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## Local Cuisine around Japan: Vol.27

Written by Hamamatsu City

Hamamatsu is a city located near the center of Japan and borders the Pacific Ocean. In the western area of Hamamatsu is Lake Hamana, a lake that connects to the Pacific Ocean. The lake was a freshwater lake until approximately 500 years ago, when an earthquake occurred and formed an opening. Salt water from the Pacific Ocean started flowing into the freshwater lake and created the brackish body of water in Lake Hamana we know today.



Lake Hamana has been a prime location for cultivating eels, soft-shell turtles, seaweed and oysters since ancient times. As a result, the Hamamatsu and Hamanako area is a known place of specialty food, where you can experience the unique fishing style of the local fish farmers and enjoy the fresh seafood.

With a history of more than 100 years as the birthplace of eel and soft-shell turtle cultivation, there are more than 100 eel specialty restaurants in the Hamamatsu and Hamanako area. Since Hamamatsu is situated halfway between Eastern and Western Japan, eels prepared in both East Japan style and West Japan style



can be enjoyed in the city. In the East Japan style, the eels are slit open along the backs before broiling; in the West Japan style, the eels are slit open along the belly and then broiled. You can learn about the food culture of both East and West Japan, while enjoying the delicious broiled eel of Hamamatsu.

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## Visit to Wellers Hill State School

On 3 Dec, staff from CLAIR Sydney visited Wellers Hill State School in Queensland. The school is widely known as one that puts a lot of efforts into Japanese language education in the state of Queensland, where Japanese language education is the most prominent in Australia. Wellers Hill State School is also the only Japanese language primary bilingual school in Queensland. The school implements an immersion program, which is a bilingual language education method where they teach students general subjects such as mathematics and science, in Japanese. The school has set times of the day so that both languages are used at designated times equally. For example, they speak in only Japanese in the first half of the day, and only in English in the second half. Wellers Hill State School started this program in January, 2014.



The first ever group of students who participated in the program will be in Year 6 this year, which will be their final year at the school. They can speak to teachers and amongst themselves in class in fluent Japanese. We hope they will become cultural bridges between Australia and Japan through various opportunities, including the JET Programme, in future.

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# Consul-General's Commendation Awarding Ceremony



On 4 Dec, CLAIR Sydney attended the Consul-General's Commendation Awarding Ceremony held by the Consulate-General of Japan, Sydney. Ms Atsuko Kobayashi Radcliffe, Mr Sadaharu Muramatsu, and the Sydney Sakura Choir are recipients of the Consul-General's Commendations which honour their contributions to the relationship between Japan and Australia.

Ms Nella Hall, Councillor and former Deputy Mayor of Strathfield gave a toast at the event.

Strathfield is where one of the orchestras conducted by Mr Sadaharu Muramatsu, who is a recipient of the Consul-General's Commendation, is based.

Mr Muramatsu conducts several orchestras in Sydney, including the Strathfield Symphony Orchestra and the Sydney Sakura Choir. Through his work, Mr Muramatsu contributes greatly to the mutual understanding between Australia and Japan.

The Sydney Sakura Choir was established by Japanese people living in Sydney. The group performs regularly at Japan-related events including the Cherry Blossom Festival in Cowra. The group reinforces the strong friendship and understanding between Australia and Japan through their performances.

Ms Atsuko Kobayashi Radcliffe is the first and only Japanese winemaker to establish her own winery and brand in Australia. Ms Kobayashi Radcliffe contributes significantly to the bilateral relationship between Australia and Japan through her work in the sake and wine industry.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to deepen our relationships with Japanese organisations in Australia.

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## Delegation from the Aomori Prefectural Government Visited Sydney

From 5 to 7 Dec, a delegation from the Aomori Prefectural Government were in Sydney to engage in tourism promotional activities for the prefecture. A staff member of CLAIR Sydney who is seconded from Aomori Prefecture accompanied the delegation during their time here. While in Sydney, in addition to visiting various travel agencies and a publishing company, the delegation also ran a booth at the Japan Road Show organised by the Japan National Tourism Organisation on 6 Dec to meet with representatives from the local media, travel agencies, and so on to discuss tourism in Aomori.



During their visit to the various travel agencies and at the Japan Road Show, many people they came across mentioned that they are finding new destinations to visit for their upcoming visit to Japan. This signifies that there could be an increase in visitors not only to the Golden Route (the popular travel route along the Pacific Ocean coast between Tokyo and Hiroshima) and ski resorts, but also to regional areas in Japan. There were more than 200 people who pre-registered for the JNTO road show event, which was significantly more than expected. CLAIR Sydney would like to continue supporting Japanese local governments with their destination promotional activities.



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## Showcasing Kyushu Island in Australia

On 3 Dec, a representative from the Kyushu Tourism Promotion Organisation arrived in Australia to promote the many fascinating destinations on Kyushu Island, Japan. He visited the CLAIR Sydney office on 5 Dec to meet with staff members of CLAIR Sydney to discuss topics such as tourism trends in Australia.

Kyushu Island has many unique and spectacular attractions for tourists to enjoy, such as Mount Aso, Japan's largest active volcano; Yakushima Island, a UNESCO World Heritage site where tourists can trek amongst ancient trees; Nichinan Coast, one of the popular scenic surf spots in Japan; and Yufuin, an artistic rural hot spring town. You also can't miss the amazing local Kyushu dishes such as the famous Hakata ramen (pork bone broth noodles) from Fukuoka, Champon noodles from Nagasaki, the famous Saga beef, and much more!



Please refer to the following link for tips on how to have a blast in Kyushu!

<https://www.welcomekyushu.com/>

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## Representative from Joetsu City Visited Our Office

On 7 Dec, Mr Toshihiro Muto from Joetsu City visited our office. Joetsu City has a long-standing relationship with Cowra, NSW, as both cities share a common history of being sites of a prisoner of war camp. Mr Muto was dispatched to Cowra for about a week under a staff exchange program between Joetsu and Cowra. After the exchange program, he came to Sydney to promote tourism in Joetsu at the Matsuri Japan Festival, which is the biggest Japan festival in Sydney.

A prisoner of war camp was placed in Cowra during World War II, and many Japanese prisoners of war were detained there. In 1944, the tragic Cowra Breakout took place, resulting in a number of casualties. With this history, a Japanese War Cemetery and the Cowra Japanese Garden were built in Cowra. Cowra is a symbol of the strong relationship between Australia and Japan.

In 2019, commemorative events will be held for the 75th anniversary of the Cowra Breakout. CLAIR Sydney will assist at the events together with Japanese organisations in Australia, and will continue to support Joetsu City's activities in Australia.

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## Matsuri Japan Festival 2018

On Saturday 8 Dec, the Matsuri Japan Festival 2018 was held at Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbour in Sydney. CLAIR Sydney ran a booth at the event to introduce Japanese regional destinations with our co-exhibitors Taito City, Kansai (Osaka City, Kobe City and Sakai City), Fukuoka Prefecture and Tourism Oita. A member of staff from the Joetsu City in Niigata Prefecture also joined us at our booth to promote the Joetsu regional area enthusiastically on the day. Other governmental organisations such as the Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney, JNTO Sydney, as well as Japanese local tourism organisations (Shizuoka, Kyoto, Nara and Okinawa) also exhibited at the festival.

It was a sizzling hot day and approximately 40,000 visitors attended the event. Many visitors came to our booth at the event and we talked with them about Rugby World Cup 2019 related places, host towns for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the World Masters Games 2021 Kansai, and tourist destinations all across Japan.







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## Visit to Adelaide Hills Council

On 13 Dec, Mr Yuta Watanabe, an Assistant Director at CLAIR Sydney, visited Adelaide Hills Council for his research on regional revitalisation initiatives conducted by local governments in Australia. Adelaide Hills is located 20 kilometres east of Adelaide, the capital city of the state of South Australia, and has a population of approximately 38,000. It is located in the Mount Lofty Ranges, which stretches from north to south in the south-eastern part of the state of South Australia, and is a famous wine producing region in Australia.



Mr Watanabe visited the council as part of his research on the Building Better Regions Fund, a grant provided by the Federal Government for revitalisation initiatives conducted by local governments, and interviewed staff of Adelaide Hills Council who are in charge of two of the projects using this grant. One project is a master plan of improvements of Albert Street, the main street of Gumeracha, in the northern part of the council. The other is a project to create a data bank of historical information and stories about the Mount Lofty Ranges, a collaborative effort that utilises the data of ten councils including Adelaide Hills, with a goal of having Mount Lofty designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in future. It was a great opportunity for Mr Watanabe to learn about Adelaide Hills Council's projects and their ideas on regional revitalisation.

# 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Sister City Relationship Between Osaka and Melbourne



It has been 40 years since the City of Osaka and the City of Melbourne became sister cities. An event was held in Melbourne on Tuesday, 18 Dec 2018 to commemorate this special milestone.

The first part of the event started with the remarks by Mr Hirofumi Yoshimura, the Mayor of the City of Osaka. In the panel discussion, as Melbourne and Osaka respectively ranked 2nd and 3rd on the Global Liveability Index 2018 conducted by the

Economist Intelligence Unit, panellists described the wide range of appeals in the two cities, including the humour-loving trait that can be found in the people of both cities. Panellists especially emphasised that the City of Osaka will be hosting large scale international events in the coming years such as the G20 summit in 2019, and the World Expo in 2025.

In the second part of the event, panellists talked about the appeals of Osaka as a tourist destination. They presented on a variety of attractions in Osaka- from fascinating destinations such as the Osaka Castle, Kaiyukan Aquarium, and Universal Studios Japan, to “konamon”, flour-based dishes such as okonomiyaki and takoyaki!

In the event, through the presentations and interactions, participants developed further mutual understanding of the two cities. CLAIR Sydney hopes that both cities will continue this amazing sister city relationship they have, and it will lead to the further vitality of the two cities.

Osaka is a city with 1400 years of history and has been a gateway into Japan from overseas.

Click on the link below for information about Osaka and other useful travelling tips for the city!



<https://osaka-info.jp/en/>



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# JETAA QLD

- Highlights of 2018 -



## April to May – Logo Competition

After comments and suggestions from other chapters, we decided to run a contest to find a new logo. We had several great submissions and put it out to the members for a vote. So here it is, the new look for JETAA QLD!

## March

The winners of the joint Australia Japan Society and JETAA QLD Instagram photo competition were announced at a reception held at Madame Wu's on the riverside. Judging the 262 entries proved to be a difficult task, so congratulations to Katie McIntosh who won the JETAA prize with her shot of JETs going native in the streets of Kyoto!



The ever-popular JET Programme information booth at the University of Queensland Careers Fair was run by members of JETAA QLD and CLAIR Sydney with a lot of interest shown by prospective graduates. We had a great time advocating for the Programme and it really is wonderful to revisit the motivations and passions that started us on our own journeys to Japan and share that with the students who attended.

Thanks to everyone who helped out, especially Ms Nanako Shimada and Mr Yuta Watanabe from CLAIR Sydney who provided great support for the event.

## July 14

Winter member's dinner at Bishamon. Though it doesn't really get that cold up here in the sunshine state, the all-you-can-eat shabu shabu, sukiyaki and warm company were too tempting for both recent and veteran alumni. This event has become a fixture for us as it tends to attract older JETs to re-connect.

## September 22

Trivia Afternoon – Goku Izakaya. The choice of a new venue for our annual trivia event came with some hiccups but everyone who attended rated the food and the fun highly. Thanks to Ken and Keith Parker for volunteering their unparalleled skills as quizmasters once again. Looking forward to next year!





## **October 5-7: JETAA Oceania Conference, Perth.**

This year, our representatives at the annual Oceania Conference were our president, Olivier Allart, and committee member, Katie Lissette. Their presentation focused on support for returnee JETs and especially Olivier's efforts to host a networking function that helps recently returned alumni connect with businesses and institutions that might utilise their unique experiences. This is still a work in progress as we liaise with the various stakeholders we would like to bring on board. This event is going to be a major priority for 2019.

Happy New Year from JETAA Queensland!

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# From the Director

## - The Host Town Initiative for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games -

As you may know, the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be held in Tokyo and other Japanese cities between July and September 2020. The Japanese people are proud to be hosting this pinnacle event for all athletes. We are also looking forward to welcoming athletes and people from all over the world and together with the visitors, enjoy the largest sporting event in the world.

As the host of this special event, Japan has been implementing the Host Town Initiative across the country ahead of the Games. The Host Town Initiative is a project implemented by the Government of Japan, where Japanese local governments can register themselves as a host town for Olympics and Paralympics delegations. Once registered as a host town, prefectures and municipalities will welcome athletes and people from partner countries participating in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and conduct exchange activities in the fields of sports, culture, economics, and so on with their partner countries. The host towns will also support their partner countries' teams to ensure they perform greatly during the Tokyo 2020 Games. Additionally, as the people of the host towns extend their warm hospitality to their guests, they will also have opportunities to be involved in various exciting exchange activities with the athletes and people from their partner countries.

The Host Town Initiative is beneficial to everyone. From the Olympians and Paralympians' perspective, they will be cheered on by locals from their host towns during the Tokyo 2020 Games, and be welcomed with different sports workshops and cultural events held by the people of their host towns before or after the Tokyo 2020 Games. Some host towns may even host pre-game training camps for their guests. As for the people of the partner countries, the host towns may invite guests from their partner countries to visit and learn about each other's culture, or conduct student exchange activities to promote mutual understanding. All of these activities may hopefully lead to the participation in mutual festivals or events from the people of both the host towns and partner countries.

As of 28 Dec 2018, there have been 288 host towns registered across Japan. There are 14 host towns whose partner country is Australia, and 12 host towns whose partner country is New Zealand. Please click on the following link to see the list of the registered host towns as of 2 Nov 2018:

[https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/tokyo2020\\_suishin\\_honbu/hosttown\\_suisin/pdf/document4.pdf](https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/tokyo2020_suishin_honbu/hosttown_suisin/pdf/document4.pdf)

The number of the host towns has been increasing gradually and is expected to continue to increase in future. Please click on the following link to find information on the Host Town Initiative, and updates to the registered host town list:

[https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/tokyo2020\\_suishin\\_honbu/hosttown\\_suisin/index\\_e.html](https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/tokyo2020_suishin_honbu/hosttown_suisin/index_e.html).

Some of the host towns have sister city or friendship city relationships with Australia and New Zealand. If your city or organisation has any connections with any of the host towns for Australia or New Zealand, it may be an excellent opportunity to further develop these existing ties. If your city or organisation considers initiating a new sister city or friendship city relationship, it might be a good idea to seek the possibilities of achieving this with the host towns for Australia or New Zealand.

The Japanese people welcomes Australians and New Zealanders to the Tokyo 2020 Games and hopes that the host towns' ties with Australia and New Zealand will be further strengthened through the many anticipated people interactions sparked by the Host Town Initiative.

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