

# Japan REPORTS

The Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney's  
Quarterly Newsletter

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## A message from the Acting Consul-General of Japan

*Dear Readers,*

It was a busy end to 2013, but I was fortunate to enjoy another festive season in beautiful Sydney. I could get used to seeing in the new year under summer skies.

Those sunny skies were with us on 3 December when the consulate held its annual national day reception [see p.2] to celebrate His Majesty the Emperor's birthday. It was a great pleasure to be able to welcome personally to the residence so many people who keenly support Australia-Japan relations.

In my speech that evening, I noted that in 2013 we saw an unprecedented level of commitment from Australia to bilateral economic ties. In October, NSW Deputy Premier Stoner attended the 51st Japan-Australia Joint Business Conference in Tokyo – the Northern Territory Chief Minister also attended. Of particular note was the announcement that NSW would re-open its Tokyo office. I hope that NSW-Japan ties will become even stronger as a result.

The Northern Territory is also part of the Sydney Japanese consulate's jurisdiction. Chief Minister Giles has already visited Japan twice, and Japan is building positive and friendly relations with the Giles' government.

I am confident that in 2014 Japan-NSW and Japan-NT ties will be further enhanced.

Part of the reason for my confidence is the number of young Australians I meet who are so interested in Japan.

Also in December I hosted a reception for NSW returnees from the Japan Exchange and Teaching program on 11

December and JETAA NSW members also attended. I learnt a little of the truly international ties that JET can create [see p.4]. Another group of NSW high school and university students went to Japan on the JENESYS 2.0 program [see p.5], and I met this year's NSW winners of the 31st Australia-Japan Relations Essay Contest [see p.3]. Their genuine enthusiasm for Japan is great to see. So too was the excellent turn out for the Japan Expo and Matsuri in Sydney [see p.3].

**Acting Consul-General  
Toshiaki Kobayashi with  
Ms Naomi Campbell,**

When I became the acting consul-general, I never imagined that I would be welcoming a supermodel to the residence [see p.2]. I am quite certain the occasion was a first for the consulate! Ms Naomi Campbell made a donation to the Japanese Red Cross. Like Ms Campbell, there are still many people in Australia who have not forgotten the victims of the March 2011 disaster, and Japan is very grateful for all the support we have received.



Photo: Nichigo Press

**and with Mr Michael Clarke**

I always enjoy learning new things about Australian culture. I attended my first cricket match—a 20-20 match at the SCG on 21 December. It was a great atmosphere, and it was an honour to meet Australian test captain Michael Clarke that day. However, I must admit the rules of cricket are still a little unclear to me.

Finally, Mr Masato Takaoka has been appointed the next Consul-General of Japan in Sydney and he is scheduled to arrive in early February. Thank you for the extra support I have received while I have been the acting consul-general, and I ask you for your ongoing support of the Consulate-General of Japan.

*Toshiaki Kobayashi  
January 2014*

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