



November 2015

FRIENDS OF JAPAN

**Welcome to the November 2015 edition of Friends of Japan
Featured in this edition: -**

Nationwide

JET Programme Application Closes on November
Japanese Film Festival 2015
The Japan Foundation Major Grants Round

Sydney

Matsuri in Sydney 2015
Conversations: through the Asian collections
Koto Evolution- East to West
Pokemon Symphonic Evolutions
Mizuhiki Workshop: A gift from the heart
Beginner Shakuhachi Workshop
Japanese-language guided tour at the Art Gallery of New South Wales

Brisbane

The 8th Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art
5th Australia-Japan Dialogue – Policy Convergence and Divergence in Australia and Japan:
Assessing Identity Shift within the Bi-Lateral Relationship
Neko Nation

Adelaide

Exhibition: The Power Of Pattern: The Ayako Mitsui Collection

Perth

Treasure Ships: Art in the Age of Spices
Neko Nation
AJS Tomodachi Lunch
Bonsai Society of WA and Bonsai Workshop Inc.
Perth Kimono Club

Nationwide

JET Programme Application Closes on November

The 2016 JET Programme Application is now open and closes on 20 November 2015.

Please access [embassy website](#) for application forms and more information.

Japanese Film Festival 2015

The Japan Foundation will be bringing this year's Japanese Film Festival to all major cities in Australia. Keep an eye on this space [here](#) for more details.

Perth & Fremantle: 28 October-1 November

Adelaide: 30 October-8 November

Sydney & Parramatta: 5-15 November

Melbourne: 26 November-6 December

The Japan Foundation Major Grants Round

[The Japan Foundation's Major Grants Round](#) is now open. Opportunities include fellowships, conference grants, language training for researchers, teacher training, translation grants and exhibition grants.

Application deadline: December 1, 2015.

Japanese Studies Mini Grants

The Japan Foundation, Sydney is pleased to announce a new allocation of funding for this year's Japanese Studies Mini Grant program. Mini grants of up to \$3000 are available to Australian universities for projects to be completed by the end of March, 2015, while allocations last. An overview of eligible projects and expenses is available [here](#).

Application deadline: No later than 2 months prior to commencement of project.

Sydney

Matsuri in Sydney 2015

Date & Time: 7 November 2015, 11am – 7pm

Venue: Palm Grove, Darling Harbour

Matsuri in Sydney is a Japanese festival held every year to celebrate Japanese culture and cross cultural friendship between the Japanese and Australian people. This event is for everyone who loves Japan as much as we do – and we hope to continue introducing Japan and spreading interest in Japan.

This event was founded back in 2006, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Japan and Australia's friendship. Since then, Sydney's Japanese community have been working hard to host a traditional style Matsuri, making this event a Summer staple for Sydneysiders.

The Matsuri in Sydney held back in December, 2012 was a warm up event for Australia-Japan Tourism Exchange Year in 2013, and saw 16,000 people at the event. The event in 2013 then saw

over 20,000 people, and in 2014 over 25,000 people making it the biggest Matsuri in Sydney yet.

You will find many Japanese festival attractions at Matsuri in Sydney, including Japanese food stalls, beer garden, and gorgeous Japanese items. At our exhibition booths you will find traditional arts and crafts workshops with activities like Origami and calligraphy. Over on the stage you'll find yourself entertained by traditional festival dancers, as well as karate and sumo demonstration, taiko performance and much more. We also offer exciting segments on stage such as the Yukata and Cosplay stage show that involve our audience members.

For more information, visit [official website](#).

Conversations through the Asian collections

Date & Time: on now until 28 February 2016

Venue: Upper Asian Gallery

Ticket: Free admission



Left to right: Gajin Fujita *Southland standoff* 2013 (detail) © Gajin Fujita. Toyohara (Yōshū) Chikanobu (*Loyal retainer Tadanobu*) from the series *The vicissitudes of the Minamoto and Taira clans* 1885 (detail)

Asian art of the past and present has a proud place in the Art Gallery of NSW collection. This exhibition, now in its second stage, continues to bring old and new together in a series of dynamic conversations.

Exciting new contemporary acquisitions and commissions, including works by Zhang Xiaogang, Gajjin Fujita, Lindy Lee and Jumaadi, respond to Asian art from the collection in a series of conversations. Far from seeing the art of the past as something remote or untouchable, these artists treat it as a deep resource and constant spur to the imagination. Conversations through the Asian collections is a unique chance to see their contemporary works beside the historical art that informs and inspires them. It is also a chance to look afresh – through artists' eyes – at the riches of the historical collection, from ancient Chinese jade carvings and Indian textiles to elegant Japanese screens.

Make your way through both floors of the exhibition and you'll find conversations of many kinds. Some are poetic and contemplative. Some are playful and provocative. And some involve a

contemporary artwork that may at first be hard to spot. But all attest to one thing above all – a live connection between the past and the present.

Since the exhibition first opened in 2014, many of these conversations have been refreshed with new works.

For more information, visit [Art Gallery of NSW website](#).

Koto Evolution- East to West

Date & Time: 7 November 2015 (7pm-)

Venue: Glebe Town Hall

Ticket: Adult - \$30, Concession - \$25, Child - \$20(Children 0-12), Members of Institute - \$25

Booking: Please visit [here](#).

Featuring Kazue Sawai, Satsuki Odamura & Sandy Evens (Sydney only)

For more information, please visit [here](#) or contact Yuko at 0449112946.

Pokemon Symphonic Evolutions

Date & Time: 20 & 21 November

Venue: Sydney Opera House

Tickets: from \$44

Booking: Please visit Sydney Symphony Orchestra [website](#)



In an Australian first, experience the evolution of Pokémon with exciting visuals from recent and classic Pokémon video games on screen, brought to life by all new arrangements by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. After sold-out concerts on debut, Pokémon: Symphonic Evolutions has become the must-see video game concert of the year, giving fans and newcomers of all ages a chance to experience the Pokémon franchise like never before. Don't miss this amazing opportunity to meet-up with friends to catch, battle, and trade Pokémon from your favourite games.

Mizuhiki Workshop: A gift from the heart

Date & Time: 21 November 2015, Afternoon class 2 – 5pm

Venue: The Japan Foundation

Sydney Level 4, Central Park, 28 Broadway, Chippendale NSW 2008

Course Fee: General \$25.00, JPF Member: \$20.00

Booking: Please visit [here](#).



Mizuhiki are Japanese crafts made from tied washi (Japanese paper) and are traditionally used as decorations for gift-wrapping. In Japanese culture, the word musubu (結ぶ), which means 'to tie', not only is used for wrapping, but can also evoke a sense of creating bonds between people. The exquisite shapes of handmade mizuhiki convey feelings of togetherness and warmth.

In this workshop, you will explore the Japanese customs of gift-giving and omotenashi (spirit of hospitality) and have a chance to handcraft small mizuhiki decorations. In addition, you will learn how

to write kanji (Chinese characters) that express certain feelings. Finally, you will create a card/bookmark, decorated with your own handcrafted mizuhiki and a kanji of your own choosing - for yourself, or someone dear to you.

For more information, please visit [Japan Foundation website](#).

Beginner Shakuhachi Workshop

Date & Time: 21 November 2015, 2 – 5pm (1 session, 3hours)

Venue: Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Fee: \$75 incl. GST

If you've always wanted to try the shakuhachi, now's your chance!

Shakuhachi Master Bronwyn Kirkpatrick will present this workshop and concert introducing shakuhachi, the traditional Japanese bamboo flute.

The concert/workshop is open to anyone over 12 years of age and no prior musical experience is necessary. It may be of interest to students who feel drawn to Asian music and to people who just want to find out more about this beautiful instrument.

It may also be of particular interest to flute and recorder students who are exploring contemporary techniques on their instruments, as many of these techniques bear similarity to traditional shakuhachi techniques.

*After a short concert, which will include the history of the shakuhachi and will encompass a broad range of repertoire from traditional Zen Buddhist to contemporary, it will be time to try it out for yourselves! **There will be a limited number of shakuhachi available to try on the day, so please bring your own if you have one. Inexpensive beginner shakuhachi in D (1.8) can be purchased at www.windelflutes.com.***

In the workshop, we will work on making sound and improving tone. We will learn to read basic Japanese notation and to play some simple Japanese folk songs.

Suitable for: Anyone from 12 years to 99 years.

To enrol, please visit [Conservatorium Open Academy website](#).

Japanese-language guided tour at the Art Gallery of New South Wales

Date & Time: Every Friday, 11am (except January, last 2 weeks of December and public holidays)

**Last 2015 tour: 18 December & First 2016 tour: 5 February*

Venue: The Art Gallery of New South Wales

Admission: Free, no bookings required.

Duration: 1 hour

The Art Gallery of New South Wales provides free tours in Cantonese, Mandarin, Japanese and Korean. Our community ambassadors are specially trained to introduce you to the Gallery's collection. Please visit us to enjoy artworks from the Australian, Aboriginal, European, Contemporary and Asian collections.

For more information, please visit [here](#).

Brisbane

The 8th Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art

Date & Time: 21 November 2015 – 10 April 2016

Venue: Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane

Admission: Free of Charge

Work by more than 80 artists featured in 'The 8th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art' (APT8) will reflect the vigour of expanding creative centres throughout Asia and the Pacific.

With each iteration of the flagship [Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art](#) exhibition series, the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art examines developments in the contemporary art of Australia, Asia and the Pacific. APT8 emphasises performance, with live actions, video, kinetic art, figurative painting and sculpture exploring how the human form can express cultural, social and political ideas.

The exhibition features more than 80 artists from over 30 countries including significant Australian involvement. Mongolia, Nepal, the Kyrgyz Republic, Iraq and Georgia will also be represented for the first time.

Major new commissions include a sprawling structural installation of found materials by India's Asim Waqif and an elegant suspended sculpture by South Korea's Haegue Yang.

The special focus projects in APT8 are Kalpa Vriksha: Contemporary Indigenous and Vernacular Art of India — the first major display of its kind in Australia — and the Melanesian performance project Yumi Danis (We Dance), which emerged from a creative exchange in Ambrym, Vanuatu, in 2014.

In addition to the exhibition itself, APT8 encompasses APT8 Live, an ongoing program of artist performances and projects; a conference as part of the opening program; extensive cinema programs; publications; and activities for kids and families.

Of the 160 biennials and triennials currently staged worldwide, the Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art is the only exhibition series to focus on the contemporary art of Asia, Australia and the Pacific.

Featured Japanese artists include: Shigeyuki Kihara, Yasumasa Morimura, Yuta Nakamura, Lieko Shiga, Chikako Yamashiro.

For more information, visit [Queensland Art Gallery website](#).

5th Australia-Japan Dialogue – Policy Convergence and Divergence in Australia and Japan: Assessing Identity Shift within the Bi-Lateral Relationship

Date: December 10 2015

Venue: 239 Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley

For more information, visit [here](#).

Neko Nation

Date & Time: December 12 2015, 8am – 5am

Venue: 239 Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley

Get ready as Australia's mega anime party returns back to Brisbane!

Welcome to a party that feels like a magical anime wonderland being brought to life! Neko Nation features anime, gaming, K-Pop and Japanese music songs and remixes delivered by our awesome Neko Nation DJ's locally and all across Australia. Taste and devour some of amazing free sushi served up by our sexy and cute catgirls! Plus we have lots of anime themed cocktails, prizes, competitions and AMV's on the big screens!

For more information, visit the website [here](#).

Adelaide

Exhibition: The Power Of Pattern: The Ayako Mitsui Collection

Dates & Time: Now showing until 13 March 2016 (10am – 5pm)

Venue: Art Gallery of South Australia, Gallery 20

Admission: Free

The unique Japanese art of dyeing textiles using intricate paper stencils, called katagami, is largely unknown outside the

country, yet it has been a major influence in the development of the great tradition of kimono art in Japan. Katagami designs have also inspired European artists since Japan first opened its borders to the West in the mid-nineteenth century.



Image: Japan Long robe, with 'hemp leaf' pattern c.1888, Asami, Akita, cotton, natural indigo with stitch resist dyeing 141.0 x 117.0 cm Asian Art Curators Fund 2013 Art Gallery of South Australia

The Power Of Pattern explores the immense variety of designs created by Japanese artists working in katagami and shibori dyeing and reveals the surprising extent to which European and Australian artists, adopted the designs in their own practices. For more than 350 years the Mitsui family in Japan has been associated with the art of textiles and this display includes katagami designs from the Ayako Mitsui private collection, shown here for the first time.

For more information, please visit [here](#).

Perth

Treasure Ships: Art in the Age of Spices

Dates & Time: 10 October until 31 January 2016 (Wednesday to Monday, 10am – 5pm)

*Closed Tuesdays, Good Friday and Christmas Day

Venue: Art Gallery of Western Australia

AGWA and AGSA present Treasure Ships, which features the spectacular and exotic art produced for global markets in the age of spices.

The exhibition, displaying art dating from the fifteenth to early nineteenth centuries, commences with the sea journey of discovery by Vasco Da Gama to India in search of spices and the establishment of the world's first multinational company, the Dutch East Indies Company.

Treasure Ships uses these extraordinary works of art to tell the story of the slave trade, spice markets, piracy and shipwrecks, as well as illustrating the astonishing beauty of Chinese porcelain, known as 'white gold', and vibrant Indian textiles created for export around the world.



Detail: Japan, Scenes of traders in Nagasaki, Mid-18th century Nagasaki
Pair of hand scrolls, opaque watercolour, ink and gold on paper; box, wood, paper and ink 313.0 x 35.0 cm each
M.J.M. Carter AO Collection through the Art Gallery of South Australia
Foundation 2014 Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide

250 works of art borrowed from collections in Australia, Europe, Asia and the United States create an immersive picture of the 'age of discovery' between East and West through the advent of the first global markets. These include paintings, sculptures, textiles, ceramics, furniture, decorative arts, maps, early manuscripts and shipwreck artefacts retrieved from the Batavia and the Gilt Dragon, which sank off the Western Australian coast in the seventeenth century.

For more information, please visit [here](#).

Neko Nation

Date & Time: November 28 2015, 8am – 3am

Venue: Gilkisons Dance Studio

Australia's leading anime and pop culture night club returns to Purrrth!

Welcome to Neko Nation, a party inspired by the anime nightclubs of Akihabara. Welcome to our world awesome K-Pop, Japanese, gaming, anime songs and remixes delivered by our awesome Neko Nation DJ's. Taste and devour some of the best sushi in the country from Iku Sushi in a wide variety of

flavours with vegan/vegetarian sushi that could possibly give you vegan powers or give into temptation and devour bacon cheeseburger sushi, served up by our sexy and cute catgirls! There's also candy served by catboys too, we don't discriminate! Plus there's lots of anime themed cocktails plus prizes, competitions and AMV's on the big screens and this all takes place in the mega 2 storey Gilkisons Dance Studio complex!

AJS Tomodachi Lunch

On the first Thursday of every month, the Australia-Japan Society of WA holds a Tomodachi Lunch. The lunch is held at 12:00pm at Jun Restaurant, 568 Hay Street, Perth. See [here](#) for more details.

Bonsai Society of WA and Bonsai Workshop Inc.

Meetings of the Bonsai Society of WA are held on the last Monday of each month and include demonstrations, lectures, films, advice and a display of members' tree. The Bonsai Society also holds regular workshops and other events. For more information please click [here](#).

Meetings of the Bonsai Workshop Inc. are held on the last Saturday of each month (except for December) from 1pm to 4pm. Members can bring their trees to work on, receive advice and watch others at work. For more information please click [here](#).

Perth Kimono Club

The Perth Kimono Club aims to bring together people living in or visiting Perth who wish to share the joy and beauty of wearing a Japanese kimono. You may have been wearing kimono all your life or you may have never worn one before, either way you are still welcome to join. Click [here](#) to find out more about the club and upcoming events.

For more information on Japan, please visit our Embassy Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/JAPANinAUS>