



# CONSULATE UPDATES

## Obon Ceremony, Thursday Island Cemetery

On 15 August, Consul-General ISHIKAWA joined Ambassador SUZUKI Kazuhiro to attend an Obon Ceremony at the Japanese Monument, Thursday Island Cemetery. There was a Buddhist Ceremony delivered by the Reverend James Wilson, and the Ambassador and Consul-General paid their respects by laying flowers at the monument.

Thousands of Japanese divers worked in the Torres Strait between the 1880s and 1942, many of them originating from Wakayama prefecture. Thursday Island was at one time Australia's largest Japanese community, and more than 700 Japanese are buried on Thursday Island.



Ambassador SUZUKI and Consul-General ISHIKAWA with Deputy Mayor Toshio Nakata, Reverend James Wilson and Mayor Elsie Seriat.

## Visit to Wellers Hill State School

On 18 August, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms. IKUINA Akiko, accompanied Consul-General ISHIKAWA to Wellers Hill State School. Ms. IKUINA and Consul-General observed a class delivered in Japanese. When meeting with the school's Japanese teaching staff, Ms. IKUINA praised the students' command of the Japanese language and the efforts of Japanese teachers in supporting students and addressing challenges that arise in bilingual education. We would like to



Ms. IKUINA Akiko and Consul-General ISHIKAWA with Principal Anja Janosevic and Japanese teachers at Wellers Hill State School

sincerely thank Wellers Hill State School for accommodating this visit and express our gratitude to the teachers for furthering Japanese language education in Queensland.

## What's On



### JFF Theatre Until 31 October Online

JFF Theater has released a brand-new film program, now streaming online for FREE. These exciting titles will take you back to your school days and give you a taste of what Japanese cuisine has to offer.

[More information](#)



### Consulate School Visits

**Term 4 (Mon 20th October – Fri 12th December)**  
Consulate-General of Japan in Brisbane

Applications for our 2025 term 4 school visits program are now open! An exciting opportunity for students to learn more about Japanese culture at our office in Brisbane. Bookings are essential.

[More information](#)

## Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Exhibition

On 23 August, Consul-General and Mrs Ishikawa attended the opening of the Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Exhibition at the Mt. Coot-tha Auditorium. They were impressed by the numerous beautiful arrangements, which demonstrated the art form's growing popularity in Brisbane. With Sogetsu's 100th anniversary approaching in 2027, the future of Ikebana in Australia looks bright.



Consul-General ISHIKAWA and Mrs Ishikawa at the Sogetsu Ikebana Queensland Exhibition.

## Japan and Friends Day

On 24 August, Consul-General and Mrs Ishikawa attended Japan and Friends Day held at Robina State High School, Gold Coast. The event showcased a vibrant array of Japanese culture, featuring dazzling performances, delicious food, impressive cosplay, mikoshi and a hydrogen car display. Thank you to everyone who attended and made the day so memorable! See you next year!



Japan and Friends Day

## Meeting with Mayor Matt Burnett of Gladstone Regional Council

On 1st August, Consul-General Ishikawa met with Mayor Matt Burnett of Gladstone Regional Council. They discussed recent developments in the Gladstone Region, focusing on their close collaboration with many Japanese companies.

Furthermore, the Gladstone Region and Saiki City, Oita Prefecture, Japan, enjoy a sister-city relationship spanning nearly 30 years. This relationship continues to flourish through active engagement and reciprocal visits.

