

A message from Consul-General Masato Takaoka

Consulate-General Activities

AJS Coffs Harbour receives Consul-General's Commendation

Dear Readers,

The announcement of this year's Foreign Minister's Commendations was a happy day. There are five people from New South Wales who will receive the award. All have contributed over many years to further understanding and friendship between the people of Japan and New South Wales in their different fields. It is wonderful to be able to recognise their efforts in this way.

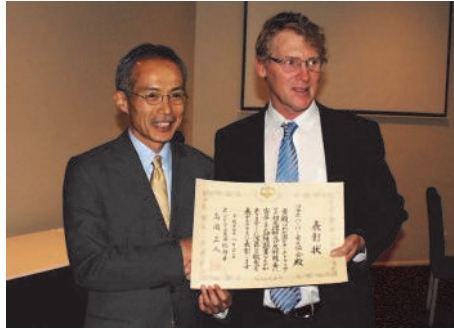
Of course, there are many other people who make contributions to our close ties, often just by going about their daily work or practising a hobby which they do simply because they enjoy it. I thought of this at the Strathfield Spring Festival when amateur and professional Japanese musicians based in Sydney gave an energy-filled performance of Japanese taiko drumming, koto music and songs. Their desire to perform for others was really clear to see that day as they all kindly waited out the rain before they went on stage. See our website for photos.

I hope some of our readers in the Northern Territory had the opportunity to see the mini-Japanese Film Festival that was organised by the Japan Foundation Sydney. I am really looking forward to the Japanese Film Festival coming up in November and I hope many of you will find a film or two that interests you (see pp.4-5). The popularity of foreign film festivals in Australia shows how well good stories travel.

Finally, the Matsuri in Sydney is a little earlier this year—it will be on 7 November (see pp.4-5) and I hope to see many of you there. I know that I will be seeing many Japanese and Australian friends on stage and in the booths enjoying the opportunity to share Japanese culture with others.

Masato Takaoka

EVENTS AND NEWS ARE REGULARLY
UPLOADED ON OUR WEBSITE
www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp



On 21 August, the Consul-General of Japan in Sydney, Mr Masato Takaoka, honoured the Australia-Japan Society of Coffs Harbour with the Consul-General's Commendation, at an event celebrating the Society's 25th Anniversary. The Australia-Japan Society of Coffs Harbour has been making remarkable contributions to promoting grassroots friendships between Japan and Australia, including sister-city relations between Coffs Harbour and Sasebo.

Maules Creek Mine Opening Event



On 2 September, an opening event for Maules Creek Mine was held at the mining site, about 500km north of Sydney. The mine is a joint venture of Whitehaven Coal, ITOCHU and J-POWER, and has high quality coal reserves. The coal produced from the Maules Creek Mine will be mainly exported to Japan. The Hon. Ian Macfarlane, then Minister for Industry and Science, was among those who attended the opening.

Dinner with Sake—sharing the subtlety of sake



On 31 August, Consul-General Masato Takaoka hosted a "Dinner with Sake" at his official residence. Among the attendees were chefs, food journalists, a sommelier and a fashion designer who shared their fascination with the beauty of sake. The Japanese food served was also a joy to the eye.

Ninth Inoue Yasushi Award Ceremony



On 18 September at the University of Sydney, the Consul-General attended the 9th Inoue Yasushi Award Ceremony. This year's recipient was Mr Roger Pulvers, an Australian citizen who has lived in Japan for almost 50 years. The Consul-General noted in his speech that the award helps to promote interest and research into Japanese literature. After the ceremony, there was a performance by Sydney Sakura Choir and an English and Japanese poetry reading.