

The 81st Anniversary Commemoration of the Featherston Incident

On 25 February, 2024, the 81st anniversary commemoration of the Featherston Incident was held. The Featherstone Incident occurred on 25 February, 1943, in which 48 Japanese POWs and one New Zealand soldier died in a clash between Japanese POWs and New Zealand Army guards at the POW camp in Featherston. Commemorations are held every year in the Featherston memorial park to pay tribute to those who lost their lives during the incident.

Mr. OSHIMA Masaru, Chargé d'affaires ad interim, attended the commemoration to represent the Embassy of Japan and laid a wreath. In his remarks, Mr Oshima mentioned, "On this commemorative day, we must remember those who were lost. At the same time, we must think deeply about how we could realise peace and a future without war. This is also a time to reflect on what is now a long-standing friendship between Japan and New Zealand. The close relationship our countries now share is made possible not only through government cooperation, but also through the understanding and support of both peoples. Let us continue celebrating our friendship for years to come, while also paying tribute to those who have gone before."

The commemoration was attended by the representatives of South Wairarapa and guests including:

- His Worship Mayor Martin Connelly, South Wairarapa District Council
- Sir Wayne Shelford, National President of the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Association (RSA)
- Mr Peter Jackson, President of Featherston Memorial RSA Inc
- Mr Mike Butterick MP, Member of Parliament (from Wairarapa electorate)
- Hon Kieran McAnulty MP, Member of Parliament (former Minister for Emergency Management)
- His Worship Mayor Ron Mark, Carterton District Council (former Minister of Defense)
- Brigadier Rose King, Deputy Chief of New Zealand Army
- Mr Wiremu Dawson, Kaumatua, Hau Ariki Marae
- Ms Raewyn MacGregor, Vice President of Wellington Sakai Association

Juken New Zealand Ltd (JNL), a Japanese company, has long placed its efforts on exchanges with local communities by building the memorial monuments and "Sakura

(cherry blossom) Garden" in Featherston memorial park. On the day, the representatives from JNL also took part in the commemoration.

Chargé d'affaires Mr Oshima took this opportunity to express his deep gratitude to South Wairarapa District Council and RSA for holding this commemoration every year and the local community members for promoting friendly relationships with Japan.



Photo with Participants



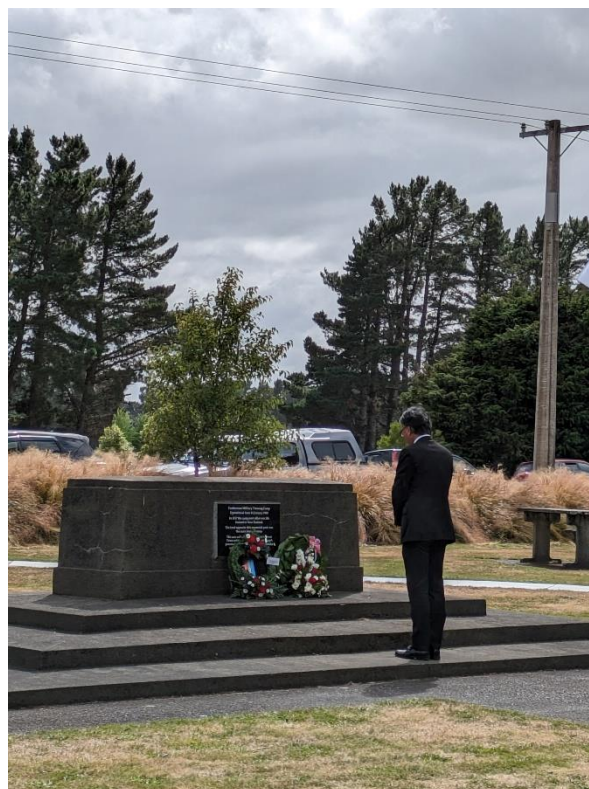
Photo with Participants



Photo with participants after the commemoration



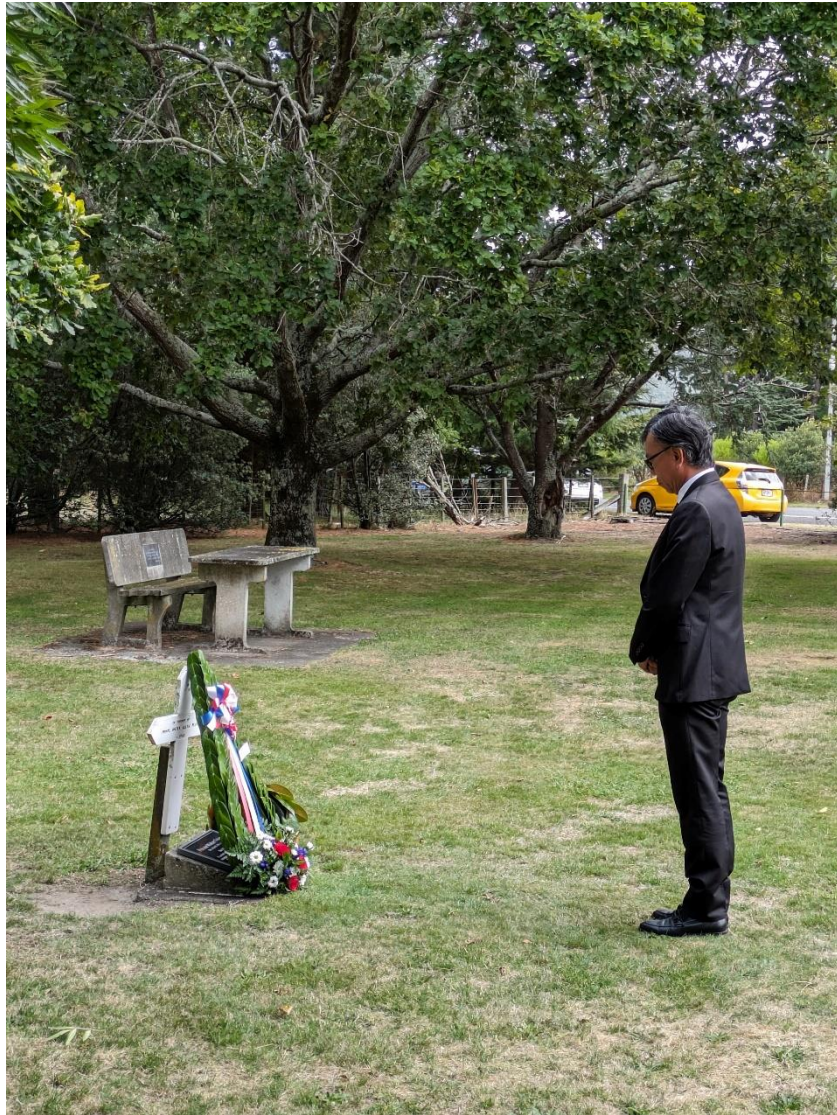
Remarks by Mr. OSHIMA Masaru, Chargé d'affaires ad interim of Japan



Laying wreaths to the Featherston Military Camp Memorial



Laying wreaths to the Japanese Memorial



Laying wreaths to Private Pelvin's Memorial