

LEVEL 12
1 O'CONNELL STREET
SYDNEY

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MEDIA RELEASE

Dr Hugh Clarke, Emeritus Professor, University of Sydney, and Dr Sakuko Matsui, former Associate Professor, University of Sydney, to receive Imperial Decorations

On 29 April, the Cabinet Office of Japan announced the recipients of the 2016 (Heisei 28) Spring Imperial Decorations. **Dr Hugh Clarke**, Emeritus Professor, and **Dr Sakuko Matsui**, former Associate Professor, both of the University of Sydney, are among the recipients.

Dr Hugh Denis Blake CLARKE - The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon

In recognition of his contribution to the advancement of Japanese studies and to the promotion of Japanese language education, as well as mutual understanding, in Australia

Dr Hugh Clarke obtained a master's degree in Japanese dialectology and historical linguistics at Tokyo Metropolitan University in 1969, and in 1973 he obtained his Ph.D. in Japanese linguistics from the University of Sydney. From that time, he has taught at the University of Sydney, teaching Japanese language and culture, as well as his own area of specialisation in linguistics and Okinawan studies. He is regarded internationally as a leader in the field of Okinawan studies.



Through his teaching at the University, and from 1988 in his capacity as Head of the Department of East Asian Studies, he contributed enormously to the growth of Japanese language and cultural studies. He has experience as a member or chair of numerous committees, within the university and beyond, such as the NSW Japanese Syllabus Committee, the Japanese Studies Association of Australia, and the selection panel for the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program for which he received a Japanese Foreign Minister's Award (1996). He has also contributed actively to people-to-people exchange, involved for almost 30 years in the sister-city relationship between Manly and Taito-ku (Tokyo) and the friendship between Manly and Odawara City.

Dr Sakuko MATSUI -

The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Rays

In recognition of promoting Japanese language and Japanese studies

After arriving in Sydney in 1961, Dr Sakuko Matsui's career was dedicated to Japanese studies over four decades as a teacher of Japanese language and literature at the University of Sydney. From the early days of Japanese studies in Australia, she made an enormous contribution to the spread of Japanese language and culture. While instructing at university, she also held positions such as committee member of Asia-Pacific studies groups and chair of Japanese language HSC exam committees, thereby contributing to the growth of Japanese language in Australia and Japanese studies internationally.

Dr Matsui wrote regularly on Japanese contemporary literature, translated works into English, contributed papers regarding Japanese classical and contemporary literature to specialist journals and actively participated in symposia presenting the results of her research, maintaining her involvement in Japanese studies even since her retirement in 2001. Also of note was her commitment to providing opportunities for Australian teachers and students of Japanese to experience living language as spoken by Japanese people and Japanese culture. In 2012 (Heisei 24), Dr Matsui was designated by the National Policy Unit of Japan as a "Japanese person transmitting 'Japan' to the world" by having "enthusiastically worked hard across international borders".

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