

2006 Australia-Japan Year of Exchange

In commemoration of significant anniversaries in the history of Australia-Japan relations, the Australian and Japanese governments are holding various events throughout the year, under the official title "2006 Year of Exchange", to increase mutual understanding and exchange at the grassroots level.

The 30th Anniversary of signing of the Basic Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation between Australia and Japan (also known as NARA, Nippon-Australia Relations Agreement in 1976)

This treaty signified the two countries' intent to put their wide-ranging bilateral co-operation on a firm foundation and to expand and strengthen this co-operation far into the future. Co-operation was to be encouraged in fields including politics, human rights, science, culture and so on.

The 110th Anniversary of the establishment of the Japan's first Consulate in Australia (in 1896)

Japanese pearlers and sugar cane workers began immigrating to Australia's northern coastline and the Queensland sugar fields in the 1890's. To assist these workers, Japan's first governmental office was established in 1896 in Townsville.

The 30th Anniversary of the establishment of the Australia-Japan Foundation (in 1976)



Australian and Japanese Prime Ministers at the First East Asian Summit at Malaysia, December 2005. They are standing respectively to the left and right of the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Abdullah Badawi, and the Prime Minister of China, Wen Jiabao. They are holding hands with all the other Summit leaders in an "Auld Lang Syne" gesture of goodwill. (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade)

Organized by: Australia-Japan Historical Photo Exhibition Committee
The 2006 Year of Exchange Japanese Executive Committee

Patronage: Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney

Supported by: Community Relations Commission
For a multicultural NSW
Customs House, Sydney
Customs House is a City of Sydney venue

For more information of the Commemorative Exhibition and the Symposium, please contact the Embassy and Consulates:

Embassy: Tel: (02) 6273 3244
Sydney: Tel: (02) 9231 3455
Melbourne: Tel: (03) 9639 3277
Brisbane: Tel: (07) 3221 5188
Perth: Tel: (09) 9480 1800
Cairns: Tel: (07) 4051 5177



Mr. Kisaburo Ueno, the first Consul-General of Japan in Sydney, 1908-1910 (Mrs. Michiko Dan, daughter of Mr. Ueno)



Australian Prime Minister Fraser and Japanese Prime Minister Miki signing the Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation in Tokyo, 16 June 1976 (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade)

*Australia-Japan Historical Photo Exhibition
2006 Australia-Japan Year of Exchange*

PARTNERS IN A NEW VISION AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN ACROSS TIME

Sydney:	June 1 - 8, 2006	Customs House, Sydney
Canberra:	June 16 - 29, 2006	High Court, Canberra
Melbourne:	July 5 - 27, 2006	State Library of Victoria
Perth:	Aug. 10 - Sept. 6, 2006	State Library of WA
Broome:	Sept. 13 - 28, 2006	Broome Library
Brisbane:	TBC	TBC



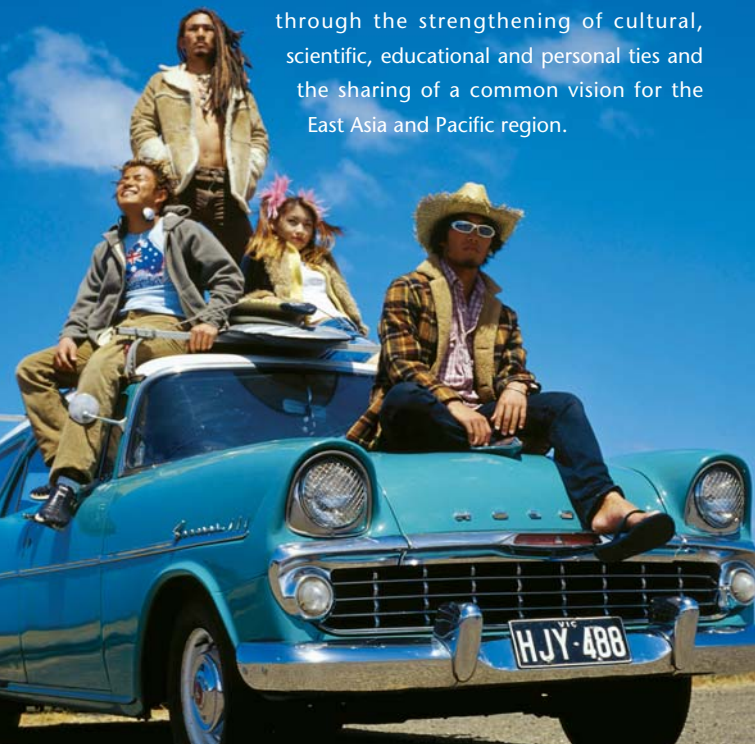
Community Relations Commission

Australia-Japan Historical Photo Exhibition

Partners in a New Vision: Australia and Japan across Time.

This photographic exhibition tells the story of Australian-Japanese relations from the early nineteenth century until today. It is an extended version of an exhibition which was originally put together in 1997 as a contribution to the celebrations of one hundred years of the establishment of the first official Japanese Consulate in Australia.

It tells a strange, complex and intimate story of the meeting of peoples from two very different cultures. The photographs show something of the curiosity and adventure which came out of the initial contacts and how the perceptions of difference hardened into distrust and conflict. They illustrate how, following the hostility and bitterness engendered by the Pacific War, the two countries were brought together by economic development and trade. The final section of the Exhibition, In Our Own Time, deals with the contemporary era and portrays the way in which the two countries have become ever more closely associated through the strengthening of cultural, scientific, educational and personal ties and the sharing of a common vision for the East Asia and Pacific region.



Anthony Lucas-Smith and Rachael Lucas were inspired to make "Bondi Tsunami" after observing how many young Japanese were arriving in Australia with backpacks and surfboards, and then buying old station wagons and travelling along the coast from beach to beach. (The Bondi Tsunami Movie)

The Exhibition is the result of considerable research and reflection. It comprises over 200 photographs drawn from Australian and Japanese archives, museums, libraries, art galleries, newspapers, journals and personal collections. The Exhibition is organized into four sections, 'Contact and Culture', 'Distrust and War', 'Friendship and Co-operation' and 'In Our Own Time'. The photographs are displayed on thirty panels, each of which covers a particular event or theme.

The panels depict, to list some examples,

- An Australian whaling ship's assault on a Japanese village in Hokkaido in 1831
- Japanese variety artists touring the Australian colonies
- Early Australian responses to Japanese culture and customs
- Japanese pearl diving communities in northern Australia
- The impact of 'White Australia' and fear of the 'Yellow Peril'
- The Takasuka family as Bush 'Battlers' in White Australia
- The Japanese breakout of the Cowra POW camp
- The Australian POWs in Changi and on the Burma railway
- The forging of new ties during the last forty years through trade, tourism, science and arts and co-operation in working out a common regional vision
- Japan's Trade Fair, the 'Aki Maru'
- Japanese in Australia after the end of 'White Australia'
- The Interaction of the Australian and Japanese 'Pop' imagination

The forging of new ties during contemporary times through arts, science, invention, personal exchanges and co-operation in working out a common regional vision.

The exhibition should have a special interest for Australians since it examines their most intense, long-standing and, for a good deal of the time, difficult relationship with an Asian country. The story has much to suggest about Australia's problems and possibilities in constructing a new future for itself in Asia.

Neville Meaney
Chairman
Australia-Japan Historical Photo Exhibition Committee

The sketches include 'a Japanese Carpenter', 'a Knowing Young Japanese', 'a Tea Girl', 'a Clever Little Jap', 'a Japanese Headdress', 'Tasting Tea', 'a Dancer' and 'a Fair Musician' Sketches from the Sydney Japanese Village by Phil May (Bulletin, 1 May 1886)



On 4 August 2004, the sixtieth anniversary of the WWII Japanese Prisoner of War breakout from the Cowra internment camp, one of the Japanese survivors, Marekumi Takahara and one of the Australian guards, Walter Mackenzie, meet in friendship at a ceremony in Cowra to remember those who died. (Newspix)



A view of the Western end of Selarang Barracks Square after the Japanese barred all 15,000 British and Australian POWs from their barracks until they signed a 'non-escape' agreement, September 1942. (This photograph was taken by Private George Aspinall, an Australian soldier, who was made a prisoner after the fall of Singapore)