

Consulate-General Activities

The Emperor's Birthday Reception

was held on 6 December at the official residence of the Consul-General of Japan in Sydney, Mr Keizo Takewaka [far left]. In attendance were the Hon. Catherine Cusack MLC, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier [right], who gave a speech, and the Hon. Tom Bathurst AC, Chief Justice of New South Wales [centre], who together with the Consul-General gave the toast.



In his speech, Consul-General Takewaka said that Japan and Australia's special relationship went beyond the political and economic arenas, and he also noted that this year, as the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Basic Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Japan and Australia, diverse people had received consul-general's and foreign minister's commendations and three people had been awarded Imperial Decorations by His Majesty the Emperor.

Sister-city and sister-zoo relationships & Consul-General's commendation

Sydney and Nagoya being sister-cities is well-known in Japan-Australia circles, but perhaps less known is that Nagoya's Higashiyama Zoo and Sydney's Taronga Zoo are sister zoos.



Dr David Butcher with the Consul-General [left] and dignitaries at the celebration [above]

On 2 November in Sydney, the City of Nagoya hosted a **Taronga Zoo Centenary Celebration** which was attended by the Deputy Mayor of the City of Nagoya, Mr Shinkai, and a delegation of Nagoya City Assembly Members headed by the Chairperson, Mr Kato.

At the celebration, the Consul-General of Japan in Sydney, Mr Keizo Takewaka, awarded the **Consul-General's Commendation** to Dr David Butcher who led the transport of Japan's first koala in 1984 and who has contributed to the promotion of the sister city relationship between Nagoya and Sydney as the chair of Sydney-Nagoya Sister-City Committee since 2013.

A **Nippon Budokan delegation** visited Sydney between 10 and 15 November to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Basic Treaty of Exchange and Co-operation.

The highlight was the demonstration on 12 November at Sydney Olympic Park, a unique opportunity for more than 2,000 Sydneysiders to observe a wide range of Japanese martial arts.



Consul-General visits Darwin and regional NSW, Cowra and Bathurst

The Consul-General of Japan, Mr Keizo Takewaka, paid his **first official visit to the Northern Territory** from 24-26 November 2016. He met and exchanged opinions with His Honour the Hon. John Hardy OAM, Administrator of the Northern Territory, Chief Minister Michael Gunner, the Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of Darwin, Ms Katrina Fong Lim, and others involved with Australia-Japan exchange.



Consul-General Keizo Takewaka with His Honour the Hon. John Hardy OAM and Mrs Marie Hardy

The visit enabled the Consul-General to gain a new recognition of the depth of historical and economic ties between the Northern Territory and Japan and he will continue to further promote and consolidate the relationship.

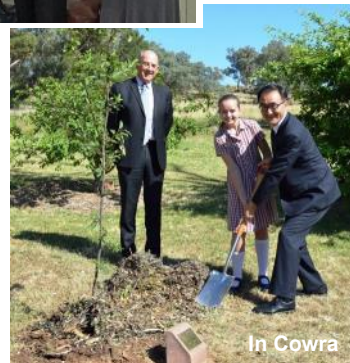
On 28 November, the Consul-General visited **Bathurst Regional Council** where he met and exchanged opinions with the Mayor, Cr Gary Rush. Ms Fudeko Reekie, who worked as a Japanese language teacher for 35 years in Bathurst and was awarded The Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays in 2013, also attended the meeting. Bathurst Regional



In Bathurst

Council and Okuma Town in Fukushima Prefecture, have had a sister city relationship since 1991.

From 28 to 29 November, Mr Takewaka visited **Cowra**. He met and exchanged opinions with Mayor Cr Bill West and the councillors of Cowra Shire Council. He also visited the Prisoner of War Camp Site, planted a tree at Cherry Tree Avenue, laid floral wreaths at the cemeteries and had a meeting with people involved in managing the Cowra Japanese Garden and Cultural Centre.



In Cowra