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## Great earthquakes that have shaped Japan

日本に大きな影響を与えた地震

Wednesday February 26 2014 5-6:30pm

New Years drinks will be served prior to the lecture from 5-5:30pm

**Professor Brian Kennett** Research School of Earth Sciences, Australian National University

**Lecture Theatre 1.04, Coombs Extension Building 9, Fellows Rd, ANU**



Japan has been created by the interaction of four distinct tectonic plates and the regular occurrence of earthquakes is one of the symptoms of these ongoing processes, along with the presence of active volcanoes. Over time the islands come under considerable strain – much, but not all, is relieved through regular earthquake activity. But, this regular activity can be followed by a nasty surprise, as the remainder of the strain is released in truly great earthquakes.

This talk is focused on three great earthquakes: Firstly, the 1891 *Neodani* event, behind Gifu; this is the largest inland earthquake known in Japan. This earthquake revealed the limitations of western design in a modernising Japan and set the stage for the design of earthquake resistant structures.

Secondly, the 2011 *Tohoku-Oki* event with its devastating tsunami seen in real-time. Why was this event such a surprise? What has been learnt as a consequence? Finally, the 1707 *Nankai* earthquake on the southern coast of Japan, where reanalysis indicates potential for a greater impact on the Japanese economy than that wreaked by the 2011 earthquake.

### About the speaker

Brian Kennett is currently Professor of Seismology at the Research School of Earth Sciences, The Australian National University and was Director from September 2006 to January 2010. He was a Lindemann Fellow at IGPP, University of California, San Diego and then a University Lecturer at the University of Cambridge. He moved to Australia in 1984, and was President of the International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior from 1999-2003.

Professor Kennett's research has covered a very wide range of topics in seismology, from reflection seismology to studies of the deep Earth and from theoretical to observational studies. He has also received recognition as the recipient of a number of medals and awards including the Gold Medal in Geophysics from the Royal Astronomical Society. He is a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union and the Australian Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society (London).

**Further information about the Japan Institute: [japaninstitute.anu.edu.au](http://japaninstitute.anu.edu.au)**

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This lecture is free and open to the public

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