

# tomodachi news

March 2012

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Our mission is to promote mutual understanding  
between West Australian and Japanese people.



Australia-Japan Society of WA  
[www.ajswa.com.au](http://www.ajswa.com.au)

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### Contact

Treasurer, John Smith,  
Australia-Japan Society WA  
Inc. on 9318 4702.  
GPO Box 2585 Perth WA 6001

## President's message

2011 was a big year for the AJSWA. The terrible events of March 11 saw our society play a coordinating role in the big charity event in April and participate in the "Genki Japan" charity event in November on the school grounds of the Japanese School in City Beach

Your new committee was elected after the AGM in August which saw our long standing and hard working President, Mr Patrick Whight step down after serving two separate terms over many years.

We not only greatly appreciate the tremendous work he put into the Society during his tenure, but we are all very grateful that he is continuing to serve as a committee member and providing valuable guidance to this president and committee members.

It is very easy to take for granted the work that people do on the committee and it is often the case that we do not realise how much work a committee member does until they leave and this is certainly the case in regard to Patrick's contribution.

The end of the year saw the annual Christmas party which was a tremendous success, 123 people attended. We are very grateful for the support shown by Consul-General in Perth Mr Isikawa and his wife, as well as Dr Mike Nahan representing the Premier, and the many members and friends who helped make it one of the best Christmas events we have held.

Most importantly I would like to thank all committee members for their tremendous help, it was great teamwork.

Your committee got 2012 off to a flying start with our first committee meeting locking in a series of events for the year.

The year ahead will be packed with events to suit all members and we look forward to seeing you at some of, or all, the events.

We also welcome your feedback and suggestions on how we can improve and what types of events and activities you would like to see the AJSWA support. All the best for 2012 and see you soon. - Ged Boylan

Cover picture

Year of the Dragon

Dragon Dance Festival, Nagasaki  
©Nagasaki City/© JNTO

## Consul-General's message

## Welcome to Year of the Dragon

To the readers of Tomodachi News, I wish you all a Happy New Year and I hope that 2012, the 'Year of the Dragon,' which symbolises sensitivity and bravery, is a safe and happy one.

Last March, the Great East Japan Earthquake struck the country, but thanks to the warm support received from organisations like the Australia-Japan Society of Western Australia, the nation continues on its path to recovery. The efforts of AJSWA in charity events such as the 'Japan Tsunami Disaster Relief Appeal' in April and the 'Nippon cha-cha-cha Genki Japan' festival in November contributed greatly to the bonds of friendship between Western Australia and Japan.

WA and Japan's long history of exchange continued in all fields in 2011. The Honourable Colin Barnett made his second trip to Japan

as Premier of Western Australia in March, and in July, Mr Yasuo Fukuda, former Prime Minister of Japan, came to Perth to chair the 'Boao Forum'. In

November, the Government of Western Australia and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation signed a Memorandum of Understanding to build a comprehensive strategic partnership.

Also last year, events were held to mark the 30th anniversaries of the sister state relationships between Western Australia and Hyogo Prefecture, and the sister city relationship between the Shire of Broome and Taiji Town.

I am sure that these political, economical and cultural exchanges will continue to flourish in 2012 and beyond. I look forward to working with AJSWA in further strengthening the relationship between Japan and this wonderful State of Western Australia, and I would like to finish by saying that I sincerely hope this year is a great one for the readers of Tomodachi News.

- Tasuo Ishikawa, Consul-General of Japan in Perth.

## tomodachi news

May 2011



"With their country in the midst of a colossal disaster, the citizens of Japan can teach plenty of lessons to the world." - Perth Lord Mayor Ms Lisa Scaffidi



### HIROBA online

The Consulate-General of Japan in Perth invites readers of Tomodachi News and the general public to subscribe to its free monthly online newsletter, Hiroba. So view the newsletters and to subscribe go to the Consulate website at <http://www.perth.au.emb-japan.go.jp> or email [info@jpnwa.com](mailto:info@jpnwa.com).

## Ladies group together

The AJSWA Ladies' Group give ladies an opportunity to meet and welcome women who are new to Perth.

The first event for 2012 - a morning tea at Miss Maud's Swedish Restaurant on Wednesday, April 18 from 10-11.30am - provides an opportunity to meet Mrs. Rieko Ishikawa, the wife of the Consul-General of Japan in Perth. Miss Maud's is on the corner of Murray and Pier streets, Perth. Cost is \$7.95 per person.

RSVP (essential) to Diane Davies-White on (08) 9304 7920 (evenings) by Sunday, April 15.



**Consul-General Tatsuo Ishikawa with (from left) former Premier Richard Court, John Kobelke MLA and Bill Marmion MLA.**

## Wonderful salute to Emperor of Japan

The Consul-General Tatsuo Ishikawa and his wife Reiko opened the garden of their private residence to host, for their first time in Perth, the Emperor's Birthday Reception.

The delightful garden provided the perfect setting for event marking the 78th birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan on December 23.

Mr Ishikawa's address acknowledged the bilateral relationship between Japan and Western Australia that dates back more than a century. He also reflected on the tragic tsunami which devastated the east coast of Japan and how the Australian people rallied to assist and raise funds.

He closed with a toast to the Emperor of Japan, as well as to the health of Queen Elizabeth II while acknowledging the enduring and prosperous relationship between Western Australia and Japan.

Other speakers on the night included the Hon. Bill Marmion, MLA, representing the Premier of Western Australia, and the Honourable John Kobelke, MLA, representing the Leader of the Opposition.

Other special guests included the Hon. Wayne Martin, Chief Justice of Western Australia, the Hon. Grant Woodhams, MLA, speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and former Premier of Western Australia the Hon. Richard Court.



**Grant Woodhams MLA with Sabbarayudu and Hema Mandarapu.**



**Bradley and Izumi Woods with Mike McGrath from the AJS.**

## Hyogo Cultural Centre marks coming of age!

Perth's Hyogo Prefectural Government Cultural Centre will celebrate its 20th Anniversary during 2012.

In January the centre invited members to celebrate turning 20 (even if they were reliving the moment of long ago!) and dress in traditional furisode (long-sleeved kimono), which is traditionally worn at the Seijinshiki, Coming of Age day, in Japan.

Deputy Director Melissa Luyke said the Hyogo Cultural Centre plans to celebrate the milestone with a big birthday bash on Saturday, March 17.



"Other events will include the release of our first educational DVD about Hyogo Prefecture and our Centre, and the inaugural members' tour to Hyogo Prefecture and the Kansai Region in November 2012," she said.

"Our most popular programmes, such as Chatterbox, the School Visit programme, and the student immersion workshops held in conjunction with the Department of Education, will also return."

Established in 1992 in celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Sister-State relationship between Hyogo Prefecture and Western Australia, Hyogo Cultural Centre spent almost 17 years in the QV.1 Building in Perth city.

In 2009 the centre moved to the old high school site in City Beach to form a Japanese hub with the Japanese School in Perth and the Japanese Association. The move has proven to be a great success with the number of events, student workshops, and general visitors to the Centre over the last few years increasing dramatically.

Hyogo Cultural Centre is fully funded by Hyogo Prefectural Government and, in addition to acting as a bridge of communication between Hyogo and WA, primarily aims to support Japanese language and culture education in Western Australia.

Some of the most memorable events hosted over the past 20 years include the visits by the Hyogo Governor and his delegations, and the Floating University, which brought some 500 Japanese university students to Perth annually



**Karen and Jemma Carter wearing traditional furisode to celebrate the 20th Anniversary.**

to participate in exchange activities with local universities. Also, the Hyogo booth in the Japan Pavilion was held at the Perth Royal Show, a Japanese Garden was constructed at the Perth Zoo and the big Children's Day Festivals held in conjunction with the Australia-Japan Society.

Ms Luyke said the centre staff extended sincere thanks to the hundreds of Western Australians and Japanese members, who faithfully supported the centre over the past 20 years.

"We are looking forward to the year ahead with great enthusiasm and excitement and welcome everyone to join us at our various celebratory events."

For more information please see the Hyogo Cultural Centre website at [www.hyogo.com.au](http://www.hyogo.com.au), call 9385 9002, or email [hyogo@inet.net.au](mailto:hyogo@inet.net.au)

– Melissa Luyke

## AJS committee says thanks to Peter Sim

The AJS Committee was saddened to receive the announcement at its January meeting that founding member of the society, Peter Sim, was standing down from the committee after many years of dedicated service.

Sir Gordon Freeth, Ambassador to Japan from 1970 to 1973, called Peter to say he was starting an organisation and then told Peter "you're in!" and asked him to send \$10 the membership fee. That led to the start of the Australia-Japan Society of Western Australia in 1974 and Peter has been a member ever since.

Peter's commitment to the organisation has been recognised with a life membership which he was embarrassed to have this bestowed on him at one of our Christmas parties some years ago. More recently, Peter was the recipient of the Order of the Rising Sun.

Few of us can boast a mention on Wikipedia, but Peter's outstanding military and political career is documented – "an Australian politician. Born in Victoria, he was a farmer in Western Australia before serving in the military 1941-1946. He was Vice-President of the Western Australian Liberal Party 1960-1962. On 26 November 1964, he was appointed to the Australian Senate as a Liberal Senator for Western Australia, filling the casual vacancy caused by the death of Senator Seddon Vincent. He held the seat until his retirement in 1980."

Peter is a shining example to us all and his sense of humour and guidance will be sorely missed by all of us on the committee.

I have held back Peter's age but for those who know, it is quite remarkable that Peter's enthusiasm led him to participate on the Committee for so long.

To equal Peter's efforts I have another 44 years to serve. What a thought!

Peter will continue to attend AJS functions as a society member, so members can congratulate on an outstanding achievement when they see him.

– Patrick Whight.

## Members bunker down for Christmas at Karrinyup

Kangaroos grazing on the lush greens of Karrinyup Country Club provided a delightful setting once again for the AJSWA annual Christmas Party held on December 9.

The 2011 party proved to be the best in the past few years with 123 guests supporting the fun filled night. Special guests included the Japan Consul-General in Perth Mr Ishikawa and his wife and Dr Mike Nahan, representing the Premier.

The evening began with pre-dinner drinks taking in the idyllic scenery before Mr Ishikawa and Dr Nahan each gave a brief address before the fun and festivities began.

As usual the head and tails game got everyone involved and a quiz on the tables kept people thinking throughout the night. But the highlight of the night, as always, was the draw for the table, door and ticket prizes generously donated for the event. (Sponsors on back page)



**ABOVE: Robe River Iron Associates table. Rear (from left) Chris McMahan, Juan Gardiner, Yuki Ghantos, TJ Yeap, Marvin Leong (front, from left) Karine Poujass, Renaud Van De Valle and Riad Ghantos.**



**LEFT: Consul-General in Perth Mr Tatsuo Ishikawa enjoys the festivities.**

**RIGHT: Pianist Kevin Penkin entertained party-goers.**

**BELOW RIGHT: AJS member June Wade with Jim and Atsuko Melville.**

**BELOW: The Japan Exchange Teaching Alumni Association of WA is a great supporter of this AJS event.**



## Society adds to Japan fundraising efforts

The AJS took part in the very successful Cha,Cha Cha Genki Japan Festival in November 2011, helping to raise funds for those affected by the devastating tsunami and earthquake.

The event, in City Beach, replaced the annual Japanese School Festival.

AJS ran a sausage sizzle with AJS President Ged Boylan, assisted by Tak Takahashi,

cooking up vast quantities of sausages to make it a true Australian and Japanese partnership.

Our stall was next to the Jet Alumni Association stall and their gyoza cooking seemed to go down a treat.

All funds we raised went to the benefit fund. We congratulate Japan Association for organising the event.

Our thanks go to all the committee members on the stall throughout the day and also members who stepped forward to volunteer for this most worthy cause. We also thank the Director of the Hyogo Prefectural and Government Cultural Centre for the loan of his BBQ and gas bottles.

– Patrick Whight



## Youth experience delights of Setagaya

A group of South West students experienced the hospitality of the City of Setagaya in Japan during the recent Goodwill Tour 2011.

The excited 14 students accompanied by three adults left the City of Bunbury to travel to the City of Setagaya in October for a 12 day/11 night trip of a lifetime.

The tour included a visit to a local school and senior citizens home, witnessing a sumo wrestling demonstration and a three-day, two-night home stay. Students lived with Japanese families, participating in their every day routines, being shown different parts of Tokyo and Japan and forming life-long friends who made a lasting impression on them all.

Students also had the privilege to meet and perform to the new Mayor of Setagaya, Mayor Nobuto Hosaka and the Setagaya City Assembly. The Mayor "tweeted" the next day that he thoroughly enjoyed the students and that "he was moved by Furusato (Home Town)



South West students visit a shrine in Setagaya.

students sang to us".

A highlight of the trip was a day trip to Disneyland.

Executive Officer of the Bunbury Setagaya Sister Cities Committee, Jenni Brown, said many of the students are already planning return trips to visit Japan with their own families.

"They are a fantastic group of students and ambassadors for the City of Bunbury," she said.

"The committee members wish them all the very best and hope this experience will assist them through life's journey."

– Jenni Brown

## Natsu Matsuri brings summer joy

A touch of the traditional Japanese Natsu Matsuri (summer festival) was brought to the Busselton Festival Float Parade held in January this year with the addition of a Mikoshi (portable shrine).

The Mikoshi, built by Dr Hajime Yamauchi and borrowed from Bunbury Setagaya Sister City Committee, was decorated by Mary-Lee Kemp and Carol Brewer.

Children participating in the festival dressed in traditional Japanese clothes for the occasion.

The shrine was carried by six able bodied volunteers during the float parade and was later displayed by the Naturaliste Community Centre until the end of the month.

Traditionally the Mikoshi often resemble a small building and are carried while praying for a rich harvest, protection at home and a prosperous business. The performance also



A taste of Japan in the Busselton Festival Float Parade.

carries a meaning of purification, but these days it is just for fun.

– Jenny Byatt

## Sister city mayor attends proclamation

The Mayor of Sugito, Busselton's sister city, made a four-day visit to the South West to participate in the celebrations for the Proclamation of the City of Busselton.

Mayor Matsuo Furuya, his wife Fumiko and attaché Take Usami attended the Saturday, January 21 celebrations as special guests of Mayor Ian Stubbs.

A flag exchange between the two mayors was a feature of the afternoon tea function held in honour of the Japanese visitors. The town of Sugito now owns the very first City of Busselton flag.

Japanese Consul General Tatsuo Ishikawa and his wife Reiko were among the 170 special guests who assembled at the Goose Café on the foreshore overlooking the Busselton Jetty.

Mayor Furuya presented a beautiful fan to new Mayor Ian Stubbs at the public Proclamation Ceremony which was part of the final night of the two week Busselton Festival. The Minister for Local Government, John Castrilli MLA performed the proclamation and installation ceremonies.

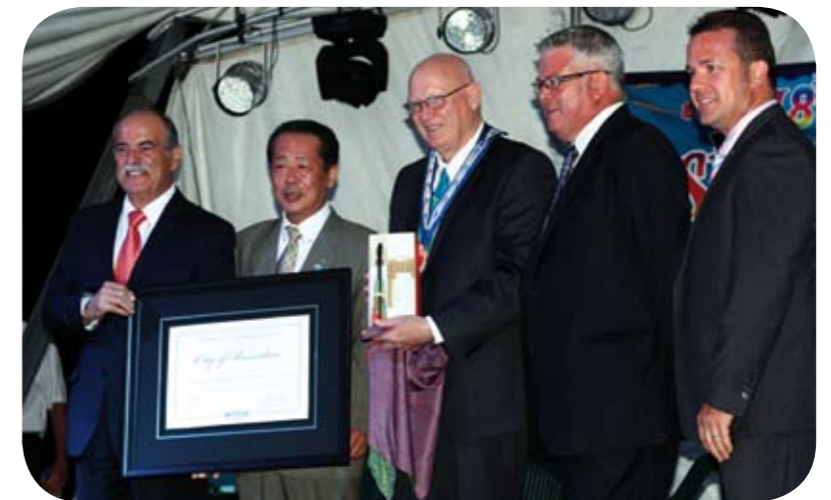
The Japanese guests enjoyed visits to the Busselton Underwater Observatory, the Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse, Ngilgi Cave and local wineries, and played a round of golf. Senior Japanese managers of Simcoa Operations in Kemerton hosted a brief tour of the silicon smelter on the way to Perth airport.

"We trust that the relationship between the town of Sugito and the new City of Busselton continues to strengthen through both student and citizen exchange, and other activities. Busselton is such a beautiful and naturally bountiful area. I cannot believe how vast the countryside is!" Mayor Furuya said.

A citizen delegation led by Mayor Ian Stubbs, and including CEO Mike Archer, will visit Sugito later this year.

– Pauline Vukelic

**BELOW: A celebration of proclamation: (from left) Minister for Local Government John Castrilli MLA, Mayor of the Town of Sugito in Japan Matsuo Furuya, City of Busselton Mayor Ian Stubbs, Vasse MLA Troy Buswell and Local Government Association of WA President Troy Pickard.**



BELOW: Sugito Mayor Matsuo Furuya and Busselton Mayor Ian Stubbs exchange flags.



## Bunbury pair on the run in Setagaya

Two Bunbury Marathon runners got to see some very different scenery when they participated in the Setagaya 246 Half Marathon at the end of last year.

Kira Flanagan and James Blackburn did exceptionally well, with Kira placing fourth in the women's 16-39 year old division and James placing 21st in the men's 16-39 year old division.

The Setagaya 246 Half Marathon is a large event in Japan, for which numbers are capped at 1500, which means many people are declined the opportunity to participate.

The Bunbury Runners Club and the City of Setagaya have been involved in a Runners Exchange program which has seen talented runners visit Bunbury and participate in the Three Waters Marathon, while some of Bunbury's best have visited Setagaya.

In May 2011, Bunbury received five runners from Setagaya with the men's and women's divisions both being won by Setagaya representatives.

During their November visit, Kira and James enjoyed five days of hospitality of



**Kira Flanagan and James Blackburn at the start line with their Japanese hosts.**

Setagaya runners which included visiting many Tokyo tourist sites, traditional Japanese foods, dressing in traditional Japanese dress and most importantly, preparing and participating in the Marathon.

The Bunbury Setagaya Sister Cities Committee and the Bunbury Runners Club look forward to receiving the Setagaya runners again in May 2012. The Bunbury Runners club hopes to use the event to extend their exchange to include students from Japan's earthquake and tsunami affected areas. – Jenni Brown



## Graduation brings stunning result

The graduation of the Ikebana class of 2011 presented a beautiful display of arrangements at the Hyogo Prefectural Culture Centre.

AJS President Ged Boylan, who attended the event, said the quality of the work produced by the students was top class.

"The Australia-Japan Society is very proud of its role in running these classes and we will recommence classes in the second half of 2012," he said.

"On behalf of the AJSWA I would like to thank Mr Akio Kawanabe and his team at the Hyogo Centre for providing a wonderful venue for the classes and also would like to thank Mrs Chester and her assistant Michelle for their wonderful work.

"We are extremely lucky to have Mrs Akiko Chester teach the classes."



Mrs Chester is a celebrated teacher who has been teaching all levels of Ikebana for many years. She also is a recipient of the prestigious Order of the Rising Sun from the Japanese Government in recognition of her services as a teacher of Ikebana.

Anyone interested in enrolling in classes can contact the AJSWA by calling Ged at the Nichigo Centre on 9325 4441.

What's on

Event	Date	Venue and cost	Contact
Indigo Dyeing Furoshiki (Wrapping Cloth) Workshop	Saturday, March 3	Hyogo Prefectural Government Cultural Centre, 20 Kalinda Drive City Beach	For more information contact the cultural centre on 9385 9002
Outdoor Cinema night. Movie Hugo (PG). Flyer will be distributed closer to the event. See www.moviesbyburswood.com	Friday, March 9 Payment by Monday, March 5, 2012.	Movies by Burswood, off Resort Drive, Burswood Park next to the Burswood Entertainment Complex. Adult: \$14; Concession: \$10; Child: \$7	Please register interest with Jean Stewart, 0417 900 037 (phone only). Payment by Monday, March 5, 2012. Contact Ged Boylan on 9325 4441 for credit card debit.
Hyogo Cultural Centre's 20th Birthday Event	Saturday, March 17	Hyogo Prefectural Government Cultural Centre, 20 Kalinda Drive City Beach	For more information contact the cultural centre on 9385 9002
Anime (Animation) Film Festival	March 26, 27 and 28	State Library, Northbridge. Tickets free – but reservations required.	Contact the Consulate-General of Japan office for more details on 9480 1800 or by email at info@pt.mofa.go.jp.
AJSWA Ladies group welcome morning tea	Wednesday, April 18 10-11:30am	Miss Maud's Swedish Restaurant, corner of Murray and Pier streets, Perth.	RSVP by Sunday, April 15 to Diane Davies-White on 9304 7920 (evenings)
Members Tour to Hyogo and the Kansai Region	November 2012	Hyogo Prefectural Government Cultural Centre, 20 Kalinda Drive City Beach	For more information contact the cultural centre on 9385 9002

## **Patrons**

Premier of Western Australia  
The Consul-General of Japan in Perth

## **Sponsors**

The Australia-Japan Society of WA committee and members thank the generous sponsors who make the annual Christmas Party event such a great success and fun evening

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