

2016 Matsuri-Japan Festival — a great success!

On Saturday 10 December 2016, around 30,000 people attended **Matsuri-Japan Festival** held in the newly renovated Tumbalong Park at Darling Harbour, Sydney.

Participants in the festival were introduced to Japanese culture through live presentations of taiko drums, *bon-odori*, kendo demonstrations and even samurai performances. Tea ceremony, calligraphy, origami and flower arrangement workshops were also offered as well as a range of Japanese food, travel advice and tourism information.

The festival is a way for the Japanese community to share and celebrate its culture. Sydney's Japanese community is the seventh largest in the world outside Japan.

The Matsuri-Japan Festival crowd has been getting bigger and bigger year on year. Why not join in the festival fun in 2017?

matsurisdney.com



PHOTOS: [clockwise from top right] Dignitaries taking part in the *kagamibiraki* sake barrel opening ceremony; trying their hand at *ikebana*, traditional flower arranging; samurai strike a pose; the sound of *taiko* drumming is always a crowd favourite; copying the characters for 'best friend' and 'peace'.

Australia-Japan Relations Essay Contest Awards Ceremony

On 8 December, Consul-General Keizo Takewaka held the awards ceremony for the 2016 Australia-Japan Relations Essay Contest for NSW and NT Secondary School Students at his official residence in Sydney. Around 70 people attended the awards ceremony which included the prize-winning students, their families, school officials, sponsors and Japanese language teachers.

The awards were followed by speeches from the Junior Division First Prize Winner,

Ms Maggie Liu North (Sydney Girls High School), the father of **Mr Brandon Ji-Seup Yoon** (Barker College), the Senior Division First Prize Winner, and the **School of the Year, St Columba's Catholic College**.



The Consulate would like to congratulate the prize winners and all the students who took part in this year's competition, as well as thank the official sponsors for their generous support.

For the full results, see: www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/english/education/essay_contest_2016_results.htm