



Consulate-General of Japan
in Western Australia

Home

Hiroba e-zine

December, 2004

News from the Consulate-General of Japan in Western Australia

Contents

Events for December
Consulate News
Sight Seeing in Japan
Trends in Japan



Did you know?

Although only about 1% of Japanese people are practising Christians, the 25th of December is celebrated with great enthusiasm throughout Japan. Families celebrate Christmas with many presents (just for the children), Christmas tree and a beautifully decorated cake. On the other hand, young couples look forward to spending a romantic evening together and it is often said that young Japanese women dread to be left dateless on Christmas Day. For older Japanese though, they are probably more or less looking forward to the more traditional New Year period to begin.

Consulate-General of Japan, Perth Web Site <http://www.perth.au.emb-japan.go.jp/>

Events for December

Wai-Con 2004: Perth's first anime convention

Perth Anime Convention, Inc (PANIC for short) are holding the first ever anime convention this year at the University of Western Australia, Crawley Campus in the Arts Building on the 11th and 12th of December, 2004. The convention is on from 10am to 8pm on both days (registration starts at 9.30am). For more information and downloadable registration forms email Trina (lenoria@gmail.com) for details.

Steamboy

The most expensive (US\$21.6 million) anime ever produced in Japan, Steamboy (Katsuhiro Otomo), will be screened at the Luna Outdoor Cinema from Thursday 16th of December to Friday 24th of December. Steamboy will be screening nightly at 8.00pm and doors open 7.00pm (155 Oxford St, Leederville). For further information, please contact Luna directly at: <http://www.lunapalace.com.au/>

Consulate News

The Consulate General of Japan took part in a number of events last month. Firstly, we were happy to assist the annual Ikebana Flower Arranging exhibition which took place in the lobby of the Forrest Centre building from the 24th to the 26th of November. The flowers were arranged by the students of the Ikebana Classes which are run by the Australia-Japan Society of Western Australia. On the weekend, as a part of the Friends of Japan association, the Consulate was also pleased to participate in the 2004 Japan Festival which was a complete success. Many people enjoyed learning about Japanese culture through a variety of stalls and demonstrations. We hope that the Consulate will be able to participate in many more events in the New Year.

Ikebana Exhibition



2004 Japan Festival (for more photos, please visit www.fojwa.com)



Sight Seeing in Japan

We may be at the cusp of another long hot summer in Western Australia but snow sport mad Japanese will be

looking forward to another trip into the Winter Wonderland. Indeed, if we want to escape the enduring heat of summer, Japan may well be the perfect destination for keeping cool and enjoying the thrills of snow-capped mountains. Japan's Powder Paradise is being promoted strongly at the moment by the Japan National Tourist Organization and more information about it can be found at:

<http://www.jnto.go.jp/syd/ski/location.html>

To read more and learn about other exciting tourism attractions in Japan, please click [here](#).

Trends in Japan

Wallet Phone

Cell phones that allow users to pay for their shopping just by holding them over a reader at the cash register, aptly nicknamed o-saifu keitai (wallet cell phones), went on the market in July 2004. Sold by NTT DoCoMo, the phones contain a noncontact IC chip called FeliCa developed by Sony Corp. Aside from functioning as electronic money, the versatile new phones are capable of replacing credit cards, membership cards, reward cards, and even the keys to the office or home. For more on this, please click [here](#).

109 Hits 25

Located in the Dogenzaka district of Tokyo's Shibuya Ward, the center of fashion for young women in Japan, Shibuya 109 marks its twenty-fifth anniversary this year. This building, which houses a variety of trendy clothing outlets, has succeeded by targeting women age 15 to 20, and many new brands have gotten their start here. Many popular foreign singers and actresses, such as Milla Jovovich, have made a point of stopping by Shibuya 109 when they are in Japan. For more information, please click [here](#).

Message from the Editor

How this year has flown! Of course, it feels a lot like Christmas a lot earlier in Perth thanks to all the decorations and Christmas related merchandise that gets placed on our shop shelves as early as October! Still, for most it is truly in December that we feel the real buzz of Christmas.

Of course, for most Japanese, the real excitement is for the New Year period which generally boasts a wonderful range of food and celebratory events and activities. I am sure many are looking forward to the annual Kohaku Song Contest on NHK!

Whatever your plans are, on behalf of the Hiroba team, I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and see you in 2005!

Hiroba E-Zine. Subscribing is easy and free, simply enter your name and email address onto our homepage
www.perth.au.emb-japan.go.jp

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