



# CONSULATE UPDATES

## Happy New Year 2026



Since I took up my post in Brisbane in December the year before last, I have seen that many people are devoted to the development of Japan-Queensland relations. Looking back on 2025, I was delighted that so many Australians visited the Osaka, Kansai Expo. In particular, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the people of Queensland who participated in the Expo as gold partners, as well as those that assisted with their travels, and all others for their tremendous efforts. 2026 coincides with the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Basic Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation between Australia and Japan (NARA Treaty) and the 130th anniversary of the opening of Japan's first diplomatic mission (consulate) in Australia, in Townsville, Queensland. I would like to join hands with all of you to make this year, which is so meaningful, even more exciting. I sincerely hope for the further development of the relationship between Japan and Australia, and Japan and Queensland, and I sincerely wish all parties involved good health and happiness.

ISHIKAWA Katsutoshi, Consul-General of Japan in Brisbane

## Brisbane Bandits Japan Night

On Saturday 13 December, Consul-General ISHIKAWA threw the ceremonial first pitch at Brisbane Bandits Japan Night, an event that celebrated the Japanese community in Brisbane and the Bandits Japanese players from Yokohama DeNA BayStars. Facing off in two Australian Baseball League Round 5 matches, the Adelaide Giants were victorious 13-1 in the first game, and the Bandits scored a 13-5 win over the Giants in the second. The Consulate General of Japan in Brisbane will continue to cheer on the Bandits and support sporting exchanges between Japan and Australia.



(Image courtesy of Zain Mohammed)

## Artisan Osaka Cultural Delegation

On 9 December, Consul-General ISHIKAWA held a dinner at the Official Residence to welcome home participants in the artisan Osaka Cultural Delegation for the Australia Pavilion, World Expo 2025 in Osaka, Japan. The delegates shared stories of their time at Expo and cultural exchanges in various regions of Japan, and Consul-General again expressed his



(Photo courtesy of Elysha Rei)

congratulations. No doubt this initiative further strengthened ties between Queensland and Japan, and we sincerely hope that the delegates' experience will be a source of ongoing inspiration in their work.

## Visit to Jimbour House

In December, Consul-General ISHIKAWA was delighted to attend the celebration of 100 years of the Russell Family at Jimbour House. Jimbour House is one of Queensland's grand heritage estates on the Darling Downs, with a history dating back to the 19th Century. Today, it is lovingly cared for by Mr David Russell AM RFD KC and his family, whose custodianship continues to preserve and share its legacy. In 2010, Mr Russell was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun with Gold Rays and Neck Ribbon for services to Australia-Japan relations. The estate has also welcomed visits from past Japanese Consuls-General, reflecting its role as a place of cultural and international connection. You can learn more of Jimbour House's extraordinary history [here](#).

## What's On

### Happy Birthday 2U2

29 Nov 2025 - 15 Mar 2026

HOTA Gallery, Ground Floor, 135 Bundall Rd, Surfers Paradise



HOTA, Home of the Arts, has opened an interactive installation connecting visitors through the simple joy of giving and receiving hand drawn birthday cards.

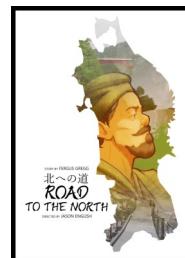
[More information](#)

### Road to the North

Streaming online now

A travel documentary exploring Japan's Northeast (Tohoku) region, the poetry of Matsuo Basho, and the traditions of the Matagi people.

[Stream for free](#)



### Consulate School Visits

Term 1 2026

Consulate-General of Japan in Brisbane



Applications for our 2026 term 1 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](#)

## NARA Treaty



Celebrate the 50th

Anniversary of the signing of the NARA Treaty in 2026! Apply to certify your Japan-Australia exchange events and deepen Japan-Australia friendship. Gain official status, use the anniversary logo and be listed on Embassy sites!

For guidelines, [click here](#).

[Application Guideline for 50th Anniversary Events](#)

Let's Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Signing of the NARA Treaty (Basic Treaty of Friendship & Cooperation) in 2026

Apply to certify your Japan-Australia exchange events (any field) & help deepen Japan-Australia relations!

Gain official status, use the anniversary logo & be listed on Embassy sites!

[APPLY NOW!](#)

[FULL GUIDELINES HERE](#)

