

His Majesty the Emperor's Birthday: Dinner with the Governor of New South Wales

On 23 February, to celebrate His Majesty the Emperor's 61st birthday, Consul-General Kiya Masahiko received Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of New South Wales, and Mr Dennis Wilson for dinner at the Consul-General's residence. Ideas and opinions were exchanged on ways to further deepen the relationship between Australia and Japan.



At the start of the dinner, a recorded performance of the Australian and Japanese national anthems sung by students from the Sydney Japanese International School (SJIS) was played. In addition, Consul-General Kiya presented and explained a message written for the occasion of His Majesty the Emperor's 61st birthday.

Consul-General Kiya conveyed his view to the Governor that the local Japanese community would continue to enrich Australia, which values multiculturalism, and work as a bridge for the development of our two countries. Both the Consul-General and the Governor shared an understanding that Australia and Japan, as "Special Strategic Partners", are further deepening their cooperation on all fronts of political, economic and cultural relations, including global challenges such as COVID-19 and natural disasters.

The Premier of NSW and the Chief Minister of the NT kindly sent messages upon the occasion of His Majesty the Emperor's Birthday, and they can be found, together with the Consul-General's message and the video of the SJIS students' performance, at:
www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/emperors_birthday.html

Consul-General Kiya visits Darwin

On 19 February, on the occasion of the commemoration of the Bombing of Darwin in the Northern Territory, Consul-General Kiya Masahiko accompanied Ambassador Yamagami Shingo to attend official services held in the city. It was the Ambassador's first official visit to Darwin.

During his time in the NT capital, Consul-General Kiya visited several places and people, and in issue #35 of his newsletter, he reports on the visit. He noted:

Japan and Darwin, and moreover, Japan and the Northern Territory, are deeply connected through the three aspects of history, business and security, and these are still developing. When it comes to each of these aspects, it is important that we are thankful for the strong foundations built by people who came before us, as we accumulate new initiatives for the future.

Darwin and Japan: the Ties of History, Business and Security
www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/document/CGKiya_35newsE.pdf



Laying a wreath at the Darwin Cenotaph at the commemorative service for the Bombing of Darwin on 19 February—it was the second time the Consul-General attended the commemoration.