage and the many booths around the park on Saturday 14 December.



The Acting Consul-General of Japan gave a speech welcoming everyone warmly, but the real action on the stage was everything from *gagaku* – a form of Japanese classical music – to taiko drumming; people showing their *yukata* style and others their love of *cosplay* and Tokyo street fashion; and different martial arts demonstrations. There were also many energetic dance performances by *yosakoi* and *soran* dance troupes, and more leisurely traditional dances.



Around the park there were booths with information about Japan, others with hands-on activities and demonstrations of Japanese traditional and modern arts. Many were food stalls which had long lines throughout the day.

Did you miss the 2013 festival? We hope to see you in 2014. www.matsurisydny.com

The Matsuri Executive Committee comprises Japan Club of Sydney, Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sydney Inc., Japanese Society of Sydney Inc, the Japan Foundation, JETAA NSW, Japan National Tourism Organisation, JETRO Sydney, CLAIR and the Consulate-General of Japan.

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Australia-Japan Relations Essay Contest Awards Ceremony

The awards ceremony for the 31st Australia-Japan Relations Essay Contest was held on 17 December at the official residence of the consul-general of Japan.

Ten of the fourteen prize winners from NSW were able to attend, along with parents, teachers and principals.

Mr Timothy Eddy (Southern Cross School K-12) took out the Junior B top prize and Ms Cecilia Le (Sydney Girls' High School) took out the Senior Division first place. Both receive a return ticket to and travel in Japan as their prize thanks to sponsors JTB Australia and Japan Airlines.

Acting Consul-General Toshiaki Kobayashi presented the students with their awards and congratulated them on their outstanding achievements.

Mr Kobayashi was impressed by the variety of topics and said it was wonderful to see such understanding of Japan and Japanese culture in the essays. He also expressed his hope that the students would maintain their interest in Japan and its people in the future.

A full list of winners and the award-winning essays can be found on the Embassy of Japan website:

www.au.emb-japan.go.jp/en/education/education_essay.html



Great smiles as Ms Cecilia Le of Sydney Girls' High School accepts first prize in the senior division (Years 11-12) from the Acting Consul-General Kobayashi; and more smiles as all prize winners gather for the group photo with Mr Kobayashi and Mr Toshihisa Kuriyama, Vice President and Managing Director of Japan Airlines Co Ltd [far left].