

JET Programme returnee event

This year's 2019 Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme Returnee event was in the format of an Alumni Career Networking Seminar held on 26 March 2019 in the Sydney office of the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO).

In addition to welcoming recent returnees from JET back to Sydney and NSW, the event sought to give the returnees some practical information and guidance. The seminar included a keynote address and a panel discussion, and was followed by a networking event.

Recent returnees were able to hear the experiences of JET alumni who had used Japanese and their knowledge and skills gained during their time on the program in the working lives back in Australia, and the speakers themselves are employed in both the public and private sectors in a range of industries.



Members of the panel and keynote speaker [2nd right] with Consul-General Keizo Takewaka [left] and CLAIR Sydney Director Hiroto Akaiwa [right]

Keynote speaker Ms Sally Miles spoke of her experiences working for the Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) Sydney. Originally from the United States, her JET path to Australia is an example of how the JET Programme can take participants on unimagined journeys.

To learn more about the program see:

www.jetprogramme.org



SCHOOL VISITS

The first term in 2019 saw the school visit team give **calligraphy workshops** at several schools in the Greater Sydney area and further afield. On 13 February the team visited **Newcastle High School** and gave two sessions to Year 8 students. Then on 26 February, the destination was **Airds High School** in Campbelltown where the team again gave two workshops this time to Year 7 students. And at the time of writing, the team was also looking forward to visiting **Greenacre Baptist Christian Community School** to give a workshop to year 7 students (22 Mar) and **Hunters Hill High School** for two workshops with Year 8 students (29 Mar).

It is always inspiring to see how enthusiastic students are as they take on the challenge of calligraphy done traditionally with brush and ink.

Schools in New South Wales* are invited to apply for our 2019 program (Terms 2 and 3).

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

Community festivals in Sydney

Japanese cultural performances were presented at two more community festivals in Sydney as part of the Consulate's efforts to introduce Japanese culture at the local level.

Wadaiko Rindo Sydney gave an energetic Japanese drumming performance at the Georges River Council Lunar New Year Festival on Saturday 2 February. At the Inner West Council's Carnival of Cultures on Sunday 24 February, **Soran Odoritai Sydney** and **Shinkyokushin Karate Artarmon Dojo** gave powerful performances.



Many thanks to our wonderful performers!