

Foreword

This inaugural issue of *New Voices* seeks to support the work of early career researchers and postgraduate students in Japanese Studies and related fields. *New Voices* acts as a forum for young researchers to exchange ideas, by providing a platform for them to introduce their research interests as a prelude to more definitive publication elsewhere.

2006 is the Australia–Japan Year of Exchange, which commemorates the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Basic Treaty of Friendship between Australia and Japan. It is appropriate that *New Voices* should be first published during this year, when cross-cultural exchange is at the forefront of our minds.

I hope that *New Voices* will be of significance to young researchers, and will contribute to cross-cultural understanding between both Japan and Australia, and beyond.

Yoshiyuki Ueno
Director, The Japan Foundation, Sydney