

74th Anniversary Memorial Service for HMAS Kuttabul

Dear Readers,

As I write this, the consular affairs section in our office, which is always very busy, is even busier than usual. They have just finished supervising the polling station at the Consulate which was established to allow Japanese residing here to vote in the 10 July Upper House election in Japan. It is a very important part of the Consulate's work which enables Japanese people overseas to have their voices heard.

I would like to make particular note of just how special it is to receive an Imperial Decoration from His Majesty the Emperor of Japan. It is wonderful to see local people residing in Sydney who have contributed so much to the Japan-Australia relationship over many years being recognised in this manner. I refer to Dr Hugh Clarke and Dr Sakuko Matsui who have received the 2016 Spring Imperial Decorations for their enormous contributions to Japanese studies and languages as academics at the University of Sydney [see page 3].

Very soon, the Consulate will have the pleasure of announcing more individuals and groups who will receive recognition for their contributions to Japan-Australia relations with the conferral of Consul-General's Commendations. This year there is a special focus on Australia because 2016 is the 40th anniversary of the signing of the 1976 Basic Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation between Australia and Japan (the NARA Treaty). Please read the next issue of our newsletter to learn about these great supporters of the Japan-Australia relationship, and by the time you receive this edition, the recipients' names will have been listed on our website.

Masato Takaoka



On 1 June, at the Kuttabul Naval Base, a memorial service was held to commemorate the 74th anniversary of the attack on Sydney Harbour by Japanese midget submarines.

The Consul-General of Japan, Mr Masato Takaoka, was invited to the ceremony and laid a wreath. At the ceremony, the names of the fallen sailors on the HMAS Kuttabul sunk in the attack were read by students from a local high school, and the names of the six Japanese submariners who lost their lives were also read by students from the Japanese school in Sydney. An address was made by Captain Paul Martin, OAM, RAN (Rtd) to remember the sacrifice and bravery of all those who lost their lives.

The previous week, on 27 May, the Consul-General also attended a memorial service hosted by the Hon. Tony Abbott MP, held at the Defence of Sydney Monument in the suburb of North Head, to commemorate all those who were involved in the defence of Sydney during World War 2. His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), the Governor of New South Wales, attended the ceremony as the guest speaker. Consul-General Takaoka was the first representative of Japan to be invited to the service.

Annual AJS-NSW University Awards

On 8 June, the Australia Japan Society of New South Wales (AJS-NSW) held their annual University Awards Night.

The awards recognise students with outstanding performances in the field of Japanese studies, from the six major universities around Sydney.



Before presenting the awards, Consul-General Masato Takaoka gave a keynote address about the ongoing Japan-Australia relationship, the G7 summit held in Japan and President Obama's visit to Hiroshima.

Learn more about AJS-NSW at www.ajsnsw.org.au.