

## A message from Consul-General Masato Takaoka

## Consulate-General Activities

*Dear Readers,*

*It has been more than a year now that I have lived and worked in New South Wales. I am beginning to recognise a certain rhythm to the year. In early March I again joined members of the Japanese community in the annual Clean-up Australia Day. It was great to see so many people lending a hand to tidy a part of Lane Cove National Park. Many families took part and I hope that the younger members of the clean-up team will be inspired to volunteer for many similar projects in the future. The clean-up was quite a challenge but with a strong sense of satisfaction at the end.*

*Recently another true challenge presented itself when I hosted The Art of Sake at my residence (see opposite). You might think that there is nothing easier than promoting food and wine given Sydneysiders' love of good food and drink, but this was the first time to hold such an event. It was a unique opportunity to have Sake Samurai André Bishop share his knowledge of sake and to have all five Sydney-based distributors come together and promote sake. There was a great sense of achievement after realising the event, but more than anything, I hope that the guests at the event enjoyed discovering new insights into the world of sake.*

*Finally, I hope many people had the chance to see Mono no Aware, the wonderful photography exhibition that was the first to show at the Japan Foundation Sydney's new gallery space. I was not only impressed by Mr Brett Boardman's images and Mr Andrew Burns' exhibition design; I was reminded of the important role that Japan Foundation Sydney plays promoting Japanese culture, understanding and collaboration. I would encourage you to visit the new Japan Foundation library and facilities at Central Park if you haven't done so already.*

*Masato Takaoka*



### Commemorative Service for the Bombing of Darwin

On 19 February, Consul-General Masato Takaoka was among the dignitaries who were invited to participate in the commemorative service held in observance of the 73rd anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin. Mr Takaoka laid a

wreath and heard the Administrator of the Northern Territory the Honourable John Hardy OAM, Chief Minister Adam Giles and Lord Mayor Katrina Fong Lim give tributes to the war dead who gave their lives for their country.

### Clean-up Australia Day 2015

On 1 March, Consul-General Takaoka joined members of the Japanese community as they did their part to clean up Lane Cove National Park. He was one of 177 people in



the group of volunteers which worked hard gathering rubbish at the park and along nearby roads. Participants held a barbecue after the clean-up and of course left no rubbish behind them.

### The 1st Australia-Japan Relations Essay Contest Awards Ceremony

The Consul-General held an awards ceremony on 11 March for the winners of the 1st Australia-Japan Relations Essay contest for Secondary School students in NSW and the NT. About 75 guests attended the ceremony which included



representatives from the NSW Department of Education, school officials, judges, the students and their families, and the Hon. Catherine Cusack MLC, NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Tertiary Education and Skills, as guest of honour.

The Senior Division First Prize winner, Ms Emily Kim (North Sydney Girls' High School), won a return flight to Japan courtesy of Japan Airlines and JTB Australia.



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