

Foreign Minister's Commendations

Foreign Minister's Commendations are awarded to individuals and groups with outstanding achievements in international fields, in order to acknowledge their contributions to the promotion of friendship between Japan and other countries and areas.



Minister for Foreign Affairs Taro Kono

In July 2018, it was announced that three residents of New South Wales were among the overseas recipients for FY2018. They are listed alphabetically below.

Ms Tazuko McLaren OAM

Japanese Liaison Officer and Japanese Lecturer of Southern Cross University (Lismore)

For the promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and Australia.

Dr William (Bill) Purcell

Former Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President, University of Technology Sydney

For the promotion of economic relations between Japan and Australia.

Mr Katsunori Tokura

Honorary President, Australia-Japan Cultural Exchange NSW

For the promotion of Japanese culture in Australia.

A reception will be held to present the Foreign Minister's Commendations at the Consul-General's official residence in October.

Consul-General's Commendations

In early July, two separate receptions were held to honour the achievements of recipients of Consul-General's Commendations.

On 12 July, the **Australian Sogetsu Teachers Association Inc, New South Wales Branch** [top right] and **Mrs Tae Gessner** received Consul-General's Commendations [bottom right].

The Australian Sogetsu Teachers Association Inc, New South Wales Branch was recognized for their contribution in promoting Ikebana and Japanese culture through the many exhibitions they have held since they were established in 1960.

Mrs Tae Gessner was recognized for her contribution in promoting kimono and Japanese traditional culture through her kimono dressing and kimono shows since her first kimono workshop in 2013.

Needless to say the reception looked very elegant with beautiful kimono the attire of choice for many attendees and wonderful Ikebana arrangements in the reception space.



On 11 July, **JCS (Japan Club of Sydney) Japanese School** received the Consul-General's Commendation. They were recognised for their contribution to language and cultural education in the Sydney Japanese community since 1992. JCS currently runs three Japanese schools on Saturdays at Dundas [middle left], Edgecliff [bottom left], and in the City [top left].

As the photos clearly illustrate, the success of each recipient owes much to many people. The receptions provided a perfect opportunity to celebrate their contributions.

www.sogetsu-ikebana.org.au

www.facebook.com/InternationalKimonoClubSydney

www.japanclubofsydney.org/school/

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