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Groundbreaking Event

Japanese civilian internees in Australia during WW2

Publicly recognized for the first time

In March, 2014, Japanese civilians who were interned in Australia during WW2 will gather with their families in Cowra, NSW, to commemorate those who died during internment and to witness the official unveiling of a Civilian Internment Interpretive Board at the Japanese War Cemetery. It will be the first time for the history of these internees to be publicly recognized in Australia.

This historically groundbreaking event will be preceded by a two day symposium, ***Civilian Internment in Australia during WW2: history, memories and community heritage,*** held as part of Cowra’s annual *Festival of International Understanding*. The symposium speakers also include researchers and former civilian internees of different ethnic identities who were interned during the war, such as Indonesian, Italian and German origins.

The organisers hope it will expand our understanding of the consequences and legacy of internment inflicted upon all nationalities, and re-examine the impact of war and conflict on civilian populations.

**6 Mar 5pm**: Exhibition opening ***Wandering Spirit*** at Japanese Gardens

**6 Mar 7pm:** Pre Symposium Dinner – Guest speaker Professor Bill Gammage on ***The Biggest Estate on Earth*** at Cowra RSL

**7 & 8 Mar 9am – 5 pm:** Symposium at Cowra Civic Centre

**9 Mar 10am**: Commemoration, Official unveiling of interpretive board & community performance at Japanese War Cemetery

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