

tomodachi news

Spring 2016

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between West Australian and Japanese people.



Australia-Japan Society of WA
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President's message

It is hard to believe that another year is almost over, and what a year it has been for the AJSWA!

In September we welcomed the new Consul-General of Japan in Perth Mr Tasuo Hirayama (see page 3) and his lovely wife Sachiko following the unexpected call of mission for Mr Yoshii. Also joining the consulate more recently is his Deputy Head of Mission Mr Kenji Miyata.

Throughout the year the Society has continued to participate in, and host, an enormous number of events, from the Japan Festival in Perth at the start of the year to a Welcome event for the Ambassador in April, the Kodomo Festival in October (see pages 6–7), as well as two corporate events (see pages 5 and 8).

In addition, we have continued the regular events of the ET Sundowner every third Thursday of the month at the Parmelia Hilton Hotel Perth and the Tomodachi Lunch every first Thursday of the month at Jun Restaurant in the Perth CBD.

Behind the scenes we have had to make some significant changes with our administration while also redeveloping the AJSWA website. The youth chapter, AJYS, was launched and has been involved in the two main festivals this year.

Going forward, the Society will be working more closely with the National Federation of AJS and has already started preparing for another similar year of events with the addition of a few more.

The Society will be looking to finalise a calendar of events for the website by the end of January and will be surveying our membership in the new year to identify what sorts of things you might like to see us organise. Keep an eye out for that.

It was very rewarding for the AJSWA to be able to give back to the community this year by contributing \$2000 towards the WA Youth Orchestra for the 35th Hyogo Sister State Anniversary concert tour to Japan (see page 4) and \$200 to the WA Japanese speech contest, while also continuing our annual prize donations to Perth's four major universities through the Ishikawa Awards (see page 3).

Cover picture

Cover image: Yu Saito was among those who experienced traditional kimono dressing at the Shichigosan element of the 2016 Perth Kodomo Festival (see pages 6–7).

Milestones

Consul-General seeks advice and support

From Consul General of Japan in Perth Mr Tatsuo Hirayama

Since my arrival in Perth in early September, I have been warmly welcomed by everyone and have been enjoying working in this beautiful city. This is my first assignment in Australia, although I did work for the Oceania Division at our Headquarters in Tokyo. I have also served in the United States, two African countries, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Vietnam and Lithuania.

I have found that Japan – WA relations are particularly excellent, and that based on our shared fundamental values, we have enjoyed a stable and mutually beneficial relationship for more than five

decades. We will continue to maintain and further strengthen this superb relationship.

To this end, I am extremely pleased to note that there are already so many organisations and individuals in WA, including the AJSWA, who are interested in Japan and its culture, and who are keen to do something to further strengthen our already excellent relations. I would like to say that their contributions to fostering a great many connections are tremendous and I am keen to work and cooperate with these



organisations and individuals. I would be most appreciative of your kind advice and support.

Jared wins Ishikawa Award

AJSWA's 2016 Rieko Ishikawa Award for Curtin University has been presented to Jared Prentis, who achieved outstanding results in Japanese Language.

Jared had just completed a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Japanese and public relations and was also a recipient of the Seizan Fukami Japanese scholarship. His passion for Japanese studies were further strengthened after he participated in the Japanese summer program at Rissyo University in July 2013. The following year, he returned to Japan through an exchange program to study at Wakayama University.

Jared is now studying a Graduate Diploma to teach Japanese and TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages).

RIGHT: AJSWA Treasurer Melissa Stanton presents Jared Prentis with his award.



Musical celebration for Sister State Anniversary



As a gift to Japan as part of the 35th anniversary of WA's Sister State relationship with the Hyogo Prefecture in Japan, the WA Youth Orchestra is touring the Pacific nation this month.

The musical celebration will include two concerts in Kobe – a joint concert with Mukogawa Women's University and a performance at Hyogo House, Kobe.

WAYO will also perform a joint concert with Aoyama Philharmonic at the Concert Hall Shinjuku Bunka Center, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo. The tour will conclude with a WAYO farewell concert at the Concert Hall Shinjuku Bunka Center, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo on December 22.

The tour is an important cultural exchange and is a repeat invitation from WAYO's last visit to Hyogo in 1998.

Touring a full symphony orchestra is a monumental feat of planning and organisation and WAYO is most grateful to the Australia-Japan Society of WA (AJSWA) for their support.

Just before departure, a WAYO quartet gave a parting performance at the AJSWA Christmas and Hyogo Sister State 35th Anniversary Dinner event at the Mount Lawley Golf Club on December 7.

Sippers' subtle sake Super sensation

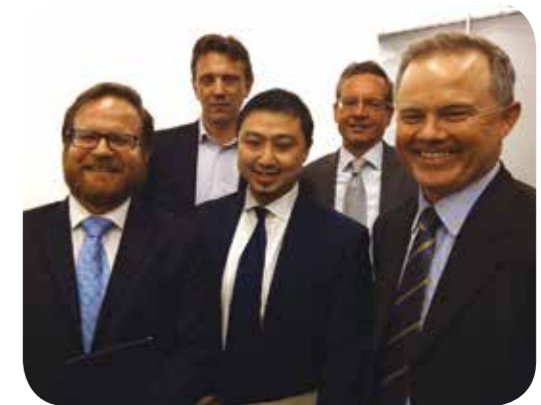


A small group of AJSWA members learned the subtle differences of sake when they attended the Super Sake Master Class tasting at Tsunami Restaurant in Mosman Park in September.

The four different sake and an Umeshu were paired with two finger food items prepared by the chef and they also sampled the new craze from Japan of sake and cheese!

For being first to book, committee member Rhian Healy won a bottle of sake generously donated by Super Sake.

AJSWA members enjoy the Super Sake Master Class at Tsunami Restaurant.



LEFT: Guest speaker Mr Craig Peacock, WA Government Commissioner North Asia Agency, with Katie Hodson-Thomas. **OTHER PICTURES:** The discussion attracted a big gathering of Perth's business and Japanese communities.

Deloitte.



AJSWA delivers discussion on free trade

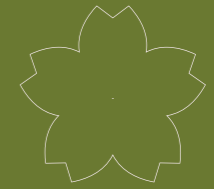
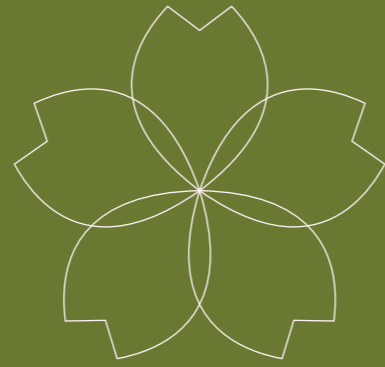
An evening of lively discussion explored how WA business could get the best out of the Japan Australia Economic Partnership Agreement at AJSWA's Konichiwa Japan event in August.

Guest speaker Mr Craig Peacock, WA Government Commissioner North Asia Agency, joined the AJSWA from Tokyo to discuss Australia's free trade agreement opportunities and market development with Japan.

He was joined by an impressive panel of speakers including State Development Minister Hon Bill Marmion, Asian Engagement Shadow Minister Hon Peter Tinley, former WA

Government Minister Hon Cheryl Edwardes, Singapore Chamber of Commerce (WA) President Mr Leon Mok and merger and acquisition transaction specialist Mr Justin Boyce Cam, who together further explored and challenged the points of view.

The evening was supported by the Consul General of Japan, Mr Tatsuo Hirayama, who had recently arrived in Perth, and Vice-Consul Mr Toshikazu Ashida. The event, at Tower 2 in Brookfield place finished with finger food drinks and networking. AJSWA thanks Deloitte for its generous sponsorship.



Blustery Kodomo whets appetite for more

Unseasonal blustery winter weather was not enough to stop Perth Kodomo Festival 2016 going ahead in October.

About 70 children enjoyed the tradition of Shichi Go San, or seven-five-three, which celebrates the growth of children turning three, five and seven years of age by dressing in traditional kimono for family photos.

Outside there was a range of activities and games under shelters, including Japanese bands JP9 and Kijimuna, who entertained those brave

enough to venture out in the wet conditions.

The sushi-making competition kept adults and children alike entertained, while the delicious hot Japanese foods kept festival goers warm.

A fun day was had by all who participated in the event at the Hyogo Cultural Centre in City Beach, which was coordinated by the Australia-Japan Youth Society, a new chapter of the AJSWA.

The event was supported by a grant from the Office of Multicultural Interests.



Government of Western Australia
Department of Local Government and Communities
Office of Multicultural Interests



Hot work-out helps thaw Antarctic crew

While the Japanese Antarctic Research Ship JS Shirase was visiting Fremantle port on its journey south, crew members joined practice with the UWA Judo Club. Mr Fukukawa and Mr Sato Judoka (pictured right), from JS Shirase, enjoyed a workout before a social drink with members.

As part of the UWA Judo Club's ongoing exchange program with Japan, four WA high school students will travel to Japan for judo training in January 2017.

Josephine Haddow, Maria Swan, Rhys Allen and Rihari Iki will be hosted by Komazawa University High School in Tokyo.

The students will practise judo every day at Komazawa and will also visit Kokushikan University High School, both in Setagaya. UWA Judo Club has enjoyed an exchange with Komazawa and Kokushikan for 20-plus years.

Shenton College student Josephine Haddow is a member of the first, and only, school-based judo club in WA, which the college has run for 12 months. The college has a student exchange with Kashiwa Municipal High School. Josephine and the other WA students will also visit Kashiwa while in Japan. UWA Judo Club coach Mr Peter Swan will accompany the students.

RIGHT: Shenton College students (from left) Rihari Iki, Mari Swan, Josephine Haddow and Rhys Allen will visit Japan on exchange.



Arts festival screens Japanese films

The joys and tensions of family are laid bare in *After The Storm*, the latest film by Japan's greatest director Hirokazu Koreeda (*Our Little Sister*, 2016 PIAF). This complex family questions whether they can ever reconcile? And do they even want to?

The Red Turtle is the latest animated classic from Studio Ghibli (*My Neighbour Totoro*, *Spirited Away*) was 10 years in the making with Oscar-winning director Michael Dudok de Wit. PG rated animation without dialogue, it is a vivid and moving fable, told



through imagery and a stirring score. A man stranded on a desert island is preoccupied with leaving, yet finds that each time he tries, a large, powerful turtle urges him to remain on the island's shores. What can this mysterious creature want from its human companion?

Go to <https://perthfestival.com.au> for more information about the entertainment and fun of PIAF and screen times/

AJSWA corporate event examines: Does Japan Still Matter?

Respected speaker Professor Kent Anderson delivered a thought-provoking presentation *Does Japan Still Matter?* for the Society's first corporate event for 2016.

Reflecting on the rise of China and the maturation of the Australia-Japan relationship, Prof. Anderson used his discussion to question the status of the bilateral relationship, which he says is often described as 'a stable but unexciting old marriage'.

He argued that it was time to shift to a discourse about how we affirmatively *make* Japan relevant and exciting for the Australian community with a fresh focus more on youth, our students, rather than the established business, government and community leaders. He examined a renewed emphasis on supporting our teaching infrastructure, increasing our study abroad to Japan through mechanisms such as the New Colombo Plan and making Japan relevant to the interests and aspirations of a new generation.

The evening was a great success and ended



Guest speaker Prof. Kent Anderson (left) with Stockley Davis and Laura Dales.

with networking over drinks.

Thanks go to the University of WA for their support and use of its new Brookfield place facilities and to Professor Anderson for his ongoing support of AJSWA.

Professor Anderson joined University of Western Australia as Deputy Vice Chancellor (Community & Engagement) in 2014 and is a recipient of the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation for his outstanding contribution to the promotion of friendship between Australia and Japan.

Japan Club enjoys Christmas in Yokine

The Japan Club in Perth annual Christmas party was a fun and relaxed afternoon at the Yokine Bowling Club. An afternoon of terrific food and company included performances by the Sakura Choir and Mr Matsuda, chairman of Japan Club, before some of the guests performed with karaoke. The afternoon finished with a lot of fun with the draw for loads of great raffle prizes.



Japan School Principal Mr Jiro Kasuga and his wife, Matsuri restaurant owner Mr Takeuchi with Mr Shinichi Otsuki and Ms Yasuko Davies from Nijinokai Support Net.



Japan represented at cultural gathering

The Japanese community was strongly represented at a City of Rockingham civic function for cultural groups to meet and exchange ideas.

The Consul-General of Japan in Perth Mr Tatsuo Hirayama and his wife, Sachiko, attended with State and Federal members of parliament, as well as AJSWA representatives Ged and Ruth Boylan.

The City of Rockingham is very proud of its only sister city relationship, with the City of Ako in Hyogo, Japan.



Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels (in his own humorous way) shared his insights into the tremendous

achievements and efforts the City is making to harness the cultural diversity and energy of Rockingham.

Dawings evoke mystique

The mysterious and evocative world of maiko and geiko (geisha) living in Kyoto was brought to Fremantle in September with an exhibition of exquisite works in coloured pencils by established Fremantle artist Julie Podstolski.

Fascination: Maiko, Geiko, Kyoto featured 26 new drawings developed from several trips to Japan. Julie's striking compositions and impeccable detail reveal a snapshot in time, which initially could be mistaken for photographs. The exhibition at the Early Work Gallery also featured clay sculptures by invited Fremantle artist Robyn Varpins.

Perth Kimono Club members attended a special viewing and artist talk in traditional kimono.



Busselton Mayor Grant Henley (far right) enjoys a lighter moment with (from left) City of Busselton CEO Mr Mike Archer, WA Government Commissioner North Asia Agency Mr Craig Peacock, South West MLC Hon Barry House and Sugito international relations officer Mr Toshiyuki Ogura.

City of Busselton officially joins peace project

A South West delegation recently visited Japan to take part in two special ceremonies.

City of Busselton Mayor Grant Henley, CEO Mike Archer and Busselton Sugito Sister City Association President Pauline Vukelic participated in the official signing of the Mayors for Peace accord at Hiroshima Peace Park on October 28.

Mayors for Peace was established in 1982 with the aim of achieving lasting world peace through inter-city solidarity. Busselton's Sister City Sugito joined Mayors for Peace in September 2010, while the City of Busselton became a signatory to the global peace program earlier this year.

Mayor Henley said it was very moving to be in Hiroshima for the signing of the accord in the presence of the Mayor of Hiroshima and the Mayor of Sugito.

Mayor Henley also presented 1000 paper cranes made by Dunsborough Primary School students in commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Hiroshima bombings. These cranes were hung in the Children's Memorial as a sign of peace.

The Hiroshima visit coincided with the start of the 20th anniversary celebrations of the Busselton and Sugito Sister City relationship.

Mayor Henley took part in a ceremony hosted by the Mayor of Sugito, Mr Furuya Matsuo, which involved reaffirmation of the Sister City Agreement.

While in Sugito, the City of Busselton representatives also joined in the 400th anniversary celebrations of Sugito as a post station on the old Nikko Highway, donning traditional samurai suits for the occasion.

The City of Busselton has kicked-off a year of celebration marking the 20th anniversary of its sister-city relationship with Sugito.

For more information visit the event page of Facebook at www.facebook.com/basssca.

■ Consul-General of Japan in Perth Mr Tatsuo Hirayama and his wife, Sachiko, officially opened the art exhibition RIKAI (understanding), a Japanese art exhibition at Art Geo Gallery, Busselton in early November.

The exhibition was one of many events created to mark the 20th anniversary of Busselton's Sister City relationship with Sugito in Japan.

It featured an eclectic mix of Japanese art forms, including woodblock prints, traditional kimonos and ikebana-inspired floral pieces arranged by the Bunbury Flower Designers' Club.

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The Consul-General of Japan in Perth

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