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Welcome to Kinokawa City

'Arakawa no Momo' peaches from Momoyama Town in Kinokawa City

Kinokawa City in Wakayama Prefecture is well known in Japan for its peach industry, with the region having the longest history of peach production in the entire Kansai area- over 300 years. The 'Arakawa no Momo' peach variety is the most famous of the peach varieties grown in Momoyama Town, Kinokawa City. The secrets of its taste are that it thrives in a temperate climate and in the well-drained soil of this area, which



makes the region ideal for peach production. The peaches grown in this area are succulent, sweet and very good quality. And while the conditions are good, quality is assured as the producers of the Arakawa no Momo peach spare no effort to grow the very best peaches. The farmers put their heart and soul into its growing process. That is why the 'Arakawa no Momo' peach's taste is beyond compare, and will be the most delicious peach you have ever eaten! The peaches can be enjoyed fresh, but are also available to try in a wide range of products, including peach juice, liqueur, jam, jelly, ice cream and more. The peach harvesting season starts around June. Don't miss out!

The city also boasts a range of gourmet treats such as farm-fresh buffets and fruit sushi, activities such as strawberry and hassaku-orange picking, canoeing in the Kinokawa River, and one of the best sites for paragliding in the Kansai area.

Togenkyo

The delicious taste of the 'Arakawa no Momo' peaches are not the only attraction in Kinokawa City, either- the peach blossoms in early April at Togenkyo in Kinokawa City are a beloved treasure in the region. Surrounded by lovely soft, pink, scented peach blossoms, Togenkyo is the kind of place that will make you feel like you're in another world. So why not escape from reality for a little while and take a break amongst the truly beautiful 100,000 blossoms along the city's Kinokawa River?



For more details, please visit Kinokawa City Tourism Association official website.

<https://www.kanko-kinokawa.jp/english/>



Management Challenge 2019

On 7 May, CLAIR Sydney staff went to see the Local Government Professionals Australia NSW Management Challenge 2019 which was held in Liverpool, at the kind invitation of Local Government Professionals Australia.

The Management Challenge is a great opportunity for teams from local governments around Australia and New Zealand to tackle a number of tasks that typify management in the local government environment, and develop individual and team competencies.



The NSW participants performed with great zeal, against strong competition and time restraints.

The NSW Management Challenge winner will go on to represent the state at the Australasian Final, which will be held in Darwin in the Northern Territory, alongside other regional winners from Australia and New Zealand.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to work closely with local councils and events such as the Management Challenge to foster connections and support local governments in Japan.

Melbourne Snow Travel Expo 2019



On 19 May, the Melbourne Snow Travel Expo 2019 was held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. The expo is a comprehensive ski show attended by representatives from ski resorts, ski and snowboard equipment retailers, and travel agencies from all over the world. CLAIR Sydney assisted the local governments of Aomori Prefecture and Kuroishi City at the Aomori booth to promote the ski resorts and accommodation in their local areas. The large venue was filled with skiers, snowboarders and travel company agency staff, many of whom visited the Aomori booth to find information on Aomori, which has good snow quality.

In addition, a CLAIR Sydney staff member was also at the JAPAN ROADSHOW held by JNTO (Japan National Tourism Organisation) in the InterContinental Melbourne the Rialto on 20 May, and in the Hyatt Regency Sydney on 21 May. At the events, CLAIR Sydney supported the Aomori Prefecture and Kuroishi City Governments with their promotion of tourist destinations in their areas to travel agencies in Australia. Many travel agency representatives at the events sought after not only ski-related information, but also information on the activities available in the areas throughout the rest of the year. It was a good opportunity to learn about the trends that travel agencies are interested in and to promote Aomori to the representatives.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to support Japanese local governments' destination promotion activities in Australia.

Gifu Prefecture delegates visited our office

On 23 March, the Senior Deputy Director of Gifu Prefectural Government's Tourism Promotion of International Affairs Division, Mr Kato, and Senior Staff, Mr Muto visited the CLAIR Sydney office. Gifu Prefecture has been focusing on overseas promotion, and are planning to promote in Sydney and Melbourne this September in order to improve the brand strength of the Gifu brand in Australia.

CLAIR Sydney office will support the promotion activities of the Gifu Prefectural Government.



Sydney Snow Travel Expo 2019

On 26 May, one of Australia's most comprehensive ski shows, the Sydney Snow Travel Expo, was held at ICC Sydney. CLAIR Sydney supported the activities of Aomori Prefecture, Kuroishi City in Aomori Prefecture, and Ishikawa Prefecture who all exhibited at the expo to promote their ski resorts and tourist destinations. We were pleased with the turnout as many avid skiers and snowboarders visited our booth. It was a great event to promote Japan's ski and sightseeing destinations. CLAIR Sydney will continue to support Japanese local governments' destination promotion activities in Australia.



JETAA WA

JETAAWA has always had fun taking an active role in the local Japan / Australia community in Western Australia. This allows our JET alumni, and other members of this community, to stay connected to Japan whilst also playing a positive part in helping some of those who need it the most. What makes this work is that we've become a group of friends with a common interest, that being Japan.

Part of our role involves raising money for Japan related charities. Just one of the events we run each year is a pub quiz, which this year was held on Thursday evening on the 16th of May at an Irish pub in the centre of Perth. The quiz itself involved four rounds of questions, with one round being totally Japan related, of course! Some food was provided to sustain the teams during the competition, which did include some delicious sushi. There was also a very generous raffle including prizes such as day trips to local sights, Japanese restaurant vouchers and many Japan related experiences such as the chance to learn Taiko drumming.



The success of the event relies on the generous time given by many people in JETAAWA, as well as the loyal support of the Consul General of Japan in Perth, as well as CLAIR, by facilitating our ability to coordinate the event. The JET alumni do the leg work finding the venue, arranging for questions, asking for donations for the raffle and prizes from local Perth based businesses (which we then attribute on our own JETAAWA website), as well as manning the event on the night.



On the night itself there were about 80 attendees who included members from the Consulate General of Perth and the Hyogo Centre which is also based in Perth, amongst others. About \$1757.10 was raised on the night and this is going to be donated to the Japanese Red Cross. In previous years we have made donations to various disaster funds raising money for those in need because of natural tragedies which occur from time to time in Japan.

We should also mention that after a bit of a drought of a few years, the Consul General of Japan's team actually came in first place on the night. Good for them, they certainly rose to the challenge this year. However, even the remaining "losing" teams had a fun night, whilst also raising money for good causes.

Andrew Paterson, JETAAWA International Representative



Photos courtesy of Mr. Julius Pang

From the Executive Director

- Multicultural Seminar -

For those who missed our newsletter last month, I mentioned that the number of non-Japanese residents in Japan is expected to rapidly and continuously increase in the near future. From CLAIR's point of view, we believe that Japanese prefectural and municipal governments need to exert more effort to support non-Japanese residents in Japan. CLAIR Sydney will provide support for Japanese prefectural and municipal governments in their research into initiatives implemented by the Australian and New Zealand Governments, as a part of the Japanese governments' endeavours to provide substantial support for foreign residents in their local areas.

As a part of this support, every year CLAIR Sydney organises an official multicultural seminar for Japanese local government staff members, regional international exchange association employees, and other personnel who work in similarly related areas. In this multicultural seminar, the Japanese delegates can learn about good practices and policies in regard to multiculturalism, and the provision of services to a culturally, ethnically and linguistically diverse population in Australia.

This year, we will hold the multicultural seminar on 18-23 November in Melbourne, Australia. We are planning to visit and exchange information and ideas with the organisations engaged in the fields of education, community support, job assistance, translation, disaster defence, medical care, and so on. It would be extremely appreciated if you or your organisation could kindly welcome the delegates' visit and share your invaluable knowledge and experience on advance initiatives for the creation of an intercultural society.

We expect that the multicultural seminar will give the delegates plenty to consider for their own work in policy planning and service provision in Japan. We also hope that the organisations welcoming the delegates can gain valuable insight through discussion, and exchange of information and ideas with the delegates.
