

## A farewell message from Consul-General Masato Takaoka

*Dear Readers,*

*By the time you receive this newsletter, I will have already departed Sydney. So this time, I am writing to bid farewell to you as my tour of duty in this beautiful city of Sydney comes to an end. While by profession as a diplomat I am destined to move from one posting to another, it is not easy for me to be mentally prepared to leave the place I love.*

*As Consul-General of Japan over nearly three years, it has been a great honour and privilege to meet so many wonderful people who make Australia such a dynamic and attractive country and who enrich the excellent partnership we enjoy between Japan and Australia. I am very grateful for the support extended to me and my office during my tenure.*

*I will always remember Sydney.*

*Although I would usually feel too embarrassed to do so, let me share the following poem (短歌 tanka) which recently came to mind as I was running my usual morning course along Rose Bay:*

我が身には 過ぎたる春と 思いけり  
移ろいの世に 花此処に咲く

It's been a spring  
More than I deserve –  
I realise

In a transient world,  
Here flowers bloom

*I would like to extend my sincere thanks for your kind cooperation and friendship, and I wish you well in your endeavours. I hope that our paths will cross again.*

*Masato Takaoka*

## Consulate-General Activities

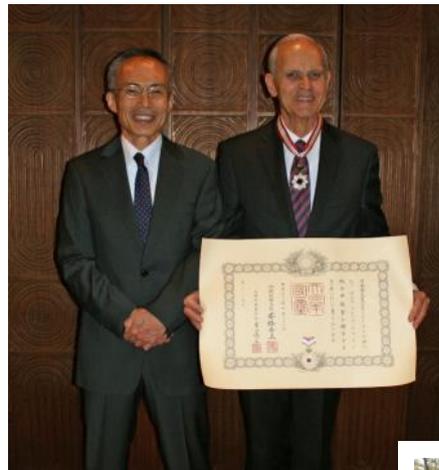


On 17 September, Consul-General Masato Takaoka attended *Matsuri in Willoughby*, a Japanese festival organized by the Japan Club of Sydney with support from Willoughby City Council. This year was the second year it was held. Mayor of Willoughby Council, Cr Gail Giles-Gidney [left] said that *Matsuri in Willoughby* is symbolic of Willoughby's multicultural community.

On 25 September, the Deputy Consul-General of Japan in Sydney, Mr Katsutoshi Miyakawa, attended the Service of Respect held at the Japanese and Australian War Cemeteries, and together with the Mayor of Cowra, Cr Bill West, laid a wreath in memory of the fallen.



## Imperial Decorations: conferment and celebration



On 25 August, Consul-General Masato Takaoka conducted the Imperial Decoration Conferment Ceremony for **Emeritus Professor Hugh Clarke**, recipient of The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon. The ceremony was followed by a dinner in honour of Prof. Clarke which was attended by his family, friends and colleagues.

On 1 September, the Consul-General hosted a luncheon in honour of

**Honorary Associate Professor Sakuko Matsui**, who happens to be Prof. Clarke's former teacher at university. Dr Matsui received her Imperial Decoration in May at a ceremony in Tokyo. Both have made enormous contributions to Japanese studies and language as academics at the University of Sydney.

