

# Japanese-Australian women shine on Australia Day honours list

The 2018 Australia Day honours list contained some happy news. **Dr Sakuko Matsui**, Honorary Associate Professor, University of Sydney, was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) “for significant service to education in the field of Japanese language, culture and literature, and through promoting Japan-Australia relations”. **Mrs Tazuko McLaren**, Japanese lecturer/Japan Exchange Program, International Office, Southern Cross University, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) “for service to education, and to Japan-Australia relations”.

They kindly wrote a brief reflection\* on receiving the honour.



**Dr Sakuko Matsui AM**

In September 2012, the Government of Japan designated me as “a Japanese person who has promoted ‘Japan’ to the world”; in the 2016 Spring Imperial Decorations, I received The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Rays; and this year on 26 January, Australia Day, I was honoured by the Commonwealth of Australia and appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).

I am grateful for my good fortune to have had the opportunity to spend 40 years teaching what I wanted to teach to outstanding students at the University of Sydney, which has a proud tradition of teaching Japanese language and studies since 1917, and to see many former students graduate to be active in various fields including education, politics, economics and the arts.

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I have countless memories linked to the building of the Father Glynn Memorial Centre at Southern Cross University, all while knowing the reality of wartime acts such as the bombing of Darwin and at the same time being profoundly moved by the activities towards reconciliation between Japan and Australia by the Glynn brothers, the late Fr Tony Glynn and Fr Paul Glynn. The modest Japan Centre was achieved thanks to the cooperation of the University’s Isabella a Cappella choir, which dedicated days travelling throughout Japan giving concerts to raise funds to construct the building. The concert tours continued even after the Centre’s completion, this time to raise money for the victims of the tsunami disaster.



**Mrs Tazuko McLaren OAM**

It is an important part of a good education to have young people understand the history of reconciliation between Japan and Australia and to convey to them that it is not a matter of people from one country or the other being good or bad, rather that we are all human beings.

\*Translations: The original Japanese texts can be read online - [www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/document/english/JRsp003.pdf](http://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/document/english/JRsp003.pdf)

# Consulate-General activities

The last three months have seen the Consul-General of Japan in Sydney, Mr Keizo Takewaka, travel around the state of New South Wales and beyond—to Darwin in the Northern Territory and to New Caledonia.

From 11 to 13 January, Consul-General Keizo Takewaka visited New Caledonia. Mr Takewaka met with the Japanese Association in New Caledonia, Amicale Japonaise (New Caledonia Japan Friendship Association) and representatives of Japanese businesses. He laid a wreath at the Japanese cemetery and



held discussions with government officials in New Caledonia.

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On 19 February, a commemorative service was held in Darwin to remember the 76th Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin. The Consul-General was invited to participate and laid a wreath.



During his visit to Darwin, Consul-General Takewaka paid a visit on the Administrator of the Northern Territory, Her Honour the Hon. Vicki O'Halloran AM [below]. He also met with the Chief Minister and other local politicians as well as members of the local Japanese community.



Photos of the Consul-General’s visits and Consulate events are regularly uploaded to our website and Facebook.  
Facebook: CGJSYD [www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp](http://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp)