

LEVEL 12  
1 O'CONNELL STREET  
SYDNEY**MEDIA RELEASE: NSW recipients of 2023 Spring Imperial Decorations**

1 May 2023

On 29 April 2023, the 5<sup>th</sup> year of Reiwa, the Government of Japan announced the recipients of the 2023 Spring Imperial Decorations. Among the recipients are **the Hon. Tom Bathurst AC KC, former Chief Justice of NSW Supreme Court and former Chair of the Judicial Section of the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific**, and **Cr Bill West, Mayor of Cowra Shire Council**.

**Mr Thomas Frederick BATHURST**

**Decoration:** The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star

**Service:** Contributed to strengthening ties between Japan and Australia and the promotion of mutual understanding in the judicial field

**Major Titles:** Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales and former Chair of the Judicial Section of the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific (LAWASIA)

**Location:** New South Wales, Australia

**Summary of Contributions:**

As the Chief Justice of the NSW Supreme Court from 2011, Mr Bathurst provided support to visitors from Japanese courts, including Chief Justices of the Supreme Court of Japan (SCJ), and his cooperation enhanced overseas research by Japanese judges and inspections by the SCJ. In addition, as Chair of LAWASIA, he co-hosted Conferences of Chief Justices of Asia and the Pacific, and in particular, contributed to the success of the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference held in Tokyo in 2017.

**Mr Bill WEST**

**Decoration:** The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette

**Service:** Contributed to the promotion of regional exchange and mutual understanding between Japan and Australia

**Major Titles:** Mayor of Cowra Shire Council

**Location:** New South Wales, Australia

**Summary of Contributions:**

As a Councillor since 1999 and as Mayor of Cowra Shire Council since 2008, Mr West supported the holding and management of the annual memorial service held in August at the Japanese War Cemetery in Cowra and contributed to the memorial service's continuous observation, as well as the ongoing maintenance of the Sakura (Cherry Tree) Avenue. As a committee member of the Cowra Japanese Garden and Cultural Centre, he supported the maintenance of the garden's facilities and the holding and management of the Cherry Blossom Festival and the Koyo (Autumn Leaves) Festival, contributing to the introduction of Japanese culture. In addition, he worked to maintain and deepen exchange with Joetsu City (Niigata Prefecture) and with Fukuoka Prefecture, and he contributed to the promotion of mutual understanding and the creation of friendly ties between Japan and Australia at the grassroots level.

The Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney extends its heartfelt congratulations to Mr Bathurst and Mr West on receiving their awards and expresses its respect for their achievements to date.

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