

THE AUSTRALIA SOCIETY TOKYO



australiasocietytokyo.com

June 2008 – Volume 26



Mark your calendar for these upcoming events & check the web for updates.

State of Origin

Date: Wednesday 2nd July, 2008

Time: Bar opens at 6.00pm for 7.00pm kick off

Place: Australian Embassy Bar

Price: ¥1000 (includes 1 pie & 1 drink)

RSVP: Jacqui Bayne via email jacquibayne@mac.com.

Guests need to RSVP full names to Jacqui before the 2nd July and payment can be made at the door. Guests will need to come to Gate 4 of the Embassy where they will be issued with an entry ticket which they can then exchange at the bar for a pie and drink.

Future Events

Pencil in the following dates, the details of which will be forthcoming:

Event	Date	Venue
Eat and Meet	Wednesday, September 3, 2008	Tokyo American Club
Sausage Sizzle	Sunday, September 14, 2008	Australian Embassy, Tokyo
AFL Grand Final	Saturday, September 27, 2008	Social Club, Australian Embassy
NRL Grand Final	Sunday, October 5, 2008	Social Club, Australian Embassy
Melbourne Cup Luncheon	Tuesday, November 4, 2008	Grand Hyatt, Roppongi Hills
Adults' Christmas Party	Wednesday, December 3, 2008	TBA
Kid's Christmas Party	Sunday, December 7, 2008	TBA
Australia Day Gala Ball	Friday, January 30, 2009	Grand Hyatt, Roppongi Hills

Editorial

An editorial is not a regular feature of this newsletter but there are a few things which need to be said and I am just the bloke to say them. Also, when one does appear it does not precede the President's message, but he's on holiday and the new editorial power has gone to my head.

This is the last newsletter before the summer break. Life in Tokyo does go on over this time, it's just that the Aus Soc takes a bit of a breather and the editor goes on holiday.

Firstly, a big thanks to Craig Saphin who has edited this worthy communication for the last two years but has decided to take a less demanding role on the editorial panel. Craig has been instrumental in the new, easier to read format, and for hounding members to contribute to our nearly-regular publication. I am only just coming to appreciate how much time is spent in getting all contributions and details together to produce this electronic morsel which keeps the membership informed of the Society's workings.

Another thank you to all those who took the time to contribute to the newsletter. Without content this is just an empty email with a long cc. list. We welcome, encourage and solicit articles which members would find helpful and/or entertaining. Please consider submitting content: travel pieces give others ideas of where to explore; restaurant reviews get the juices flowing; helpful hints on tackling bureaucratic minefields help maintain sanity, and the 'I don't get it' moments are good to share around. We are not talking Pulitzer material here, just a bit of a yarn to share with the rest of us.

This month we introduce a few of the new (and not-so-new) members of the Aus Soc committee. Please note that they have written their profile themselves so any inaccuracies or exaggerations are not my fault.

Kristen McQuillin is in the process of completely redesigning our website which should be launched this summer. The site will have a modern Web 2.0 design and new features will include a member forum and member directory as well as easier tools for maintaining your membership online (this will be even better once PayPal gets sorted).

Kristen has also set up a Flickr group whereby Australia Society members can view and upload photographs taken at various Society events.

Check it out at [http:// www.flickr.com/groups/australiasocietytokyo/](http://www.flickr.com/groups/australiasocietytokyo/)

The only event scheduled for the next couple of months is an evening to watch game 3 of the rugby league State of Origin where we will be the guests of the Social Club at the Australian Embassy. Similarly, the AFL and NRL Grand Finals are catered for in September and October respectively. Once everyone returns from the summer sojourn the events come at a rapid pace, culminating in the Australia Society Ball, which is our biggest gig. Details of all events will appear both here and in separate emails as they draw nearer.

As ever, if you have contributions (literary and/or financial) comments, complaints, suggestions, or you just need to say hello to someone please flick off an email to editor@australiasocietytokyo.com.

Have a great summer and hope to see you at future events.

David

Big boots to fill

President's Report

After serving as Vice-President under Rob for two years, in the last two weeks since taking over as President, I certainly realize what big boots Rob has.

Over the past two-years as President he was involved in every event that the society put on and was the one who, together with his wife Alison, was often first to arrive and last to leave. Now that the transition is formally underway and I already have a taste for what I am in for, one can only really start to appreciate all that the committee members do on an annual basis. From working with the Coffee Mornings to the Australia Day Gala Charity Ball, the committee hosts what is the equivalent of one event each to foster relations between Australia and Japan. Importantly, we try to ensure that we have a little fun along the way.

After escaping Tokyo with the family for a month this summer, I will get into full swing in late July as we start to work with Anna Ruepert and the Ball Committee on sponsorship plans already and work with Anna Robens at the Embassy to host the finals for both the NRL and AFL grand finals. We are also starting to pencil in dates for the Sausage Sizzle, finalize the run sheet for the Melbourne Cup luncheon and start to think about who will be Santa this year for the Kids Christmas Party.

Yes folks it is summer already and before you know it we will be wondering what happened to the heat and what we will be wearing to the Australia Day Ball on 2009.

Have a great summer and see you at an event soon.

Michael

PayPal Problems

(Maria Palmer)

If you have recently tried to pay your membership fees by PayPal you would have discovered that the Society is currently having problems with our PayPal account. We are working with PayPal to resolve these issues and hope to have it functioning again soon.

We apologise to any members who have encountered these problems and who have been provoked to use rude words to their PC's. The upside is that once we have this and the new website up and running you will be send personal emails to remind you to renew, and renewal will be calculated from when you first joined, not April every year.



Jacqui Bayne

Jacqui is our new Vice President, having attended numerous Society functions in the past and finally deciding to get involved in their organization. Her first duty is coordinating the Society attendance at the 3rd State of Origin game on 2nd July.

I came to Japan 15 years ago to study Japanese and originally planned to return to my hometown Coolumb Beach after my working holiday visa expired....but by that time I had fallen in love with the people, food and culture.

I do sales and admin for Keyshots Photography as well as real estate rentals and sales for N-Space.

I have attended the Aussie Ball, Melbourne Cup Day and the BBQ on numerous occasions and it goes without saying that the BBQ is most people's favourite...right? Who doesn't love drinking outside around a BBQ?

Love the food, the safety and the change of seasons...As I ride a scooter...I don't enjoy the ridiculously dangerous taxi drivers. They should all be sent back to driving school and learn how to use an indicator!



Kuniko Noguchi

Kuniko joined the Committee last year, so is now officially part of the furniture. She has organised two very successful events so far which all have been early sell-outs and, according to participants, extremely enjoyable.

“Australia Society? What’s that?” I asked with interest, when my Australian co-worker first told me about it.

“Great!” I thought that this would give me a good chance to have connection with Australia here in Tokyo, as I lived in Sydney twice for graduate study, and had a special place in

my heart for Australia.

In 2006, I opened the door to the Australia Society. In the first year, I participated in functions such as ‘State of Origin’ and ‘Christmas party’, and enjoyed being exposed to Australian people and atmosphere, but to be honest, I also found it a bit difficult, ‘a gaijin’ there, to fit in.

So I decided to jump into the committee in the second year to mingle with other members more and to contribute to it, making suggestions from the standpoint of Japanese. So far I have organized ‘yakatabune cruising party’ and ‘sumo game’, and I am hoping to help organize more events, which will enhance the enjoyment of the members’ lives in Tokyo. Finally, I like to meet new people, and so please speak to me when you see me at an event. Arigato for reading my profile ☺.



Tracey Northcott

If Kuniko is part of the furniture, then a metaphor for Tracey's tenure on the Committee eludes me. Tracey can be relied on to be at just about every Society function, and she does a very good bunny impersonation around Easter time. For the cool stuff Enfour puts together, check out TangoTown on your keitai.

Tracey arrived in Japan early 2000 to take up the role of Vice President with her brother, Richard Northcott, in their company, Enfour, Inc. Enfour creates multilingual educational and communication solutions for use with mobile devices such

as PDA's and smart phones.

Tracey's role within Enfour varies between basic coding and editing, administration and as the conduit between clients and programmers. She also spends much of her time on various consulting projects for local and overseas clients specialising in the mobile phone industry.

Tracey has been living in Japan for over eight years, but her connections with Japan and its language have been with her for much longer.

Tracey graduated from Somerville House, Brisbane in 1987 and then with a B.Sc. (Chemistry), B.A. (Economics, Japanese) from University of Queensland.

Tracey has been involved with the Australia Society, Tokyo on a volunteer basis since early 2001 and has enjoyed helping out on many events such as the annual BBQ.



Mary Hanami

When Mary joined the Committee this year she doubled the Japanese contingent, which certainly adds a dimension to discussions and ideas not possible with the usual assortment of expatriates (not that they are not all thoroughly wonderful people).

Twenty years ago Mary worked for an Australian and had visited the Australian Embassy at that time. Later Mary's daughter studied at Australian National University in Canberra and Mary visited her many times during these years. Mary likes to get together with Australian people, so she joined to the Australian Society.

(See how easy it is to get involved, folks?)



Jodie Riley

Jodie is nearly new to the Committee, having graced meetings last year. She's decided to give us another try.

My husband Paul is with Philip Morris Ltd and our overseas journey first started in Hong Kong which was for one year, then onto Bangkok for two years before moving to Tokyo almost two years ago.

Our daughters Hannah and Mackenzie attend the International School of Sacred Heart in Hiroo. It's a great mix of international families and I find that most of my time is spent there involved with various school activities.

I love playing tennis. I am a member of the Sacred Heart Tennis League so I try and play as often as I can.

Since being here and joining the Australian Society I have enjoyed attending the Melbourne Cup luncheons, the Hanami this past spring, the children's Xmas Party and of course the Australia Day Ball. Without a doubt the Ball is my favourite, having a chance to get dressed up and join so many people (especially Aussie people) at a superb Hotel where there is fine food and plenty of champagne. The Ball Committee go all out to make this a night to remember.

Since being here we have managed to do some skiing in Sahoro, the Snow Festival in Sapporo, visited Kyoto and Hiroshima, with lots of little weekend trips just out of Tokyo. Before I leave I want to climb Mt Fuji and also visit Miyajima.

A memorable experience for me here was doing the Japan Oxfam Trailwalker last year which I did with another Aussie Leanne Stone and two Kiwi ladies Toni Sherlock and Michelle Quin. It was a tough but very rewarding experience to hike the mountains around Mt Fuji. It's also something I never need to do again.

Likes and dislikes in Tokyo:

I like the service you receive whether it be in a restaurant, local supermarket or a tradesman coming to your home. I love the food here and the international friends I have made.

My dislikes in Tokyo are taxi drivers who stop literally anyway and very suddenly so as a driver, you have to constantly be aware of them. The other dislike is bicycle riders on footpaths who do not slow down when approaching crossings, so look out for them.

But all in all I love living in Tokyo.

bills Shichirigahama

(Review by Michael Marlay)

Other than the black sand beach and ½ foot swell, it was almost like sitting on at a Hastings Street café enjoying breakfast with the family.

My first impression of Bill Granger's new beach café just south of Kamakura was extremely positive. Possibly only an hour and a bit by car from my home in Meguro (I say possibly because missed a turn and took the scenic route last weekend) this is sure to be a summer escape from Tokyo. Located overlooking the beach, Bills occupies two spaces on the second floor of what is a brand new building, amongst a host of newly built restaurants, shops and hotels along this stretch of coast line around Shichirigahama Station.

After first being perturbed by the suggestion that we had to wait 90 minutes to be seated, we decided that my daughter was in for her first trip to the beach and actually enjoyed our time wandering the foreshore before a rather leisurely brunch rather than breakfast. The menu is straight out of Bills cooking book and features his famous ricotta hot cake and to die for scrambled eggs with smoked salmon. Between the family and over a couple of hours, we grazed our way through much of what was on offer and appreciated the laid back service style which meant that the tables around us weren't exactly turning over quickly.

Blessed by a sunny day with beautiful sea breezes, I found myself wanting for more and with Bills now set in my navi, am sure that I be back soon....perhaps with my surfboard on the roof rack...or is that a sign of mid-life crisis?

Location:

Weekend House Alley 2F,
1-1-1 Shichirigahama, Kamakura-shi,
Kanagawa-ken
(0467) 33-1778

Open: 9 a.m.-10 p.m.
(lunch 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; dinner 5-9 p.m.;
Fri & Sat. bar till 11 p.m.)

bills Shichirigahama

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Save the Date

(Alison Quinlivan)

The Australian Society Melbourne Cup Luncheon to be held at the Grand Hyatt on Tuesday November 4th. This popular annual event is the closest thing to being at Flemington without actually getting on a plane. Join us for a fantastic champagne luncheon, sweepstakes, bookies, and of course the fashion on the fields competition.

As we all know, gorgeous hats in Tokyo are as scarce as hen's teeth so, for those who want to get a head start in the fashion stakes, be sure to visit the Ralph Lauren Shop in Omotesando to check the hats pictured and more as part of a limited edition by world renowned milliner Philip Treacy.



Utopia: the Genius of Emily Kame Kngwarreye

Exhibition The National Art Center, Tokyo from 28 May - 28 July, 2008

This fantastic exhibition of works from what some claim to be one of the great abstract painters of the 20th Century should not be missed. This had a very successful showing in Osaka and we are fortunate to be able to see it here in Tokyo.

Many of these works you would not get to see in Australia as they are from private collections.

Check out the details at:

<http://www.arts.australia.or.jp/english/events/0802/emily/index.html> and
<http://www.nact.jp/english/exhibitions/utopia.html>



Murder Mystery Over Dinner

(Rob Quinlivan)

Don't miss "Mystery a la Carte", The Tyler Foundation for Childhood Cancer's annual fundraiser.

The event is on Friday, September 26th, 2008, at the Hilton Tokyo (in Shinjuku) with doors opening at 6pm - 30,000 yen donation per person. Black-tie is optional. The Evening features an original murder-mystery drama directed by Rachel Waltzer where guests compete to solve the "whodunit."

The food will be inspired by four world-class chefs who will be attending the event:

- Stephane Gaborieau and Sebastien Lefort of Hilton Tokyo's Michelin 2-star showcase restaurant, 'Twenty One' French Dining
- Luke Mangan - Salt Tokyo
- Arturo Spicocchi - Michelin Star Restaurant La Stua de Michil at Hotel la Perla in Italy's Val Badia

As if this were not enough to keep the punters entertained, there will be live and silent auction items around a foodie theme: trips to the prized chefs' restaurants overseas, food, wine, cooking implements and a restaurant wheel where you can win dinner at restaurants throughout Tokyo.

There's never been anything like it before in this little town!

For reservations contact julie@tylershineon.org

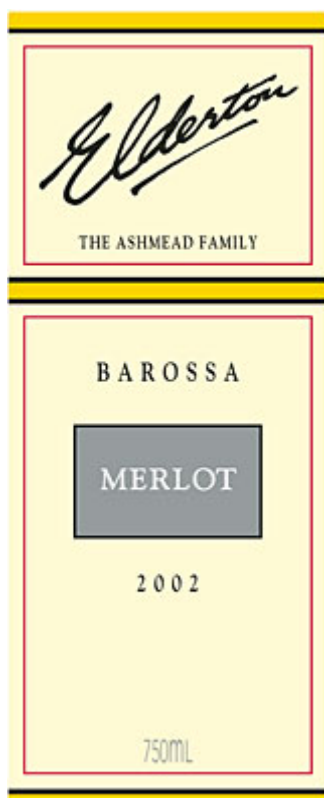
Secrets from the Cellar

(Michael Marlay)

A few members were lucky enough to secure a seat at a recent sold out wine tasting at the Tokyo American Club that pitted Australia vs. USA in the Battle of the BBQ.

Over a dozen wines were offered up, all served blind and the surprising winning of the night was from Australia. Not that we didn't think that Australia would win, but the fact that it was Merlot and not Shiraz from down under that stole the show. Known for their killer Shiraz, the star of the night was Elderton Merlot 2002, from Barossa. Interestingly the 2002 was the 10th vintage of Merlot from Elderton and inspired many to start looking seriously at what other vintages are available. For less than ¥3,000 a bottle, this little Aussie battler was a clear winner over the likes of Napa's Duckhorn Merlot, which has been a Merlot icon for over 30 years at twice the price.

Dick Cohen and the team at Village Cellars helped put us onto this little gem and if you ask nicely can probably point you towards some more secrets from their cellar.



The Tyler Foundation presents

Mystery a la carte

Friday 26th September, 2008
6pm till late
Hilton Hotel, Tokyo

A special evening of excellent food and wine featuring top international chefs and a live murder mystery drama where guests have a chance to play sleuth!

Donation: JPY 30,000



shine on!

the Tyler Foundation
FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER

For full details contact **Julie Salter**
Email: julie@tylershineon.org
Telephone: 03 4580 2770

www.tylershineon.org

Embassy News

(Anna Robens)

Australian Prime Minister visits Japan: 8 – 12 June 2008

During his first visit to Japan as Prime Minister, 8 – 12 June 2008, Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd traveled to Hiroshima, Kyoto, Nagoya, Yokohama and Tokyo. Prime Minister Rudd's itinerary in Japan included an imperial audience and meetings with Japan's most senior business and political leaders, including Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda.

Following his meeting with Prime Minister Fukuda, Mr. Rudd said Australia had a strong friend and partner in Japan. Mr. Rudd reaffirmed Australia and Japan had a comprehensive strategic security and economic partnership, which was not just based on common interest, it was also based on common values and an enduring friendship.

Mr. Rudd said that as Prime Ministers, there was agreement to continue to expand the Australia-Japan relationship, injecting further efforts into the FTA negotiations. Following their meeting, Mr. Rudd and Prime Minister Fukuda jointly issued a joint declaration (http://www.pm.gov.au/media/Release/2008/media_release_0309.cfm) which also highlighted the importance of services trade between Australia and Japan.

Through the Japan-Australia Business Cooperation Committee (JABCC) Mr. Rudd addressed members of the Australia-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan on 11 June. In his address, Mr. Rudd highlighted that the Australia-Japan economic relationship was vital for both countries. He also explained the Australian Government's commitment to renewing the Australian economic reform project to make sure that Australia remained competitive in the global economy.

See link (http://www.pm.gov.au/media/Speech/2008/speech_0303.cfm) for full transcript of the Australian Prime Minister's address to the JABCC "*Enduring Friends, Enduring Economic Partners*"

Australia Society Gala Ball Sponsors

The Australia Society Tokyo would not be able to bring you this fabulous event if it were not for the support of its sponsors.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following:

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Melbourne Cup



Other Event Sponsors

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