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Local Cuisine around Japan: Vol.24

Written by Wakayama prefectural government

Wakayama: Japan’s Spiritual Heartland



Wakayama is located on the Kii Peninsula, which was chosen as the 5th ranking region to travel in 2018 by Lonely Planet last year. Wakayama has a lot of attractions not to miss such as Koyasan, Kumano Kodo, great nature, and onsens.

In this month’s newsletter, we will briefly introduce Koyasan and Kumano Kodo.

Who wants to seek respite from the daily grind? Koyasan, a mountain-top UNESCO sacred site for Japanese Buddhism, is a wondrous place to go to slow down, contemplate, and re-energise. 1,200 years of history and natural beauty wait to envelop you in their calming embrace. 52 temples in Koyasan offer you accommodation called Shukubo. Staying at one of them will no doubt become an unforgettable memory of your journey.



Kongobu-ji Head Temple



Kumano Kodo

Are you interested in trekking or hiking on spiritual trails? To visit the Kumano region is to follow the footsteps of pilgrims from throughout the ages, and step into the spiritual heartland of Japan. The World Heritage Kumano Kodo pilgrimage routes allow you to experience the breathtaking beauty and mystic atmosphere of the Kii Mountains. You will also find rural villages and meet locals that warmly welcome you while walking the trails.

Please visit our website for more information:

<https://visitwakayama.jp/>

Research on multiculturalism in Victoria

CLAIR Sydney accompanied Professor Keizo Yamawaki (Meiji University, Tokyo) on his trip to Victoria from August 27 to 31. Professor Yamawaki and his students undertook the trip to learn about multiculturalism in Victoria.

The delegation met with city officials in Ballarat and Melton, both of which are renowned member cities of the Council of Europe's Intercultural Cities Network. The delegation also visited the Multicultural Affairs and Social Cohesion Division of the Victorian State Government, state schools, and the Immigration Museum to discuss challenges regarding multiculturalism.



We will continue to research multicultural initiatives and practices in Australia and support Japanese local governments' policy planning.

Study Trip to Coffs Harbour in NSW



From August 21 to 27, Joe Fujishima, Assistant Director at CLAIR Sydney, was at the Coffs Harbour City Council in New South Wales for his internship. During their secondment in Sydney, it is required for all assistant directors at CLAIR Sydney to undergo a one-week internship at a government or semi-government organization in Australia or New Zealand.

Coffs Harbour was the 2017/2018 host city for CLAIR Sydney's annual event, CLAIR Forum, a one-day seminar for Australian and Japanese public servants to discuss and exchange information on local government initiatives. Coffs Harbour is located in the mid-north coast of NSW between Sydney and Brisbane, and is a popular stop-over point for those travelling between the two cities. In 1988, the city established a sister city relationship with Sasebo City, and this year, the two cities welcome the 30th anniversary of their connection.



Joe was hosted by the Industry & Destination Development (IDD) for his internship, during which he was given presentations on various initiatives and projects being implemented by the Coffs Harbour City Council. During his internship, Joe accompanied members of the IDD team to various events, such as the Chamber of Commerce Business Expo, where he listened to information about 6 Degrees, an initiative run by the Coffs Harbour City Council that provides co-working spaces, programs and events to support start-up and freelancers in the Coffs Coast. Joe also visited the Coffs Coast Growers Market, a community market held by the city council every Thursday to support local and regional food producers and businesses.



Joe also met with the local LGBTQI community and staff in the field of mental health support. In his one-week internship, Joe has gained significant insight into the administration of Australian governments by observing Coffs Harbour City Council's efforts in areas such as local tourism, local industries and city facility management. It was an invaluable experience for him to be able to visit and see a variety of places and events, and meet with and talk to all the kind people in Coffs Harbour.

Finally, Joe would like to express his deepest gratitude to everyone who had kindly offered their time and assistance in the one week he was in Coffs Harbour. In particular, he would like to thank Ms Fiona Barden and all members of the IDD team, as well as everyone in Coffs Harbour City Council for their kind hospitality in making the week invaluable and unforgettable.

Study Trip to Meander Valley in Tasmania

Between September 7 and September 15, Ms. Shizuka Narita, one of our Assistant Directors, visited Meander Valley Council in Tasmania to learn more about farming and tourism in the different areas within Meander Valley.

Through her study tour, she visited 41° South Tasmania and Gin Seng Farm, Crowden Family Dairy Farm, Ashgrove Dairy Farm and Shop, Christmas Hill Raspberry Farm, Hazelbrae at Hagley (Hazelnut Farm), Springfield Deer Farm to learn about farming and agri-tourism. She found that Tasmania has a wide range of delicious foods thanks to rainfall and fertile soil and that farmers also make great efforts to promote their products and contribute to tourism in the area.

She also visited Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre, Yarns Artwork in Silk, Districts Falk Museum to learn about tourism, localities and history in the region. Mr. Greg Murray from the Kooparooa Niara Tours showed her the very impressive Kooparooa Niara Cultural Trail around and kindly explained the details of Australian native



plants and Aboriginal culture in the area. As Ms Narita is interested in experience-based tour, she was very grateful for this informative experience.

Ms Narita also had the opportunity to observe a council meeting on September 11, and two meetings relating to local economy on September 13. She also met Tasmanian Treasurer, Peter Gutwein, who is also the Minister for Local Government and Minister for State Growth at Tasmania at one of meetings on September 13. Ms Narita commented on

how impressed she was to see that the close cooperation between state government, councils, and local industries.

CLAIR Sydney would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Mayor of the Meander Valley Council, Mr. Craig Perkins, General Manager, Mr. Martin Guill, Director Community & Development Services, Ms. Lynette While, Community Development Manager, Mr. Patrick Gambles, Project Manager, Sustainable Development, Mr. Craig Plaisted, Business Engagement Officer, Mr. Alan Blackmore and other staff members of Meander Valley Council for accommodating Ms. Narita's study tour.



Support activities for Okinawa Prefecture

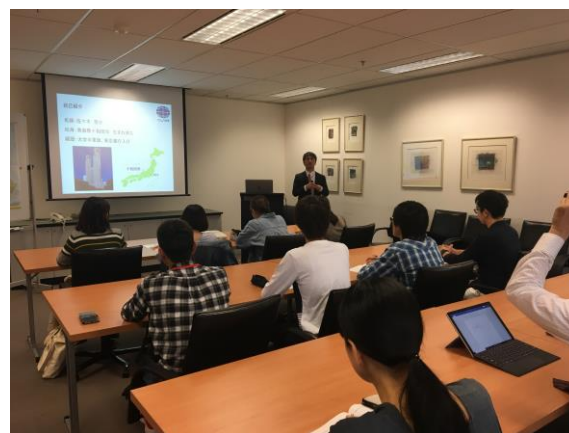
On September 6, Supervisor Mr Uchiyama of the Asian Economic Strategy Division (from Okinawa Prefecture's Department of Commerce, Industry and Labour) visited the CLAIR Sydney office.

Okinawa Prefecture is currently working on a strategy to increase their overseas tourism market, and aim to conduct PR activities here in Australia. Okinawa will target young Australians through a club-style event to be held in Sydney in December, called 'Okinawa Night'. They are hoping to attract 100 attendees to the event, where they will showcase highlights such as Okinawan music, Orion beer and Awamori sake. In fact, Awamori sake, a drink unique to Okinawa, has proven to be a popular beverage at existing Japanese restaurants in Australia.

Okinawa Prefecture aims to utilise such connections and events to increase awareness of Okinawa as a great new place to visit, especially for those already well acquainted with Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto. CLAIR Sydney will continue to support such events in future.

Support activities for university students from the Chugoku-Shikoku Region

On September 10, ten university students from the Chugoku-Shikoku Region of Japan visited our office. Mr Sasaki, Assistant Director at CLAIR Sydney gave a presentation on an outline of Australia, CLAIR Sydney's activities, and his professional career at Tokyo Metropolitan Government. There were various questions from the students, which highlighted their interest in reasons to work as a civil servant and tips on how to learn English. During their stay in Sydney,



they visited the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) and Japanese companies. CLAIR Sydney wishes the students all the best in their academic and career pursuits. We will continue to support similar student exchange activities.

Friendship through the Nagoya City Marathon and Sydney Running Festival

On September 16, two representative runners from the Nagoya City Marathon participated in the Sydney Running Festival. The Nagoya City Marathon and the Sydney Running Festival are sister marathon events. Every year, representative runners from Sydney and Nagoya travel to their sister city to compete in the other city's marathon, as well as to join the expo event held the day before the marathon to promote their home city and its marathon event.



On September 17, the representative runners visited Sydney Town Hall. Councillor Robert Kok welcomed the runners very warmly and together, they talked about Nagoya and Sydney, and shared their thoughts on the marathon held the day before.

CLAIR Sydney provided support for the representative runners during their time in Sydney by setting up appointments on the runners' behalf, assisting with the promotion of Nagoya and the Nagoya City Marathon at the expo, and accompanying the runners on their courtesy visit to Sydney Town Hall.

We look forward to seeing the friendship between the two sister cities continue to expand and thrive through sport exchanges, and we would like to continue to support the international activities of Japanese local governments in their pursuit of internationalisation.

Tea Tree Gully welcomes sister city friends from Asakuchi

Written by Ms Penny Cowell, City of Tea Tree Gully



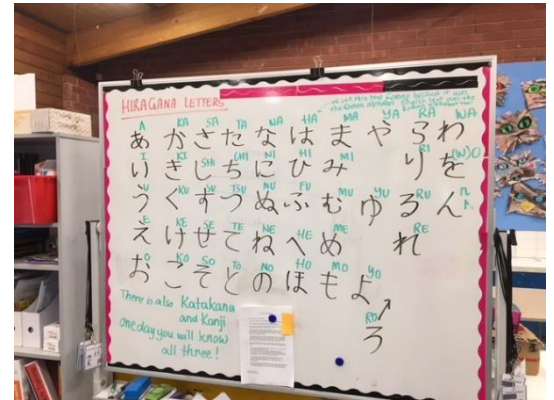
The friendship between Adelaide's Tea Tree Gully and Okayama Prefecture's Asakuchi continues to deepen, after another successful recent delegation trip.

The City of Tea Tree Gully has a population of 97,734 and is a major shopping destination in north-east Adelaide, while Asakuchi is a seaside locality of 35,022, famed for its Astronomical Museum and udon noodles.

Between 30-31 July, The City of Tea Tree Gully welcomed the Asakuchi delegation to our city, which included 15 high school students and Asakuchi representatives Toshiyuki Hirai, Fusae Shimizu and Makiko Kawata. The special guests were hosted by City of Tea Tree Gully's Library & Arts Communications Officer Penny Cowell and Youth Development Coordinator Carly Didcote.

This year the two cities celebrate 21 years of friendship, with this year's focus on showcasing the highlights of Tea Tree Gully.

As special guests at the Tea Tree Gully Primary School assembly, they were treated to several performances including Japanese speeches and songs by the Australian students, before being allowed into the classrooms to teach origami, calligraphy and kendama to Australian students, which they loved!



Big thumbs-up were given for the very 'Aussie' lunch provided for the tour group, which included hot chips, meat pies, pavlova and lamingtons, which was generously put on by Principal Di Scott and her staff.



A tour of the Tea Tree Gully Historical Museum 1855 followed, where students discovered how life was for the early settlers in the olden days, on a tour from Museum President Gill Starks.

To break up the day, students then experienced a refreshing walk amongst the gum trees over to Tea Tree Gully's art gallery, Gallery 1855, where they were shown how to create koala keyrings.

Tea Tree Gully Library hosted a 'meet and greet' with members of Tea Tree Gully's Japanese Culture Group for Youth, and welcomed them to a special Japanese-English story time session as well.

Students were then billeted with families from local school Modbury High School, to experience daily school life in Australia for one week.

We are honoured to have the opportunity to play host to Asakuchi students each year on their annual trip, and know that many a friendship has blossomed as a result.



Christchurch- Kurashiki Sister City Committee Teacher Exchange Project

Japan and the JET Programme have given us so much. Part of JET Alumni Association's mission, therefore, should be giving something back to the educational system that hosted us and provided such a wonderful life experience.



This thinking led to the JETAA/Christchurch-Kurashiki Sister City Committee Teacher Exchange Project. A Japanese teacher of English would come to Christchurch and spend three weeks on professional development opportunities; two weeks of immersive English, and three days observing and participating in ESOL/Languages classes at Papanui High School.

Working together with the sister city committee was invaluable, not only for their hard work on the proposal, but also for the already established relationship they had with members of the municipal government and Board of Education in Kurashiki.

Bright, bubbly, and outgoing, Yoshimi Akatsuka proved to be the perfect candidate. She had exactly the mindset we were hoping for, already doing a lot in class with spoken English and dedicated to making English an enjoyable subject for her students. She is even doing some research work on the subject to be presented next year.

Yoshimi loved her time in New Zealand. The language classes gave her a chance to refresh and lift her English abilities. She could also observe new and interesting teaching techniques there. Time at a local high school with a range of teachers also gave her this opportunity. Yoshimi greatly enjoyed working with the Kiwi students. Perhaps the highlight though for Yoshimi was her host family. In the two weeks, she really fell in love with them and leaving was a tough experience.



JETAA South Island sends its best wishes to Yoshimi for the future. Now we look forward to planning the next exchange.

“World Manga Senbatsu” Manga Contest

The “World Manga Senbatsu” manga contest, held by the Kochi Prefectural Government in Japan, is accepting submissions from around the world! Submit a one-page manga before the deadline (30 November, 2018) for your chance to win amazing prizes!

For more information about the contest, submission requirements, information on the members of the preliminary judging panel and all other details, please see the link below.

<https://site.nicovideo.jp/seiga/mangasenbatsu/english/>

The poster for the "World Manga Senbatsu" contest features a blue and white color scheme with a globe in the background. At the top, it lists the organizers: "まんが王国・土佐" (Manga Kingdom Tosa), "ニコニコ漫画" (Niconico Manga), and "ComicWalker". The main title "世界まんがセンバツ" (World Manga Senbatsu) is written in large, stylized yellow and black characters. A yellow speech bubble says "Enter Now!". Below the title are social media icons for Twitter and Facebook, and a QR code. The text below the title reads: "~A new manga contest~ The World Manga Senbatsu. A collaboration between 'Manga Kingdom Tosa' - who has held the 'Manga Koshien' for 27 years and counting -, Niconico Manga and ComicWalker!". A list of key points includes: "Your work should be a 1 page manga (submitted individually)", "Accepting works from all over the world", "Anyone can participate (Only high school students for the high school category)", "The judging panel are all professional manga artists", and "The final judging will be held at the 5th National Manga Daikigai, an event opened to the public, in Manga Kingdom Tosa on the 2nd of March." At the bottom, there are three columns: "Requirements" (High school students category and Open category), "Theme" (Transformation, Open Category, Discovery), and "Application Period" (2018 8.5 (Sunday) 11.30 (Friday) by 23:59).

From the Director

-One of the Potential Future Concepts of Sister City Relationships and Friendship City Relationships in the World -

At CLAIR, we have found several cases of Japanese sister city relationships and friendship city relationships that involve collaborative efforts for finding solutions to both:

- larger structural or international concerns that go beyond the scope of any single local government or nation to solve independently and
- social or local challenges requiring a grass-roots approach.

A prime example is Yokosuka’s sister city relationships with four cities in Australia, France, the UK, and the US. These relationships are a recipient of the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications Award, which is awarded to those organisations that have achieved excellent international exchange relationships with one another. Yokosuka City is actively working to further awareness and sharing of the concept of “Fair Trade” with its sister cities. The concept of Fair Trade is most effectively achieved through collaborative efforts on an international scale. The sister city network is a potentially effective method of furthering awareness about worthy causes such as Fair Trade among governments, organizations and citizens in a way that extends beyond national borders.

Another example is Bunkyo’s sister city relationship with Kaiserslautern in Germany, also a Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications Award recipient. When the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred in

2011, Bunkyo Ward assisted Kaiserslautern City in donating relief funds to a third party, a damaged local government region. To reciprocate, when Kaiserslautern city was under strain to support a large number of refugees, Bunkyo citizens donated to the city's refugee support facilities.

Mihara's friendship city relationship with Palmerston North in New Zealand is another strong example of collaborative efforts for common local problems. Both cities have suffered from many earthquakes and floods in the past. They started an exchange program between staff responsible for natural disaster crisis management, so that the departments can learn from one another and collaborate on methods for improving their services.

I believe it is essential for us, the human race, to take stock of our current situation and explore our options, and responsibilities for the future. In order to cope with global scales issues effectively, nations must cooperate with one another; and within that nation, the federal, state and local level government bodies, enterprises, NPOs, and NGOs must cooperate with each other.

Local governments often know best the concerns of their residents and can identify regional solutions for regional problems that may not be benefited by a national approach. Because societies are rapidly changing in complex ways, it is important that local governments go beyond both domestic and national borders to collaborate with other similarly-challenged regions. It is also essential that local governments effectively communicate the results of such collaborative efforts to future generations, so that this wisdom isn't lost over time.

If these steps can be taken, there is a potential for sister city relationships and friendship city relationships to achieve even more than what we have seen so far. It can lead to a real cooperative partnership between local governments, where solutions to common challenges are found through strong communication and collaboration, and the benefits are passed directly on to the community. I believe that the examples described above all reflect this goal and I hope that their successes can encourage and inspire you in your own efforts towards globalization, healthy international relations and socio-economic problems solving. CLAIR Sydney will continue to support these future-oriented exchange activities between sister cities and friendship cities.
