

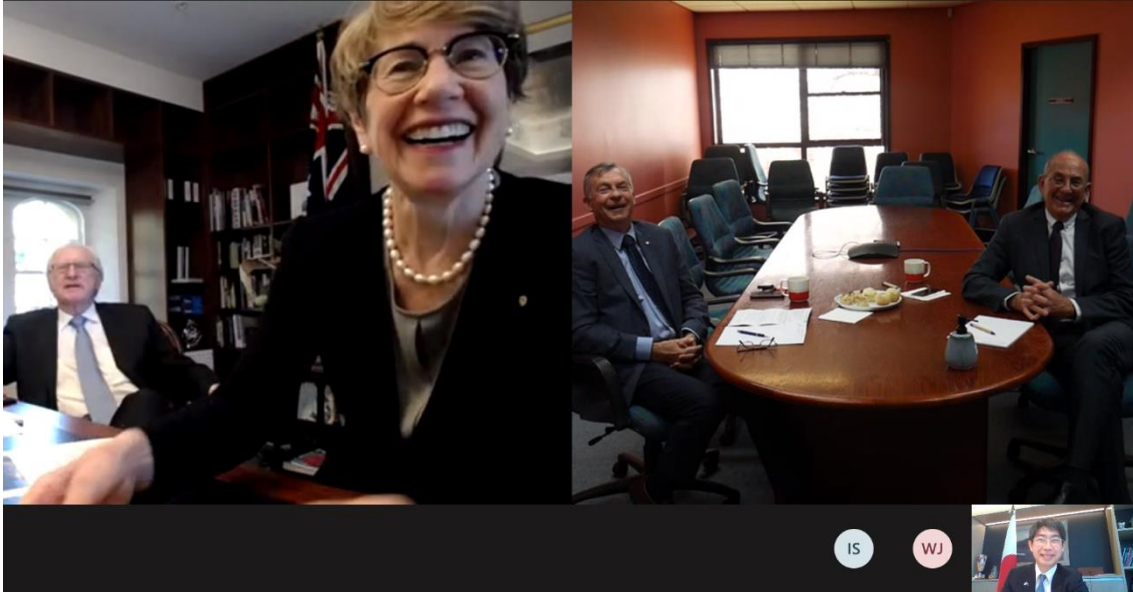
## **Consul-General of Japan in Sydney's Newsletter**

### **No. 23 Government House Sydney and Japan**

4 September 2020

On 27 August last week, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of New South Wales, and Mr Dennis Wilson held a virtual meeting with Cr Bill West, Mayor of Cowra Shire, and Mr Bob Griffiths, Chairman of the Cowra Japanese Garden and Cultural Centre. Cowra in NSW has deep ties with Japan. I also participated in the meeting. Originally, Governor Beazley and Mr Wilson had considered visiting Cowra this year to coincide with the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War. However, the COVID-19 situation made this difficult to arrange, and instead, the Vice Regal couple visited Cowra virtually via this online meeting.

In this issue of my newsletter, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the several occasions on which I have had the honour of meeting Her Excellency, and talk about Government House itself and Vice Regal contact with Japan, based on my experiences since I arrived in Sydney.

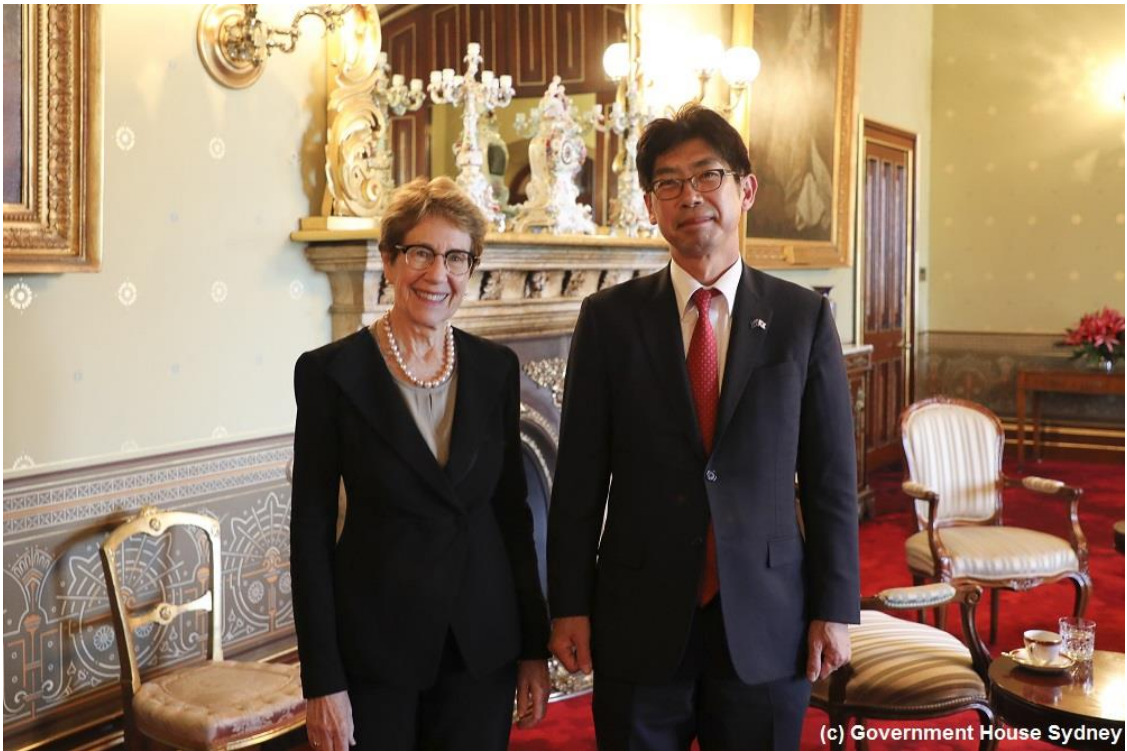


**Virtual meeting between Governor Beazley, accompanied by Mr Wilson,  
and representatives from Cowra  
(27 August 2020)**

The virtual meeting with Cowra went for approximately one hour and was led by various questions from Governor Beazley and Mr Wilson. Mayor West and Chairman Griffiths explained the history of exchange between Cowra and Japan, as well as the current state of Cowra Japanese Garden and Cultural Centre, which has experienced a decrease in the number of visitors due to COVID-19, and at the same time, has received support from a wide range of people including from Japan.

From my side, I expressed my gratitude to Governor Beazley and Mr Wilson for conducting this type of event on the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Second World War and said that it made me appreciate anew the significant role that Cowra has played in reconciliation between Japan and Australia. I explained to the Vice Regal couple that Cowra is not only the site of the Japanese War Cemetery where all Japanese who died in Australia during the war were reinterred, it has also been actively promoting reconciliation through the establishment and management of the Japanese Garden and Cultural Centre and through student exchange.

It is a great honour that Her Excellency and Mr Wilson, as representatives of the state of NSW, showed such interest and consideration by initiating this type of event.



**Courtesy Call on Governor Beazley upon my arrival in NSW  
(31 October 2019, photo courtesy of Government House)**

Soon after I assumed my post in October last year, I was received by Her Excellency at Government House when I paid a courtesy call upon my arrival in NSW. On that occasion, I also spoke about the importance of reconciliation between Japan and Australia and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, and I feel there may have been a connection with the virtual visit to Cowra last week.



**Courtesy Call on Governor Beazley by Justice Miyazaki Yuko  
(12 February 2020, photo courtesy of Government House)**

Her Excellency the Governor receives courtesy calls from people from all around the world. In February this year, Justice Miyazaki Yuko of the Supreme Court of Japan was in Canberra and Sydney to engage in exchange with counterparts at the Federal and NSW courts. While in Sydney, Justice Miyazaki was received by Governor Beazley, and they held extensive discussions. Prior to her appointment in May 2019 as Governor of NSW, Her Excellency had a long and distinguished career as a judge, and the visit by Justice Miyazaki was an opportunity to deepen mutual understanding between Japan and Australia in this field.

Before I arrived in Sydney, Governor Beazley and Mr Wilson also honoured the Consulate with their presence at the Reception to Celebrate the Accession to the Throne of His Majesty the Emperor held at the official residence of the Consul-General in May 2019.



**Government House  
(3 November 2019)**

The Government House building is situated at the top of a small hill from which you can look down over the Sydney Opera House. Government House is currently closed to the public because of the COVID-19 situation, but it is usually open to the public on limited days and times. I visited it myself in November as part of the “Open Sydney” event when many historic buildings open up to the public over the weekend. When I visited Government House that weekend, I saw the same room where I had paid my first official visit to Her Excellency just a few days before, and it made me appreciate that Government House Sydney is truly accessible to the general public.



The model of the original Government House in the Museum of Sydney  
(29 August 2020)

Government House has a long history. When the First Fleet arrived in Sydney from England in 1788, building began on the original Government House. That building served the first nine governors, but due to wear and tear, work began on another building. The current Government House was completed in 1845 and has been used continuously since.

The Museum of Sydney now stands on the site of the first Government House and the Museum displays a model of the original building. The names of the first nine governors of NSW are listed and they are names that I recall having seen in Sydney on streets and famous places – Phillip (1<sup>st</sup> governor), Hunter (2<sup>nd</sup>), King (3<sup>rd</sup>), Bligh (4<sup>th</sup>), Macquarie (5<sup>th</sup>), Brisbane (6<sup>th</sup>), Darling (7<sup>th</sup>), Bourke (8<sup>th</sup>) and Gipps (9<sup>th</sup>).



**The forecourt of the Museum of Sydney  
(29 August 2020)**

In the forecourt of the Museum of Sydney, white paving stones mark the outline of the first Government House. On one side of the entrance to the Museum, there is a bust of the first NSW Governor, Captain Arthur Phillip, and on the other side are 29 poles representing the 29 Aboriginal clans around Sydney – these remind you of the history of those days.

Various institutions and artefacts found in NSW and Australia today have deep historical roots. In order to strengthen future ties between Japan and Australia, and Japan and NSW, I would like to understand not only the history of Japan-Australia ties, but also the many different aspects of Australia's history.

Website of the Governor of NSW

<https://www.governor.nsw.gov.au/>

Virtual meeting between the Governor of NSW and representatives of Cowra  
(27 August 2020)

<https://www.governor.nsw.gov.au/governor/vice-regal-program/thursday-27-august-2020/>

Consul-General of Japan in Sydney's Newsletter No. 19

"Cowra as a Bridge between Australia and Japan"

[https://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/document/CGKiya\\_19newsE.pdf](https://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/document/CGKiya_19newsE.pdf)

Museum of Sydney

<https://sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/museum-of-sydney>

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