



President's message



Dear members and supporters,
It has been a very busy year so far for your Society. As promised in our last issue of *Tomodachi*, it looks as if it is about to get even

busier. The second half of this year is filled with events, both social and business, which you can see in the 'Upcoming Events' section of this Newsletter.

Just at the start of August, we held this year's latest *Shaberanaito*, and later this month will be the next Business Series seminar on Japanese investment in Australia, with Ms Jane Madden of Austrade.

September and October are also shaping up, including **guest speaker Dr Ippei Fujiwara, from the Australian National University's Australia-Japan Research Centre**, and then a **Japanese Cooking show with Ms Yoshiko Takeuchi from Healthy Soy Cooking**. We are planning for the Society's **Annual General Meeting** this November. You will find all this and more on the Society's website (www.ajsnsw.org.au) along with links to confirm registrations, for upcoming events as and when activated.

Please also watch out for emails delivered to your inbox with notice of registration openings, and we hope to see you very soon at one of these great events!

Best wishes for the second half of 2013. 🍀

Philip Mitchell, President

Member update

Each edition of *Tomodachi*, the AJS-NSW Board of Directors likes to welcome new members on behalf of the Society.

Welcome new members!

The Society welcomes new members **Michael Ryland, Carolyn Reade, Peter O'Grady, Colin Maudsley, Paul Davis, Sally Mizoshiri, Koichi Ishijima of Mitsubishi Development Pty Ltd, , and Kunihiko Nakai of JETRO Sydney.**

The following *winner of the AJS-NSW University Awards* (see page 4) have also joined us as Members: **Anna Campbell, Hafil Jordan Santoro, Jenni He, Anna Watanabe, Alexander Hicks, Michael Hall, Chong Sing Trinh.**

Being around that time of year again, membership renewals have now come due. We would also like to **thank all existing members for renewing their membership** during the month of July, and their continuing support of the Society. 🍀

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Upcoming Events

Mark these on your calendar – busy months ahead!

August 20th – AJS Business Series: "Encouraging Japanese investment into Australia" with Jane Madden of Austrade

- ❖ In this next instalment of our Business Series, learn from one of the experts about the nature and range of Japanese investment coming into Australia. Please see **page 2** for all details and information.



September 20th – Supported Culture Event: Inoue Yasushi Award

- ❖ The 7th Inoue Yasushi Award, presented annually to an outstanding researcher in Japanese literature by the Inoue Yasushi Memorial Foundation, will be celebrated with a musical concert including poetry. Please check **page 3** for all details and information.



October 12th – Japanese Cooking Event with Yoshiko Takeuchi

at Harvey Norman Domayne in Alexandria

- ❖ In our inaugural cooking event for the year, learn how to create some seriously good tasting Japanese food that is also seriously good for you. Please see **page 3** for all the information.



November (Date TBA) – AJS-NSW Annual General Meeting

- ❖ We encourage all AJS-NSW members to attend the AGM. It will be held in November again this year, so please keep an eye on the website for the finalised date.

Guest Speaker Event:

Mark Willacy, ABC North Asia correspondent:

"Fukushima": A correspondent's notebook

July 2nd, 2013

At 2:46 pm on March 11, 2011, Mark Willacy felt something. But it wasn't the force of a magnitude nine earthquake, moving a 10,000 kilometre-square piece of earth. It was the rush of wielding a brand new, handmade Japanese sword, surrounded by samurai lookalikes in Fukuoka prefecture in southern Japan.



"You don't need to be a journalist to know that this is the story of your life, and here I wasn't even in the game," Willacy said. The ABC's North Asia correspondent spoke to the Australia Japan Society of NSW this month, recounting his weeks of reporting throughout Tohoku following the quake, and culminating in the journalist's new book, *Fukushima*.

Three days after the tsunami swept up to 10 kilometres inland in parts of Tohoku, Willacy arrived in Rikuzentakata in Iwate prefecture.

In an excerpt from his book, which he read to the Australia Japan Society, Willacy compares the scene to the morning after a party with giants.

"Dozens of massive green tanks from the town's sake brewery were strewn across the wasteland. It looked like some giant had had a party and the tanks were beer cans that had been emptied, crumpled and tossed aside." But as the book's title suggests, Willacy's real focus was the disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. Unlike the death, destruction and desolation caused by the tsunami, these events were not unexpected.

As the reporter explains, TEPCO (Tokyo Electric Power) was aware of the tsunami risks facing the Fukushima plant. In 2008 the plant owner created a simulation which predicted a 15-metre high tsunami could hit the Fukushima plant, and that the wave could cause power outages to all reactors. But this information was shelved for three years, only to be made public to the regulators four days before the deadly tsunami hit. According to Willacy's sources, the reason TEPCO didn't release the information sooner was because they weren't sure if the results were correct. A very Japanese reason.

The journalist criticizes this, and other cultural idiosyncrasies like [amakudari](#) 天下り – retiring bureaucrats provided with cushy positions in upper management of corporations – and the obedient lap dog that was the Japanese media, trained by generations of incestuous [kisha clubs](#) 記者クラブ – press conferences behind closed doors – for Japan's mishandling of the nuclear disaster.



Mark and his wife Suzie, who was in Tokyo at the time of the earthquake – with AJS-NSW Board member Thomas O'Keefe.

"I think those press clubs are the hardening of the arteries of Japanese journalism. And that [the Fukushima nuclear meltdown] was a major heart attack for them," he said. "These things have worked for many years, but they only work when everything else is working." This stream of misinformation not only affected where Fukushima locals evacuated to, but impeded then-Prime Minister Naoto Kan's ability to make decisions on behalf of the nation.

Two years on, towns north of Fukushima have started the long, heartbreaking process of rebuilding. But for many people who once lived near the reactor that may never be a possibility. Willacy admits his position as a journalist is a privileged one. Although spending weeks at a time in radiation hot-spots, the father of three can return to his family home at the end of a story.

But for the reporter, who will be hanging up his Tokyo correspondent *tabi* at the end of the year, Japan is a place that has "intrigued me, delighted me and totally absorbed me."

"Japan will always be a part of me," he says. 🇯🇵

Mark Willacy's book [Fukushima: Japan's tsunami and the inside story of the nuclear meltdowns](#) is out now and available at good bookstores including [Kinokuniya](#).

Reporter: Anna Watanabe (Anna is a Communications and Media student at UTS and a recipient of the 2013 AJS University Awards)

Upcoming Business Series Event:

Encouraging Japanese investment in Australia

Jane Madden of Austrade

20th August 2013 (Tuesday)

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Tress Cox Lawyers,
Level 16 MLC Centre, Sydney

Price: \$35 (\$40 Non-Member)

Japanese investment in Australia continues to grow with a range of high-profile investments, M&A and business development.

How does Australia encourage this investment? What are the facts about recent trends in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to Australia, and what role is Japan playing?

Hear from Jane Madden, General Manager and Head of Investment, Australian Trade Commission. Jane will also cover Australia's business environment and capabilities; and Austrade's business model for promoting and attracting investment, particularly in the Government's priority sectors.

Registration and payment can be [made simply online](#). 🇯🇵

Please see the website for details and links:

<http://www.ajsnsw.org.au/Default.aspx?pagelid=537030&eventid=677836&EventViewMode=EventDetails>



Japanese Cooking Event – October 12th

日本料理のイベント

October 12th, 2013 (Saturday)

1pm-3:30pm

Harvey Norman-Domayne, Alexandria
(plenty of parking below the main building)

Price: \$50 (\$55 Non-Members)

Please keep an eye on the [webpage](#), as registration will open very soon!



This October, get to know the healthiest side of Japanese cuisine from one of the experts – chef and cooking sensei Yoshiko Takeuchi, from *Healthy Soy Cooking* will present to AJS-NSW members and guests in a Japanese cooking demonstration.

Learn about the best *Nihon-Ryouri* ingredients and how to use them to make some practical and delicious plant-based Japanese cuisine – the way it was meant to be.

With a passion for food and health, she loves beautiful food and believes you don't have to compromise on either health or taste. **On the menu: Dairy-free 2 colour sesame blancmange Unagi-don (eel bowl) – the eel is made from tofu! Both dishes will be prepared on the day, and are pictured above.**

This event will include a cooking demonstration, as well as food and wine tasting.



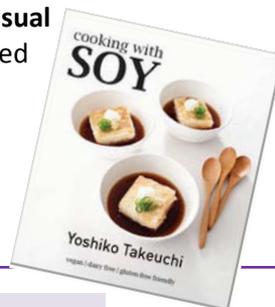
Chef Yoshiko Takeuchi

While normally priced from \$99 per master-class, at this event, **AJS Members and their Guests are offered a special 50% discount. Thanks to Yoshiko's sponsor, *Spiral Foods*, attendees will be able to purchase the cookbook, *Cooking With Soy* (right) for half its usual RRP – only \$15!** So, you can participate and walk away with some refreshed ideas in healthy cooking and the perfect how-to manual.

If you want to know more, take a look at Takeuchi-san's [website here](#). Takeuchi-san has also appeared as a [healthy food expert on The Biggest Loser TV show](#).

<http://www.spiralfoods.com.au/>

<http://www.healthysoycooking.com/>



Supported Culture Event – September 20th

7th Inoue Yasushi Award - Hirayama Ikuo and the Silk Road – Poetry and Concert

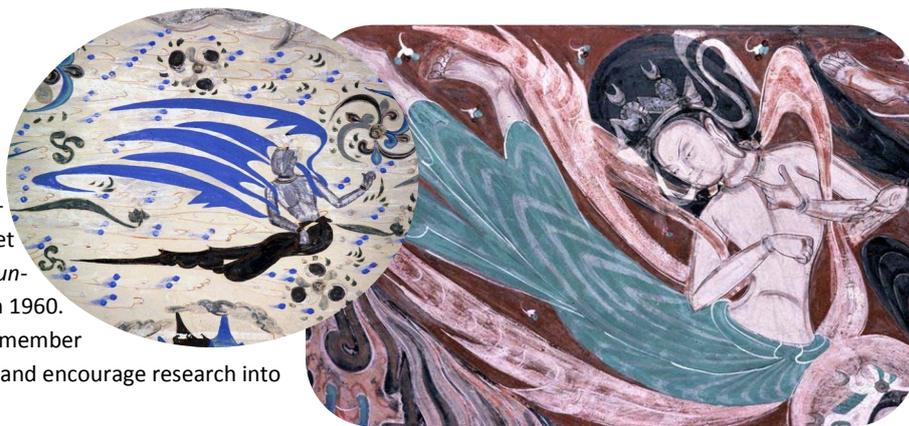
September 20th, 2013 (Friday)

6pm-8:20pm

Conservatorium of Music, Music Workshop

More details to follow in due course – [keep an eye on the website!](#)

This is the 7th Inoue Yasushi Award, presented annually to an outstanding researcher in Japanese literature by the Inoue Yasushi Memorial Foundation, this annual award is for the best refereed journal article or book chapter published in English during the previous year by a researcher based in Australia or New Zealand. This year it will be celebrated with a musical concert including poetry.



The Inoue Yasushi Award for Outstanding Research in Japanese Literature in Australia and New Zealand was inaugurated in 2007.

Inoue Yasushi (1907-91) was one of Japan's most popular postwar writers, known for his historical fiction set in Japan and western China. His novels *Lou-Lan* and *Tun-huang (Dunhuang)* received the Mainichi Art Award in 1960.

The Inoue Yasushi Memorial Foundation & AJS board member Mr. Ohtani established the award in order to support and encourage research into Japanese literature in Australia.

Other Recent Events in the AJS-NSW



AJS-NSW University Awards Ceremony: Six of our seven university award winners for outstanding performance in Japanese studies are pictured at the Awards night on 21st of May.

Pictured left to right: Anna Campbell – Macquarie University, Hafil Jordan Santoro – UNSW, Chong Sing Tran – University of Sydney, AJS President Philip Mitchell, AJS-NSW co-patron the Consul-General of Japan in Sydney Dr Masahiro Kohara, Anna Watanabe – UTS, Alexander Hicks and Michael Hall – University of Western Sydney. (not pictured: Jenni He – University of Wollongong)



AJS Business Series – High-Speed Rail: What Australia can learn from the Japanese experience

On 11th of June, the AJS Business Series continued with a timely presentation from Mr Gen Okajima, Sydney representative of Central Japan Railway Company (*JR Tokai*), and Mr Bryan Nye, CEO of the Australasian Railways Association (ARA).

Both speakers hold detailed knowledge of high speed rail, with the ARA representing the interests of all rail operators, track owners, manufacturers and suppliers in Australia and New Zealand. JR Tokai is of course the developer, owner and operator of the highly successful *Tokaido Shinkansen* bullet train system, which has linked Japan's principle metropolitan areas of Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka since 1964, with an impeccable safety record of zero casualties.

(Images of N700 Shinkansen bullet trains courtesy of Central Japan Railway Company)



*Top and top-right: Members and guests at the speaking presentation by ABC Japan correspondent and author of *Fukushima*, Mark Willacy, along with his wife Suzie.*



*Left: AJS-NSW and JET Alumni Association of NSW (JETAA) *Shaberanaito* held on March 6th at the Nippon Australian New Zealand International Club – members and guests enjoyed Japanese food and conversation in the first *Shaberanaito* of 2013. (Photo courtesy of JAMStv – see their video interviews of some of the members' times and lives in Japan via the links below!)*



*Bottom Left and Two Smaller: The second *Shaberanaito* of the year, held at the Nippon Club by AJS-NSW and JETAA. Door prizes included two new books, presented to their winners by the authors, Yoshiko Takeuchi (top) and Masayo Goto.*

JAMStv video interviews links:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7d8fiZebeQ>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_sueFi-9oQ

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2EHIGdsZsM>