

The Making of AN ENDURING FRIENDSHIP

David Black

Emeritus Professor, Curtin University

In one sense there is really no need to tell the story of how *An Enduring Friendship* came into being: the story is told simply and accurately in the book by Hiroyuki Ariyoshi under the title ‘The Instigator’s Grumble’.¹⁾ If it had not been for Mr Ariyoshi’s vision, his passion and his persistence I would not have become involved, nor probably would my co-editor Sachiko Sone, and this book would never have been written. Not the least is this the case because since my undergraduate days my research work on Australian history and politics had taken me in relevant but fundamentally very different directions. Even where relations with Japan had been the focus at all of my teaching and writing it was in terms of Australia – Japanese relations not those of Japan with Western Australia.

There were personal reasons too to question why I should be the joint editor of a book with the title of *An Enduring Friendship* concerning relations between Western Australia and Japan. My sixth birthday was in July 1942. In that year my parents had an air raid shelter dug in the backyard of our home in the suburbs of Perth; we had blackout paper on the windows; and on at least one occasion my mother came to our school and took me home because she had been told there was going to be an air raid. For the first and only time since the first Europeans came to settle in Western Australia there had been the threat of attack from the air and from the sea and it was Japan which was the source of that fear.

It was then that I turned to the history books and the fruits of my new research can be found in one of the chapters I wrote in *An Enduring Friendship* entitled ‘Japan and Australia in the Interwar Years’.²⁾ In 1937 Australian prime minister Joseph Lyons in an election speech had asserted that while ‘the principal object of British foreign policy . . . must remain the objective of Australian foreign policy’ nevertheless Australia ‘must to some extent solve her own problems by independent thought and action’.³⁾ Even at that stage it was still assumed that appointing Australian liaison offi-

1) Hiroyuki Ariyoshi, ‘The Instigator’s Grumble’ in David Black & Sachiko Sone (eds), *An Enduring Friendship: Western Australia and Japan-Past, Present and Future*, Crawley: Westerly Centre, 2009, p.xii.

2) David Black, ‘Japan and Australia in the Interwar Years: The Road to Diplomatic Representation’, *ibid.*, pp.76–86.

3) See Shannon Smith, ‘Towards Diplomatic Representation’ in David Goldsworthy (ed.), *Facing North*: ↗

cers to British embassies might ‘work well in many contexts’ but two years later in March 1939 the same government took the decision that Australia needed to secure ‘its own separate diplomatic representation by establishing separate missions in Washington and Tokyo’. In April 1939 following Lyons’ sudden death new prime minister Robert Menzies in a very important milestone speech told the nation:

I have become convinced that in the Pacific Australia must regard herself as a principal providing herself with her own information and maintaining her own diplomatic contact with foreign powers.

As a consequence the Australian Government wished not only to

establish a close diplomatic contact with the United States of America and with Japan – those two great and **friendly** (my emphasis) powers in the Pacific – but also to do everything it can to increase our cultural relationship, our personal contact with them, to improve all those things which go to make up a real and permanent understanding.⁴⁾

In September 1939 Australia declared itself as at war with Germany by virtue of the fact that Britain was at war and such were its ties to the British Empire that it saw no need to make a separate declaration of war on Germany. Yet in August 1940 – five months after Richard Casey was appointed as Australia’s first overseas head of mission to lead the Australian legation in Washington – the appointment was announced of Sir John Latham, a former party leader in the federal parliament and now Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, as the envoy to head the Australian legation in Tokyo. Latham had led a GoodWill Mission to Japan in 1934 and he reached Tokyo to take up his duties one year before Pearl Harbour and five months before the third overseas Australian mission was set up in China. Latham’s Japanese counterpart Kawai Tatsuo reached Australia in March 1941.

Looking back now we may marvel at such appointments being made during the twelve to eighteen months before Pearl Harbour and before Australia went to war with Japan. What these events tell us, and what influenced my acceptance, indeed my enthusiastic response to the idea of writing *An Enduring Friendship*, was because I realised that even in 1940 and 1941 despite the growing threat

↘ *A Century of Australian Engagement with Asia*, Volume One: 1901 to the 1970s, South Carlton, Vic., Melbourne University Press, 2001, p.92.

4) From a speech by Robert Menzies entitled ‘Problems in the Pacific’ and cited in Shannon Smith, ‘Towards Diplomatic Representation’, p.94.

of war many Japanese and Australians understood that their long term futures would be in partnership with each other. As I wrote in the book

In the long run the economic and strategic association between Australia and Japan did indeed develop just as Menzies might have hoped when announcing the first appointment in April 1939.⁵⁾

Furthermore, Western Australia from the outset had been a key player in this developing partnership dating back to the early pearling ventures in the Broome area and other initiatives. By 1937 the Nippon Mining Company had signed leases over Yampi Sound iron ore deposits accompanied by the construction of blast furnaces in Japan. Walter Dawes in his chapter 'Australia – Japan Trade' shows too that the Japanese by the mid 1930s were developing other market connections with Western Australia especially with the purchase of wheat and wool.⁶⁾

If the outbreak of hostilities came at a time of growing rapprochement on many other fronts, in any case when the war was over good relations were quickly restored. As Neville Meaney has written, as quoted in my chapter 'From Peace Treaty to Agreement on Commerce', in 1945 'of all the Allies the Australians were the most determined to impose a harsh peace' yet by 1951 Australia was prepared to accept a peace treaty 'which could only be described as soft'. By the mid 1950s the basis was laid in Meaney's words for Japan to become 'Australia's most intimate friend in Asia'.⁷⁾

In my view one of the most valuable lessons to be learned from history is to be able to see in perspective the events and happenings of one's time and the past alike. For my beliefs concerning the nature of Australian – Japanese relations to be based on the situation in 1942 would be grossly misleading as it would be just as misleading for Australians to hold a resentment towards the Turkish people because so many Australians died at Gallipoli. After all in the Gallipoli campaign Australia and its allies were invading Turkey yet the Turks were their allies in the Crimea War and World War Two. Similarly Japan and Australia were allies in World War One when Japanese ships escorted the first Australian soldiers to the Middle East and Europe, yet in the mid 1930s, soon after the Latham Goodwill Mission, it was Australia which made the deliberate diplomatic decision (shortlived fortunately) to divert trade away from Japan and the United States in favour of the Brit-

5) David Black, 'The Interwar Years and World War Two', in Black and Sone (eds), *An Enduring Friendship*, p.84.

6) See Walter Dawes. 'Australia – Japan Trade' in Black and Sone, *An Enduring Friendship*, pp.183–184.

7) Neville Meaney, *Towards A New Vision: Australia and Japan Through 100 Years*, East Roseville, NSW: Kangaroo Press, 1999, p.103 cited in David Black, 'From Peace Treaty to Agreement on Commerce' in Black and Sone, *An Enduring Friendship*, pp.120 and 121.

ish) and quickly realised the folly of this move. The story of this short-sighted decision (known as the Trade Diversion Policy) is told in my chapter on the Interwar years.⁸⁾

As is abundantly clear then from the contents of our book the relationship between Western Australia and Japan, notwithstanding the setback in 1941 has been 'long standing and mutually beneficial'. The current Western Australian Premier, the Honourable Colin Barnett, in his foreword to *An Enduring Friendship* referred to the 'foundations for this enduring relationship 'as being laid back in the nineteenth century with 'the commencement of mining, fishing and pearling in Western Australia'.⁹⁾ At the same time, of course, the really spectacular developments did not commence until the 1960s with the shipments of iron ore and the array of agreements reached during the era when Sir Charles Court was Minister for Industrial Development and the North West, and for Railways. In this regard I need to draw attention to the major biography of Sir Charles Court published in 2011, the centenary year of his birth. The book's title is *Charles Court I Love this Place*.¹⁰⁾

Sir Charles' biographer, renowned oral historian Ronda Jamieson, wrote this important and impressive biography developed from more than 150 hours of recorded taped interviews with Sir Charles. It is not too much to say that Sir Charles was one of the three most monumental figures in Western Australia's history – the others were the first Governor Sir James Stirling, the man who was primarily responsible for the decision to settle the Swan River Colony (as it was then known) in June 1829; and Sir John Forrest the first Premier from 1890 to 1901 who presided over the state during the gold rushes of the 1890s which saw the population of the state increase fivefold between 1890 and 1905.

In her biography of Sir Charles, Ronda (I use her first name as she has been a working colleague of mine for three decades now) has titled one of her chapters 'Iron Ore: the Japanese and the Commonwealth Government' and there is no doubt that two of the abiding themes of Sir Charles' political career extending from 1953 to 1982 and even beyond were in the first place a constant struggle with the Australian Commonwealth Government over its treatment, financial and otherwise, of the resource-rich western third; and secondly, the building of constructive relationships with the Japanese companies involved with the mining and development of the iron ore and other mineral resources of the Pilbara. It is no exaggeration to say that the Japanese connection was one, if not the most important, of the developments which turned Western Australia from a 'Cinderella state'

8) See Black, 'Japan and Australia in the interwar Years: The Road to Diplomatic Representation' in Black and Sone, *An Enduring Friendship*, pp.80–81; Dawes, 'Australia – Japan Trade' *ibid.*, pp.183–184.

9) *Ibid.*, p.viii.

10) Ronda Jamieson, *Charles Court: I love this place*, Osborne Park, WA; St George Books, 2011.

into the ‘powerhouse of the Australian federation’.

Sir Charles was the ministerial driving force of the Liberal party government led by Sir David Brand which was in power from 1959 to 1971 and after three years in Opposition he was Premier from 1974 until his retirement in 1982 immediately following the signing of the North West Shelf Agreement to develop the sell and natural gas deposits of the region. During those years Sir Charles waged various battles with the Australian Commonwealth government, even when his own party was in power federally, over the degree of responsibility and control which should be exercised by the State rather the Commonwealth. With the Japanese clients, however, the relationship was almost invariably positive and encouraging and Ronda Jamieson’s biography is full of quotes to this effect. For example, this from Takashi Imai, head of Nippon Steel in a letter to Sir Charles in May 2005 after he himself had retired:

Your great and continuing interest in Japan and Nippon Steel is most deeply appreciated by me. This needs no mention but you really are the one who fought and built the relationship between Australia and Japan, which today, has become so firmly cemented as to make our two nations irreplaceable trade partners.¹¹⁾

At one level in Court’s own words in 1970 the issues were all economics

They need us. We need them. What better arrangement could you have?

But it was more than that

Japanese experience and skill are helping to solve problems and ensure the smooth running of our mining and engineering operations.¹²⁾

or from the Japanese side

Sir Charles . . . would always try to understand what the consumers thought and sought, and would always spare his time to listen to our stories.¹³⁾

11) Ibid., p.185. On the Japanese – Sir Charles Court relationship specifically see also Jamieson, ‘Charles Court and the Japanese: Personal and Commercial Friends’ in Black and Sone, *An Enduring Friendship*, pp.144–158 passim.

12) Jamieson, *Charles Court: I Love This Place*, p.185.

13) Ibid., p.187.

One could easily gain the impression from all this that the enduring friendship between Western Australia and Japan dates only from the 1960s but the table of contents of our book as already indicated makes it very clear that this was far from the case.¹⁴⁾ At one end of the spectrum the earliest connections were in the nineteenth century and at the other end the developments over the last fifty years have embraced a whole range of issues well beyond those concerned with business and the making of money.

Turning back then to the process of having our book written I was astonished then and now with the very rapid cooperation we received from so many scholars and enthusiasts alike in agreeing to contribute to the book. In some cases like Professor Reg Appleyard, whose longer chapter on the 'Long-Term Economic Relationship between Western Australia and Japan' provides the final overview to our survey,¹⁵⁾ the author's professional and academic involvement in economic history goes back more than half a century and includes a period in his university career when he initiated and shared in the development of the Japanese studies program at the University of Western Australia. In this regard too I am delighted that we were able to secure an interview with Masahiro Ogawa who was teaching Japanese language when I first went to the Western Australian Institute of Technology in 1968 (and with whom my friendship began the process for me personally of discovering the Japanese people as long term friends and allies).¹⁶⁾ Another contributor with an extensive publication record over several years was Pam Oliver from Monash University and her insights into the reality of the functioning of the Australian immigration policy towards Japanese immigrants were both timely and enlightening¹⁷⁾ and I will discuss this aspect shortly; and similarly Bob Wurth, who has published several scholarly works, wrote an excellent chapter on the relationship between John Curtin and Tatsuo Kawai, Japan's first ever envoy in Western Australia in 1941 and who became a lifelong friend of the Curtin family.¹⁸⁾ In some cases authors were prepared to share the insights obtained from the preparation of a major relevant publication – for example as already mentioned, Ronda Jamieson with her recently published biography of Sir Charles Court. At the other end of the scale from one point of view, but not in terms of interest and significance, were those authors such as Julie Easton whose contribution on the experience of Japanese war brides in Western Australia in the 1950s¹⁹⁾ meant that the fruits of her academic research for a university degree has be-

14) Thus see Noreen Jones, 'First Contact' in Black and Sone, *An Enduring Friendship*, pp.1–6 and Gregory Dvorak, 'Perilous Pearling: A Japanese Junk that Never Made it Home', *Ibid.*, pp.7–10.

15) Reginald Appleyard, 'The Long-Term Economic Relationship between Western Australia and Japan', in *Ibid.*, pp.281–297.

16) See Leonie Rae Strickland, 'A "Dinkum Aussie" Japanese: Masahiro Ogawa', *Ibid.*, pp.214–217.

17) See especially Pam Oliver, 'Japanese Merchant Family Businesses in Western Australia: Growing the Japanese Trading Network under the White Australia Policy' *Ibid.*, pp.59–71 and see also The Tokugawa Shogunate, the 'Closing' and 'Opening' of Japan-and Southward Advance', pp.72–75.

18) See Bob Wurth, 'A Link Fashioned in Iron: the Curtin-Kawai Thread' *Ibid.*, pp.91–102.

19) Julie Easton, 'Japanese War Brides in Western Australia: Immigration and Assimilation in the Nineteen ↗

come available to a much wider audience. Those who contributed ranged across the spectrum from the academic community to professional journalists; experienced authors including Bob Wurth with his work as mentioned above on Tatsuo Kawai the first Japanese envoy to Australia in 1941; and those actively involved in the teaching of Japanese language, organising exchange programmes, the development of sister-city and sister-state relations; and those involved in community support groups. The balance in the book is divided between early contacts with an emphasis on developments in the north of the south; the highly significant interwar period; and then in the post 1945 era two major sections on Mining Development and Trading on the one hand and social, cultural and educational relationships on the other.

Given the scope of the book it is hoped that the mode of organisation adopted will make it reasonably easy for intending readers to locate the aspects of the book which are of particular interest to them, the more especially as it was not possible to produce a full scale index. Essentially, the book is organised chronologically with articles relating to early contacts, then to the interwar, war and immediate postwar years leaving the very substantial second half of the book to deal with the era from the mid 1950s the period in which the most substantial levels of economic contact were forged between Western Australia and Japan. In these years the articles are grouped in terms of economic and social/cultural/educational links respectively with a concluding overview chapter by Professor Appleyard on 'The Long Term Relationship'.

In short, this project was the result of the huge and active contribution made by many people willing to share their time and expertise with us and as it has eventuated with both the Australian and Japanese community. The scope of the book is tremendous, a conclusion I have reached and which can be verified quite easily by simply looking through the table of contents and the list of authors and which has made the coordination of the individual contributions all the more necessary. In this respect I need to pay special tribute to my coeditor and significant contributor Dr Sachiko Sone who of course has continued her involvement with a major contribution to translating the book into Japanese. Sachiko is a remarkable lady and it has truly been an inspiration for me to have worked and spoken with her and her contribution to allowing me to understand and empathise with the Japanese people is one of the most precious and heart warming experiences of my life. The same is true of my relationship with Hiroyuki Ariyoshi and some of those who have followed since in the Consulate in Perth. I should perhaps mention also that there were one or two contributors who but for ill health would also have made a valuable contribution but for ill health and that I found Sachiko a very fine person with whom to work when at short notice we joined together to contribute

↘ Fifties. *Ibid.*, pp.127–143.

to the article on Japanese tourism to Australia.

The contents of the book largely speak for themselves but and the positive aspects of the long term relationship emerge in a variety of situations. We have, however, also had to deal with some of the more difficult years and in this regard by own chapter on Japanese internments during World War Two tells a necessary part of the story as does the contribution by well known journalist Andre Malan concerning the Australia First Movement in 1942, the small group of people who sought to welcome the Japanese as invaders in the early stages of hostility²⁰). Indeed such were the feelings in the community at large that alone among the interned groups Japanese internees were never given permission to continue to work in the community. These stories are part of the historical legacy but hopefully as a result of the publication of our book will be seen as in no way reflecting other than short term aberrations in more than a century of cooperation of mutual exchange.

To conclude this overview of our book I would like to make some reference to one of the major barriers for much of the first two thirds of the twentieth century and more broadly even before them to the Japanese–Western Australian relationship. This is from the point of view of one whose personal experience as a small child has been contradicted and placed in its proper context by my life since that time and also from the opportunity to study history systematically over several decades. Let me say again as I did at the outset that what the study of history does at one and the same time is to enable people to see the events at any one point of time as both reflective of that time but also within the perspective of longer term development and change. In this context I wish to refer to what was a particularly controversial issue in its time namely the so-called White Australia Policy – the shorthand description used for so many years concerning Australia’s immigration policy between 1901 and the 1960s and 1970s.

In her chapter on ‘Japanese Merchant Family Business’ in Western Australia from 1866 Pam Oliver argues that dating from 1866 ‘under Japan’s new passport system individuals travelled and explored opportunities for work and small business throughout the Pacific’.²¹) Initially the numbers involved in Japanese migration to Australia were marginal and most of those who did come went to eastern Australia for trading opportunities. As a consequence there was a time lag before Japanese migration to Western Australia developed significantly even though Western Australia could be easily reached by sea. When Japanese migration to Western Australia did commence in more significant numbers it was primarily for pearling in the northwest but other opportunities for those

20) See David Black, ‘Japanese Internments in Australia in World War Two’ and Andre Malan, ‘The Australia First Movement in Perth’, in Black and Sone, *An Enduring Friendship*, pp.103–113 and 114–119.

21) Oliver, ‘Japanese Merchant Family Businesses’, *ibid.*, p.59.

arriving included boarding house keeping, prostitution, as laundrymen, tailoring and market gardening. Family businesses developed in many of these areas of activity²²⁾ mainly though not exclusively in the northwest of the colony.

The White Australia policy, though it had evolved in various forms in some of the individual colonies in the nineteenth century, was formally enacted at a national level under the Immigration Restriction Act of 1901. However, while the British government had strongly encouraged the federation of the Australian colonies the Commonwealth Parliament found it necessary to find a way through restricting non-white immigration to Australia without offending the British Government not only in terms of its imperial outlook but because Britain and Japan had entered into a defence agreement at that very time. The method adopted by the Parliament of excluding non white migrants was therefore through the device of a so-called dictation test which required any intending immigrant to pass a dictation test (initially in any European language and subsequently in any language) and this 'backdoor' approach remained on the statute book until 1958 though as is discussed further below the restrictive policies were subsequently dismantled over the next ten to twenty years.

Nevertheless, given the existence of the White Australia policy until at last the 1950s some explanation beyond the existence of prior trading relationships is needed as to how an enduring friendship was maintained between Japan and Western Australia especially in the period prior to World War Two. In actual fact, notwithstanding the existence of the White Australia Policy, many Japanese people were able to remain in Australia during the decades prior to World War Two pursuing business and other interests though with complications depending on specific regulations from time to time. As Pam Oliver has explained

Regardless of their legal status, Japanese people lived in Australia [after 1901] basically at the pleasure of the Minister of the department which controlled immigration . . . In the case of those who had arrived before federation, both men and women gained domicile status, a form of permanent residency, but they needed a Certification of Domicile to travel overseas and re-enter Australia on their return. This involved demonstrating a primary connection to Australia as their place of residence. From 1904, after special negotiations with Japan to protect the burgeoning trading relationship, merchants, tourists and students could enter of a passport for one year after which they needed a Certificate of Exemption from the Dictation Test (CEDT), granted for up to three years and renewable many times over on application to the Common-

22) Ibid, pp.60–62.

wealth, preferably through the Japanese consulate.²³⁾

Thus, as was pointed out to the Japanese government,

passports(s) only give temporary privilege whereas C.E.D.T. admits to permanent residence.²⁴⁾

Even then many problems remained and at the very least ‘dealing with White Australia legislation required good legal knowledge’.²⁵⁾ Over the years businesses which declined in size faced increasing difficulties but this approach in turn allowed some powerful internationally connected firms to develop. Essentially then a number of Japanese business firms in Western Australia were able to flourish despite the White Australia policy, though smaller businesses had more difficulties in negotiating the WAP restrictions and Western Australian based firms were always under the umbrella of their much larger counterparts in Sydney. Viewing the situation as a whole Japanese business in Western Australia had

a proud record of achievement until the catastrophic seizure of Japanese assets on 8 and 9 December 1941 which brought to an abrupt halt the first six decades of Australia – Japan trading relations in Western Australia.²⁶⁾

During and for a short time after the war the Australian commitment to existing migration policy was still implicit in prime minister Curtin’s assertion in December 1941 that

. . . this country shall remain for ever the home of the descendants of those people who came here in peace in order to establish in the South Seas an outpost of the British race.²⁷⁾

However, the ‘populate or perish’ catchcry of Australian governments from 1944 onwards steadily laid the basis for major changes in migration policy in the postwar era. This was all the more so because of the impact of the Colombo Plan of 1950 which led to the presence of overseas students, and more specifically students from Asian countries on university and school campuses. For me personally this was my first contact with people in number from the Asian continent and I believe that these student immigrants, even if only temporarily in our country, served to dispel the notion,

23) *Ibid.*, p.65.

24) *Ibid.*

25) *Ibid.*, p.66.

26) *Ibid.*, p.68.

27) *Commonwealth Parliamentary Debates*, Vol.169, 16 December 1941, p.1074 cited in D. Black, *In His Own Words; John Curtin’s Speeches and Writings*, Bentley: Paradigm Books, 1995, p.192.

widespread until then among trade unionists in particular, that for Australia to change its migration policy would be to open floodgates to workers who would accept much lower wages than the Australian norm and more broadly to a different and less developed culture. Furthermore, with the change of federal government in 1949 had come also the decision that several hundred non-European war refugees and Japanese war brides would be admitted and the impact of this decision is dealt with in our book.²⁸⁾ Subsequently, changes came steadily if not rapidly. Following the decision in 1957 to allow non-Europeans with 15 years residence in Australia to become Australian citizens came abolition of the dictation test in 1958 the Menzies and successive Liberal – Country Party governments instigated a series of modifications leading to the declaration in March 1966 that as a matter of policy well-qualified people would be accepted

on the basis of their suitability as settlers, their ability to integrate readily and their possession of qualifications positively useful to Australia.²⁹⁾

In the case of non-Europeans the criterion of ‘distinguished and highly qualified’ was replaced by ‘well qualified’ and the number of non-Europeans to be admitted was to be ‘somewhat greater than previously’. Moreover, while the total number of migrants during the Whitlam era was down compared with years before and after, it was the Whitlam Government in 1973 which announced that all migrants to Australia of whatever national origin would be eligible to obtain citizenship after three years residence; that instructions were to be issued that race was ‘to be totally disregarded’ as a factor in the selection of migrants; and Australia was to ratify all international agreements relating to immigration and race.

As from 1978 immigration policy was inter alia to emphasise ‘attracting people who would represent a positive gain to Australia’. Thus the official policy today is that migrants to Australia are selected on the basis of various criteria but regardless of ‘ethnicity, culture, religion and language’. Currently something like one quarter of people resident in Australia were born overseas and in Perth in Western Australia the percentage is close on one-third. Indeed the census in 2006 indicated that nearly 45% of the Australian population were either born overseas or had at least one parent born overseas.

Against this background when I began teaching at the Western Australian Institute of Technology

28) See, for example, Julie Easton, ‘Japanese War Brides in Western Australia: Immigration and Assimilation in the Nineteen Fifties’, in *Ibid.*, pp.127–143.

29) For a short account of these and other developments see Australian Government, Department of Immigration and Citizenship, Fact Sheet 8-Abolition of the ‘White Australia Policy’ (<http://www.immi.gov.au/media/fact-sheets/08abolition.htm>)

(later Curtin University) I discovered that the teaching of Japanese language courses was already in place and one of the lecturers there, Masahiro Ogawa (to whom I have already referred) comments in our book concerning even then the 'unusually keen interest' in things Japanese, and significant depth of knowledge about Japan's advanced products and modern technology. Now with the writing and publication of our book I have become personally aware of a whole range of other activities in Perth embracing various aspects of Japanese society and culture alongside of the very specific economic links.

How then can I reconcile these years of a restrictive colour-based immigration policy with the message being proclaimed in our book about 'An Enduring Friendship'. For me personally, and I believe for many Australians at large, personal contact has highlighted the narrow and short-sighted basis which underpinned the official restrictive policy for so long. Indeed I should point out that prejudice against non-British European migrants was also only broken down slowly and at least initially the recognition of the urgent need for additional population and the commitment to European refugees preceded the policy changes which occurred in the 1970s following the Vietnam War. As the individuals have mingled the prejudices have been progressively if not eliminated at least substantially reduced and in this regard the academic community has been a major force for progressive change: certainly it was various members of the academic community who made up many though not all of the contributors to our book. In everyday life too Japanese, Chinese, Vietnamese, Indian restaurants and the like are everywhere to be found in Perth in 2012, the year in which the Commonwealth Government has produced a White paper urging that every Australian child be given the opportunity at least one Asian Language.

While accepting the significance of socio-cultural relationships it cannot be gainsaid that it was economic developments which made reform possible to the extent that setbacks and difficulties were able to be overcome in a way that would not otherwise have been possible in those years when I was first at school. Economic development has been the driving force and Western Australia's rise to become almost the power house of the Australian federation must first and foremost be attributed to the Japanese connection which to this day remains strong despite the rapid growth in Chinese – Western Australia trade. Thus in 2011–2012 nearly 23% of Western Australia's exports went to Japan and 10 per cent of its imports came from that source and this in a year when 40% of all Australian exports (including 45% of its exports of goods) came from Western Australia. Thus Western Australia remains the dominant Australian state in terms of export trade and Japan still ranks second behind only China as a market place for Western Australian exports. In turn Western Australia's imports from Japan rank only behind those from Singapore, the United States and China.

On area of difference between both Australia generally and Western Australia with Japan concerns the issue of whaling but to date the way this has been handled by the governments involved suggest that our enduring friendship will continue despite policy and ideological issues. While economics has been and still is the dominant factor in the Japanese – Western Australian relationship, the consequential insights into Japanese language, culture and history provided in *An Enduring Friendship* are also of great importance and it is in this regard I believe that our book has made a major contribution. Until earlier this year the book had only been available within the Western Australian community but in the immediate future hopefully many Japanese readers will learn about the strength of the positive relationship between Western Australia and Japan. Let me therefore again direct attention to the list of contributors to our book and the range of topics dealt with. Taken across such a broad range of shared interest and ideals they are surely the basis of a friendship which will go on enduring in the next hundred years.

In conclusion I would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to those who sponsored *An Enduring Friendship* including mining giants, BHP Billiton, Rio Tinto and the Mitsubishi Corporation as well as the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia with whom I work on a regular basis, and the Department of Minerals and Energy. Without these sponsors the project would never have got off the ground.

Then too I would also wish to make reference to the importance of Western Australia in the Australian federation. In 1901 Western Australia was the last of the Australian colonies to agree to join the federation and in 1933 it was the first and only state to vote to leave the federation. This proved constitutionally impossible and over the next thirty-five years Western Australia was one of three of the six Australian states which claimed and received special assistance from the national government to produce a measure of equality with the other states. Today Western Australia, as I indicated earlier, has been described as the powerhouse of the Australian economy and in the national newspaper *The Australian* in February 2011 an editorial to this effect had top billing in the day's issue. For fifty years Japan was the State's major trading partner and is still a crucial and highly valued customer. As a Western Australian who was born and basically lived there for three quarters of a century the publication of *An Enduring Friendship* lays to rest any of the problems of my experience as a six year old and I prize my friendship with the Japanese people just as I cherish the particular friendships I have made since Mr Ariyoshi first came to Perth.