

## Mrs Fudeko Reekie receives Imperial Award



Mrs Fudeko Reekie with Consul-General Kohara and Mr Yosuke Motai

Bathurst resident Mrs Fudeko Reekie was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays, in recognition of her outstanding and long-term contribution to Australia-Japan relations. The Order is awarded to people across various fields including arts and sciences, economics, culture and international relations.

Mrs Reekie first came to Australia in 1963, and after a period living in Papua New Guinea, she ended up living in Bathurst, NSW. From 1975, she taught Japanese at All Saints College for 35 years, developing Japanese-language education in the area and fostering mutual understanding between Australia and Japan, particularly through student exchange.

She was instrumental in establishing the sister-city relationship between Bathurst and Ohkuma City in Fukushima Prefecture, which was evacuated after the Great East Japan Earthquake as it falls within the Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant exclusion zone. The people of Bathurst raised considerable money to assist the Ohkuma community [see *Japan Reports* Vol. 47-1 Autumn 2012], and Mrs Reekie continues to maintain communication between the citizens of Bathurst and Ohkuma City.

Mrs Reekie received the Order from the Senior Vice-Foreign Minister on 15 May in Tokyo before going to the Imperial Palace to meet His Majesty the Emperor.

## Murray Farm Public School recognised for its bilingual Japanese-English program

A special bilingual discussion (and singing) night was held at the Consul-General's official residence on 5 July attended by members of the Australia-Japan Society of NSW, Sydney JETAA and Japanese-language professionals, at which the efforts of Murray Farm Public School in establishing and maintaining the first Japanese-English bilingual program at a NSW primary school were recognised.

Dr Kohara [centre back] with Murray Farm Deputy Principal Mr Terry Gorrie, Assistant Principal Mrs Elizabeth Laney [back, second from left], Japanese teachers Ms Etsuko Hiraga [back, left] and Ms Mayumi Takei, and Year 4 students, Miss Chloe Kazzi, Mr Joshua Lee and Mr James Youm [front, left to right].



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## Lt. Gen. Noboru Yamaguchi at the Lowy Institute

Lt. Gen. Noboru Yamaguchi JGSDF (Ret.) was in Sydney to give a lecture and participate in a workshop at the Lowy Institute for International Policy on 11 and 12 June.

His speaking tour in New Zealand and Australia was organised by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Lt. Gen. Noboru Yamaguchi [centre] with Dr Linda Jakobson, Director, East Asia Program at the Lowy Institute, and Consul-General Masahiro Kohara

Lt. Gen. Yamaguchi is a professor and Director for International Programs at the National Defense Academy of Japan. He is a former Commander of Japan Ground Self-Defense Forces (JGSDF).

In his lecture at the Lowy Institute, Lt. Gen. Yamaguchi spoke on the topic *China's Rise, America's Pivot and Japan's Choice*, discussing the security landscape in the Asia-Pacific region. For architects of Japan's security strategy, it is crucially important, according to Lt. Gen. Yamaguchi, to, first, scrutinise both the negative and positive impacts of China's rise without any bias; second, have a clear picture of the rebalancing by the US with an understanding of the roles of American allies for proper implementation of this policy; and third, develop courses of action and possible policies for Japan to better serve the region's peace and stability.

The lecture can be seen on the Lowy Institute's website:

[www.lowyinstitute.org](http://www.lowyinstitute.org)