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Local Cuisine around Japan: Vol.23

Written by Fukuoka prefectural government

Fukuoka Prefecture is located in the southern part of Japan. It is blessed by the Genkai Sea so seafood sold in the prefecture is all fresh and cheap. Local cuisines such as tonkotsu ramen, and mizutaki (chicken hotpot) are highly recommended for foodies. If you are a fan of rugby, you probably won't want to miss the Rugby World Cup 2019 held in Japan. Fukuoka Prefecture is one of the host cities and the Australian and New Zealander teams will be playing matches in Oita Prefecture next to us! Come and see matches in Kyushu Island, at the same time check out the delicious food in Fukuoka!

More information of RWC2019:

<https://www.rugbyworldcup.com/venues/hakatanomori-football-stadium>

<Tonkotsu Ramen>

Fukuoka is the birthplace of Tonkotsu Ramen.

It features thin noodles in a thick, creamy white pork bone soup topped with slices of chashu (barbecued pork). Some of the best places to enjoy a bowl of ramen would be the yatai food stalls along the streets.



<Mizutaki>

Mizutaki is a traditional local cuisine with over 100 years of history. The broth extracted from chicken blends with the flavour of fresh vegetables, making it a delicious hot pot! You can find mizutaki on Fukuoka dinner tables all year round, not just in winter.



High school students from Nagoya visit Sydney

From July 24 to August 2, a delegation of Nagoya high school students were in Australia to visit Nagoya's sister city Sydney, as well as the Blue Mountains and Jamberoo. CLAIR Sydney provided assistance for the student delegation during their stay in Australia. The students enjoyed homestay and also visited three different schools to experience what school is like in Australia. In addition, they also learned about the wonderful nature, history and culture of Australia.

Deputy Lord Mayor Jess Miller and Councillor Robert Kok welcomed the students very warmly



when they paid a courtesy visit to Sydney Town Hall. In front of an audience that included members of the Sydney-Nagoya Sister City Committee, the students spoke about their experiences in Australia and expressed their sincere gratitude to everyone involved in their trip. Mr Keizo Takewaka, the Consul-General of Japan in Sydney, also gave a welcoming speech at the students' courtesy visit to Sydney Town Hall. On August 2, before their flight back to Nagoya in the evening, the students visited Taronga Zoo, which is the sister zoo of Higashiyama Zoo in Nagoya.

Through meeting new people and having new experiences during their trip, the students were deeply interested in the differences between Australia and Japan, and had first-hand experiences in learning about Australia as a multicultural society. They had many encounters that provided food for thought for their future. We, CLAIR Sydney, would like to continue to collaborate with different organisations in Australia and New Zealand to provide support for Japanese local governments' sister city and school exchange activities in Australia and New Zealand.

Support activities for students from Kurihara City

From July 20 to August 3, 20 junior high school students from Kurihara City, Miyagi Prefecture visited Cairns for a five-day study tour to deepen their understanding of other cultures and to study English.

First, the student group visited Green Island. They learned not only about the beauty of Australia, but also the paramount importance of environmental protection. After that, they went to a supermarket and talked to the employees in English.



The group also visited Bentley Park College in

Cairns. Bentley Park College is a state government-run college for preschool to year 12 students. There are currently 1,500 students enrolled at the school. The students enjoyed a delicious morning tea specially prepared by Bentley Park students, then attended class together with the local students. During their time at Bentley Park College, the Kurihara students gave a presentation on their hometown, and performed a dance. Despite only being able to spend a short amount of time together, the success of the exchange was apparent as the students gave one another big farewell hugs.

From the afternoon, the students travelled to Mareeba where they were warmly welcomed by their host families.

The students spent August 1 enjoying the last day of their farm stay. The host families are farmers who grow fruits such as mangoes and lychees. The students connected with their host families, learnt about farming, and even saw wallabies up close! Thanks to the kindness and hospitality of their hosts, the students all had a great time.

The next day, after bidding their hosts farewell, the students visited Kuranda, a mountain village surrounded by Cairns' stunning tropical rainforests, and a wildlife reserve. The students gained valuable knowledge about Aboriginal culture, and about Cairns' natural history.

On August 3, the students visited the Rusty's Market in Cairns and then departed for Japan. They thoroughly enjoyed their stay and had many valuable experiences.



During their stay in Australia, Mr Toru Sugawara, Assistant Director at CLAIR Sydney (who is himself on secondment from Kurihara City) provided support and facilitation. We hope the students will make the most of this opportunity to think about their future careers. We wish them all the best and hope they will continue to take pride in their hometown Kurihara!

Support activities for Kojimachi Gakuen Girls High School

On August 6 and 7, Ms Nishijima, a teacher at Kojimachi Gakuen Girls High School in Tokyo, visited Sydney. The school holds an excursion to Sydney every year. They are now aiming to increase their students' knowledge on multiculturalism, and both the challenges and successful initiatives in multiculturalism in NSW. We provided Ms Nishijima with information and guidance, and discussed how CLAIR can support their school excursions in the future. We visited the Auburn West Public School, Whitlam Library Cabramatta, Chatswood Intensive English Centre, and Community Migrant Resource Centre. We would like to thank all the wonderful staff and students at the different organisations for having us. We look forward to working with everyone again in future.



The 30-year anniversary celebration of Kyotamba and Hawkesbury sister city relationship

The 30-year anniversary celebration of Kyotamba and Hawkesbury sister city relationship was held on Friday, August 10. Kyotamba and Hawkesbury hold student exchange programs every year. Six exchange students from Kyotamba are visiting Hawkesbury from late July to mid-August during their summer holidays. The six exchange students from Kyotamba, previous Hawkesbury exchange students, host families, exchange students from Temple City, USA (with whom Hawkesbury also have a sister city relationship), and others who have been involved with the Hawkesbury Sister City Association were also in attendance at the event. As there were also two generations of exchange students from the program in attendance, it proves that the exchange program has been well implemented between the two sister cities.





South West Festival of Japan held in Bunbury, WA

On August 11, CLAIR Sydney was pleased to attend the South West Festival of Japan for the first time, held in Bunbury, Western Australia. The event was a huge success with approximately 900 people in attendance, and CLAIR Sydney distributed promotional material pertaining to the sister city relationship between Bunbury and Setagaya Ward in Tokyo, and other related municipalities. Visitors to our booth told us of how proud they are of Bunbury's connection to Setagaya, and we heard many stories of youths who are going to travel to Setagaya for a homestay next month. It came as a fresh reminder of the importance and value of healthy sister city relations.



There were also many exhibitions featuring Japanese culture such as kimono, bonsai and cosplay, and Busselton ran a booth in conjunction with their sister city Sugito, in Saitama Prefecture. Guests enjoyed a variety of performances, from Taiko drums, Japanese martial arts such as Kendo and Kyudo, to cosplay dances.

Support activities for students from Ube City



On August 14, ten junior high school students from Ube City in Yamaguchi Prefecture visited our office. Mr Takanori Tanimoto, Assistant Director at CLAIR Sydney gave a presentation on an outline of Australia, CLAIR Sydney's activities, and Mr Tanimoto's personal experiences before he started working in Sydney. In addition, Ms Tanaka, Director at JNTO gave a presentation on tourism in Australia. There were various questions from the students, which highlighted their interests in other countries. After visiting the CLAIR Sydney

office, the students went to Newcastle, a sister city of Ube City, and participated in a homestay program while interacting with local students. CLAIR Sydney will continue to support similar student exchange activities.

The official reception of Kawasaki Junior Cultural Prize

On August 15, CLAIR Sydney accepted the kind invitation from Wollongong City Council and attended the official reception of the Kawasaki Junior Cultural Prize. This year commemorates the 30th anniversary of the Wollongong-Kawasaki City sister city relationship, and this official reception has been held every year over the past 27 years as a part of the sister city exchange activities conducted between the two cities. Four primary school students who are current recipients of the Kawasaki Junior award attended the reception as Junior Ambassadors, and received commemorative gifts from the Wollongong Lord Mayor, Cr. Gordon Bradbery AM. At the reception, students from Wollongong who are studying Japanese made speeches in Japanese to welcome the Junior Ambassadors. It was a very heartwarming reception and everyone at the reception could see the wonderful sister city relationship Wollongong and Kawasaki have created together over the past 30 years. CLAIR Sydney will continue to support the activities between the two cities so that they can further develop their relationship.



Support activities for Fukuoka Prefecture

A delegation from the Rugby World Cup (RWC) Fukuoka Committee and the Fukuoka Prefectural Government visited our office on Friday, August 17. The delegation was in Australia to promote the northern Kyushu region (including Fukuoka), particularly focusing on appealing to inbound tourists for the RWC. Tickets for the RWC are available for general application for individuals this month, and will be available for sale from January at a first-come-first-served basis.

The delegation visited travel agencies, schools well-known for rugby, and other rugby-related organisations in Sydney to promote RWC matches held in Fukuoka, and also requested for assistance from the organisations they visited in promoting the Northern Kyushu region here in Australia.

At the CLAIR Sydney office, our staff gave an explanation of the different types of rugby played in Australia, and the differences in their popularities in different parts of the country. We also explained about the different events we participate in throughout the year, and the targeted demographics for these events, which were all useful information for the delegation's promotional activities here in Sydney. CLAIR Sydney will continue to support their promotional activities.

The Japanese region featured in this month's Local Cuisine around Japan section is Fukuoka. If you have not already done so, please take a look at page one of this newsletter to learn about what kind of cuisine Fukuoka has on offer!

Sydney Cherry Blossom Festival 2018



From August 26 to 27, CLAIR Sydney ran a booth at the Sydney Cherry Blossom Festival 2018 held in the Auburn Botanical Gardens by Cumberland Council. The festival took place from August 17 to 26, and approximately 90,000 visitors came to the venue to see the beautiful cherry blossoms.

At the event, we were promoting Japanese tourism destinations as a part of our promotional activities for Japanese local governments. In particular, we focused on areas famous for cherry blossoms that are unfamiliar to most Australians. For example, in Tsubame City in Niigata Prefecture, you can see women dressed in exquisite kimono dresses parading along a street lined with cherry blossom trees as a part of the Oiran Parade held in the city. Cherry blossoms are the symbol of spring in Japan but in Toyota City in Aichi Prefecture, visitors can enjoy cherry blossom viewing as well as autumn leave viewing at the same time in the latter half of November! Other than cherry blossoms, we also promoted the plum blossoms in Minabe Town in Wakayama Prefecture. The town is known for umeboshi, pickled Japanese plums, and at the festival, we gave away umeboshi samples to visitors. While some of the visitors said they have heard of umeboshi before and some said they have not, everyone showed interest in umeboshi.

Our booth was full of visitors throughout the day and we believe they were excited about discovering new tourism information on Japan!



The 30-year anniversary of the Coffs Harbour-Sasebo City relationship

The sister city relationship between Coffs Harbour (NSW) and Sasebo (Nagasaki Prefecture, Japan) was established in August, 1988. Commemorative events celebrating the 30th anniversary of the sister city relationship was held on Tuesday, August 21 and Wednesday, August 22 in Coffs Harbour. A delegation of over 40 members from Sasebo City visited Coffs Harbour for the events, including Sasebo City's Mayor, Mr Norio Tomonaga. The sister city relationship originated from a choir concert held in



Coffs Harbour where there were performances by the student chorus club at Seiwa Joshi Gakuin High School in Sasebo City. The chorus club was in Coffs Harbour again this year to perform at a sister city exchange concert, as well as at the 30th anniversary commemorative ceremony. At both of these events, the chorus club performed songs in both English and Japanese, and in particular, audiences including Mayor Denise Knight were extremely pleased when the group sang the Australian national anthem.

Prior to the Sasebo City delegation's arrival in Coffs Harbour, they visited the CLAIR Sydney office and was given a presentation on Australia by our Director, Mr Hiroto Akaiwa. We were very honoured to be able to participate in the events and witness the brilliant relationship between the two cities. We hope the relationship, based on student and civic exchange, will continue to strengthen in the future.

LGPA National Congress & Business Expo 2018

On August 22-24, CLAIR Sydney participated in the Local Government Professionals Australia (LGPA) National Congress & Business Expo 2018 in Canberra. In addition to joining some of the lectures, we also ran a booth to promote CLAIR's activities and sister city exchanges between Japan and Australia.



Visitors to our booth showed interest in revitalising their existing sister city

relationship, and some visitors expressed their enthusiasm in undertaking a study trip to Japan. At the event, we met Mr Daniel Fletcher, General Manager of Central Highlands Regional Council, who was one of the participants of the Local Government Exchange and Cooperation Seminar in 2017. Mr Fletcher expressed his gratitude for the opportunity and we wish him every success in the future.



JETAA Canberra



2018 for JETAA Canberra has been a year of collaboration, new ideas and new faces. Our year began with a collaborative Shinnenkai- a day of barefoot bowling with members of JETAA Canberra and the Australian Japan Society ACT (AJS). In March, we took our turn to host a memorial service for Tohoku earthquake and tsunami victims in Nara Peace Park, attended by the Ambassador of Japan and a large number JETAA members, AJS members and members of Canberra's Japanese community.

Our most popular event, our monthly 'Oshaberikai' adopted themes this year and we have had great fun making Hina Matsuri origami, playing Hiragana ice-breaker games, writing Tanabata wishes, all while enjoying meeting new faces, practising our Japanese and making many a 'kanpai'. To include our ex-JETs with families, we hosted a successful mini-golf day and BBQ, and have an upcoming Hanami picnic in Nara Park planned for Spring.

In June we once again hosted our Annual Trivia Night Fundraiser for Tohoku, in collaboration with AJS, raising over \$1000 towards their Tohoku Youth Program which sees young Japanese who have lost loved ones enjoy a respite holiday to Australia. Participants had fun testing their knowledge of both Japanese and Australian general knowledge and our trusty trivia duo, Keith and Ken ensured a good night was had by all.

Lastly, we are looking forward to this year's Nara Candle Festival, and with 2018 marking the 25th anniversary of the Canberra Nara sister city relationship, it is sure to be a record-breaker! As Canberra's biggest Japanese event, we are grateful for the opportunity to find more ex-JETs and increase awareness of the support we can provide them. We plan to have as much fun as we did last year selling gyoza and Japanese beer in yukata shouting 'Irasshaimase!' to curious festival-goers and we hope to see you there!

Announcement: Local Government Exchange and Cooperation Seminar 2018/2019 Japan

CLAIR Sydney is excited to once again offer eligible participants the opportunity to visit Japan in order to promote a better understanding of Japanese local governments and culture. The Local Government Exchange and Cooperation Seminar aims to bring together people from Japan, Australia and New Zealand who are working at local governments and related organisations by exchanging information regarding current issues of local governments.

General information about past seminars are available on our [website](#).

In this issue, we would like to tell you more about the programme's purpose, and introduce Kohoku Town, Saga Prefecture, which is this year's host local government.

Seminar details:

Local Government Exchange and Cooperation Seminar 2018 includes

- Seminars on Japanese Local Government in Tokyo (4 nights) and this year's host local government Kohoku Town (5 nights)
- Tour of national/local government facilities and cultural sites
- Home-stay with Japanese families
- Feedback/Discussion

The seminar will be held on:

12-21 February 2019

Eligible Participants

- Applicants must be local government executives or executives involved in the promotion of international exchange and cooperation in local areas.
- In addition, applicants from national organisations, research institutes, or other related organisations may be eligible to participate, providing their backgrounds are related to the theme of the Seminar.
- Up to 5 participants will be accepted from Australia and New Zealand.

Expenses

- Expenses incurred for the Seminar registration and materials will be borne by CLAIR.
- Any expenses prior to arrival in Japan and after departing from Japan shall be borne by participants. (This includes but is not limited to the costs incurred for a returned flight ticket to Japan.)
- Expenses incurred during the Seminar period in Japan will be borne by CLAIR.

Application

To apply, please fill in the [Form](#) and send it to mailbox@jlgc.org.au by **Friday 12 October 2018**.

- For more details on the seminar, please refer to the [Outline](#).
- Please note that there is a limit to the number of participants (5), the outcome of your application will be made available to you by the middle of November 2018.

If you have any questions about the Seminar, please feel free to contact us at mailbox@jlgc.org.au or on +61 2 9241 5033. We look forward to receiving your application.

About the host local government Kohoku Town

Come and experience beautiful Kohoku Town, and find out why the locals call it Saga's belly button!
Host Local Government Kohoku Town in Saga prefecture.

Overview of Kohoku Town

Kohoku is a regional town located in the centre of Saga prefecture. It has a modest population of approximately 10,000 people. Kohoku has a long history of development as a crossroads for railways and major highways. Even now, the town is noteworthy as a strategically located gateway to the southwest for both rail and road- hence the town's nickname, 'the belly button of Saga'! The town is known for its rich local history and beautiful nature. Saga Prefecture, located in Kyushu, is famous for its traditional ware, particularly the style known as Arita ware.

Seminar Themes

- Creating appealing and liveable towns in the face of Japan's declining birth rate and aging population

Policy Overview

Key initiatives to increase Kohoku's appeal and liveability

Soft power initiatives: policy development

- 1 Health: increasing the town population's overall life expectancy by fostering and promoting healthy lifestyle changes.
- 2 Child medical fee benefit: medical expenses for children in both primary school and junior high school will be lowered to a fixed rate, matching the charge for preschool children.
- 3 Free school lunches: school lunches are to be provided free of charge for all primary and junior high school students living in Kohoku.
- 4 After hours paediatric clinic: the existing after-hours paediatric clinic (located in the southern district) will be made available all year round to children 15 years, in the case of a medical emergency.

Hard power initiatives: infrastructure development

- 1 Opening a small-scale childcare centre: to reduce the number of children on the childcare waiting list, a new childcare centre that prioritises children aged 0-2 years was opened in 2017.
- 2 Road construction: a new road will be constructed with a view to conserve residential areas located in quasi-city planning areas.
- 3 “Minna no Koen” (Everyone’s Park) construction: construction of a park to meet the growing population needs of the town.
- 4 Sewerage plant construction: construction of a sewerage and wastewater treatment plant that can be independently owned and operated by the town, for the town. This facility will be indispensable for the preservation of a healthy living environment and the quality maintenance of public drinking water source areas.
- 5 Implementation of a region-wide unified waste management system: in order to make life more convenient through improved waste collection services, four cities and five towns combined efforts to establish the Greater Western Saga Environmental Union. The Western Area Clean Centre was constructed in 2015 and a new waste management system that serves the entire region was implemented by the Union.

Experiences in Saga Prefecture

Kohoku is located in Saga Prefecture, where you can enjoy many experiences unique to the prefecture. Here are some of the experiences you may want to try out while you are in Saga!

To Eat: Saga Beef

Out of more than 150 brands of beef from across Japan, Saga Beef is believed to be one of the best Wagyu. Saga Prefecture boasts a rich natural environment, mild climate, fresh water, and clean air, which makes the prefecture perfect for cattle farming. In addition, cattle farmers in the area possess exceptional techniques that allow the cattle to be bred in a stress-free environment. The marbling standard and meat quality scale used to grade Saga Beef are known to be the second strictest in Japan. Only black-haired Japanese cattle raised in designated farmlands in Saga Prefecture can be branded as Saga Beef. The combination of strict grading standards, excellent grazing environment, and exceptional techniques produce premium quality marble beef that is soft, juicy and rich in flavour.

To Try: Arita ware making

Arita ware is the name of the highly acclaimed porcelain created in the district around Arita-cho in the western region of Saga Prefecture. With a history dating back to the 17th Century, Arita ware was the first ever white porcelain created in Japan and was exported extensively to Europe between the 17th and 18th Century. Arita ware was also known as Imari ware, the name adopted from the port where the ceramics were shipped from to Europe during the Edo Period. Early Arita ware was primarily blue and white ceramics, but over time, new colours and painting styles were introduced, and the ceramics were made into different sizes and shapes to meet the demands from Europe. Today, Arita-cho is lined with studios and kilns for locals and visitors to experience creating their own Arita ware masterpieces.

To See: Yoshinogari Historical Park

Spreading over an area of almost 40 hectares, Yoshinogari Historical Park is an important archaeological site located in the east of Saga Prefecture, and has been designated as a National Special Historic Site as well as an Important Cultural Property. The park is one of Japan's most ancient ruin sites dating back from the Japanese Yayoi Period (300BC-300AD). Many significant artefacts have been unearthed from the park for us to have an insight into Japanese prehistoric lives. There are still excavations and studies being conducted in and around the park today. Ruins, ancient burial mounds, as well as reconstructed buildings and villages are on display in the park. Various workshops are also held in the park regularly where visitors can create their own ancient jewellery pieces, musical instruments, tools and metalware. Throughout the park there are also many recreational areas with equipments for visitors to play sports, have picnics or barbeques, or just to relax.

From the Director

-Advantages of Establishing Sister City Relationship between Australia/ New Zealand and Japan -

Sister city relationships are very beneficial for all parties involved. 2018 marks the 55th anniversary of the first ever sister city relationship between Australia and Japan- the sister city relationship between Lismore in NSW, and Yamatotakada City in Nara Prefecture. This year is also a momentous year for the cities of Christchurch and Kurashiki City in Okayama Prefecture as they celebrate the 45th anniversary of their sister city relationship, which is the first ever sister city relationship established between New Zealand and Japan. Since the establishment of these relationships, many local governments and individuals involved in sister city relationships between Australia/New Zealand and Japan have gained numerous significant tangible and intangible benefits from the relationships.

I believe it is an excellent opportunity to re-examine the advantages of establishing sister city relationships between Australia/New Zealand and Japan in this commemorative year. You may find the following examples as motives for your city or organisation to further develop existing relationships, or initiate new sister city relationships with Japan!

First of all, the similarities in the democracy, richness of nature, and level of safety in Australia, New Zealand and Japan all contribute to reducing the barrier for people-to-people exchange, as it is easy for people to settle in an environment that is similar to their home country.

Secondly, there is little time difference between Australia/New Zealand and Japan. This can make real-time communication easy by phone, email, and software such as Skype. The little time difference also makes it easy when travelling between these countries.

Thirdly, there have been many win-win situations found in Australia/New Zealand and Japan. For example, there are many Australian and New Zealander students learning Japanese, while there are many Japanese students learning English. Furthermore, as Australia and New Zealand are located in the opposite hemisphere to Japan, the opposite seasons in Australia/New Zealand and Japan can entice people to travel to their sister city's country to enjoy the opposite season.

Making the most of these advantages, there are many sister cities in Australia, New Zealand and Japan utilising technologies such as Skype to conduct language exchange through real-time communication for their students to learn Japanese or English. Moreover, there are also schools that hold student exchange tours to the country where their sister city is located in for several weeks over the school holidays. Some cities also conduct administrative officer based exchange activities.

We believe that local governments in Australia, New Zealand and Japan all have many development potentials through making the most of sister city relationships. Nothing would make us happier than seeing CLAIR's support for sister city relationships contributing to the further development of local governments in Australia, New Zealand and Japan.
