



Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR, Sydney)

Newsletter Issue
No.135 May 2019

This issue includes:

(page)

- 1 Welcome to Chiba Prefecture
- 3 Supporting Activity for Nagoya City University
- 4 Visit to the Nihongo Tanken Centre
- 5 Ms Carol Mills from UTS visited CLAIR Sydney

(page)

- 5 Visit to Minamiuonuma-shi, Ashburton's sister city in Japan
- 6 JETAA Auckland
- 7 From the Executive Director

Welcome to Chiba Prefecture

Chiba Prefecture is home to the gateway to Japan, Narita International Airport. About an hour's drive away from Narita International Airport is Tsurigasaki Surfing Beach in Ichinomiya-machi, Chiba. The beach will be the competition venue for surfing, which will make its debut as an Olympic sport at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. Tsurigasaki Surfing Beach attracts many surfers who are there to experience the world famous surfing waves themselves.



Tsurigasaki Beach

<https://www.pref.chiba.lg.jp/oripara/pre-camps/english/main.html>



Motosuka Beach

One of Chiba Prefecture's beaches has received an international award for its high environmental standards. Motosuka Beach in Sammu City, Chiba, was recently awarded a 'Blue Flag', an international environmental award that promotes environmental protection and education. Only a total of four locations in Japan have received this recognition. The beach is on a beautiful coast that meets very strict water quality, environment, safety and service standards, and is one of Japan's greatest natural assets.

<https://www.city.sammu.lg.jp.e.cy.hp.transer.com/soshiki/14/blueflag.html>



Nomizo no Taki Fall, Kameiwa Cave

In the southern part of Chiba Prefecture is Shimizu Keiryu Park, where visitors can enjoy fantastic views of Nomizo no Taki Waterfall. A photo depicting a ray of sunlight coming through the cave, creating a shimmering reflection in the water, and forming the shape of a heart became much talked about on social media. Many people now visit the waterfall to see this mystic view for themselves. To see this view, early morning in mid-to-late March and mid-to-late September are said to be the best times to visit the cave.

In addition to marine activities, there are a variety of attractions and specialties in Chiba, including vibrantly coloured seasonal flowers such as rapeseed blossoms and cherry blossoms, unique Japanese historical buildings such as Naritasan Shinshoji Temple, and delicious delicacies from the sea like fresh fish and shellfish.



Naritasan Shinshoji Temple



Mother farm

We are looking forward to seeing you in Chiba.
See you there!

<http://japan-chiba-guide.com/en/index.html>

Supporting Activity for Nagoya City University



On 9 Apr, the 2019 UNSW Exchange Expo was held at the University of New South Wales for students to find out information about exchange programs and overseas study experiences. CLAIR Sydney staff ran a booth at the event to promote Nagoya City University and Nagoya to support Nagoya City University's initiative to increase the number of international students at the university, particularly students from the city's sister city, Sydney. Over 1,200 students visited the Expo on the day.

At the Expo, there were many representatives from countries and universities around the world that have a partnership with UNSW. CLAIR Sydney staff members distributed brochures, played videos and answered questions about Nagoya City University. Many students visited our booth and spoke with our staff members at the event.

There are many students who are interested in studying in Japan, and the Expo was a good opportunity to promote Nagoya City University.

As international students are important bridges that connect Japan to the students' home countries, CLAIR Sydney will continue to support Japanese public universities' initiatives to attract international students.



Visit to the Nihongo Tanken Centre

On 12 Apr, staff from CLAIR Sydney visited the Nihongo Tanken Centre in Kirrawee, NSW. This centre is an educational institution established by the NSW Government in 1999 for students from kindergarten to Year 12 (4 to 18 years old) in public and private schools who are learning Japanese in NSW. 2,511 students from 118 schools visited the centre last year.

Programs at the centre are conducted for four hours a day from 10AM to 2PM, and are customised to the visiting student groups' ages and abilities. There are many efforts in place to make learning Japanese at the Centre a fun experience, for example, student groups compete through quizzes and games.



Programs at the centre are conducted for four hours a day from 10AM to 2PM, and are customised to the visiting student groups' ages and abilities. There are many efforts in place to make learning Japanese at the Centre a fun experience, for example, student groups compete through quizzes and games.



The Centre is designed to simulate a Japanese house, and there is a tokonoma alcove and shoji screens in the room covered with tatami mats, and also a Japanese garden in the Centre, so students can also learn about Japanese culture and lifestyle.

We hope, as a result of learning Japanese at this Centre, that as many students as possible can increase their interests in Japan, and that they will consider going to Japan as JETs to play a role as a cultural bridge between Australia and Japan in the future.



Ms Carol Mills from UTS visited CLAIR Sydney

On 18 Apr, Ms Carol Mills, Director of the Institute of Public Policy and Governance (IPPG) at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) visited the CLAIR Sydney office.

Ms Mills has previously contributed greatly to the CLAIR Forum earlier this year, giving a presentation on the theme 'Tourism and Opportunity' shortly after her inauguration as the new Director of IPPG.



The CLAIR Forum is an annual event hosted by CLAIR and IPPG with the purpose of introducing Japanese local government policies and initiatives to professionals in Australia.

We had a fruitful discussion regarding the next CLAIR Forum. CLAIR Sydney will continue to work closely with organisations and institutions, such as UTS, to provide relevant and informative content relating to local governments in Japan and Oceania.

Visit to Minamiuonuma-shi, Ashburton's sister city in Japan

Written by Ms Liz McMillan, Councillor of Ashburton

On a recent trip to Japan and as I was staying with a friend who lived around an hour from Minamiuonuma, Ashburton's sister city, I decided we were too close to not visit.

After a few phone calls to arrange a time, the Mayor (who had meetings scheduled for most of the day) agreed to meet us between 1pm and 1:30pm on Friday 11 January.

My friend Michiko, my children Floyd and Estella and I caught the bullet train to Echigo and then the local train to



Ms Liz McMillan and
Minamiuonuma-shi Mayor Shigeo Hayashi

Muikamachi, where the Minamiuonuma city civic building is based. It was snowing lightly when we arrived in Muikamachi with a good 50cm of snow on the ground.

We had a quick look through the library, which was right beside the train station. We found out later it had been built 5 years ago. I liked the use of the wood in the library and the “kotatsu” in the children’s area. Kotatsu are small tables with a blanket that have heaters under them. Great for cold days!

We then went to meet Mayor Hayashi and Katagiri-san, Manager of Planning and Policy. We received a warm welcome from them and were shown photos of the visit from Ashburton residents several years ago.

We were presented a booklet on Minamiuonuma-shi, which now includes Shiozawa, Muikamachi, and Yamato as one city. The area is similar to the Ashburton district, with many mountains, ski fields, and crop farms. They are famous for their rice production and sake. I was presented 2 bottles of sake to bring home to our Mayor and Council.

Mayor Hayashi spoke how he was a keen skier, growing up on a ski field and skiing to school each morning, taking the lift home after school. He said he had visited Mt Hutt many years ago and is interested in a relationship with Mt Hutt. The ski field he is associated with is Ishiuchi Maruyama. They have recently installed the newest gondola in Japan and have a half pipe, which they are hoping to attract athletes who will be training for the Winter Olympics in Beijing, China in 2022.

We finished the visit with some photos in front of the wonderful Karen Smith painting that Ashburton District Council had sent to commemorate the 30th anniversary of our sister city relationship.

Mayor Hayashi hopes to visit the Ashburton district one day. He was interested in learning about Methven and Ashburton. He didn’t speak much English, so was pleased that I could speak Japanese. He was very welcoming and is keen to continue the sister city relationship.

JETAA Auckland



Auckland’s annual Japan Day was held earlier this year on 3 Mar, for the first time ever at Eden Park. Every year, JETAA Auckland collaborates with the Japanese Consulate to promote Japan and the JET Programme. This year we decided to amp it up a notch and ran two activities alongside to attract a larger audience- and we attracted many people indeed!

Aimed mainly at families and young children, we ran an Origami workshop for people to try

out the traditional Japanese art of paper folding. Many cranes, whales, frogs... (amongst other animals)

slowly appeared as curious children and their parents folded away, letting their imagination run free. We included instructions that people could follow, as well as JETAA volunteers to guide and help out. The second activity we organised was something we had never done before at Japan Day: Yukata dress up! With 20+ designs to choose from (thanks to our lovely Departing JETs Coordinator Helen for lending us her collection), the booth was colourful, lively, and attracted an audience of all ages. With super speed and intense precision, three volunteers dressed up participants in a yukata of their choice, and a polaroid picture was offered as a keepsake of their experience.

Following the success of our two activities in the morning and early afternoon, JETAA decided to put the focus on promoting the JET Programme. With our booth having gathered a number of people, we were able to talk about Japanese culture, language, and link it with an amazing opportunity to live and work in Japan. We talked to students, graduates, and even families who may know someone who would be interested in the programme. We wrapped up just before closing time at 6pm, having passed on information about Japan and the JET Programme to those who may one day embark on the same journey as many of us once did.



From the Executive Director

- Japanese Local Governments Learning Australian and New Zealand Initiatives to Support Foreign Residents -

Between 2013 and 2018, the number of non-Japanese residents in Japan has increased from 2.07 million to 2.73 million people, which equates to a 32% increase in the recent five years. Within this number, the number of non-Japanese labourers in Japan has rapidly increased from 0.72 million in October 2013 to 1.46 million in October 2018, a significant increase of 103%.

In April this year, the Japanese Central Government introduced two new resident statuses that are specifically for labourers with expertise and specialised skills. This change is expected to further complement the increasing trend of foreign residents living in Japan. It has been predicted that in the 2019 fiscal year alone, up to 48,000 non-Japanese people are expected to obtain one of the recently created new resident statuses, and within the next five years, up to 345,000 non-Japanese people are expected to obtain one of the new resident statuses.

These trends have been changing Japanese society in many aspects. The Japanese Central Government has a variety of action plans in place to welcome people from overseas, as well as to create an intercultural society for all residents. From CLAIR's point of view, we believe that Japanese prefectural and municipal governments need to exert more efforts to support foreign residents in Japan. We also believe there are many public services provided for immigrants under the multicultural initiatives of all three levels of Governments in

Australia, as well as ethnic diversity initiatives implemented by the New Zealand Government and local authorities that the Japanese governments can research into and learn from tremendously.

CLAIR Sydney will provide stronger support for Japanese prefectural and municipal governments in their research into advance initiatives implemented by the Australian and New Zealand Governments as a part of the Japanese local governments' endeavours to provide substantial support for foreign residents in their local area. We think that Japanese prefectural and municipal governments can learn from and research into a variety of fields such as education, health care, aged care, emergency management, employment support, community support and so on. It would be extremely appreciated if you or your organisation could kindly welcome the visits of public officials from Japanese local governments or members of Japanese local assemblies, and share your invaluable knowledge and experience on advance initiatives for the creation of an intercultural society.
