



Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR, Sydney)

Newsletter Issue
No.138 Aug 2019

This issue includes:

(page)

- 1 Welcome to Gifu Prefecture
- 2 2019 JET Programme Pre-Departure Orientation
- 3 LGNZ 2019 Conference and Excellence Awards
- 4 Support Activities for Kobe City
- 5 SMASH! 2019
- 5 Send-off Receptions for new JET Programme Participants
- 7 Staff from Osaka City Senior High School visited CLAIR Sydney

(page)

- 7 Deputy Mayor from Miyakonojo City visited CLAIR Sydney
- 8 Support Activities for Nagoya City
- 9 Support Activities for students from Toda City
- 9 Junior high school students from Shiroishi City visited CLAIR Sydney
- 10 Mayor from Konosu City visited CLAIR Sydney
- 11 JETAA Vic/Tas/SA
- 12 From the Executive Director

W e l c o m e t o G i f u P r e f e c t u r e

In Gifu Prefecture, the number of overnight international visitors in 2018 soared to over 1.48 million people, meaning Gifu had the largest growth rate in the 2017-2018 period out of all Japanese prefectures. This number is up tenfold from the number of overnight international visitors recorded in Gifu ten years ago, in 2009.



In recent years, there has been a rise in independent travelers all across Japan, with regional specific activities becoming a standard preference. Gifu Prefecture, blessed with grand natural landscapes and steeped in history, is home to an ample number of traditional crafting industries such as ceramics, washi papermaking, woodcrafts, and blademaking (these industries all hold hundreds- in some cases, even thousands- of years of history).



For this very reason, Gifu decided to create an extensive program of traditional hands-on activities, like blademaking and papermaking workshops, in an effort to make the area more attractive as a travel destination. The sales of these activities began this past spring with the creation of a webpage* where activities can be reserved and paid for online. This program not only allows you to experience traditional Japanese crafts taught by authentic artisans, but also offers insightful explanations by English guides who have gone through a special prefectural training program.

In addition to these traditional Japanese crafts, Gifu offers a wide selection of unique places where you can experience the Japan of the past, a traditional Ji-Kabuki culture that's said to be the most active in all of Japan, and a thriving foodie culture with specialty dishes like the succulent Hida Beef, flavourful ayu sweetfish, and delicious local sake. Moving forward, Gifu is making efforts to further develop its program of experiences with outdoor activities like Ancient Nakasendo Highway cycling and walking (an activity extremely popular with Australians and New Zealanders), traditional culture experiences, and regional specific food workshops.



Gifu is the perfect destination for your special, one-of-a-kind experience in Japan!

*Online reservation webpage for traditional crafting activities and other experiences in Gifu prefecture
<https://www.govoyagin.com/ja/things-to-do/gifu/tours-and-activities>

Gifu prefecture official Facebook [Go Gifu]

<https://ja-jp.facebook.com/pages/category/Tourist-Information-Center/Go-Gifu-165137586854382/>

Official GIFU Tourism Website [GIFU Travel Guide]

<http://travel.kankou-gifu.jp/en/>

2019 JET Programme Pre-Departure Orientation

The 2019 JET Programme Pre-Departure Orientation was held on 6 July in Sydney, New South Wales. A representative from the Consulate-General congratulated the new JET participants on being successfully selected to join the Programme, and expressed his hope for the participants to play an active role during their



time in Japan. The JET Programme Coordinator at the Consulate then gave an overview of the JET Programme, and details of the new JET participants' departure to Japan. A CLAIR Sydney staff then explained CLAIR's post-arrival support system in place for JET participants.

Following this, members of the NSW JET Alumni Association presented on the differences between the education systems and teaching methods of Australia and Japan. They also informed the new JET participants of daily life tips such as waste separation, how to open bank accounts and more. The new JET participants looked excited about their upcoming departure to Japan and asked many great questions.

The 28 new JET participants have already left for Japan. We hope that all new JET participants will not only gain an in-depth understanding of Japan, but also rediscover Australia through representing their home country abroad. We also hope that they will contribute to the exchange activities between Australia and Japan!



LGNZ 2019 Conference and Excellence Awards

The Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) 2019 Conference and Excellence Awards was held from 7 to 9 July in Wellington, New Zealand. Mayors, councillors and other relevant local government officials from all around New Zealand attended this conference.

The conference featured keynote addresses by the Prime Minister of New Zealand and the Minister of Local Government, and sessions by various officials about local government issues such as environment, housing, and localism.

It also had booth area featuring relevant institutions and was a great opportunity for networking. CLAIR Sydney ran a booth



to provide information about our recent activities, opportunities such as the Local Government Exchange and Cooperation Seminar, upcoming notable sports events (in particular the Rugby World Cup 2019, 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games and World Masters Games 2021 KANSAI) and Japanese tourism destinations. Significantly, we had an opportunity to explain about CLAIR and sister city relationships between New Zealand and Japan to Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern.



We were honoured to meet many people who attended our booth. Alumni of the CLAIR Local Government Exchange and Cooperation Seminar and mayors and councillors whose councils have sister city relationships with Japanese local governments also kindly visited our booth.



Thanks to this event, CLAIR Sydney was able to strengthen our relationship with many local governments in New Zealand.

We aim to continue to learn and research about the current challenges and best practices of New Zealand local governments, strengthen our relationships and support Japanese local governments.

Support Activities for Kobe City

On 10 July, the City of Kobe's Vice Mayor Mr Terasaki and staff of the city's International Department visited the CLAIR Sydney office. The delegation visited Australia to participate in the 2019 Asia Pacific Cities Summit held in Kobe's sister city, Brisbane. After the Summit, the delegation stopped over in Sydney to visit the Sydney Startup Hub, which the New South Wales Government opened last year, and the Barangaroo area.

The CLAIR Sydney office supported the Kobe City delegation's visit by arranging the delegation's meeting appointments with local organisations, accompanying the delegation on the day to the Sydney Startup Hub and Barangaroo, and providing the delegation with an outline presentation on Australia. CLAIR Sydney will continue to support the City of Kobe's activities in Australia.



SMASH! 2019



SMASH! 2019 was held on July 13 and 14 at the International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC Sydney). This event is one of the biggest Japanese pop cultural events in Australia, and many talented cosplayers dressed as different anime and comic characters visited the event. CLAIR Sydney staff dressed as Minato Namikaze from the comic series Naruto, and Ryoma Sakamoto, the famous historical figure from Kochi Prefecture, ran a booth at the event to promote tourism destinations in Japan that are associated with popular animations and comics. CLAIR Sydney will continue to support the

promotional activities of Japanese local governments. Thank you very much to everyone for coming to our booth!

See you again next year!

Send-off Receptions for new JET Programme participants

The Send-off Receptions for the new JET Programme participants were held around Australia in July. CLAIR Sydney staff participated in the Reception in Canberra (July 17), Perth (July 18), Sydney (July 22), Melbourne (July 22) and Brisbane (July 26). At most events, the new JET participants gave speeches about their future

aspirations in Japan. All the participants were full of motivation and were looking forward to leaving for Japan. We hope that the new JET participants have a fruitful time in Japan and can fulfil a vital role in grass-roots exchange, as bridges between Japan and Australia.



Canberra



Perth



Sydney



Melbourne



Brisbane

Staff from Osaka City Senior High School visited CLAIR Sydney

On 17 July, Principal SHIOMI Nobuo and English teacher Mr IWASAKI Hiroshi from Osaka City Senior High School visited the CLAIR Sydney office to discuss their school's exchange activities in Australia or New Zealand.

Mr Shiomi and Mr Iwasaki visited Australia to accompany their 24 students who attended an English language program at Macquarie University, and came to the CLAIR Sydney office. Osaka City Senior High School is eager to start a school exchange program in English and Japanese, and are currently looking for a school with which to exchange.



CLAIR Sydney will continue to support Japanese school exchanges with schools in Australia and New Zealand.

Deputy Mayor from Miyakonojo City visited CLAIR Sydney



On 18 July, the Deputy Mayor of Miyakonojo City, Mr KODAMA Hironori and Miyakonojo City Government delegates came to Australia to visit the Moreton Bay Region in Queensland and the City of Randwick in New South Wales. In addition, they visited the CLAIR Sydney office to discuss the City's international exchange with municipalities in Australia.

This is the fourth year since Miyakonojo City started exchanging with the Burpengary State Secondary College in the Moreton Bay Region.

Miyakonojo City has been exchanging with the Burpengary State Secondary College through visiting each school. Also, since a current Randwick City Council staff member previously worked in an environmental research institution in Miyakonojo City, Miyakonojo City has been looking for exchange opportunities in a wide range of fields, including an environmental field, with the City of Randwick.

Additionally, in February next year Miyakonojo City will be the host city of CLAIR's Local Government Exchange and Cooperation Seminar, as a part of the City's initiative in promoting international exchange with municipalities in Australia and New Zealand.

In the meeting at the CLAIR Sydney office, the representatives from Miyakonojo City and CLAIR Sydney staff discussed the support CLAIR Sydney can provide to assist Miyakonojo City in developing a network with municipalities in Australia.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to support Miyakonojo City to actively improve their international exchange with Australia and New Zealand.

Support Activities for Nagoya City



On 22 July, the official delegation from the Nagoya City Government, represented by the Deputy Mayor of Nagoya, Mr HIROSAWA Ichiro, and the Nagoya City Assembly's Nagoya-Sydney Sister City Exchange Official Delegation led by the Nagoya City Assembly's Deputy Chairperson, Mr OKAMOTO Yasuhiro, visited the CLAIR Sydney office. The two delegations visited Australia to participate in the Future Asia Business Summit held by Nagoya's sister city, the City of Sydney. To coordinate and discuss events for the 40th anniversary of the Nagoya-Sydney sister city relationship next year, the delegations also visited relevant organisations such as the City of Sydney and the Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney.

At the CLAIR Sydney office, CLAIR Sydney staff gave the delegations an introductory presentation on Australia, and discussed the governing structure and local government system of Australia with the delegations. During the two delegations' visit to Sydney, a CLAIR Sydney staff seconded from the City of Nagoya accompanied them to the Future Asia Business Summit, the courtesy call with the City of Sydney's Councillor, Mr Robert Kok, and meetings with the Sydney-Nagoya Sister City Committee and members of the executive team of Taronga Zoo, which is the sister zoo of Higashiyama Zoo in Nagoya.

The two delegations were welcomed by the Lord Mayor of the City of Sydney, Ms Clover Moore. The Deputy Mayor of Nagoya delivered a short speech and spoke about his desire to continue and develop the exchanges between the two cities in fields such as education, culture and sports.

During the various meetings and visits made by the two delegations in Sydney, there were enthusiastic discussions on how to enliven the various exchange activities towards the 40th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Sydney and Nagoya next year.

The CLAIR Sydney office also provided support for the Nagoya City Assembly's Nagoya-Sydney Sister City Exchange Official Delegation's visit to Australia by setting up meeting appointments with various government agencies and organisations for the delegation's research into multicultural policies in Australia.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to support the City of Nagoya's activities in Australia.

Support Activities for students from Toda City

On 23 July, 15 junior high school students from Toda City in Saitama Prefecture came to Australia to improve their international awareness and to deepen the relationship between Toda City and its sister city, Liverpool. Additionally, they visited the CLAIR Sydney office and Mr TAKAHASHI Suguru, Assistant Director of CLAIR Sydney gave them a presentation, which included a brief outline of Australia, the country's history, and CLAIR Sydney's activities. After visiting CLAIR Sydney, the students visited Liverpool and participated in a homestay, where they engaged in cultural exchange with their host families and with local students in Liverpool.



CLAIR Sydney will continue to support Toda City in their student and sister city exchange activities with Liverpool.

Junior high school students from Shiroishi City visited CLAIR Sydney

Eight junior high school students, an English teacher, and a city officer from Shiroishi City in Miyagi prefecture visited Australia as a delegation of friendship, and on 30 July they visited the CLAIR Sydney office.

During their time here, these students were able to learn about the differences between Australian and Japanese culture firsthand by participating in a homestay in Cowra, NSW before visiting the CLAIR Sydney



office.

Their deep interest in Australia was apparent in the way they asked insightful questions about Sydney's water levels, and Australia's population distribution and lifestyle.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to support exchange activities between Japanese schools and Australia.

Mayor from Konosu City visited CLAIR Sydney

On 30 July, the Mayor of Konosu City, Mr HARAGUCHI Kazuhisa and other Konosu City Government delegates visited the CLAIR Sydney office. The delegation came together with junior high school students from Konosu City, who were in Australia for a school exchange with Baulkham Hills High School in The Hills Shire, New South Wales. When Mayor HARAGUCHI and his staff visited the CLAIR Sydney office, they introduced their school's exchange activities to our staff.



Konosu City has been sending junior high school students overseas with an aim to nurture globally-minded students who will contribute to the world. Konosu City has been engaging in student exchange with Baulkham Hills High School since 2007, where Konosu City students attend classes and participate in a homestay to engage in cultural exchange with their host family and local students.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to support Konosu City in their proactive international exchange activities.

JETAA Vic/Tas/SA -Connections that cross oceans-

Most of the JETs who have chosen to make Victoria, Tasmania, or South Australia their homes post-JET would likely say they had been one of a handful of foreigners living in their rural-Japanese town. In fact, Japan's foreign population only make up 2% of its total population. In contrast, Australia is considered one of the most multi-cultural countries in the world, with 29% of the population in 2018 being foreign born. A further 49% of our population were first- or second-generation born immigrants. The number of Japanese



nationals living here total to 42,500. Clearly, promoting internationalisation and positive global relationships while one is surrounded by millions of people from different ethnicities is considerably easier than it was on JET. For this reason, Victoria, Tasmania, and South Australia (Vic/Tas/SA)'s JET Alumni Association don't just aim to connect the Japanese and JET Alumni community living down under, but to also connect these two groups with the wider foreign community and share Japanese culture with all Australians, foreign born or not.

We run monthly open-to-the-public events ranging from *hanami* barbecues and karaoke parties to career festivals for returnee JETs and networking nights with Australia Japan Society of Victoria. Most recently, we've organised a trivia night which was held on 25 May and two pre-departure events in June and July to prepare the new group of 2019-2020 JETs.

Our Trivia Night at Coopers Inn in Melbourne was a huge success, attracting a sell-out crowd of 50 participants. Our master of ceremonies Keith, who travelled from interstate to be there, worked closely with our committee to write multiple rounds of challenging trivia questions that covered a wide range of topics. Teams were quizzed on astronomy, mythology, Japan's feudal history, geography, Australian and Japanese pop-culture, and even the exact temperature of the Sun. To encourage participants to make new connections and warmly welcome even those who attended the event by themselves, our president Maia Matsuchi made the executive decision to randomly generate the members of each team. The success of this decision could clearly be felt during the breaks between each round, as flowing conversation in English and Japanese reached boisterous levels over pizza and chicken wings. There were no hard feelings when one team was crowned Reiwa's Trivia Champions. JETAA are planning to bring this popular event back for a fourth time in 2020. We would like to thank the Japanese Language faculty and clubs at Swinburne, Melbourne, and Monash Universities for promoting this event.



15 June saw a group of eight JETAA committee members and volunteers attend the 2019 Pre-Departure Orientation. Three presentations on each level of education – Elementary, Junior High, and Senior High School – were given to those who would be passed the globalisation baton in just over a month. The subsequent open forum provided a much-needed opportunity for the new JETs to ask their predecessors in depth questions about living and teaching in Japan. Most returned JETs would say that the pre-departure orientation,

as the first formal event as an official JET, can be quite overwhelming; creating more questions than it answers. For this reason, JETAA Vic/Tas/SA have a long running tradition of holding an informal pre-departure dinner during the new JETs' last few weeks in Australia. This year's pre-departure event was held at Melbourne's Japanese bar, Horse Bazaar on 5 July. Over sushi, wonton nachos, and karaage, past JETs welcomed the new generation into our tight knit community and offered their knowledge of what was to come and how to make the most of the amazing experiences that awaited them. When alumni weren't speaking with the new JETs, the common topic of conversation amongst each other were memories of our own informal pre-departure dinner. Most of us found ourselves repeating and adding to the words imparted by alumni two, three, five, or even ten years ago. It was another fruitful night of friendly welcomes, anecdotes, and encouragement that came full circle for our alumni, but served as the very start of a long and prosperous connection that will cross oceans for our 2019-2020 JETs. We wish them luck and hope that they will spread Australia's inclusive and diverse culture. When they return, we will be waiting with open arms.

Ganbatte ne.

Hayley Closter

JETAA VicTasSA's Public Relations Rep

From the Executive Director

-JET Family-

'Welcome to our JET family!' an alumna of the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) Programme told the new JET Programme participants in her send-off speech. Her comment rings very true.

Every JET Programme participant has a different hometown, different experiences before and during JET Programme employment, a different region to which they are deployed, and spend different lengths of time in Japan. Every JET Programme participant also learns different Japanese local culture, a different Japanese dialect, and become involved in their local community in different ways. However, one thing that I hope all JET Programme participants have in common is the experience of forming a profound bond with not only

their local Japanese community, but their fellow participants and Programme alumni. Although experiences on the JET Programme can vary immensely from placement to placement, I hope that all participants can make precious, meaningful memories of their 'second home' in Japan.

It is also quite common that JET Programme alumni go on to advise and support new and current JET Programme participants. Even after their JET Programme employment ends, many former participants reunite, promote the program, and become advocates for cultural exchange between Japan and their country of residence through the JET Alumni Association.

Participants and alumni all share a mutual interest in Japan and nuanced understanding of the country and language. They are driven individuals with a strong desire to help one another and make a positive contribution to society, and are often involved in cultural exchange activities between Japan and other countries. In many ways, they are just like a family.

Thanks to over three decades of excellent work by participants, the JET Programme has grown to become one of the world's largest international exchange programs, and has an excellent reputation both in Japan and overseas. The JET family has grown with the Programme, and members should be proud of their vital role in this. For CLAIR, it is important for us to support the JET family members, new and current JET Programme participants and members of the JET Alumni Association chapters, so that they can smoothly coordinate with each other to further enhance the JET Programme. We aim to support the JET family to have more opportunities to work together to uphold the reputation of the Programme, and to be bridges of cultural exchange between Japan and the world.

*For detail of the JET Programme, please see the link below.

<http://jetprogramme.org/en/>