



Dear Members and Friends of FSFA,

Welcome to our old friends and new found friends to the FSFA monthly bulletin. It is a snapshot of our happenings and interesting things about Japan.

Don't forget you are most welcome to attend our monthly [FSFA Executive Committee](#) meetings. They are held at 6.30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month. Location is the Acacia Room in the Frankston Council Offices. Enter off Young Street. **Due to the current coronavirus pandemic, our meetings are being held online for the foreseeable future!**

FSFA October Executive Committee Meeting

Our October Executive Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday 6th via Zoom video conferencing. The committee discussed a range of issues, many of which were related to coping with the current coronavirus restrictions. The following items were discussed:

1. FSFA's main promotional vehicles are this monthly bulletin and our social media presence on [Facebook](#) and via the [FSFA website](#). Recent items include the daily Lockdown 2.0 Facebook posts drawn from Japanese themed sites and images of cherry blossom, and flowering azaleas and rhododendrons on our website.
2. No formal communication has been received from SOFA during the past month.
3. Our committee again delayed making a decision on a date for our 2022 Japanese Festival.
4. A Japanese Garden working bee was scheduled for Sunday 11 October to plant mondo grass and add mulch to the garden prior to our planned Hanami Party the following Sunday. Both events have been **cancelled** as restrictions will not be lifted as we had hoped.
5. The committee are currently investigating our Rules of Affiliation with a view to updating.
6. General Business – The committee discussed the possibility of holding a Virtual Japanese Festival, most likely in early 2021 via Zoom, with the involvement of FSFA and SOFA contributing both live and pre-recorded content. Members were asked to consider this proposal prior to further discussion at November's meeting.

A Christmas meeting with members of the SOFA Executive Committee was proposed – perhaps to coincide with their monthly meeting which takes place on a Sunday; also, an afternoon tea or dinner meeting sometime in early 2021.

Therese reported that her Susono host mother recently passed away at the age of 92.

News from Japan: the new Prime Minister is Yoshihide Suga; the September Sumo Tournament was won by Shōdai (rank of *sekiwake*) – see this month's sumo article.

Correspondence was received from Chris Hodgins thanking the committee for her gift.

Sister Cities Australia Newsletter

The September edition of SCA's Newsletter contains a range of articles including an invitation to participate in their November AGM via Zoom, a Ginkgo Tree Planting Ceremony and ginkgo tree facts, and the South West Festival of Japan (Bunbury, WA). You can access the SCA website and link to their Newsletter and other great resources by clicking [HERE](#).



Japan Cheapo –

The latest edition of Japan Cheapo arrived in my inbox earlier this month and features a range of articles from Hiking the Yatsugatake Mountain Range, to a feature on the Kansai Region and also Kanazawa's Top Airbnbs. Both Japan Cheapo and Tokyo Cheapo have been recommended in our previous bulletins and can be accessed [HERE](#).



Sumo's September Tournament in Tokyo

The Japanese Sumo Association held its September Basho in Tokyo, the usual venue for each year's fifth tournament. The Association once again allowed 2,500 spectators into Tokyo's Ryogoku Kokugikan who were socially distanced, wearing facemasks and only permitted to applaud the wrestlers – no cheering or shouting permitted!

Yokozuna Hakuho and *Kakuryu* did not participate due to injuries which opened the door to the *san'yaku* ranked wrestlers – *ozeki*, *sekiwake* and *komusubi*. Rookie *Tobizaru* (maegashira #14) was a standout performer and the potential champion until defeated on the final day by the eventual tournament champion *sekiwake* Shōdai, who finished with a 13-2 winning record. Shōdai also won the Outstanding Performance Prize and the Fighting Spirit Prize, and is the first Kumamoto Prefecture-born rikishi. Three days after his win Shōdai was promoted to the second highest *ōzeki* rank by the JSA after posting 45 wins this year.



Shōdai with the Emperor's Cup (weighs nearly 30kg)

My predicted winner Terunofuji retired on Day 13 due to injury with an 8-5 record!

FSFAves – favourite Japanese recipes

Committee member Adrian Thomas has contributed this month's recipe:

Home-made natto (fermented soybean) in tofu pocket – UMAI!

Natto in Tofu Pocket is a vegetarian snack, the sort of fare common in izakayas (an informal Japanese bar) and is a favourite of my wife Chie and her sister Keiko – they are great with beer!

Ingredients

1. Aburaage (tofu pockets) – these are used for inari sushi and available from Asian groceries
2. Natto (fermented soybean) – also available from Asian groceries
3. Optional ingredients might also include cooked pork, chicken or beef; spring onion; shiitake mushrooms or other varieties; plus, a selection of vegetables – use your imagination!
4. Toothpicks

Instructions

1. Open the pocket and fill with natto or other preferred ingredients.
2. Draw the top of the pocket together like a sleeve and thread a toothpick thru to seal it. → → →
3. Fry in a Teflon pan to avoid using oil.
4. Fry on both sides until the tofu is lightly brown.
5. Enjoy!



Japanese Themed Resources – With thanks to my wife Tonia!

Hand Washing: Japanese Vocabulary –

This resource comes from www.digitaldialects.com It is a multilingual presentation for learning words and verbs related to the theme 'wash your hands' in the Japanese language. You can access the resource by clicking [HERE](#).

New Studio Ghibli Screen Savers and Images –

Recently released Studio Ghibli resources can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#).

Do you know the name of Japan's largest citizen? –

The answer might surprise! You can discover who it is by clicking [HERE](#).

Lessons we learn from Pokémon –

The popular cartoon fantasy takes place in a universe full of Shinto elements, where the natural and super-natural meld together. Discover more by clicking [HERE](#).

Keeping in Contact

Our website <http://www.frankston-susono.com/> and Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/frankstonsusono/> will help you stay connected to what FSFA is up to.

Upcoming Events

Event/Activity	Venue	Scheduled Date
FSFA Executive Committee Meetings	Frankston Council Chambers	First Tuesday each month @ 6.30 p.m.
Japanese Garden Working Bee	Japanese Garden Frankston High School	TBA
Australian Fair and Susono City's 50 th Anniversary	Susono, Shizuoka, Japan	Sunday 10 th October 2021

Feedback

We welcome your thoughts on the bulletin and things we could include, etc. We all share a passion for Japan and its culture and traditions. This is one way we are using to share and spread the love.

Thank You and we look forward to keeping in touch!

Simon Hast

On behalf of the Frankston Susono Friendship Association