COWRA SECURES POPULAR SCULPTURE FOR JAPANESE GARDEN

One of the popular pieces showcased in Sydney’s annual ‘Sculptures by the Sea’ is on display in Cowra from today.

NSW Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, and Country Labor MLC for Burrinjuck, Mick Veitch, this afternoon unveiled ‘Suton-Stone’, by Japanese artist Takehiro Terada, at the Japanese Garden, the site of a World War II POW camp.

“The Garden was the artist’s first choice to display his work and I believe the site is the ideal location for this striking sculpture,” the Minister said.

The Garden marks the site of a massive escape bid by Japanese POWs on August 5, 1944, in which 231 Japanese soldiers and four Australian soldiers were killed.

After the war, Australian Diggers tended the graves of the Japanese who perished, while the remains of other soldiers of the Imperial Forces were repatriated from throughout Australia and buried in Cowra.

Mr Terada said his work is carved from Japanese pink granite and stands more than two metres tall.

“I chose a stone as material and thought about immortality as the theme of the sculpture and produced it,” Mr Terada said.

The $40,000 artwork is on loan to the Land and Property Management Authority, a Supporting Partner of ‘Sculptures by the Sea’, for a period of two years.

Mr Kelly said most of the outdoor artworks featured in the ‘Sculptures by the Sea’ are displayed on Crown reserves in Sydney’s eastern suburbs.

“I wanted this particular piece transported to Cowra and in position in the Japanese Garden in time for the annual Blossom Festival later this month,” the Minister said.

Country Labor MLC for Burrinjuck, Mick Veitch, welcomed the announcement.

“It’s a coup for Cowra and its residents that the artist chose it as the preferred location for his work and the Minister was able to grant his wish,” Mr Veitch said.