

東日本大震災被災者追悼の集まり

Memorial Observance for the Earthquake/Tsunami Victims in Japan

On 11 March, Japan was devastated by an earthquake and following tsunami that struck the Tohoku and northern Kanto regions. The tsunami totally destroyed many towns, and worse still the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station was severely damaged leaving much of Tohoku without power and a larger area living with the threat of nuclear contamination. The total death toll may exceed 20,000, while those forced to flee to evacuation centres number around 400,000. Japan puts a great deal of effort into disaster preparedness, but the scale of this event far surpasses anything imaginable, and its effects have dealt a massive psychological blow, as well imposing an enormous physical and human cost. Naturally, Australians living in Japan have also been affected.

There are no doubt many people with Japanese connections are at a loss of how to express their anguish and sorrow in these desperate times. Fund raising activities have begun to aid the victims and we urge everyone to support these. The Canberra Japan Club calls on Canberrans to gather for a memorial observance to remember the victims of this disaster. Lighting a candle will be an opportunity to offer our prayers and thoughts to the departed and displaced, and to renew our pledge to support the survivors into the future.

Time : 4:10 pm Saturday March 26th for approximately one hour

Place : Canberra-Nara Park, Lennox Gardens, Flynn Drive Yarralumla

Programme

- 4:10 Gather at the Canberra-Nara Park; light a candle
(Candles are available at the venue)
- 4:46 Observe one minute's silence
(The time will be 2:46 in Japan, the time the earthquake struck)
followed by a short speech from a Canberra Japan Club representative
- 4:55 Shakuhachi performance by Graham Ranft
- 5:05 Short announcements paying tribute to the victims

The Canberra Japan Club is a community group comprising approximately 80 households of mainly long-term Canberra residents from Japan. This gathering is not only those with a Japanese connection but for anyone who would like to pay their respects to the victims of this terrible tragedy.

Enquiries

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