

Press Release

Consulate-General of Japan, Sydney

November 3, 2018

2018 Autumn Conferment of Decoration

Ms. Jenny Dowell

On 3rd November 2018, Ms. Jenny Dowell, former Mayor of Lismore City, NSW was conferred the 2018 Autumn Imperial Decoration by the Government of Japan in recognition of her contribution towards promoting friendship and mutual understanding between Japan and Australia through facilitating a sister city relationship between Japan and Australia. She will receive the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette.

The sister city relationship between Lismore City of New South Wales and Yamato Takada City of Nara Prefecture was established in 1963, which was the first sister city relationship established between Japan and Australia. The relationship is symbolic because it laid the foundation of sister city relations between Japan and Australia of which there are now 108. Ms. Jenny Dowell has been actively involved in promoting the sister city relationship.

In 2013, to commemorate the 50th anniversary, Ms Dowell, as the mayor of Lismore at that time, initiated events including "Yamato Takada Day" in order to introduce Japanese culture to Lismore citizens. "Yamato Takada Day" restarted the student exchange program, and the exchange between the two cities was revitalised.

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