

Japan-Australia ties in regional centres

As COVID-19 restrictions eased in November 2020, Consul-General Kiya took the opportunity to visit NSW's largest cities outside Sydney—Wollongong, Newcastle and Central Coast City, where he met with people engaged in business and exchange with Japan. Through his visits to these cities, he realised that it is not only in the Greater Sydney area that there is a significant Japanese presence and he reflected on how regional ties can contribute to the Japan-Australia relationship.

On 16 November, the Consul-General made a courtesy call on **University of Wollongong** Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Wellings [photo left], and paid a visit to **NEC Australia** located within the Innovation Campus of the university. He also got to see the traditional Japanese 'drum' (arched) bridge at the Wollongong Botanic Garden, which was presented to the City of Wollongong by its **sister city, Kawasaki** (Japan).

and he visited the vineyard of a female Japanese winemaker in the Hunter Valley.

On his way to Newcastle, he was a guest at **Merewether High School's** award ceremony to present them with the "School of the Year" award in the 2020 Australia-Japan Relations Essay Contest (run by this Consulate), and the



On 19 November, the Consul-General made a courtesy call on Newcastle Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes for the **40th anniversary (21 November) of the sister city relationship between Newcastle and Ube** (Yamaguchi Prefecture, Japan) [middle photo], and paid a visit to **the defence and aerospace Special Activation Precinct** located near Williamtown RAAF Base, which is currently being promoted by the NSW Government.

While in Newcastle, he had the opportunity to exchange views with employees of Japanese companies located there,

next day he sat in on a vibrant Japanese language class at **Newcastle High School**.

On his visit to Central Coast City on 20 November, the Consul-General enjoyed the Edogawa Commemorative Gardens [photo right], which was built with the help of **Central Coast's sister city Edogawa** (Tokyo Metropolis), and he spent time in the tea fields of **Kunitaro's Waratah Farm**, a fine producer of matcha tea in the locality. He also visited **Gosford High School**, another thriving hub of Japanese language education.

The Consul-General reported on the outcome of these visits in issue #30 of his newsletter:

Major Regional Cities in NSW: Promoting Business and Exchange with Japan

www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/document/CGKiya_30newsE.pdf

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. Since the last issue, he has written on the following topics:

- No.33 **Japan-Australia startup and innovation cooperation** (January 29, 2021)
- No.32 **Learning the history of Australia for the benefit of Japan** (January 15, 2021)
- No.31 **Raising children using the Japanese language in Australia** (December 18, 2020)
- No.30 **Major Regional Cities in NSW: Promoting Business and Exchange with Japan** (December 4, 2020)
- No.29 **JET Programme: For experiences in Japan with a life-long impact** (November 20, 2020)
- No.28 **Japanese language education in Australia: Fostering Japan-Australia exchange and cooperation** (November 13, 2020)
- No.27 **The Northern Territory and Japan: Towards deepening and widening business and exchange** (November 6, 2020)

All previous issues are available online: www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/about_consul_generals_newsletter.html

Also available in the Japanese-language original: www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/about_consul_generals_newsletter.html