

SMASH! — the Sydney Manga and Anime Show — is back and 2016 marks its 10th anniversary.

It's a remarkable achievement. Over the decade, SMASH! has grown to be Australia's premier Japanese pop-culture convention and SMASH! Inc is predicting this year's convention will be the best yet.

SMASH! Inc President Andrew Qiu says, "For fans of geek and Japanese pop-culture, SMASH! is the ultimate show ... No matter how old you are, or what you love, SMASH! is a fantastic opportunity to cultivate your passion and knowledge about Japan and its unique culture."



Cosplayers at SMASH!

The SMASH! Convention will celebrate all things Japanese pop-culture including cosplay, animation, fashion, gaming and entertainment.

Top voice actors, cosplayers, workshops and signings, artist booths, screenings and cosplay competitions will all return, providing fans with so much to see and do.

There will also be a special 10th Anniversary Event on the Saturday evening (20 August) which will feature live music, performances and extra cosplay events.

With more **special guests** still to be announced, SMASH! has already lined-up *Naruto* voice actor **Hideo Ishikawa**. Ishikawa has more than 20 years experience in the anime and gaming industry as a voice actor. **Voice actress Ai**

Nonaka will also be attending this year's convention. A prolific voice actress and singer she is best known for her roles as Kyouko Sakura (*Puella Magi Madoka Magica*), Noramyako (*Doraemon*), and Mansherry (*One Piece*). **Top-ranking Thai cosplayer Yuegene Fay** is another exciting guest who is well known for her accurate 'cross-play' portrayal of characters from the multi-verse realms of manga, anime, gaming and music.

SMASH! goes from strength to strength and another great turn-out is expected. Last year attracted more than 15,000 fans and the event now attracts families—mums and dads bringing kids ... the next generation of fans.

Who's behind SMASH!?

SMASH! is run by SMASH Inc, a non-profit organisation created by fans for fans. SMASH Inc aims to create an open and affordable avenue that serves as a meeting point for fans with an emphasis on art, creativity and community involvement.

www.smash.org.au

Have you ever wondered how cosplayers create those amazing mecha costumes?

At this year's SMASH!, the Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney is proud to present one of Japan's top cosplay costume makers, Takahiro 'Goldy' Sakai.

Goldy makes brilliant robot costumes and he also teaches others how to do so. He has represented Japan internationally, giving workshops and acting as a judge in competitions.

He will give a workshop and a presentation over the SMASH! weekend sharing his remarkable expertise in mecha costume creation. Check out the SMASH! website.



Photos courtesy Goldy