

A feast of festivals: Strathfield, Willoughby & Darling Harbour



Wadaiko Rindo, presented by the Consulate-General of Japan, Sydney as part of our efforts to introduce Japanese culture at local community festivals, lit up the demonstration stage at this year's **Strathfield Spring Festival**. Held on the Father's Day weekend in Strathfield Park, it was a great day out for children and families in the local community to enjoy some outdoor entertainment and culture, and welcome the start of spring.



September also featured another successful **Matsuri Japan Festival in Willoughby**, with the strong Japanese-Australian community mixing with the many locals to offer Japanese tea, ikebana, calligraphy and origami workshops, along with a delectable array Japanese cuisine.

These spring festivals serve as a fitting precursor to our major summer celebration: **Matsuri Japan Festival**, held at Darling Harbour's Tumbalong Park on **Saturday 8 December**.

With over 55,000 people enjoying this unique Japanese cultural experience in 2017, this year promises to be bigger than ever, with festivities stretching from 11:30 in the morning to 7:30 in the evening.

Matsuri Japan Festival was founded back in 2006, to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Japan and Australia's friendship. It has been held every year since to celebrate Japanese culture and cross cultural friendship between the Japanese community and the local, Australian community.

Be sure to come down and join Shima-chan for the summer festivities!

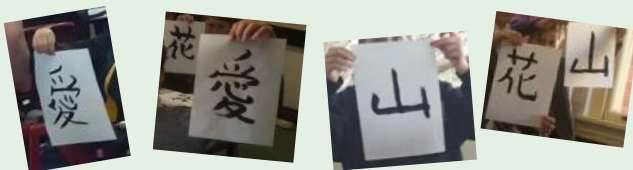


matsurisdney.com

SCHOOL VISITS

Term 3 saw the school visit team visit several schools in the Greater Sydney area to give calligraphy workshops: St Augustine's in Narrabeen (2 Aug.), Shore in North Sydney (28 Aug.), Sydney Secondary College Balmain Campus (5 Sept.) and St Matthew's Catholic Primary School in Windsor (18 Sept.).

The team is always impressed how many students take on the most difficult characters with great enthusiasm. The number of strokes in the character for love 愛 Ai is no hurdle and it is always very popular. At the other end of the stroke count, some students are aware that to write the three strokes in the deceptively simple looking character for mountain 山 YAMA requires concentration and skill.



Schools in New South Wales* are invited to apply for our 2019 program (Term 1).

*Schools in regional areas are welcome to apply for visits, however, we may not be able to meet all requests.



Mr Raymond Wang was an ALT (Assistant Language Teacher) in Akiu, Sendai City from 2015-2017.

"The JET Program goes beyond the concept of just teaching as an ALT or translating as a CIR (Coordinator of International Relations). It is an incredible, life-changing opportunity that I would recommend to anyone.

"On JET, I was able to immerse myself in my local community and experience the culture of Japan outside of the regular tourist path. I have grown professionally and personally and have created lasting friendships with teachers, parents and other ALTs that span the globe.

"I only spent two years on JET but they are, and will always be, the best years of my life."

2019-2020 JET PROGRAMME

Applications now open - closing on 9 November 2018