



Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR, Sydney)

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W e l c o m e t o S h i m a n e

Shimane Prefecture is located to the north of Hiroshima in the Chugoku region of Japan. It is the home to some of Japan's most historic cultural & performing arts. It has magnificent scenery.

Matsue City is in the central area of Shimane and surrounded by three large bodies of water: the Sea of Japan, Lake Shinji, and Lake Nakaumi. An intricate canal system flows through the city like veins, giving the city its nickname, "The City of Water". The symbol of Matsue is Matsue Castle. Still maintaining its original structure from 1611, it is one of 12 original

castles in Japan. It was designated as a National Treasure in 2015. The contrast of black and white colours on Matsue Castle is striking, and the traditional style of the roof resembles a plover bird spreading its wings. From the castle tower, you can view the historic townscape, Lake Shinji, and in the distance Mt. Daisen. Throughout the castle town, Japanese tea and sweets shops flourished. Today, locals regularly enjoy Matcha tea and Japanese sweets.





Shimane Prefecture is a place where people coexist with the historic traditions and mythology of yore. The Izumo region of Shimane is known as the setting of one third of the Kojiki, which was written in the beginning of the 8th century as a way of documenting the history of Japan. Izumo Taisha Grand Shrine appears often in Japanese mythology and is known as one of the oldest, as well as one of the most famous Shinto shrines in all of Japan. Every year during the 10th month of

the lunar calendar, all the Shinto gods throughout Japan are said to gather here and hold their annual meetings on the 'en' (a concept similar to fate or destiny) relationships of the people. Iwami Kagura, which is based on mythology, is still practiced in each region of Shimane in different ways. In the Iwami region it is performed regularly, as well as for festive events such as the autumn harvest season.

<https://www.kankou-shimane.com/en/>



Campbelltown-Koshigaya Sister City 35th Anniversary Celebration

On 2 November, an agreement signing ceremony to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Campbelltown-Koshigaya sister city relationship was held in the Campbelltown Arts Centre in Campbelltown, New South Wales. In the reception, Cr George Brticevic, Mayor of Campbelltown City Council; Ms Lindy Deitz, General Manager of Campbelltown City Council; Mr David Symonds, President of the Campbelltown-Koshigaya Sister City Association; Mr ITO Osamu, Chairperson of the Koshigaya City Assembly; Mr AOYAMA Masahiko, Deputy





Mayor of Koshigaya City; and Mr YOSHIDA Toyoji, President of the Koshigaya International Association all signed on the agreement that encompasses a framework for further collaboration between Campbelltown and Koshigaya. At the ceremony, Mayor Brticevic announced that Campbelltown City Council will create an exhibition in Campbelltown which will showcase the history of the sister city relationship between Campbelltown and Koshigaya, and Japanese culture. The City of Koshigaya also presented kagozome lanterns, which is a traditional craft in Koshigaya, to the City of Campbelltown at the

ceremony.

Earlier in the day, Mayor Brticevic led the Koshigaya delegation on a visit to various public facilities in the area as well as the Australian Botanic Garden at Mount Annan. In addition, the delegation also attended the annual historical Fisher's Ghost Street Parade, in which members of the Campbelltown-Koshigaya Sister City Association and students who participated in a homestay program in Koshigaya in October marched in the parade.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to support the further development of exchanges between Campbelltown and Koshigaya.



Delegation from Sannohe Visited their Sister City, Tamworth

On 11 November, Mr MATSUO Kazuhiko, Mayor of Sannohe Town in Aomori Prefecture and town representatives visited their sister city, Tamworth in New South Wales. This year marks the 130th anniversary since the establishment of Sannohe as a municipality, and the town endeavours to create an engaging



community through international exchange by promoting their sister city relationship with Tamworth.

Mayor Matsuo and the Sannohe delegation attended a council meeting in Tamworth and they listened attentively to the discussion on the topic of drought, a current and significant issue for Tamworth. After the council meeting, Mayor Matsuo held discussions and strengthened his ties with Cr Col Murray,

Mayor of Tamworth, and other councillors and executive staff of the Tamworth Regional Council.

Before the establishment of the sister city relationship between Tamworth and Sannohe in 2001, the Rotary Clubs in the two cities had been conducting exchange for more than 30 years. Mr Matsuo and the delegation attended the meeting held by the Tamworth Rotary Club and were welcomed by many Club members. Students from Sannohe Junior High School were also in Tamworth for a school exchange program at the same time, and the Sannohe delegation observed the interactions between the students of Tamworth High School and Sannohe.



A staff member of CLAIR Sydney, who is also from Aomori Prefecture, accompanied the delegation from Sannohe in Tamworth and observed firsthand the sister city exchange between the two cities.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to support sister city exchange activities conducted between Tamworth and Sannohe.



Supporting Activity for Students from Sannohe

On 14 November, junior high school students from Sannohe, Aomori Prefecture visited CLAIR Sydney after completing a school exchange program in Tamworth, New South Wales. The Sannohe Town Government has been conducting annual junior high school student exchanges with Tamworth. This year, students from Sannohe visited Australia and stayed in Tamworth from 11 to 14 November. They experienced a home stay in Tamworth and interacted with students in Tamworth High School while attending classes together.



A staff member of CLAIR Sydney, who is also from Aomori Prefecture, gave students from Sannohe a presentation that included an outline of Australia, information on CLAIR Sydney's activities on living in Australia.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to support the school exchange activities conducted by Sannohe.

Supporting Activity for Shibetsu City

On 15 November, Mr MAKINO Yuji, Mayor of Shibetsu City in Hokkaido Prefecture and representatives from Shibetsu visited the CLAIR Sydney office.

Before visiting the CLAIR Sydney office, Mayor Makino and the Shibetsu representatives visited their sister city, Goulburn in New South Wales. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Goulburn and Shibetsu. The Mayor of Shibetsu presented an engraved stone that commemorates the 20th anniversary of the



sister city relationship to Goulburn Mulwaree Council, and it was placed in Victoria Park, Goulburn, where a Japanese garden is being built. A reception to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the relationship was also held. In recent years, very vibrant exchanges have been conducted between the two cities.

At the meeting at the CLAIR Sydney office, a CLAIR Sydney staff member presented to the Shibetsu delegation on Australian politics, economy and society. Discussions were also held on potential activities to accelerate the sister city relationship between Shibetsu and Goulburn, such as the exchange of municipal staff between the two cities.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to support the sister city exchange conducted by Goulburn and Shibetsu.



Australian Multicultural Study Tour in Melbourne

On 18-23 November, CLAIR Sydney held our annual Australian Multicultural Study Tour in Melbourne.

This study tour is held for staff of Japanese local governments, international associations and related organisations to learn about best multicultural policies and practices in Australia, where approximately



30% of the estimated resident population was born overseas. This experience will be applied in the planning of multicultural policies and practices in Japan.

This year, 11 delegates from all over Japan visited to learn the advanced practices of 10 organisations, such as Victorian Government, Melton City, schools, non-profit organizations, a hospital, Metropolitan Fire Brigade and more.

In this study tour, participants were fortunate to hear directly from employees in exchange sessions and attain valuable information that is highly pertinent to their planning relating to Japan's increasing foreign-born residents.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to research multicultural policies in Australia and assist Japanese local governments in their development of initiatives for facilitating an intercultural society.

Wakayama Persimmons: Available for the second time in Sydney!



The Wakayama Prefectural Government promoted persimmons grown in Wakayama, Japan, from 22 to 23 November in Sydney. Wakayama is located to the south of Osaka, in the Kansai region. Persimmons are one of Wakayama's specialties and the prefecture is the top producer of persimmons in Japan. This is the second time that Japanese persimmons have been imported to Australia. Representatives from Wakayama promoted Wakayama persimmons through tastings at a fruit and vegetable market, and were pleased to see how many customers love the taste of Wakayama persimmons and purchased this sweet, nutritious fruit!

Apart from in-store promotions, CLAIR Sydney assisted with a quality inspection after customs clearance. We will continue to assist with Wakayama prefecture's future promotions of persimmons.



The JET Programme Returnees Networking Reception in Brisbane

On 21 November, the Consulate-General of Japan in Brisbane hosted the JET Programme Returnees Networking Reception.

There were many JET alumni members, including not only new returnees but also JETAA QLD members, who deepened their friendships by talking about their experiences in Japan.



In addition to JET returnees, people from organisations with strong ties to Japan such as Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Brisbane, and Australia Japan Society Qld Inc, also participated in this reception, creating an opportunity for exchanges that would lead to the future success of JET returnees.

We hope that by continuing to hold these events, all returnees will continue to network and make the most of the knowledge gained through their JET Programme experiences in Japan, and that they will play an important role in further

strengthening the relationship between Australia and Japan

Kagoshima Prefectural Assembly Special Committee on Overseas Economic Exchanges Visited our Office

On 22 November, the Kagoshima Prefectural Assembly special committee on overseas economic exchanges visited the CLAIR Sydney office. The delegation visited Australia to research the sales status of Kagoshima Wagyu, the status of inbound visits to Japan in Australia, and more.



CLAIR Sydney provided the delegation with a briefing and Q&A session on the political and economic situation in Australia, and Australia's multiculturalism policies.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to support the Prefecture of Kagoshima's activities in Australia.

Minokamo-Dubbo Sister City 30th Anniversary Celebration

On 24 November, a ceremony to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Minokamo and Dubbo sister city relationship was held in Shoyoen, the Japanese garden in Dubbo, New South Wales. The ceremony was attended by many officials including Minokamo City's Mayor Mr ITO Seiichi, an official delegation from Minokamo, Dubbo's Mayor Cr Ben Shields, and the Consul-General of Japan in Sydney Mr KIYA Masahiko.



On the day, there was an unveiling ceremony for 'Minokamo Way', which is a walkway located next to Shoyoen. In October this year, a delegation from Dubbo visited Minokamo City, and unveiled a walkway named 'Dubbo Road' in River Port Park Minokamo during their time in the City. At the time, three bronze kangaroo statues were also put on permanent display in Minokamo City, to symbolise the strong friendship between the two cities, and this also shows that the friendship is recognised by many citizens in both cities. At the ceremony in Dubbo, tea was served at the tea house in Shoyoen, Jurian, and there were Taiko drums and Japanese flute performances on the stage in the park. There was also a choir performance of an original sister city song by Dubbo students who went to Minokamo for an exchange program this year.

There are many interesting connections derived from the exchanges that involved 400 people between the two cities in the past 30 year. One of which is the story of a current Dubbo resident who participated in the ceremony as an interpreter. This resident attended high school in Minokamo and was sent to Dubbo for an

exchange program where she met her future husband, who is from Dubbo and had visited Minokamo for a school exchange. They are now married and have two children, and the exchange between the two cities now continues in the next generation.



Following the ceremony, on the next day, the Minokamo delegation visited the CLAIR Sydney office and had meaningful discussions on Australia's multicultural policies, as well as Minokamo's intercultural measures with members of CLAIR Sydney.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to support the sister city exchanges between Minokamo and Dubbo.

Support Activities for City of Nagoya Staff



On 25 November, Mr ISHIYAMA Satoshi from the City of Nagoya's Bureau of Tourism, Culture and Exchange was in Sydney to conduct research on international student policies and strategies in Australia. Mr Ishiyama was in Australia from 17 November to participate in the annual Multicultural Study Tour organised by CLAIR Sydney.

Mr Ishiyama had a meeting at Town Hall House with the City of Sydney staff involved in international engagement and economic strategy, and received firsthand

information on the City's policies on support for international students, and programs that create opportunities for graduating students to gain professional experience. The meeting was also attended by staff of Study NSW, the unit within the NSW Government in charge of strategies and policies to promote NSW as a study destination, advocate for international education, and deliver support for international students in NSW.

Later in the day, Mr Ishiyama also visited the University of New South Wales (UNSW), which has an international exchange agreement with Nagoya City University. At UNSW, Mr Ishiyama had a meeting with a member of staff in charge of international student support, and discussed the University's international

student support strategies, as well as its partnerships with the public and private sectors to create a support network for international students from the time they arrive in Australia through to the time they graduate and depart from the country. Mr Ishiyama also had the opportunity to meet with international students from Japan currently enrolled at UNSW, as well as domestic students who participated, and aspire to participate, in a student exchange program to Japan. From these students, Mr Ishiyama gained insight into the kind of support international students need from a hosting city.



To support Mr Ishiyama’s research, CLAIR Sydney assisted with setting up the meeting appointments with the City of Sydney and UNSW, and also accompanied him to the meetings on the day.

The CLAIR Sydney office will continue to support overseas researches conducted by Japanese local governments.

JET Returnee Welcome Reception in Auckland



On 27 November, the Consulate-General of Japan in Auckland hosted a welcome reception for recent JET returnees.

Six returnees joined the reception, and eight members of the JETAA-Auckland members and three interviewers of JET Programme participants and others praised the returnees’ successes in the JET Programme and welcomed them warmly.

We hope that all returnees will play an active role in various fields by utilising their JET Programme experience in Japan, and that they will be ambassadors in further strengthening the relationship between New Zealand and Japan.

JETAA Canberra, Australia

ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT

Each year JETAA Canberra holds a trivia night to help raise money for the "Tohoku Youth Program".

100% of funds raised are donated to this Program.

TOHOKU YOUTH PROGRAM

The March 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami affected a large number of people, including the JET community with sadly two JETs from Iwate and Miyagi prefectures who lost their lives.



Up to 300 children lost both parents and more than 1,000 lost one parent.

From early 2012 the Canberra-based Australia-Japan Society (AJS ACT) has been running a program to bring students who lost parents in the Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami to Australia for a brief holiday in Canberra. This program is called the "Tohoku Youth Program".

The purpose of the Program is to create friendship and goodwill and to show these young people that the Australian community cares for them and wishes to help. They participate in many social and educational programs while in Canberra, experience a homestay, school visits, government visits, and Australian culture. So far more than 20 students from Tohoku have visited on this Program.



CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY

This year JETAA Canberra held the annual Trivia Night on 3 November 2019. We reached out to everyone in our JETAA network – JET alumni, friends, family, Japanese community, university teachers and students, other Japan related associations, Japanese businesses, Japanese sports teams, the Embassy of Japan, and members of the Canberra community with an interest in Japan.

The MC – JET alumni Greg Pampling hosted the night bilingually, and all questions were related to either Australia or Japan. This way we could ensure everyone was included equally.

We were also fortunate to have the strong support of local and Japanese businesses such as Japanese restaurants, Asahi Australia, Japan Airlines, All Nippon Airways, JNTO, and others who donated great prizes. The Trivia Night is a chance for us to come together, remember 3/11 and connect members of the Japanese and Japan-related community here in Canberra, all while raising money to help fund the Tohoku Youth Program.

It is also a good opportunity to promote the JET Programme, to encourage visiting Japan (each table had JNTO travel brochures and JET Programme brochures), and at the same time support a great cause.

This year JETAA Canberra raised over AUD \$1,800 thanks to everyone's support, and we look forward to hosting the Trivia Night again next year.

From the Executive Director

2020 - Olympic and Paralympic Year -

Next year, the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be held in Tokyo and other Japanese cities between July and September. Japanese people are looking forward to welcoming athletes and people from all over the world, and enjoying the largest sporting event in the world together with visitors.

The games will be predominantly held in Tokyo. However, the venues are not only in Tokyo, but also in eight other prefectures: Hokkaido, Miyagi, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Saitama, Chiba, Kanagawa, and Shizuoka.

In addition, as I have noted in the 131th edition of the CLAIR Sydney Newsletter released in January this year, Japan has been implementing the Host Town Initiative across the country. As of 29 November 2019, there are 18 host towns whose partner country is Australia, and 15 host towns whose partner country is New Zealand.

The Japanese people welcome Australians and New Zealanders to the Tokyo 2020 Games and any other occasion across the country. They also hope that the host towns' ties with Australia and New Zealand will be further strengthened through the many anticipated interactions sparked by the Host Town Initiative.