

Foreign Minister's Commendations

On 16 July 2019, the Japanese Ministry announced the recipients of the Foreign Minister's Commendations for FY 2019. Among the 206 individual recipients this year were New South Wales' residents Dr Misuzu Hanihara Chow, Cr Bruce Miller, Cr Bill West, and Dr Sadaharu Muramatsu.

Dr Misuzu Hanihara Chow

Former Academic Director and Head of the Department of Japanese Studies, Macquarie University — in recognition of her services to the promotion of Japanese language education in Australia.

The late Dr Chow's remarkable contribution was reflected upon by Professor Chihiro Thomson (UNSW), Chair of the NSW Japanese Speech Contest Steering Committee, at the 50th NSW Japanese Speech Contest held at Hunters Hill in Sydney on 15 September.

"Today many of us here are involved in Japanese language education in the state of NSW, and this is a most becoming occasion to honour the memory of Dr Chow.

"Dr Chow studied journalism at Waseda University in Tokyo, then received a Master's degree in journalism from the University of California, Berkeley. Her path to journalism somehow strayed as she settled in Sydney in 1972.

"Her dedication to Japanese language education started as she founded the Japanese program at Macquarie University in 1988 with the sponsorship of the Yasuda Fire & Marine Insurance Co. Ltd. and the City of Nagoya. She was a great advocate for Japanese language education to industry as she established a Corporate Traineeship program with leading Japanese companies and organisations, such as JAL, Mitsubishi Electric, and Kadokawa Publishing.

"Dr Chow secured funding from the Nippon Foundation and established the Macquarie Japanese Studies Centre in 1995. Many of us would know that the MJS Centre was the home for a number of NSW speech contests, which today's contest is built upon. The MJS Centre also played a pivotal role in training numerous Japanese language teachers in the state of NSW.

"Dr Chow had the keen foresight to develop computer assisted language learning programs. As early as the 1990s, Dr Chow led



the project which created *Kantaro interactive Kanji learning program I, II & III*, the first computer-assisted learning kanji software of its kind. She followed it up with *Gengoro*, interactive multimedia Japanese language learning software.

"She was also an author of two monographs, *The study of Japan in Australia: a unique development over eighty years* and *The Turning Point in US-Japan Relations: Hanihara's Cherry Blossom Diplomacy in 1920-30*. The latter is a story about Dr Chow's grandfather, Japanese Ambassador to the US, HANIHARA Masanao.

"It is evident that Dr Chow was one of the pioneers of NSW's Japanese language

education. For well over 30 years, she had endeavoured to develop the infrastructure of Japanese language education, but we also cannot forget her dedication to creating new opportunities for young Australians through the teaching of Japanese. She was a firm believer in education which can transform young students' futures. She often noticed hidden talents in her students and supported them to develop them.

"Dr Chow was rightfully awarded the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation, in recognition of her services to the promotion of Japanese language education in Australia ... a month before her passing.

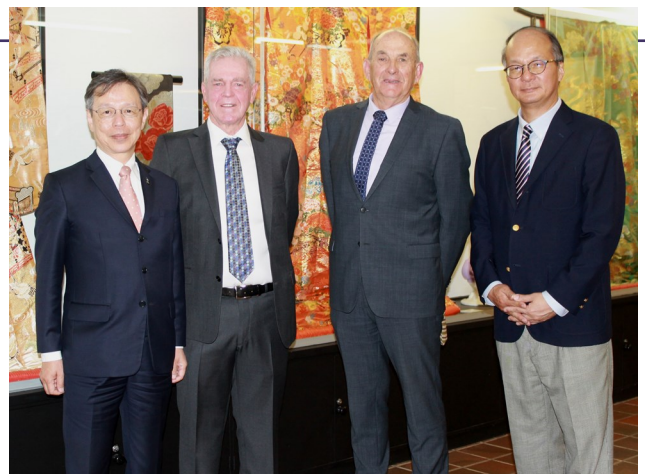
"Thank you, Chow-sensei, and please keep watching over us."

Acting Consul-General MATSUO Hideaki attended Dr Chow's funeral service and conferred the Foreign Minister's Commendation posthumously in the presence of her family, friends, former colleagues and students.

Foreign Minister's Commendation Presentation Ceremony in Cowra: Cr Bruce Miller and Cr Bill West

Cr Bill West, Mayor of Cowra Shire, and Cr Bruce Miller, former Mayor of Cowra Shire, were presented the Foreign Minister's Commendations by His Excellency the Ambassador, Mr TAKAHASHI Reiichiro, together with Acting Consul-General of Japan in Sydney, Mr MATSUO Hideaki, on 28 September 2019

Cr Miller and Cr West were recognised individually for their promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and Australia. Both have played key roles in the friendship between Japan and the people of Cowra and Australia.



Acting Consul-General Matsuo, Cr Miller, Cr West and HE Ambassador Takahashi [left to right]

Dr Sadaharu Muramatsu, conductor, is being recognised for his services to the promotion of cultural exchange through music between Japan and Australia, and the conferral will take place at a later date.