

International Bar Association Annual Conference in Sydney—Reception

On 10 October, Consul-General Keizo Takewaka jointly hosted a reception with the Japan Federation of Bar Associations (JFBA) at his official residence on the occasion of the International Bar Association's (IBA) 2017 Annual Conference in Sydney.



Mr Martin Šolc, the President of the IBA [back], the Hon. Justice Margaret Beazley AO, President of NSW Court of Appeal [centre], Justice Julie Ward Chief Judge in Equity, NSW Supreme Court, and Mr Mitsuhiro Wada Vice-President of the JFBA [left] attended the reception.

Consul-General visits Darwin

From 8 to 9 October, Consul-General Keizo Takewaka visited Darwin. During his visit, he met with various people including the Deputy Chief Minister, the Hon. Nicole Manison MLA, and the Lord Mayor of Darwin, Mr Kon Vatskalis.

The Consul-General Takewaka paid a visit to the retiring Administrator of the Northern Territory, His Honour the Honourable John Hardy AO and Mrs Hardy [below], expressing his thanks to Mr Hardy for his kind cooperation and hard work.



Sister-cities

A mainstay of the Japan-Australia relationship is the excellent people-to-people ties we share. Sister-cities are an important contributor to this aspect of the bilateral relationship. There are 108 sister-city or sister-state relationships between Japanese and Australia. In New South Wales alone there are 39 sister-city/-state ties.

Consul-General Keizo Takewaka visited several cities and towns with Japanese sister-cities in the last part of 2017. It was an excellent opportunity to meet members of local government and community groups who are involved in sister-city relations.

On 3 October, the Consul-General visited Orange and met with the Mayor of the City of Orange, Cr Reg Kidd. Cr Kidd expressed great appreciation for friendship with Ushiku City, mentioning the high school student exchange program. Orange and Ushiku (Ibaraki Prefecture) established a sister-city relationship in 1990.

Just three days later on 6 October, the Consul-General visited Coffs Harbour. Since 1988, Sasebo City (Nagasaki Prefecture) and Coffs Harbour have shared a sister-city relationship. Mr Takewaka met with the Mayor of Coffs Harbour, Cr Denise Knight [second left], and



was given a tour of the Japanese Friendship Garden, part of the Northern Coast Botanic Gardens and designed in consultation with gardeners from Sasebo. The Consul-General also met with Ms Margaret Beckett, President of the Australia-Japan Society of Coffs Harbour [left], and Mrs Patricia Degens, inaugural President of the Australia-Japan Society of Coffs Harbour [right].

On the evening of 20 October, the Consul-General attended a dinner party hosted by Cr Wendy Waller, Mayor of Liverpool City Council, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the sister-city relationship between Liverpool City and Toda City (Saitama Prefecture). From 19 to 22 October, the Mayor of Toda City, Mr Kunio Jinbo, led the delegation visiting its Australian sister-city, Liverpool.



Looking ahead, 2018 will mark the 55th anniversary of the very first sister-city relationship between a Japanese and Australian city—the relationship between Lismore in northern NSW and Yamato-Takada (Nara Prefecture) was

established in 1963. The consul for information and culture, Mr Isao Omae, visited Lismore from 25 to 26 October, meeting with the Hon. Thomas George MP [right] at the Japan Centre at Southern Cross University, and interacting with students and Japanese exchange students at the university.