

Consul-General of Japan in Sydney's Newsletter

No. 69 Commemoration of the end of the Second World War in Sydney

19 August 2022



**Laying a wreath at the commemoration service at The Cenotaph
in Martin Place, Sydney (15 August 2022)**

In Sydney, major war commemorations are conducted at The Cenotaph, which was erected in 1929 in Martin Place in the city's centre. As COVID-19 restrictions have eased, for the first time since I assumed my post here, I attended the commemoration service for the end of the Second World War organised by the Returned and Services League of Australia (NSW Branch).

In this issue of my newsletter, I would like to report about this ceremony and reflect on the significance of observing the anniversary of the end of the war here in Sydney.



Commemorative Address by the Governor of NSW
(15 August 2022; photo, Government House Facebook page)

● **Commemoration Service at Martin Place**

For the past two years when COVID-19 regulations were strict, attendees to the commemoration service at Martin Place were very limited; just a small number of people such as the Dean of the Consular Corps attended. Therefore, I simply went to lay a wreath after the conclusion of the commemoration service.

This year's service was attended by Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of New South Wales, and Mr Dennis Wilson, the Minister for Veterans and the Shadow Minister for Veterans, representatives of the Army, Navy and Air Force, representatives of Returned Services League, and veterans of the Second World War. In addition, the Consular Corps was widely represented: I attended, so too did the Acting Dean of the NSW Consular Corps (Switzerland), Consuls-General from the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Canada, New Zealand, the Philippines, and Papua New Guinea. We were all able to lay wreaths at the service.

In her speech, the Governor not only recalled various battles during the Second World War, but also addressed post-war reconciliation, noting that the Consul-General of Japan was present at this ceremony. In addition, Her Excellency recognised that, as we all know, no one wins a war.

Japan was invited to participate in this ceremony for the day called “Victory in the Pacific Day”, recalled the scourge of war and renewed commitment to a future of peace together with Australia and other countries. I felt the significance of this day anew.



**Prime Minister Kishida addressing the
77th National Memorial Ceremony for the War Dead
(15 August 2022; photo, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet webpage)**

● **National Memorial Ceremony for the War Dead**

In Japan, every year on the anniversary of the end of the war, the Government of Japan holds the National Memorial Ceremony for the War Dead at the Budokan in Tokyo. The Ceremony is streamed live, so I listened from Sydney and observed a moment's silence.

Prime Minister Kishida offered his prayers, respect and gratitude to all the war dead, and he reflected on the years since the war and stated his commitment for the future [as below](#).

“Since the end of the war, Japan has consistently walked the path of a peace-loving nation. Taking the lessons of history deeply into our hearts, we have made all possible efforts for world peace and prosperity.

“We must never again repeat the devastation of war. We will continue to remain committed to this resolute pledge. In this world in which conflicts have not yet ceased, under the banner of "Proactive Contribution to Peace," Japan is determined to join forces with the international community and do its utmost to resolve the various challenges facing the world. We shall carve out the future of our nation for the sake of the generation alive now and the generations of tomorrow.”

I would also like to put this commitment of the Prime Minister's into practice here in Sydney.

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**Farewell call on the Governor of NSW
(17 August 2022)**

- **Farewell call on NSW Governor Beazley**

Two days later on 17 August, I paid a farewell call on Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of New South Wales, ahead of departing my post as Consul-General in late September.

I took the opportunity to convey my appreciation to Her Excellency for her various considerations for Japan to date, among them her reference to me in her address at the commemorative service two days earlier. In October 2019, when I made my courtesy call after assuming this post as Consul-General, an idea was raised of the Governor visiting Cowra during the 75th anniversary of the end of the war in 2020. This visit was realized albeit as [an online visit](#) due to COVID-19.

The Governor, accompanied by Mr Wilson, also graciously attended the [Emperor's Birthday Dinner](#) in February last year and the [Emperor's Birthday Reception](#) in March this year. The Vice Regal couple also honoured us with their presence at the [Japanaroo Festive Seasons Concert](#) in December last year, and together with His Excellency Ambassador YAMAGAMI Shingo, the Governor delivered an address at

the opening of the concert. I take this as a sign of the importance that not only the NSW Government but also the Governor herself attaches to Japan.

During my final meeting with the Governor as I explained cooperation on the economic front such as in energy transition, the development of sister-city and school exchange, and last month's visit to Japan by NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet (his first overseas trip as Premier), I was once again aware of the great progress in Japan-NSW relations over these last three years.



The wreath I laid at The Cenotaph (15 August 2022)

- **Remembering history and building the future**

War is not some story from the distant past. Even today, there are wars taking place around the world including in Ukraine, and tensions are rising also in East Asia.

Japan and Australia look back together on our history - the end of the war 77 years ago, and the bombing of Darwin and the attack on Sydney Harbour 80 years ago - and offer our sincere condolences to the victims. This is important not only in itself

but also for further promoting Japan-Australia cooperation to realise the wishes of those who unfortunately passed away. Here in Sydney, on the occasion of the anniversary of the end of the war, I renewed my determination to make maximum efforts so that Japan and Australia work together to build the future.

I am pleased to have this chance to convey and share this thought through my newsletter. Although there is only about a month before I leave Sydney, I hope I may still have the opportunity to meet with many of you in the time remaining.

Kiya Masahiko, Consul-General of Japan in Sydney