

Japan REPORTS

The Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney's
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News from the Consul-General of Japan in Sydney

Dear Readers

It's been a little longer than usual since the last newsletter and looking back over the many events I have attended since April, I'm struck again by how multi-faceted the Australia-Japan relationship is.

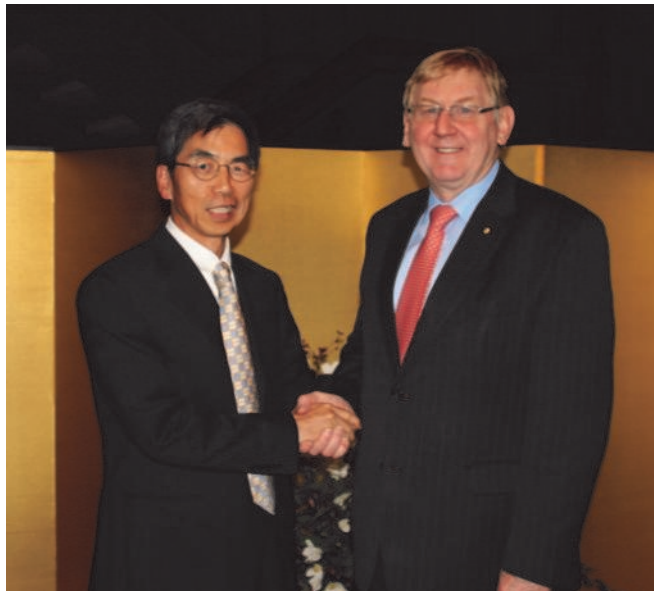
I was particularly pleased to see the Japan Foundation hold its first-ever exhibition in the Northern Territory [see p.2], which introduced Japan's popular anime and manga culture. While I recognised the characters at the NT exhibition, when I attended the SMASH! anime and manga event here in Sydney (14 July), I saw many new characters and stories for the first time. There was so much obvious enthusiasm among the fans that I realised how loved this aspect of Japanese popular culture is among groups around the world who have adopted it as part of their own culture.

I also attended the opening of an exhibition that would be a rare opportunity even home in Japan. To celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Sister-City Relationship between Manly Council and Taito City, Tokyo, a wonderful private collection of the complete series of Hiroshige's famous ukiyo-e prints *Fifty-three Stations of the Tokaido* was showcased at the Japan Foundation Gallery (13 July-9 August) [see p.4].

I was reminded of the ongoing contribution of expatriate Japanese living in Sydney when I conferred awards on the past and present presidents of the Japan Club of Sydney [see p.3]. Such people have contributed so much to friendship and understanding between our two countries.

I also had cause to reflect on our shared history at the 18 May opening of Ken Done's exhibition about the Japanese midget submarine attack during WWII. Ten days later I attended the public unveiling of the plaque commemorating the attack near the M24 wreck site [see p.2 for both].

I had the opportunity to talk about Australia-Japan relations on several occasions to university students and members of the public which renewed my conviction as to the significance of the Australia-Japan relationship in the Asia-Pacific region.



Dr Kohara hosted a dinner for Federal Minister for Resources and Energy, Minister for Tourism, the Hon. Martin Ferguson AM MP

On 30 July, I welcomed a group of Japanese high school students on a Japanese government study tour to Australia. The following day they went to Newcastle to learn about industry in Australia. I hope they will return to Japan with good knowledge of the importance of the ties between Japan and Australia.

Masahiro Kohara
August 2012

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