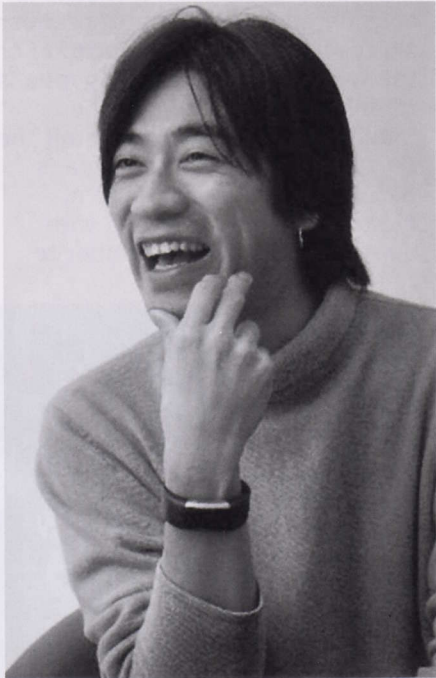


Minoru Hokari Memorial Scholarship

On 13 November 2004, the Consul-General of Japan in Sydney, Mr Yasuaki Nogawa, attended the inaugural awarding of the Minoru Hokari Memorial Scholarship at International House, the University of New South Wales.



Dr Minoru Hokari

Dr Minoru Hokari was born in Niigata prefecture in northern Japan in 1971. A reserved child, he blossomed when he went to school and loved learning and studying. He was trusted as a leader by his fellow students and teachers, being elected school captain at junior and senior high. Enrolling at the prestigious Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo, he studied economics, anthropology and history. It was here that he developed a love of history and a strong interest in the Australian Aboriginal people, their history and culture.

To fulfil his dream to live with indigenous Australians, he obtained, among others, a Rotary Ambassadorial scholarship which enabled him to study in Australia. He was accepted as a PhD student in the Faculty of History at the University of New South Wales. While at UNSW, he became a resident of International House and was a popular member of the community and highly involved in college life.

Having applied and been invited to live with the Gurindji peoples at the remote community of Daguragu in Gurindji country in the Northern

Territory, Hokari undertook his research and fieldwork among them. In 2001 he completed his doctoral thesis *Cross-Cultural History: Journey to the Gurindji Way of Historical Practice* at the Australian National University after following his supervisor, with whom he had a close working relationship, when she transferred there from UNSW.

After completing his doctorate, Dr Hokari embarked on a career as an academic and lectured at Hitotsubashi, Keio and Tokai Universities in Japan and the ANU and UNSW in Australia. He was a Research Fellow, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Visiting Fellow, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, ANU, and Visiting Fellow, Humanities Research Centre, ANU.

In mid 2003, he became ill and was diagnosed with malignant lymphoma cancer. Dr Minoru Hokari passed away on 10 May 2004, aged 32.

In August 2004, Dr Minoru Hokari's book *Radical Oral History* was published and received critical acclaim in Japan. Dr Hokari was a pathbreaking scholar who made outstanding contributions towards "cross-culturalising" historical practice and towards developing a respectful collaborative research strategy with indigenous Australians.

The International House Minoru Hokari Memorial Scholarship was established in November 2004 to the memory of Dr Minoru Hokari and to promote international understanding. The Scholarship will provide financial assistance to an International House resident(s) who has demonstrated a commitment to international friendship and cross-cultural understanding and encourage them and others to make a contribution to society.

The Consul-General is himself a graduate of Hitotsubashi University and felt honoured to speak at the presentation. He expressed his regret at the passing of such a talented and well regarded man at such a young age. Mr Nogawa hopes that the Scholarship will encourage young academics, and at the same time, that Dr Hokari's name will "stay in people's memories as a shining example of academic exchange between Australia and Japan".