



Celebrate the art, music,
history, food, and culture
of Japan over two weeks
across the south west!

世田谷
バンバリー

SOUTH WEST
JAPAN
FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 8-21



WELCOME MESSAGE erukamumessēji

FROM HON REECE WHITBY, MINISTER FOR TOURISM; GREAT SOUTHERN
AND HON STEPHEN DAWSON MLC, MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT; KIMBERLEY

The Cook Labor Government is a proud sponsor of the South West Japan Festival 2025 through Tourism Western Australia's Regional Events Scheme (RES), funded by Royalties for Regions.

RES was established to support event holders across the State with the development of events to drive tourism to regional Western Australia. The scheme plays an important role in creating a timely reason for visitors to travel to the State's five tourism regions, activating pockets of Western Australia and creating vibrancy, while showcasing the host region's unique and diverse attractions.

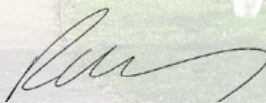
A total of 63 regional events across Western Australia have been awarded funding through the 2025-26 RES, and includes a \$150,000 funding pool for the Regional Aboriginal Events Scheme, which exclusively allocates funding to events delivering Aboriginal activities and experiences.

The Western Australian Government is proud to sponsor all these regional events, which help bring vibrancy to local communities and drive visitor spend, injecting millions into regional economies.

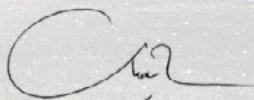
Tourism is a key part of our plan to diversify the economy, create jobs and develop business opportunities, especially in regional Western Australia. Events play an important role in this plan and also contribute to the Government's vision for Perth and Western Australia to be the fastest growing events destination in the South East Asia region.

The Western Australian Government sponsors a range of sporting, cultural, arts and culinary events across the state, to attract visitors and encourage them to stay longer, disperse further and spend more while they are here.

We hope everyone enjoys the South West Japan Festival 2025 and takes the time to explore the South West region.



HON REECE WHITBY MLA
MINISTER FOR TOURISM



HON STEPHEN DAWSON MLC
MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CONTACT



YOUR
TURN
EVENTS

Do you have any questions?
Get in touch!

✉ hello@yourturnevents.com.au

💻 www.southwestjapanfestival.com.au

📷 @swjapanfest

📘 @swjapanfest

SOUTH WEST JAPAN FESTIVAL

Calling all lovers of Japanese culture! From the anime fans to the sake experts, there's something for everyone at this year's festival. Enjoy our signature events in one Oki Weekend in Bunbury, and workshops, dining events, and mini Matsuris throughout the rest of the festival.

CELEBRATING OUR SISTER CITIES

The coastal City of Bunbury in Western Australia is celebrating 32 years of being a Sister City with Japan's Setagaya City. The City of Busselton, located on the picturesque Geographe Bay in the Margaret River region, has enjoyed a Sister City relationship with Sugito, Japan since 1996.

Sister City relationships are a way to foster global interconnectedness, friendship, cross cultural understanding and mutual wellbeing. These global connections foster collaboration in areas including education, culture, arts, trade, tourism, and sports.

KAYA FROM WARDANDI BOODJA

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land, the Wardandi Noongar people, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.



サウスウェスト
ト・ジャパン・
フェスティバル
で、日本の魅力
に出会おう！

SPONSORS



Book tickets at: www.southwestjapanfestival.com.au



WHAT'S ON イベントやワークショップ

TICKETS FROM www.southwestjapanfestival.com.au/tickets



OPENING NIGHT EVENT

MON SEP 8 | FREE | 6PM

City Council Chambers, Bunbury

Our formal Opening Night, with members of the City of Bunbury, Japanese Delegate, and Sponsors invited to mingle and hear what's in store! RSVP online for catering numbers.



STAMP RALLY IN THE CBD

MON SEP 8 UNTIL SUN SEP 21

Bunbury CBD

Tour the City of Bunbury and collect all your stamps to be in the running for prizes. Popular in Japan, Stamp Rallies are a great way to explore new places. Hunting on a Sunday? Scan the unique QR code at each store's window. Drop off your finished Stamp Passport at the Creative Tech Village for a chance to win our Grand Prize.

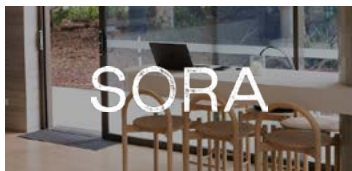


JAPANESE MATCHA ICE CREAM

MON SEP 8 UNTIL SUN SEP 21

Elski Danish Ice Creamery, Dunsborough

Your favourite ice creamery, Elski, have created a special Japanese dessert on offer throughout the SWJF, including their house made matcha ice cream. Oishi!



SORA CAFE JAPANESE DEGUSTATION DINNERS DATES TO COME

26 Geographe Bay Rd, Dunsborough

Experience a journey through Japanese flavours with a carefully curated degustation, celebrating the delicate balance of umami, freshness, and seasonality.



CERAMICS WORKSHOP: KURINUKI BOX

MON SEP 8 | 3PM - 5:30PM | \$160

The Blacksmith's Workshop, Margaret River

Step back in time into a mysterious Old Blacksmith's workshop, where Seasaltware will teach you how to make your own special kurinuki (carved out) Japanese ceramic box.

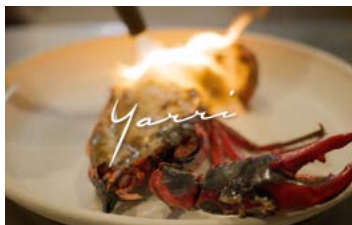


ANIME PUB QUIZ

TUES SEP 9 | 7PM START | \$20 | 18+

Froth Craft Bunbrewery, Bunbury

Think you know anime? Prove it at Froth Bunbury's Trivia Night with rounds like "Guess the Anime by the Food," theme songs, cosplay catwalk, My Hero Academia, One Piece, and more, voted by you!



JAPANESE NIGHT AT YARRI RESTAURANT + BAR

THURS SEP 11 | 6PM START | \$149

Yarri Restaurant and Bar, Dunsborough

The chefs at Yarri have an incredible dining experience planned. Transport your taste-buds to Japan with a delicious four course Japanese meal, with pairings of Snake + Herring wine and sake from Yarri. Enjoy Japanese drumming on arrival, flute performances, and haiku readings throughout the evening.



JAPAN SUNDOWNER AT BSHS WITH GOLD EDUCATIONAL TOURS

FRI SEP 12 | FROM 3:30PM | ALL AGES

Bunbury Senior High School, Bunbury

Experience an afternoon of Japanese culture with food stalls, drumming workshops, origami, calligraphy, and live performances including a showcase by visiting students from Japan. Stay into the evening for an outdoor Japanese film screening under the stars – a free community celebration for all ages!



MARGARET RIVER OPEN STUDIOS

FROM SAT SEP 13 | VARIOUS DATES AND TIMES

Salty Bones Studio, Seasaltware Ceramics Studio

The Margaret River Open Studios event is back! Featuring Salty Bones (Adam Ashdown), renowned for his Japanese art style, gyotaku (printing with and using fish), and Shelley McNab, who is a master of the Japanese art form, kurinuki. Pop in and say hi!



BUSSELTON MINI MATSURI DAYS

SAT SEP 13 + SUN SEP 14 | TIMES TBC

Origins Markets, Busselton

Join us at Origins Markets in Busselton over the weekend, to celebrate the Sister City relations between Busselton and Sugito! Enjoy Japanese food and beverages from local vendors, check out Sugito Pump (Japanese fire engine), try origami, and more!



JAPANESE COCKTAILS AT LOST BILLS

WED SEP 10 to SAT SEP 20 | 18+

Lost Bills, 41 Victoria St, Bunbury

Fancy a drink? Lost Bills has you covered! Try their range of Japanese inspired cocktails throughout the Festival - fruity, fresh, or mature and sophisticated... the choice is yours!

WHAT'S ON



BUSSELTON JETTY SUSHI TRAIN

SAT SEP 13 | 4:30PM - 7PM | All Ages

Busselton Jetty, Busselton

Have you ever experienced eating sushi on a train, travelling WA's longest jetty? Enjoy a beverage and sushi as we travel along 1.8kms of scenic beach views, arriving for a meal and a show at the end of the jetty. All ages are welcome!

Booking essential. Strict 5pm departure.



JAPANESE STORYTIME ADVENTURE

MON SEP 15 | 10AM - 11AM | FREE | AGES 6 - 10

Australind Library, 7 Mulgara St, Australind

Join us for a special storytelling session featuring a much-loved Japanese picture book: The Tale of the Lucky Cat. Inspired by the Shire of Harvey's friendship city relationship with Moka, this event brings a little piece of Japanese culture to our local younger community. More info on our website.



GUNDAM HOBBY DAY AT BEYOND

THURS SEP 18 | 9AM - 9PM | FREE

Beyond Games and Hobby, 84 Victoria St, Bunbury

Everyone's favourite Mecha Anime franchise received a lot of love at the latest Bandai Games Festival – so it's time to get hyped! Free entry all day, and a 10% discount on Gundam sets across the board! So why not come on down, grab some nippers and assemble your very own Gundam frame?



TAISHA NIGHTS: A 1920s TOKYO SPEAKEASY TOUR OF BUNBURY WITH CHARIOT CHARTERS

FRI SEP 19 | 5:30PM - 7PM | \$95

Pick up location: Lost Bills, 41 Victoria St, Bunbury

Be transported back in time with an exclusive sunset tour around Bunbury with Chariot Charters. Dress in your 1920's yakuza suits and kimonos, and enjoy a cruise with Japanese jazz music, sake and Japanese grazing boards, whilst learning about Bunbury landmarks on this beautiful vintage vehicle.



ONE PIECE TCG: OPEN DAY

SAT SEP 20 | 10AM FOR 10:30 TOURNAMENT START | \$17

Beyond Games and Hobby, 84 Victoria St, Bunbury

Set sail with the One Piece Trading Card Game, the fast-growing TCG based on the world's most popular pirate anime! Join the fun for just \$17 (\$10 for first-timers and under 14s), with promo cards, trial decks, and starter decks available on the day.





KOI KITE WORKSHOP

SAT SEP 20 | 11AM - 1PM | \$5

Queens Gardens, Cobblestone Drive, Bunbury

The Bunbury Markets are on from 8am-1pm in the Queens Gardens.
Find our stall from 11am where you can make your own koi kite!



TAISHA NIGHTS: A 1920s TOKYO SPEAKEASY TOUR OF BUNBURY WITH CHARIOT CHARTERS

SAT SEP 20 | 4:30PM - 6PM | \$95

Floating Lantern Festival, Cobblestone Drive, Bunbury

Be transported back in time with an exclusive tour around Bunbury, with Chariot Charters. Enjoy a drive with Japanese jazz music, sake and Japanese grazing boards, whilst learning about Bunbury landmarks on this beautiful vintage vehicle. Options to purchase a lantern to decorate and float when you get dropped off again!



FULL TAIKO DRUMMING WORKSHOPS

SAT SEP 20 | 12:30PM - 1:30PM and 2PM - 3PM | \$20

Froth Craft Bunbrenery, Bunbury

Join us for an energetic and interactive Taiko drumming workshop that's fun for all ages! The session kicks off with a short live performance by our talented Taiko crew, followed by a hands-on workshop where you'll learn the basics of this powerful and rhythmic Japanese art form.



FLOATING LANTERN FESTIVAL

SAT SEP 20 | 3PM - SUNSET | PRICES VARY

Friendship Gardens, Cobblestone Drive, Bunbury

Decorate your own floating lantern amongst the plum blossom trees of the Friendship Garden/Garden Labyrinth. This is a peaceful, family friendly festival with acoustic background music, workshops for the kodomo, food trucks, and a chance to try on a kimono yourself! Pre-purchasing a lantern online is essential - they sell out fast! General entry is free.



WASABI SHOW AT FROTH

SAT SEP 20 | 7:30PM - 9:30PM | FREE

Froth Craft Bunbrenery, Bunbury

Get ready for an unforgettable night of rhythm, energy, and movement as Taiko On bring their explosive taiko drumming performance to Froth Bunbury! Featuring their powerful percussionists (and possibly you!), plus a special guest appearance by Sanshi on flute and didgeridoo, this dynamic show fuses traditional Japanese beats with a high-energy modern edge.





BUNBURY MATSURI DAY

SUN SEP 21 | 10AM - 4PM | FREE ENTRY

Queens Gardens, Bunbury

Bring a picnic blanket and settle in for a day of free performances, music, and martial art demonstrations. Try your hand at our workshops, browse the Japanese markets, and bite into some delicious Japanese food! Free entry.



DRAW YOUR OWN CHIBI CHARACTER!

SUN SEP 21 | VARIOUS TIMES | \$25 | AGES 8+

Queens Gardens, Bunbury

Explore your creativity on Matsuri Day with a workshop with Japanese artist Jen, who specialises in teaching children and teens the art of drawing chibi! Choose from one detailed character, or two simpler characters. All skill sets welcome!



WORKSHOPS WITH SAYAKA

SUN SEP 21 | VARIOUS TIMES | \$25

Queens Gardens, Bunbury

SWJF favourite, Sayaka, is back with two workshops this Matsuri Day - Make Your Own Japanese Lucky Charm, and Your Name in Kanji, presented on a lacquered wooden tile to keep forever.



TAIKO DRUMMING WORKSHOPS

SUN SEP 21 | VARIOUS TIMES | \$25 | AGES 8+

Friendship Gardens (across from Queens Gardens)

Join us for an energetic and interactive Taiko drumming workshop that's fun for all ages! The session is a hands-on workshop where you'll learn the basics of this powerful and rhythmic Japanese art form. Bookings essential.



JAPANESE CAR AND MOTORBIKE MATSURI

SUN SEP 21 | 10am - 4pm | FREE

Bunbury Geographe Motor Museum

Bring your Japanese car or motorbike, work in progress or daily ride and enjoy alongside other enthusiasts. Grab your matcha latte from town and come see the cars and motorbikes in the car park next to Bunbury Geographe Motor Museum. Presented by the Bunbury Geographe Motor Museum.



BUNBURY HISTORY TOUR ON THE DOLLY DOLPHINMOBILE

SUN SEP 21 | 10am - 3pm | \$10 | Pay on the day

Queens Gardens, Cobblestone Drive, Bunbury

The iconic Dolly Dolphimobile will be departing from Cobblestone Drive every hour, on the hour, for a guided tour around Bunbury. Pay on the day - no bookings required.

Dependent on path works being completed prior.

**SOUTH WEST
JAPAN
FESTIVAL**

For full event details, scan the QR code:



NEW MERCH FOR 2025

Born from the spirit of the koi in our 2024 logo, Shinkai (meaning “new sprout”) is a joyful green dragon who embodies growth, transformation, and the magic of cultural connection.

With scales the colour of fresh leaves and a heart full of curiosity, she now watches over the South West Japan Festival — and you can take her home on one of our limited edition t-shirts! Grab yours at the festival and wear a little piece of the story wherever you go.

ADULT TEES: \$45

KIDS TEES: \$35

TOTES: \$15



TRY THE AWARD-WINNING FESTIVAL LAGER!

AVAILABLE FROM FROTH CRAFT BUNBREWERY

We are super proud to have our very own Festival lager for the SWJF - Sukoshi (which means ‘Little’ in Japanese). Little in name, big in spirit! Sukoshi is crisp, easy drinking, light bodied, citrus and floral notes, perfect accompaniment for sushi.

Malt base has a substantial proportion of rice, lending it a smooth and succinct finish.

Brewed with local hops from Preston Valley Hops. Available from Froth!



WHERE DREAM EVENTS HAPPEN

Step into a dreamscape of wondrous events and embark on unforgettable adventures in Australia's South West. The most premium wine region in Australia, pristine beaches, ancient caves and tall-timber forests await.

- Surf world-class breaks, watch migrating whales and be awed by other native wildlife.
- Hit the road less travelled and head out on one of the region's many mountain biking and cycling trails in Nannup and Pemberton, including the world-famous Munda Biddi.
- Taste the region's finest drops on a winery, distillery or brewery tour.
- Picnic or camp among the karri trees in Boranup Forest.
- Taste the flavours, hear the stories and learn the traditions of Wardandi Noongar culture on an Aboriginal tour.
- Walk a section of the 135km-long Cape to Cape Track, and spot sea creatures, beautiful wildflowers and magnificent coast along the way.
- Wander further and experience where the Southern and Indian Ocean meet at Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse, Australia's tallest mainland lighthouse.
- Go on an underground tour to explore the magical awe of the region's four ancient limestone caves – Jewel, Lake, Mammoth and Ngilgi.

Follow us @WesternAustralia | #WAtheDreamState



WESTERN
AUSTRALIA
WAI KING ON A DREAM

WESTERNAUSTRALIA.COM

THE HISTORY OF THE FLOATING LANTERN CEREMONY

Toro Nagashi (Floating Lanterns) can be a smaller family affair to remember lost loved ones, or a much bigger event to bring community and family together.

Each year during O-bon, people float their lanterns to guide their visiting ancestral spirits down to the sea.

YOUR PERFECT SATURDAY ITINERARY

11AM: come on down to the Bunbury Markets to create a koi kite. Have a go at Taiko drumming in preparation for...

12:30PM: Taiko workshops start at Froth Craft Brewery (booking required).

3PM: Lantern Festival opens at Friendship Gardens with food trucks, photo ops, music and more! Decorate your lantern.

4:30PM: 1920's Japanese jazz themed tour around Bunbury (booking required).

6:15PM/SUNSET: Launch lanterns

7:30: FREE Wasabi Show with Taiko On at Froth Craft Brewery Bunbury.

COMING TO THE FLOATING LANTERN CEREMONY?

1. Come down to the Gardens any time between 3pm - 5pm and look for the big white tent with tables in front of it.
2. Show us your ticket for a lantern, and we'll make sure you get the right type and amount.
3. Decorate your lantern however you like, and bring it back to us to dry and assemble for floating. Wander about the festival!
4. At sunset, come back and collect your lantern. We all gather in a crowd, walk to the estuary and launch together as a community.

GET YOUR LANTERNS HERE!



Lanterns can be pre-purchased and collected at the Festival.

Thank you to the Bunbury Men's Shed, and Sea Scouts.

EXPLORE THE BUSSELTON SUGITO SISTER CITY TRAIL

Much has been done to highlight the importance of the Busselton Sugito Sister City Relationship and there is a strong Japanese influence across the municipality.

Find out more on the City of Busselton website: <https://bit.ly/46qidzD>



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT!

The South West Japan Festival is supported by
the State Government through Tourism Western
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PLATINUM



GOLD



BRONZE



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