

A message from Consul Isao Omae

Dear Readers,

Recently I had the pleasure of travelling to Darwin to assist with the lecture and demonstration by Mr Hideo Dekura (see p.5).

Japanese food culture has been embraced by so many Australians, and it was great to see people in Darwin have the opportunity to hear and watch Dekura-sensei who was one of the pioneers of the Japanese food scene in Sydney. Darwin's local Japanese community and AJANT members were very supportive of the event.

It is always such an honour to meet people like Dr Sakuko Matsui and Ms Tazuko McLaren who have made contributions to the friendship between Japan and Australia over so many years—the Sydney consulate was so happy to hear of the recognition they received in the 2018 Australia Day Honours List (p.3).

Finally, I would like to encourage you to follow our Facebook page—www.facebook.com/CGJSYD. We regularly post about events and activities as well as providing information about Japan and Japan-related events.

Isao Omae

Japan-Australia Summit Meeting

On 18 January, Mr Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, held the annual Japan-Australia Summit Meeting with the Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP, Prime Minister of Australia. A special meeting of the National Security Council and an extended summit meeting were also conducted as part of the busy program. Later that evening, Prime Minister Abe hosted a dinner banquet for Prime Minister Turnbull.



At the summit meeting

In addition to a joint press conference, Prime Minister Turnbull's 16-hour trip also included a visit to Japan Ground Self Defense Force Camp Narashino, Tokyo Metropolitan Police Headquarters, Tokyo Station and a ride on Tokyo's Marunouchi subway line, as well as a luncheon meeting with Japanese and Australian business executives.

The two prime ministers discussed issues concerning the Indo-Pacific region, security and defence

cooperation, trade relations, and people-to-people exchange. Among the points discussed, they reaffirmed Japan and Australia's shared values and shared determination to enable the signing and entry into force of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP11) as soon as possible.



The salute and guard of honour ceremony



At the special meeting of the National Security Council (meeting among four ministers)

Read the Joint Press Statement for the outcomes of the Summit Meeting:
www.mofa.go.jp/files/000326262.pdf

IMAGES: Cabinet Public Relations Office

Shirase port of call at Sydney



On 20 March, a reception was held onboard the *JS Shirase*, hosted Captain Koji Miyazaki and Dr Koichiro Doi (Leader of the 59th Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition Team).

Some 290 guests attended the reception, which has become a celebration of Japan-Australia friendship.

The Shirase sword—a treasure

"This is an Australian story. Not the foundational narrative of firsts and greats, but a unique and distinctive story of our entanglement with people, places, animals and things." This is how guest curator and historian Dr Peter Emmett describes* the 100 object treasures to be found in the Australian Museum's Westpac Long Gallery which re-opened in October 2017. One of these treasures is the Shirase sword.

The Shirase sword is a 17th-century samurai 'katana' sword given to Japan's first Antarctic explorer Lieutenant Nobu Shirase by his benefactor. Lt Shirase in turn gave the sword to Professor Edgeworth David to thank the professor for his generous assistance when the expedition team was forced to spend the 1911 winter in Parsley Bay in Sydney.

This treasure has also been called "the sword of friendship".

* p.15, *200 Treasures of the Australian Museum* exhibition catalogue, 2017