

Japan Festival Byron Bay



Byron Bay in northern New South Wales is known for its beautiful beaches and laid-back lifestyle. On Sunday 26 November, there was a distinctly Japanese vibe on the beachfront—the first-ever Japan Festival was held at the local surf club.

The festival was supported by the local shire council and Mayor Simon Richardson attended the official opening. And the festival was a great success.

The local Japanese community hopes the festival will help preserve traditional Japanese culture and act as a bridge between Japanese and Australians.

Well done to all those involved!

Matsuri-Japan Festival

The biggest Japanese festival in Sydney – Matsuri-Japan Festival – was held at Tumbalong Park in Darling Harbour, on Saturday 9 December 2017.



Matsuri-Japan Festival was a great success again this year with around 50,000 people attending.

Festival-goers were entertained by an excellent line-up of traditional and contemporary dance and music, demonstrations of martial arts and a cosplay competition. For the first time, a *yagura* festival stage was installed, and the festival ended with *bon-odori* circling around the *yagura*.



Booths around the festival ground also gave people the chance to *learn, try & love Japan* which was the theme of this year's festival.

Missed Matsuri-Japan Festival in 2017? Don't worry, look ahead to this year's matsuri!

www.matsurisdney.com

Community festivals around Sydney

Japanese performers shine

The Consulate was delighted to be able to present performances at three community festivals around Sydney. Community festivals are a fantastic opportunity to introduce Japanese culture to local people.

On 8 October, **Wadaiko Rindo Sydney** performed at Burwood Festival, where they opened the main stage and gave a second performance later in the day. On 21 October, **Soran Odoritai** showed off modern Japanese festival dancing at Granny Smith Festival in Eastwood, and they were back on 28 October at the Haldon Street Festival in Lakemba where they gave another energetic performance.



Soran Odoritai members posing after their performance at the Haldon Street Festival

Many thanks to Wadaiko Rindo Sydney and Soran Odoritai!

Wadaiko Rindo kicking off performances on the main stage at Burwood Festival