

Consul-General Kiya visits New Caledonia



From 5 to 7 January 2020, Consul-General Kiya paid his first official visit to New Caledonia. As the closest Japanese mission, it is this consulate's responsibility to provide consular services (e.g. issuing passports).

During his visit, he met with government officials as well as members of the local Japanese expatriate community and New Caledonia-Japan friendship group.

The Consul-General writes about the Japanese presence—historical and present day—in his latest newsletter which is available online. See below for details.

Laying flowers at the Japanese cemetery.

From left: 3rd, Mrs Rosemary Take, President of New Caledonia Japan Friendship Association; 4th, Consul-General Kiya; 5th, Mrs Marie-José Michel, Honorary Consul of Japan in New Caledonia; 7th, Mr Takahashi Masahiko, President of Japanese Society

Sister-cities visits

Soon after his arrival in Sydney, Consul-General Kiya had the opportunity to attend several events at cities and local governments that have sister-cities with places in Japan. He was able to participate in anniversary events where he particularly felt the importance of sister-city relationships.

On 12 November, the Consul-General visited Goulburn (Goulburn Mulwaree Council) to attend the Mayoral Civic Reception to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Sister City arrangement between Goulburn and Shibetsu City in Hokkaido. On 23 and 24 November 2019, he attended the 30th Anniversary Events of the Dubbo Regional Council—Minokamo City.

In both Goulburn and Dubbo, Japanese gardens are making beautiful and tangible contributions to the ties between the sister-city partners. In Dubbo, there is Shoyoen Garden, and in Goulburn, 'Shibetsu Garden' is being built within Victoria Park.



Dubbo



Goulburn

The Consul-General has also met with the mayor of Liverpool City Council, which is sister-city with Toda in Saitama Prefecture, and with the mayor of Georges River, which is sister-city with Shirosi in Miyagi Prefecture. When visiting Port Stephens for a FootGolf championship, he met with the deputy mayor—Port Stephens has two sister-cities in Japan, Yugawara in Kanagawa Prefecture and Tateyama in Chiba Prefecture.

You can learn more about the anniversary events and the cities' sister-city programs in the Consul-General's no.4 newsletter.

Consul-General Kiya's newsletter

Consul-General Kiya writes a fortnightly online newsletter. The purpose of the e-newsletter is to introduce various activities he engages in as Consul-General and to share some of his thoughts and feelings as he goes about his duties.

He hopes that through these newsletters more people will learn about the multi-faceted connections between Australia and Japan.

To date, he has written on the following topics:

- No.7 **New Caledonia and Japan** (January 24, 2020)
- No.6 **Western Sydney Development** (January 10, 2020)
- No.5 **Japanese Cultural Festivals** (December 20, 2019)
- No.4 **Sister City Relationships** (December 13, 2019)
- No.3 **Darwin and Japan** (November 29, 2019)
- No.2 **Presenting Japanese Art in Sydney** (November 15, 2019)
- No.1 **Japanese Community in Sydney** (November 1, 2019)

www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/about_consul_generals_newsletter.html



Western Sydney Development Symposium inviting MoU partners (16 Dec 2019) was discussed in the Consul-General's newsletter no.6.