## From the Desk of the Consul-General

More than three months have passed since our last issue. In that time, Japan gained a new prime minister. It was pleasing to see Japanese people living here in New South Wales exercise their right to vote at the polling station that was set up at the Consulate.

Once again, I have been impressed by the breadth and depth of the links between our two countries—and beyond. One of the many events I attended in September was the Wind Over Water 4th Pacific Rim Haiku Conference held at Terrigal on the Central Coast. Haiku may be very short poems, but their impact has been great, with societies of haiku writers around the world.

I was also encouraged by the enthusiastic students I met at the Australian Catholic University in Strathfield and at Wollongong University when I spoke on Japanese popular culture. A high level of interest in Japan could also be seen



With the Mayor of Gosford, Cr Chris Holstein, and Mrs Beverley George, Convenor of the Wind Over Water Haiku Conference and President of HaikuOz, the Australian Haiku Society

among the high school and university students who spoke at the NSW Japanese Language Speech Contest in September. They demonstrated the high level of proficiency many young people have expressing themselves in Japanese, and it was an excellent opportunity for me to gain an idea of what young Australians are thinking about

I also had the pleasure of attending a reception organised by the Minister for Tourism, the Hon. Jodi McKay MP, to welcome Japanese partners of the Sydney Running Festival which was held in mid-September. Acting as a Goodwill Ambassador for the event was Japanese marathon champion, Ms Naoko Takahashi, a gold medallist at the Sydney Olympics. Ms Takahashi continues to inspire people and I have learnt that several entrants in this year's Australia-Japan Relations Essay



**Talking with Australian Catholic University students** after giving a lecture on Japanese popular culture

## そうりょうじだは 終領事便り

か げついじょう た 前号から3ヶ月以上が経ちました。この間日本では、 新しい総理が誕生しました。NSW州にお住まいの ざいりゅうほうじん かたがた ざいがいせんきょ とうひょう 在留邦人の方々が在外選挙の投票のため、総領事館 まで足を運んでくださったことは喜ばしいことです。

にちごうりょうこく きずな はば たびたび言っていることですが、日豪両国の絆の幅 の広さと深さ、さらにそれ以上の広がりには驚くばか りです。9月に出席したイベントの1つに、セントラ だい かいかんたいへいようはいくたいかい ル・コーストで開催された第4回環太平洋俳句大会があ みじか けいたい し ります。俳句は短い形態の詩ですが、そのインパクト あいこうしゃたち あつ せかいじゅう は大きく、世界中の俳句愛好者達が集まりました。

また、オーストラリア・カトリック大学やウーロンゴン 大学で日本のポップカルチャーについて講演した際に たか かんしん ゆう がくせいたち は、日本に対する高い関心を有する学生達に会いまし た。更に9月に開催されたNSW州日本語スピーチコンテス トでは、大学生のみならず高校生もすばらしいスピーチ を行いました。彼らは、自分自身をきちんと表現でき る高いレベルの日本語を身につけておりましたし、オー ストラリアの若者が日本について何を考えているか、 その一面を知ることができる良い機会となりました。

9月中旬には、マッケイNSW観光大臣主催によるシド

Contest chose to write about her as a Japanese person they would like to meet who has contributed to Japanese society. Could she ever have imagined that there would be Australian school students writing about her back when she began running?

Finally, this is the last issue of our newsletter for this year, so while it's a little early, I wish you well for the rest of 2009 and hope that you have a joyous start to 2010.

Until next time,

Nobuhito Hobo

ニーマラソンのレセプションに参加 させていただきました。シドニーマ しんぜんたいし たかはしなおこ ラソン親善大使の高橋尚子さんは、 シドニーオリンピックの女子マラソ ン金メダリストでもあり、マラソン のすばらしさについて人々に語り続 けています。今年の全豪中学 高校生作文コンテストでも「日本の 社会に貢献している有名人で会って みたい人」という課題に、高橋さん を選んだいくつかの応募作品があり ました。 高橋さんがマラソンを始 めた頃、オーストラリアの中高生が 将来自分について作文することな ど、想像していたでしょうか。

最後になりますが、今年のJapan Reportsの発行は今号が最後になり ます。少し早いですが、2009年の良 いしめくくりをお祈りします。そし て、よい年をお迎え下さい。

ではまた次号でお会いしましょう。

粗 信仁

## **Japan Club of Sydney receives Foreign Ministerial Award**



Mrs Kazuko Chalker, President of the Japan Club of Sydney, with Consul-General Nobuhito Hobo

The Japan Club of Sydney was established 26 years ago, and since its inception it has played an active role in fostering friendship and understanding between Australia and Japan. The Foreign Ministerial Award was conferred in recognition of this excellent work.

Current JCS president, Mrs Kazuko Chalker, received the award on behalf of the club at a presentation ceremony held at the official residence of the Consul-General of Japan in Sydney, Mr Nobuhito Hobo, held on 7 September. Also present to celebrate occasion were past

presidents, committee and club members, as well as representatives of other organisations involved in Japan-Australia relations.

One of JCS's major undertakings is supporting the Japanese language schools that help children of Japanese parentage maintain a link with the Japanese culture. It is also a major organiser of the Natsu-matsuri in Sydney Summer Festival which allows people of Japanese heritage to share their culture with the wider Australian community.

Although the club's original purpose was mutual support for Japanese residents living permanently in Australia, it welcomes people from all backgrounds who accept the club's tenets and policies.

For more see: www.japanclubofsydney.org/aboutjcs.htm.

## A sailor's diary returns home

Manly in Sydney and Odawara in Kanagawa Prefecture are friendship cities. When visitors from Odawara visited the Australian Army Artillery Museum at

North Head in Manly, they noticed a diary that had been discovered by an Australian soldier in New Guinea and had ended up in the collection. The diary was written by Japanese seaman, Tsuzuku Maruyama, killed during WWII. It was decided to have the diary translated and return the original to the seaman's family. On 5 August, Manly Council handed the diary over to a representative from Odawara who a week later



returned it to Mr Maruyama's family, in Azumino, Japan. The family had not received any of his effects after his death, so the diary's return was especially poignant.