

# Speech

**Presented by HE Mr YAMAGAMI Shingo**

**Ambassador of Japan to Australia**

**On the occasion of Japanaroo: A Festive Season Concert**

**at Sydney Town Hall – Friday 17 December 2021**

Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley,  
Mr Dennis Wilson,  
The Honourable Peter Poulos, MLC (representing the Premier)  
The Honourable Matthew Mason-Cox, MLC  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening!

I am very excited to be here and see so many people in the audience tonight.

It has been nearly one year since my appointment as the Japanese Ambassador to Australia, but this is my first time to see so many people in front of me.

The first Japanaroo was planned for August this year, but due to COVID-19 it was held as an online event.

When I found that Japanaroo is coming back bigger and better than before as Japanaroo Plus, I was very excited and keen to attend in person!

You may have thought, “Japanaroo?”.  
What the...?!

At first I also thought, “What a strange name...”

So you are not the only one.

So it's *Japan* plus *kangaroo*... Japanaroo, Japanaroo!.... It finally grew on me!

I am told that Japanaroo is one of the biggest Japan-related events in the Southern Hemisphere because it has nearly 50 different events happening across Sydney!

The program is chock-a-block with so many interesting events hosted by Japanese performers, artists, chefs and variety of specialists.

You will get to learn how to cook Japanese food, participate in a dance workshop or make earrings in a traditional Mizuhiki class.

Many of the artists are actually locals because there are many Japanese people living here in Sydney.

Did you know that Australia has the third largest Japanese community in the world outside of Japan, after America and China?

No wonder we can find so many talented people represented at Japanaroo.

I heard Australia has the largest number of the Japanese language learners per capita than anywhere else in the world.

That is really impressive!

I can see many kids in the audience tonight.

And thanks to you, your parents had to be here as well!

ありがとう ! (Arigato!)

You may not realise it, but many Japanese products and technologies can be found in everyday life right here in Australia.

Such as your TV, fridge, microwave, cars and lots of other electronics.

But most importantly, your favourite game consoles, Sony PlayStation and Nintendo Switch are Japanese!

Famous Japanese retailers such as Daiso, Uniqlo and Muji also have a big presence in Australia.

They are hugely popular because of their quality products with an affordable price tag.

Every time I visit Sydney, I spend too long thinking about which ramen shop I should go to, because there are so many options here!

By looking at the variety of Japanese restaurants here in Sydney, I can see that Australians also love Japanese food.

And this makes me very proud to be the Japanese Ambassador to Australia.

I am looking forward to seeing Australia's traditional performances tonight, particularly the magical sounds of the Didgeridoo.

After enjoying all that's on offer at Japanaroo, I hope you hop onto a ANA or JAL flight to Japan, I'm sorry not Qantas, because as soon as you step into the cabin of Japanese airlines, you will experience the real Japan and our famous hospitality, *Omotenashi*.

I sincerely thank the organisers of tonight's concert and all the crew of Japanaroo Plus 2021 for putting together such a wonderful event.

Please enjoy tonight's concert!

END