



NIKKEI AUSTRALIA

Japanese diaspora in
Australia

The Nikkei Australia Project Team
with the assistance of the Cowra Shire Council
presents

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Civilian Internment
in Australia during WWII:
history, memories and
community heritage

March 6 - 9, 2014



Japanese civilian internees at No.4 Camp Tatura - 15 June 1943 (AWM 052460)

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Cowra Internment Symposium Committee would like to begin by acknowledging the traditional owner of this land, the Wiradjuri people. We pay respect to the Elders past and present. We do so to pay respect to the people whose land upon which we gather today at this symposium, acknowledging their loss of land and culture with the belief that we can walk together to a better future.

Welcome by Councillor Bill West, Mayor of Cowra

Exploring the “secret history” of wartime internment

Welcome all visitors to our beautiful town of Cowra for our first-ever dedicated internee’s symposium.

The name of Cowra is synonymous with that fateful evening in August 1944 when hundreds of Japanese prisoners made a desperate attempt to break-out of Cowra Prisoner of War camp.

However, there is another story involving human failings, tragedy, courage, and the way in which our lives can be shaped by other significant events.

One is the policy of imprisonment throughout Australia during World War II of hundreds of civilian internees. These internees included second and third-generations Australians of so-called “alien” nationality, and also political prisoners from the independence struggles in parts of Asia.

Many of these internees were long-term Australian residents, and their experiences form a unique part of our wartime history.

They were neither criminals in the sense of the law, nor were they prisoners of war under the Geneva Convention. They were interned under emergency wartime powers, a legal twilight zone with little legal recourse to challenge their position.

Reminders of this internment can be seen at the Japanese Prisoner of War Cemetery in Cowra where a number of Japanese internees who died during the War are also buried. And in the small Indonesian section of the Cowra General Cemetery where those Indonesian internees who died in the Cowra Camp are buried.

While most Australians would be familiar with Cowra’s role as a major location for Japanese prisoners during World War II and the events that unfolded here, there is little understanding of the history, the experiences, and indeed the impact on Cowra itself, or Australia as a whole, of these internments.

And it is to explore and understand this “untold history” that this symposium is dedicated; we thank you for your attendance.

Welcome from the Project Team - Nikkei Australia

We are delighted to welcome you to “Civilian Internment in Australia during World War II: history, memories and community heritage”. Nikkei Australia is an Australian-based group, which promotes research, study, arts and cultural practices, collaborative projects, public events and community information exchange, all to do with the ‘Nikkei’ diaspora in Australia. We very much look forward to increasing our understanding of the consequences and legacy of internment inflicted upon all nationalities, and re-examining the impact of war and conflict on civilian populations.

Yuriko Nagata, Dr [*y.nagata@uq.edu.au*](mailto:y.nagata@uq.edu.au)

Yuriko is an honorary research senior fellow in the School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies at the University of Queensland. She migrated to Australia in 1980 and lived in Adelaide until 1988 and has since been living in Brisbane. She has made Australia her home with her husband Terry and their daughter, Yumi. Yuriko is retired from teaching, but continues researching and publishing on the Japanese diaspora in Australia and elsewhere.

Keiko Tamura, Dr [*keiko.tamura@anu.edu.au*](mailto:keiko.tamura@anu.edu.au)

Keiko is a research associate at the School of Culture, History and Language at the College of Asia and the Pacific at the Australian National University. She has been awarded numerous research fellowships in Australia and Japan and has facilitated joint projects between the two countries through the Australia-Japan Research Project at the Australian War Memorial. She has published widely in English and Japanese and her topics include Japanese war brides in Australia, war memories, Australian military intelligence, and historical experiences of expatriates in Japan. Keiko Tamura has organised and convened a number of conferences and workshops and has presented widely at national and international conferences.

Mayu Kanamori mayu@mayu.com.au

Mayu is an independent artist based in Sydney who has been working as a freelance photographer and performance maker since 1996. Her major performance works include *The Heart of the Journey Chika: A Documentary Performance* and *In Repose*. She has received a commendation for the United Nations Association Media Peace Award for Promotion of Multicultural Issues and the Broome NAIDOC Non Indigenous Reconciliation Award. She has contributed to a wide range of books and publications and has exhibited and performed throughout Australia and Asia.

Lorna Kaino, Dr l.kaino@ecu.edu.au

Lorna is an honorary senior lecturer at the School of Arts and Communication at Edith Cowan University. She has published widely on cultural development and cultural policy in Australia and New Zealand and on the cultural and social history of the Japanese pioneers in the Western Australian pearling industry.

Organising Committee

Graham Apthorpe - Cowra Breakout Association

Lorna Kaino - Nikkei Australia

Mayu Kanamori - Nikkei Australia

Tony Mooney - Cowra Breakout Association

Yuriko Nagata - Nikkei Australia

Lawrance Ryan (Chair) - Cowra Breakout Association

Keiko Tamura - Nikkei Australia

Mutsumi Tsuda - Seian Art and Design University, Japan

Belinda Virgo - Cowra Tourism Corporation

Presenting Partners

Arts Outwest

Cowra Breakout Association

Cowra Japanese Gardens & Cultural Centre

Cowra Musical and Dramatic Society Inc.

Cowra RSL sub-Branch

Cowra Shire Council

Cowra Tourism Corporation

Nikkei Australia

Acknowledgements

The organising committee gratefully acknowledges the support and generosity of the sponsorship, funding and support from the following organisations:

Air Calin
Australian Government - Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water,
Population and Community
Australian Government – Regional Arts Fund
Australian War Graves Commission
Australian War Memorial
Consulate General of Japan, Brisbane
Consulate General of Japan, Sydney
Cowra Civic Centre
Happy Bird Project
Japan Club of Brisbane
Japan Club of Sydney
Marie-José Michel, Honorary Consul of Japan, New Caledonia
NSW Government - Arts NSW
Regional Arts NSW Country Arts Support Program
Rosnay Organic Farms
The Embassy of Japan, Canberra
The Japan Foundation, Sydney

A very special welcome to former internees whose presence will remind us that what we are talking about here happened not very long ago and may also serve to remind us that we are talking about real people, not statistics in archives. They are: (in alphabetical order)

Theo Baer	(Tatura No.3)
Mary Bourne (nee Oki)	(Tatura No.4)
Eberhard Frank	(Tatura No.3)
Helga Griffin (Girshchik)	(Tatura No.3)
Peter Girshchik	(Tatura No.3)
Philip Matsumoto	(Tatura No.4)
Yoko Murayama	(Tatura No.4)
Melba Oki	(Tatura No.4)
Evelyn Suzuki (nee Yamashita)	(Tatura No.4)
Miyoko Watanabe	(Tatura No.4)

We also thank all the volunteers for their countless hours without which our Symposium and related events could not have eventuated, and all the individual speakers and panellists who will offer unique contributions to what we feel will be a very stimulating symposium.

DVD Presentations:

Collar the Lot

Recollections of the WW2 Tatura Internment Camps Australia

English 45 minutes

Written by Rosemary Marriott; Directed by Liz Ainsworth; Produced by Rosemary Marriott and Liz Ainsworth on behalf of Tatura and District Historical Society
(c) 1997 Tatura and District Historical Society

Feu Nos Pères

Français 52 minutes

Réalisation Jacques-Oliver Trompas; D'après l'exposition de Mutsumi Tsuda Feu nos pères

(c) 2008 Néo Productions - Canal+Calédonie

L'Arrestation du Japonais

Français 10 minutes

Une pièce d'Ismet Kutovitch; Réalisation Serge Koutenay; Directeur des antennes Maurice Nagou

(c) 2004 RFO NC - Les Incompressibles

Official Video Documentation

Official Video Documentation:

The Perfect World: Motion Picture Production

Affordable Video and Multimedia Services (AVAMS)

Program

March 6, Thursday

Registration

Delegates are requested to register for the symposium during the afternoon of Thursday 6 March at the Cowra Japanese Garden or between 8:30 and 9:00am on Friday 7 March in the foyer of the Cowra Civic Centre.

Pre-Symposium	Venue
4:00pm Symposium registration	Cowra Japanese Garden
5:00 -6:30pm <i>EVIDENCE</i> : Exhibition by Mutsumi Tsuda Opening with refreshments	Cowra Japanese Garden
7:00pm Festival dinner with guest speaker Professor Bill Gammage	Cowra Ex-Services Hall

EVIDENCE:

The Fate of an Okinawan Internee from New Caledonia
by Mutsumi Tsuda

This exhibition traces the life, love and death of Denzo Higa a Japanese emigrant in New Caledonia, interned in Hay, buried in Cowra. The Exhibition continues until 23 March.

Mutsumi Tsuda is an artist and an associate professor of Seian University of Art and Design (Photography). She graduated from Kyoto City University of Arts and École d'Arts d'Aix-en-Provence (DNSEP). Results of her research about Japanese emigrants in New Caledonia include her exhibition Feu Nos Peres (Tjibaou Cultural Centre) and book *Âmes Errantes Madrépores* <http://www.mutsumitsuda.com/>

Pre-Symposium Dinner

Bill Gammage is an adjunct professor in the Humanities Research Centre at the Australian National University (ANU), researching Aboriginal land management. He grew up in Wagga Wagga, and was an ANU undergraduate and postgraduate before teaching history at the Universities of Papua New Guinea and Adelaide.

He wrote *The Broken Years* (1974), a book about Australian soldiers in the Great War, *Narrandera Shire* (1986), *The Sky Travellers* (1998) on the 1938-39 Hagen-Sepik Patrol in New Guinea, and *The Biggest Estate on Earth* (2011): How Aborigines made Australia.

He served on the council of the National Museum of Australia for three years, deputy chair and acting chair.

He was made a Freeman of the Shire of Narrandera in 1987, a fellow of the Australian Academy of Social Sciences in 1991, and a Member of the Order of Australia in 2005.

The Biggest Estate on Earth

This talk outlines Aboriginal land management at the time of contact with Europeans (“1788”). It shows why Australia’s plants and animals made long-term, precise and detailed local management possible, especially with fire.

It describes how the Indigenous people managed the land and offers examples and illustrations of the ecological impact: people distributed plants in patterns, to make the plants and the animals which used them abundant, convenient and predictable.

Symposium - Keynote Speakers

Yuriko Nagata y.nagata@uq.edu.au

Dr Yuriko Nagata is an honorary research senior fellow in the School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies at the University of Queensland. She researches and publishes locally and internationally in two areas - Japanese diasporic experiences in Australia and pedagogy on teaching Japanese as a foreign language. Her major publications include *Unwanted Aliens: Japanese Internment in Australia During WW2* (1996), University of Queensland Press and its Japanese edition (2002) Kobunken, Tokyo; an edited book with Shnukal, A. and Ramsay, G., *Navigating boundaries: The Asian Diaspora in Torres Straits* (2004), *Pandanus, Australian National University*; *Voices from Japan* (2009) by Kurosio Publishers, and many other journal articles and book chapters.

Title: The Legacy of Internment: shattered lives and lost communities

As convener of this symposium, I will open by welcoming all the former internees and their family members who are present at this event, and briefly explain the background and development of this multifaceted project which involves historians, artists and the people of Cowra. The Australian Commonwealth policy of internment was restricted and selective when applied to European Australians in general. German and Italian aliens were classified according to their level of security risk, but actual procedures and actions taken by the authorities always reflected how the war was progressing. The Pacific War was a new kind of war for Australia because it posed direct threats to Australia's security. The policy applied to Japanese in Australia was simple. It consisted of there being only one category for Japanese based on presumed or proven existence of "Japaneseness". While giving an overview of Japanese internment from arrest to deportation, I will also show how the simple category of "Japanese" included a diverse ethnic mixture. Some of the interned Nikkei Australians or Australian-born Japanese were penalised by laws, policies and procedures that were a direct outcome of the intent of the White Australia Policy – to limit the presence of Asians in Australia.

Jan Lingard

Jan Lingard is a former lecturer in Indonesian at the Australian National University and at the University of Sydney. She has published several collections of translations of Indonesian literature and has won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Literary Translation. This was for a collection of short stories entitled *Eye Witness*, by Indonesian author Seno Gumira Ajidarmo. She is the author of *Refugees and Rebels: Indonesian Exiles in Wartime Australia*.

Title : Indonesian Civilian Internees in the Cowra POW Camp: 1942-1944

At a ceremony held in the Cowra Cemetery in 1997, political and religious dignitaries from Indonesia gathered with civic leaders of Cowra to dedicate the newly restored graves of 13 Indonesian civilians who died in Cowra between 1942 and 1943.

They were among two waves of Indonesian civilians comprising merchant seamen and political prisoners and their families, interned at the behest of the Netherlands East Indies administration in exile in Australia, following the Japanese Occupation of the Indies in 1942. The political prisoners were nationalists, interned because of their rebellious activities in opposition to the Dutch Colonial Government.

This paper will discuss the circumstances of their internment, their experience of Cowra and the ramifications of their presence in Australia, both socially and politically.

March 7, Friday

Symposium DAY 1		Cowra Civic Centre	
8:30 Symposium registration	Foyer of Cowra Civic Centre		
9:00	Welcome Mr Lawrance Ryan, chair of the Cowra Internment Symposium steering committee Official opening Cr Bill West, mayor of Cowra Keiko Tamura - Nikkei Australia		
9:15 – 10:45 Session 1	Special session Welcome to former internees	Paper 1: Keynote address Yuriko Nagata <i>The Legacy of Internment: shat- tered lives and broken communities</i>	Paper 2: Klaus Neumann <i>WWII Civilian Internment and Historical Justice</i>
10:45 -11:15	MORNING TEA		

<p>11:15 – 12:45 Session 2</p>	<p>Paper 1: Peter Girschik and Helga Grif- fin (Girschik) <i>We were There: Five Years Behind Barbed Wire as Children (1941-46)</i></p>	<p>Paper 2 Ilma O'Brien <i>The Great Round-Up of 1942</i></p>	<p>Paper 3 Marie-José Michel <i>Internment of Japanese in Noumea and its Legacy: My family</i></p>
<p>12:45 - 1:45 LUNCH DVD in the auditorium</p>			
<p>1:45 – 3:15 Session 3</p>	<p>Paper 1: Ismet Kurtovich <i>The Japanese Community in New Calédonie: between dream and reality</i></p>	<p>Paper 2: Chad Denton <i>Transnational Negotiations: The internment experience of a Franco-Japanese family, 1941- 1946</i></p>	<p>Paper 3: Rowena Ward <i>New Caledonia to Japan via Australia: repatriating internees 1942- 1946</i></p>
<p>3:15 – 3:45 AFTERNOON TEA</p>			
<p>3:45 - 4:45 Session 4 Internment as local community heritage</p>	<p>Panelists in conversation with Jenna Blyth: Lurline Knee (Tatura Internment Camps) David Houston (Hay Internment Camps) Rosemary Gower (Loveday Internment camps)</p>		
<p>After the symposium</p>	<p>Wine and cheese in the foyer of the Civic Centre</p>		
<p>5:45 – 6:45</p>	<p><i>Gamelan Man: A contemporary Indonesian Shadow puppet theatre performance</i> Artist: Jumaadi Vocalist: Ria Soemardjo Musicians: Graham Apthorpe and Marc McLeish</p>		

Gamelan Man: by Jumaadi

This is a contemporary shadow puppet theatre inspired by a Javanese court musician and political activist Pontjopangrawit, interned originally at Boven Digul, then in Cowra.

It is performed with Ria Soemardjo, Graham Apthorpe, Marc McLeish and Cowra and Canowindra community Artists.

Indonesian Australian artist Jumaadi graduated from the National Art School (mfa) and has participated in numerous group and solo exhibitions in Australia and overseas including the most recent Moscow Biennale. His unique approach to art renders his own poetry with his dream-like watercolours, paintings, sculptures, installations and performances.

Of Australian/Indonesian descent, Ria Soemardjo has established herself in Australia as a skilled and sensitive performer of songs in the highly refined and soulful Javanese classical tradition. She is regularly featured in the Radio Deli Diva showcase performances and other major festivals such as the Commonwealth Games Cultural Festival, Brisbane Festival, and the Melbourne Festival.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Art-of-Jumaadi/438616772859690>
<http://soemardjo.com/ria/bio.html>

March 8, Saturday

Symposium DAY 2		Cowra Civic Centre	
9:00 – 10:45 Session 5	Paper 1: Keynote Address 2 Jan Lingard <i>Indonesian Political Prisoners in Cowra</i>	Panel with artists Mayu Kanamori Jumaadi Mutsumi Tsuda	
10:45 - 11:15	MORNING TEA		
11:15 - 12:45 Session 6	Paper 1: Jo-Anne Shiosaki & Philip Matsu- moto <i>Sayonara Broome: internment of Japanese-Aborig- inal families from the Kimberley region, Western Australia</i>	Paper 2: Hesse Silke <i>Australian Prison Guards in the Early Years of WW2 Internment</i>	Paper 3 Lara Palombo <i>Subversive Subjects?: The internment of civilian women of Italian origin</i>
12:45 - 1:45	LUNCH DVD in the auditorium		

<p>1:45 - 3:15 Session 7</p>	<p>Paper 1: Mia Spizzica <i>The Impact of Internment on Italians in Australia during WW2</i></p>	<p>Paper 2: Simone Alcorso <i>The Jewish Italian Experience of Internment and the Unusual Case of Orlando Alcorso</i></p>	<p>Paper 3 Catherine Dewhurst, Claire Kennedy and Sam Ragonesi <i>Recapturing Salvatore Ragonesi: archival records, family memories and the politics of internment</i></p>
<p>3:15 - 3:45</p>	<p>AFTERNOON TEA</p>		
<p>3:45 - 4:45 Session 8</p>	<p>Panel Discussion by Creative writers Cory Taylor Sophie Constable Saho Nagai</p>		

FESTIVAL PEACE CEREMONY & OFFICIAL OPENING

6pm at World Peace Bell, Darling Street

Hosted by the Australian Chapter of the World Peace Bell Association
 Official opening of the 50th anniversary
 Festival of International Understanding.
 Special guest: United Nations
 All delegates are invited to attend.

March 9, Sunday

DAY 3	
Reminder to transit bus users to Sydney	Delegates who are leaving on Sunday on the transit bus to Sydney are reminded to check out before leaving their hotel in the morning. They will be picked up by the bus from the Japanese War Cemetery at 12:15. Due to time constraints, there will be no time for a sit-down lunch. Orders for packed lunch should be organised in advance. Please see Yumi Martin at the registration desk in the foyer of the Civic Centre before 5:00 Friday.
10:00 -12:00 Cowra War Cemeteries - Doncaster Drive, Cowra	Ceremony 1 Unveiling ceremony Japanese civilian internment interpretive board – entrance to Japanese War Cemetery Ceremony 2 Commemorative wreath laying service in the Australian War Cemetery Ceremony 3 Commemorative wreath laying service in the Japanese War Cemetery – includes short Buddhist ceremony at the conclusion of the wreath layings. Ceremony 4 Commemorative service at the Indonesian Internees' Memorial – Cowra General Cemetery Ceremonial Performance Weizen Ho, Alan Schacher, Shigeki Sano and Cowra community youth at the cemetery
12:15	The transit bus leaves from the Japanese War Cemetery. Packed lunch and drink on the bus.

Ceremonial performance: by Alan Schacher & Weizen Ho

Performed with Shigeki Sano and Cowra Community Youth Artists.

Weizen Ho and Alan Schacher work and perform in Australia and Asia at major arts festivals such as The Arts Island Festival in Indonesia and the Melaka Arts and Performance Festival.

Alan was a member/founder of Gravity Feed an innovative Sydney performance ensemble.

Weizen was co-founder of music and visual performance group, TUFA, which presented performances and major concerts at Sydney Opera House, Government House Sydney, Cairns Festival QLD, and Sydney Mardi Gras festival.

<https://myspace.com/weiofzen>

<https://vimeo.com/user11657333>

Shigeki Sano lives in Cowra and is a master of the Japanese wind instrument sho from gagaku orchestras. It is the oldest classical music in Japan, ancient imperial court music which today is played in Shinto rituals.

Appendix

Speakers and list of abstracts (alphabetical order)

Simone Alcorso

Simone Piperno Alcorso is the daughter of an Italian father and a Romanian mother who fled the Fascist Regimes of Europe just before the outbreak of World War II. Her parents were Jewish but this fact was not disclosed to her until she was in her 20's. Her father, Orlando Alcorso, was interned in Australia as an enemy alien for the duration of the war. Simone graduated in Education with complementary qualifications in teaching English as a second language. In 1990 she became part of an Australian team teaching English at the University of Phnom Penh in Cambodia. She stayed on for another five years working for UNESCO, Oxfam and Save the Children in the arenas of Education and Training, HIV AIDS Education and Human Resources Development. In 1995 she completed an M.Ed. at Stanford University in California. Her thesis was on alternative education and street children. Her continued interest in Education for marginalised groups led to her undertaking a PhD at the Australian National University in the National Centre for Indigenous Studies. Her research examined how the educational circumstances preliminary to the outbreak of WWII for Aboriginal Australians influenced the growth of important Indigenous leaders up to the Day of Mourning in 1938, the year of the sesquicentenary of post colonial Australia. Simone taught at the University of Sydney for the Koori Centre and the Faculty of Education. Her courses included Introduction to Indigenous Australia and Social Perspectives on Education. Her latest work is collaboration on a publication on the life of Thomas S James and his descendants, the teacher of many great Indigenous leaders of the early twentieth century. Simone continues to do research for her own Family History. The outcome of this extensive research in Australia, Italy and Romania will be published when completed.

Title: The Jewish Italian Experience of Internment and the Unusual Case of Orlando Alcorso

Orlando Alcorso was interned for the duration of WW2. His story is a particular one as he was from an Italian Jewish background. The family fled the racist laws of Italy in 1938 to set up a textile manufacturing company in Australia which became very successful after the war. He came out to Australia with his brother, Claudio Alcorso and they were interned together. However, Orlando's story is specific because he was kept under surveillance for the duration of the conflict until 1945 and he was used for propaganda purposes. Claudio instead was released in 1943

after the Armistice with Italy and the Allies.

Both brothers made an appeal to the Internment Appeals Tribunal. This case is quite historical as it went on for 7 days and was complex with many witnesses. After much deliberation the tribunal decided to release them as they did not consider them to be a security threat. However, the Australian Military overturned this decision and kept them interned and Orlando was treated quite harshly. The story of Italian Jews who were interned has never really been disclosed. The specifics of the Orlando brothers' story are important from an historical point of view.

Jenna Blyth

Jenna Blyth was born in the Yarra Ranges of Victoria. She completed a Bachelor of Contemporary Art at Deakin University majoring in Painting and Photography before going on to complete a Post-Graduate Diploma in Museum Studies (2004). Jenna was appointed Assistant Curator at the TarraWarra Museum of Art in Healesville, a privately funded, public Museum that houses a collection of works by notable Australian artists from the 1950s to present. Exhibitions in which Jenna was involved include the *John Olsen survey exhibition* (2005), *Brett Whitely retrospective* (2010) and the curation of major exhibitions *Snap Freeze: Still Life Now* (2007) and *Revisited* (2009).

In 2010 Jenna made the move from art to Australia's social and military history when she joined the exhibitions team at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance. The first major exhibition curated by Jenna at the Shrine was *Pride of the Nation: Centenary of the Royal Australian Navy 1911-2011* (2001). Jenna went on to work with photographer Dirk Spenneman to curate an exhibition of his photographs of sites of memory, contemplation and commemoration throughout the Pacific entitled *Pacific Reminders: Places of Memory and Commemoration* (2011).

Most recently however, Jenna was the curator of the exhibition *The Enemy Within: Internment and Prisoner of War Camps in Victoria 1939-47* (2013). The exhibition was designed to provide Shrine visitors with an introduction to this little known part of Australia's Second World War experience. The exhibition explored the impact on prisoners of war and internees who lived and worked in the camps, in addition to the government policies that guided the camps, the personnel who worked in the camps and the reactions of the Australian public. Jenna was required to work with a variety of community organisations and private families to pull together this comprehensive selection of objects, images and stories on this challenging topic.

Sophie Constable

Dr Sophie Constable writes speculative and historical fiction and is particularly interested in cross-cultural issues and identity. Her 2011 short story *Khmoc* was awarded the NT Literary Award- short story section and in 2013 her alternate history of Russia in 1939 was shortlisted in the top six of the Terry Pratchett First Novel prize. She has published short stories in several anthologies.

Title: Yellow Pearl or Yellow Peril: Rewriting Our Past to Reinvent Our Future

Sophie is writing an alternate history set in Broome and Brisbane during the Second World War. ‘Yellow Pearl’ looks at what it was like to be a Japanese Australian at the time and explores what might have happened if someone in the intelligence community had tried to use our Australian Japanese community the way we actually used second-generation American Japanese in military intelligence. Sophie will talk about how writing fiction allows her to explore history and bring it alive to share with others. She will also discuss the challenges of the work, particularly those that confront prejudice and negotiate trauma. Finally she will discuss the place of alternate history in the human experience and the importance of imagining a different path.

Chad Denton

Dr Chad Denton is assistant professor of history at the Underwood International College of Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea, and holds a Ph.D. in European history from the University of California, Berkeley. His current research concerns the history of a Franco-Japanese family active in the French colony of New Caledonia from 1914 to 1941.

Title: Transnational Negotiations: The Internment Experience of a Franco-Japanese Family, 1941-1946

On December 22, 1941, Berthe Rosalie Kitazawa Fouque, her two daughters, and grand-daughter were assigned to section B of the Number 4 Camp in Tatura, the section designated for “Japanese of local origin” as well as those Japanese from New Caledonia who had “some resources.” The Kitazawa family stood out from the rest of the interned population. According to Mutsumi Tsuda: “They [were] negotiators and very different from the other Japanese internees in Tatura. They [were] French much more than Japanese.” Berthe Rosalie and her daughter Kay used a wide-spread transnational network of business contacts, lawyers, Vatican representatives, International Red Cross delegates, and French and Japanese diplomats in an attempt to secure their release, improve their living conditions, and regain access to their sequestered assets. None of these entreaties

worked. In 1943 Australian authorities refused the family's request to be repatriated to Japan because they suspected them of being intelligence risks. The Kitazawa family remained interned until 1946. This paper will trace the history of these failed transnational negotiations, negotiations that connected Tatura to Sydney, Noumea, Tokyo, Rome, and Geneva, in order to show how Australian internment involved a much broader range of international actors.

Catherine Dewhirst, Claire Kennedy, Clair and Salvatore Ragonesi (joint paper)

Dr Catherine Dewhirst is Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba. She lectures in European, World and women's histories and has published on Italian migration and transnational histories, Renaissance history, and historiography.

Dr Claire Kennedy is Cassamarca Senior Lecturer in Italian Studies at Griffith University, where she teaches Italian language and contemporary history. Her research areas are language pedagogy, sociolinguistics and, more recently, migrant communities in Australia.

Mr Sam Ragonesi was born in Innisfail, North Queensland, and grew up in the Redlands, a farming community. He is the only child of Salvatore and Concetta Ragonesi. Sam married young, at the age of 20, to a wonderful woman of Italian heritage as well. They have been married for 55 years.

Title (Joint paper): Recapturing Salvatore Ragonesi: archival records, family memories and the politics of internment

Salvatore Ragonesi (1904-1994) was interned by 'capture' in Garradunga, north of Innisfail, Queensland, on 1 July 1942. His arrest, along with that of his brother-in-law, Giuseppe Testa, resulted in the two being sent to Gaythorne Internment Camp, Brisbane, then Cowra Internment Camp, New South Wales, and finally Loveday Internment Camp, South Australia. Salvatore Ragonesi's story is interesting not only because he turned himself in to the authorities after having been in hiding, due to his wife and sister-in-law being threatened with internment, but also because his then five-year old son, Salvatore (Sam) Ragonesi, would take steps to access his father's internment records some 63 years later. Since the Archives Act of 1983, the children and grandchildren of former internees have been able to have many questions answered about what their families endured during World War II. However, for Sam Ragonesi, official internment documents also supplemented memories of his father's experiences. Family memories provide a rich source for further reflection on Italian-Australian experiences leading up to World War II and thereafter. This paper combines the theme of stories of internment experience during Australian wartime activities with that of former

internees' life stories, engaging the memories and perspectives of Salvatore Ragonesi's surviving son.

Peter Girschik, Helga Girchik (Griffin)

As children of an Austrian civil engineer and his German wife, Helga was born in Turkey in 1935 and Peter in Iran in 1938. The family was interned in Iran in 1941 and transported to Australia to Camp 3 in Tatura, Victoria, where they remained until 1946. As an adult (now Griffin), Helga qualified as a historian and professionally worked mostly with academic historians in Canberra; Peter qualified as an electrical engineer and was attached to the Victorian (State) Electricity Commission in Melbourne for most of his professional life.

Title: We Were There: Five Years Behind Barbed Wire as Children (1941-46).

The long-term imprisonment of children is a hot political issue these days.

Peter and Helga will describe from their separate memories why it was significantly better for them as prisoners under the circumstances of that time than it is presumed to be for asylum seekers that come by boat today.

There are differences in what the three-years younger Peter and his sister Helga remember and on how they each reflect on the prison that isolated them from the communities beyond the camp.

Rosemary Gower

Sixty eight year old Rosemary Gower, who is a professional tour guide, an amateur historian and a freelance journalist, is semi-retired these days, although she still spends many hours researching the Loveday Internment Camp. For nearly thirty years her passion for the history of the Loveday Internment Camp has seen her collating information on the camps. She has conducted numerous interviews with people who served or were incarcerated there, capturing their stories in print. She has also taken international film crews out to the site and been interviewed about the camp on radio broadcasts around Australia. She regularly takes schools children, and interested people around the camp sites, and is a popular guest speaker with visiting groups, or local service clubs. People from all over Australia and overseas, regularly visit Rosemary, seeking information about Loveday. She loves sharing her knowledge, and says she has met many wonderful people through her research of the camp.

Over the years, Rosemary has put together a collection of artefacts, and information, and now is in the process of setting up a permanent home for the Loveday collection at the Barmera Visitors Information Centre. The premises are owned by the Barmera District War Memorial Community Centre, and Rosemary has served on its board for many years, and been a volunteer in the

visitors information centre. Putting the collection there will ensure its security, and make it more assessable to members of the public. The centre will be open seven days a week and will be fully manned.

Silke Hesse,

Dr Silke Hesse is Adjunct Research Associate in German Studies, School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics at Monash University. BA Hon, Univ.Medal, Sydney 1958. PhD 1968 (Monash University). Silke Beinssen-Hesse was a Lecturer (1965-72) and Senior Lecturer (1973-99) in the Department of German Studies, Monash University. Her research interests and publications include twentieth century German literature, Baroque literature, women's literature, feminist theory and Australiana. With Kate Rigby she published *Out of the Shadows* on German feminism. She has written a biography of her father, Ekkehard Beinssen, as yet unpublished, with a chapter on WWII internment.

Title: Australian Prison Guards in the Early Years of WWII Internment.

In the years 1940 and 1941 my father, Ekkehard Beinssen, who had been interned in June 1940, smuggled a considerable number of letters to his wife, who was at the time a frequent visitor, that describe in detail his experiences in Long Bay Gaol, Burke Street Gaol, and the camps at Orange and Liverpool. These letters are of general interest in three main areas: as an overview of the comings and goings during a period when large numbers of new civilian detainees from within and without the country were constantly arriving; as a depiction of the social interaction of internees of different backgrounds, political persuasions and nationalities under such circumstances before regular camps had been built; and finally, as a description of the approach of Australian guards, as distinct from Australian bureaucrats, to those in their charge and of their day to day interaction with the prisoners. I intend to concentrate on the third of these topics as the one where personal testimony is most valuable and the results are perhaps of greatest interest.

David Houston

David Houston was born in Hay NSW in 1935. After completing his schooling in Hay, and Sydney he studied Arts and Agricultural Economics at the University of Sydney. He married Coleen McKinnon in Sydney in 1968 and they have two children – Lani and Rowan and 4 grandsons. David managed the family pastoral and irrigation property west of Hay from 1964 to 2002 and he and Coleen still live there.

David has had a long association with hostels and schools for isolated children for over 50 years. He has been NSW and Federal President of the Isolated Childrens'

Parent's Association (ICPA) and was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 1994 in recognition of his long volunteer service for the education of isolated children in Australia.

Since 2002 he has been a volunteer and/or office-bearer at Hay's five museums, including President since 2005 of the Hay Internment and POW Camps Interpretive Centre, known by its short title as DUNERA MUSEUM at Hay Railway Station. He still operates Circle Hay Tours which gives guided tours of Hay and generates tourism interest in the Hay region.

Lurline Knee

Mrs Lurline Knee has been researching the seven WW2 Internment and Prisoner of War Camps in the Tatura area of Victoria since 1989, when she was volunteered into the position of Researcher for the Tatura & District Historical Society by her husband "because she loves history, talking and listening to people, and writing letters".

Now in her eighties Lurline has made contact with dozens of former internees and prisoners of war who were held in the seven WW2 internment and POW camps in the Tatura area, and has remained in contact with many of them.

A joint author of the book *Marched In*, and the DVD *Collar the Lot*, Lurline has been largely responsible for the wonderful collection of memorabilia, art and craft work held in the Tatura Irrigation & Wartime Camps Museum. Encouraging students and families with their research has become a very important part of her life.

Ismat Kurtovitch

Dr. Ismet Kurtovitch is a historian and has taught history at the Université de la Nouvelle-Calédonie (former Université Française du Pacifique, antenne de Nouméa) and high schools in the rural areas of New Caledonia (Houailou, Thio and Bourail). He was Director of the New Caledonian Archives from 2000-2009 and is currently serving as Advisor to the Minister of Culture of the New Caledonian Government. He has published widely on the history of New Caledonia and the effects of the Pacific War.

Title: The Japanese Community in New Calédonie : between dream and reality

My paper will consider the meaning and consequences of the arrest of the Japanese civilian personnel in New Caledonia in 1941 and 1942 during the outbreak of war in the Pacific. The causes of the Japanese immigration in the early twentieth century will be considered from both the Japanese and Caledonian-French point of view. I will examine how Japanese workers in all sectors of the Caledonian society, including the economic sector, became part of

the identity of the colonial society. Part of this identity was forged through Japanese workers' intermarriage and social integration with other ethnic groups in New Caledonia. In this context I will discuss the daily life of the Japanese, who also identified as Caledonians.

I will argue that those responsible for the arrest of the Japanese in 1941 and 1942 conveyed a great injustice because they did not consider the duration and the nature of their settlement in New Caledonia. I will conclude with a discussion about an event related to a Japanese academic, Mutsumi Tsuda, who, with the co-operation of L'Amicale Japonaise de Nouvelle-Caledonie, revealed the full aspects of the influence of the Japanese in the past and actual society of this former French colony that is still active today.

Marie-Jose Michel

Marie-Jose Michel is a New Caledonian of mixed heritage of Japanese and French. She has been involved in the Association Amicale Japonaise since 1979 and served presidency for the Association from 1984 until she was appointed an Honorary Consul of Japan in New Caledonia in 2005. She has since coordinated a number of commemorative events of the Japanese presence in New Caledonia, including the 100th, 110th and 120th anniversaries in 1992, 2002 and 2012. For her active service for these community activities, she was awarded Goodwill Ambassador for Okinawa Prefecture, Japan in 2011 and received an acknowledgement from the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2012.

Title: The Japanese in New Caledonia

The current Nikkei (of Japanese origin) community in New Caledonia comprises two groups - Japan-born permanent residents and Nikkei New Caledonians who are descendants of the pre-war Japanese who came to work in New Caledonia.

Firstly I would like to give a brief historical overview of the Japanese immigrants to New Caledonia – when, how and where they settled, and then talk about what happened to their community as a result of the Pacific War.

When Japan attacked on Pearl Harbour, the 1120 representatives of the first generation of Japanese, considered as enemies, were arrested and interned at the Nou island, then sent to internment camps in Australia. Those in family units were sent to Tatura in Victoria. They remained there for 5 years and finally were repatriated directly to Japan in February 1946. The men who had their families in New Caledonia waiting for their return did not have the possibility to return to New-Caledonia. Both of my grandfathers, Ichimatsu MATSUMOTO and Toraki TAKAMOUNE, were amongst these men. On the other side of the Pacific, their wives and children remained in the territory and lived a difficult period, having lost their family head.

Shiho Nagai,

Dr Shiho Nagai is a researcher of Asian American literature. She completed her PhD at the Joint Graduate School in Science of School Education, Hyogo University of Teacher Education in Japan in 2013. She is presently an Assistant Professor at the Department of Humanities, Gunma National College of Technology in Japan. Her PhD's thesis, *Assimilation, Sexuality and Racism: Japanese American Nisei Writer Hisaye Yamamoto*, discusses Yamamoto (1921-2011), the nisei main characters in her short stories, and Yamamoto's newspaper articles from the viewpoints of assimilation, gender, sexuality, internment and racial discrimination in order to verify the influence of racial discrimination upon her stories.

Title: Japanese American nisei writer Hisaye Yamamoto

After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December, 1941, about 120,000 Japanese American men, women, and their children, more than two-thirds of whom were American citizens, were exiled from their home on the West Coast and incarcerated in the internment camps by the U.S. government. Japanese American nisei writer Hisaye Yamamoto was also confined in the Poston internment camp in Arizona.

Yamamoto's poem condemned the U.S. as a barbarous country: "their land, usurped, of milk and honey," which tried to emasculate and destroy one ethnic group by internment. When the internment policy was introduced by the U.S. government, Yamamoto criticized JACL for their cooperative attitudes towards this policy. The Japanese American Citizens League showed "complete agreement" with the internment policy due to their orientation towards assimilation to the American mainstream at that time. Among Yamamoto's stories only *The Legend of Miss Sasagawara* and *Las Vegas Charley* describe the details of the internment camp and the internees' life.

This presentation examines how Yamamoto expresses the bewilderment of massive uprooting. For Yamamoto her internment experience is so important that all her stories are intricately related to the racial discrimination which prompted the internment.

Klaus Neumann

Professor Klaus Neumann is a trained historian who works as a research professor at the Swinburne Institute for Social Research. His many publications include *In the Interest of National Security: civilian internment in Australia during World War II* (2006), winner of a NSW Premier's History Award in 2007.

Title: World War II Civilian Internment and Historical Justice

The search for historical justice has been one of the defining features of the post-Cold War era. There is now hardly a country which has not experienced sustained campaigns for redress by means of prosecutions, truth commissions, apologies, restitution, or other forms of symbolic or material reparation. In the past five years, Australia has issued three formal national apologies: to the Stolen Generations, to the so-called Forgotten Australians, and to people affected by enforced adoptions. Is the time ripe for a national apology for the internment of enemy aliens during the Second World War? In exploring this question, I will draw on precedents in Canada and the United States, and on the partial apologies in the Australian Senate and the NSW and WA parliaments.

Ilma O'Brien

Ilma Martinuzzi O'Brien is an Honorary Research Associate in the School of Historical and European Studies at La Trobe University. She has recently published *The Internment Diaries of Mario Sardi* describing his almost two years in Loveday Internment Camp in South Australia. She has published widely on internments in Australia during WWII, including a chapter in *The Great Mistakes of Australian History* (2006) published by University of New South Wales Press, and a chapter on internments from Innisfail, *Ubi bene, ibi Patria*, in a volume published by the National Museum of Australia. She co-edited *Italian Pioneers in the Innisfail District* (2003) and *Under Suspicion: Citizenship and Internment in Australia during WWII* (2009).

Title: The Great Round-up of 1942

After Japan entered WWII, many north Queenslanders were rounded up and sent to internment camps in the south. Approximately one-quarter of those of Italian background were taken as well as almost all the Japanese residents, together with Germans, Finns, Albanians and people of various other origins. Many were sent to the newly established internment camp complex at Loveday in South Australia, set up for internees of the great round-up. Others were sent to Cowra, yet others, including all the women and children, to Tatura in Victoria. At Loveday, Camp 14A mainly housed Italians and others from north Queensland, while Camps B and C were for Japanese, and Camp D held people from various backgrounds. This paper analyses the daily diary of a north Queenslanders caught in the great round-up, Mario Sardi, written in Loveday Camp 14A, in order to provide a greater understanding of the internal processes of the camp. The paper describes the routines of camp life, and explores the internal organisation of the camp, and the interactions between the different groups of internees, and between internees their guards. The impact of internment on the lives of the internees and their

families is highlighted, and the circumstances surrounding internment and release are documented.

Lara Palombo

Lara is a finishing Phd scholar with Dept. of Critical and Cultural Studies at Macquarie University. Her focus is on the Camp as a biopolitical racial technology that participates in the production of the political citizen. She is interested in the way diasporic women are constituted by these technologies. Lara works as a Lecturer, Tutor and researcher and has published in a range of books and journals including *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, *Continuum: a journal of media and cultural studies* and *the critical race* and *Whiteness Studies eJournal*.

Title : Subversive Subjects?: the internment of civilian women of Italian origins.

In World War II, the internment of civilian women of Italian origins was selective. Their internment was based on being identified as the 'most subversive' subjects. In this presentation I will firstly provide an overview of the evidence that was used to classify these subjects as 'most subversive'. This will link briefly to women's lives in Australia during the 1920s and 1930s, when the Ferry Report of 1925 and the Investigative Branches of the 1930s which accused women of Italian origins of not assisting with the assimilation of their children and of being disloyal to the state. Secondly, the presentation will discuss traces of the daily lives of these interned subjects, including women with children interned at the Tatura Internment Camp in Victoria and their attempts to respond to the accusations of being 'subversive'.

Jo-Anne Shiosaki and Philip Matsumoto

Joanne Shiosaki is a descendant of the Shizuo and Margaret Shiosaki of Broome. Her father was interned as a child.

Philip Matsumoto is a second generation of the Matsumoto Family of Broome. He was interned with his parents as a child.

Title: Sayonara Broome: internment of Japanese-Aboriginal families from the Kimberley region, Western Australia

Mia Spizzica

Mia Spizzica is a PhD Candidate at Monash University. Her research focuses on the wartime experiences of Italian civilian internees and their families in Australia during World War Two. Mia has interviewed some of the last surviving Italian internees and families affected by internment, now living in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. Mia's previous academic experience includes teaching English at the University of Siena (Italy),

lecturing in Cross Cultural Communications at RMIT University, tutoring in Sociology at Deakin University and History at the University of Melbourne. Mia's grandfather was an Italian internee.

Title : The Impact of Internment on Italians in Australia During WW2

Almost every Italian family in Australia during World War Two was affected in some way by the wartime policies that classified them as risks to Australia's national security. From 1940 onwards, dozens of Italian families were held at Tatura in Victoria, while about 4000 men were sent to camps such as Harvey, Hay, Cowra and Loveday. My research examines oral interviews and other data relating to Loveday, collected throughout Australia from 2010 to 2013. My research proposes that Loveday was the largest civilian internment camp in Australia with the highest concentration of Italian civilians in the southern hemisphere and arguably the world. For this reason, Loveday has had significant impact on the lives of thousands of Italian families who found themselves in Australia in the 1940s. Those interviewed who were affected by internment at Loveday speak of their experiences 70 years after they or their relatives were arrested under Master Warrants as enemies of the nation. The focus of my presentation will be the immediate and long-term impacts that alien restriction policies had on their lives of Italians civilians and will be supported by original audio and visual materials with some audience participation, if time permits.

Cory Taylor

Dr Cory Taylor has a PhD in Film and Television from Queensland University of Technology where she researched the representation of Japanese in Australian cinema. She has taught Screenwriting and Art Theory at both QUT and Queensland College of Art. She is an award-winning screenwriter who has also published short fiction and children's books and is the Pacific Region Winner of the Commonwealth Book Prize for her first novel, *Me and Mr Booker*. Her second novel *My Beautiful Enemy*, published in May 2013, is set against the background of the internment of the Japanese at Tatura. She lives in Brisbane and Japan.

Abstract:

Cory's latest novel *My Beautiful Enemy* is set in Tatura internment camp. It tells the story of Arthur Wheeler, a young guard sent to Tatura near the end of the war, who becomes infatuated with a Japanese youth he meets there. The novel deals with issues of transgressive love across race and gender lines and reflects Cory's long-standing interest in alternative representations of the Japanese in Australian film and literature. Cory will talk about the connection between research and fiction writing, fact and imagination.

Rowena Ward

Rowena Ward lectures in Japanese at the University of Wollongong. She has a PhD in Politics and International Relations from UNSW. Rowena's research interests cover the internment and repatriation of Japanese civilians held throughout the Asia-Pacific. Her interest in repatriation is rooted in her father's stories of accompanying Italian internees and POWs back to Italy in the late 1940s.

Title: New Caledonia to Japan via Australia: repatriating internees 1942-1946

The Japanese internees brought to Australia from New Caledonia were interned under an agreement between the Free French and Australian governments. As the detaining power, the Free French Government had residual decision-making control over the administration of the internees, including their repatriation. This residual power did not preclude Australia trying to prevent the repatriation of any Japanese whom it considered to be a risk to security in the Pacific but was all encompassing.

This paper focuses on the repatriation of the New Caledonian Japanese internees from Australia during and after the Asia-Pacific theatre of World War II. Some of the New Caledonian Japanese were among those repatriated as part of the Anglo-Japanese civilian exchange of September 1942 but most remained in Australia until 1946. At the end of hostilities, a number of the New Caledonian internees applied to be repatriated to New Caledonia but the French administration refused to accept them. Using official government archives, this paper focuses on the negotiations between the Australian, British and French governments over the repatriation of the New Caledonian Japanese from 1942 through to 1946.

NIKKEI AUSTRALIA

Japanese diaspora in
Australia



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The Country Arts Support Program is an Arts NSW devolved funding program administered by Regional Arts NSW and local Regional Arts Boards on behalf of the NSW Government