

National Conference of Australia-Japan Societies and the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation Ceremony

On 19 October 2018, Consul-General Keizo Takewaka hosted a reception on the occasion of **Biennial National Conference of Australia-Japan Societies** and the **Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation Ceremony**. As mentioned in our previous newsletter, three residents of NSW were recognised by Foreign Minister Taro Kono, for their outstanding contribution to Japan-Australia relations - **Mr Katsunori Tokura**, **Mrs Tazuko McLaren OAM**, and **Dr William (Bill) Purcell**.

Congratulating AJS-NSW on realising the Conference (19-20 October), the Consul-General noted in his speech that the evening was made all the more special being able to conduct the commendations on the same occasion. He went on to state:

The key phrase this evening is "people-to-people exchange". ... Japan-Australia and Australia-Japan Societies have played an important role in fostering people-to-people exchange as part of the overall relationship between our two countries; and the three very worthy recipients of Foreign Minister's Commendations have done so in more focussed areas.

Around 100 people attended the reception. Later in the evening, members of Lismore-based choir 'Isabella a cappella' were presented with a Consul-General's Commendation for their contribution to Japan-Australia relations and guests were able to enjoy a special musical performance.



Mrs Tazuko McLaren OAM with Mr Murray McLean AO, Fr Paul Glynn and Consul-General Takewaka; Mr Katsunori Tokura, and Dr William Purcell

Reception in honour of Consul-General's Commendations Recipients

On 4 December 2018, Consul-General Keizo Takewaka hosted a reception in honour of three recipients of Consul-General's Commendations being acknowledged for their contribution to mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and Australia.

Ms Atsuko Kobayashi Radcliffe is the first Japanese to establish a winery in Australia. She has conducted saké tastings at her own winery. She has been appointed a judge of the Sake Category at the International Wine Challenge and an "Asia Pacific Women in Business 'Bridge Woman'", the latter by the Cabinet Office of Japan. Through her activities, she

contributes to mutual understanding between Japan and Australia.

Mr Sadaharu Muramatsu conducts several orchestras in Sydney including Strathfield Symphony Orchestra as well as Sydney Sakura Choir. He is a talented conductor, contributing to mutual understanding between both countries.

Sydney Sakura Choir was established in 2014 by Japanese people living in Sydney. They participate actively in Japan-related events including the Cherry Blossom Festival in Cowra. They also contribute to mutual understanding and friendship through singing Japanese songs.



Photos of the Consul-General's visits and Consulate events are regularly uploaded to our website and Facebook.

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