



Newsletter

Vol. 184 November 2024



**DISCOVER
JAPAN**

Welcome to Fujieda City

Fujieda City, which consists of both urban areas and farmland, is located near the centre of Shizuoka Prefecture, and has an elongated shape that extends from north to south. The city starts from the Shida Plain that stretches along Seto River in the south and extends to the north where the forest of the Akaishi Mountains lies within the view of the Southern Japanese Alps.

C O N T E N T S

★ Discover Japan

★ News from CLAIR Sydney

★ Notice from Local Gov in Japan

★ CLAIR Sydney October Activity Report

★ From Executive Director

Welcome to Fujieda City

Historically, the city is a transportation hub with two bustling post towns, Okabe-shuku and Fujieda-shuku, along the Tokaido route which people used to travel a long time ago.

Fujieda city boasts a rich history and culture, including historical sites such as the Ohatago Kashibaya Inn and Tanaka Castle, traditional events such as the Fujieda Grand Festival and the Asahina Ohryusei fireworks, the tea culture developed as a tea production area, and soccer which has been a favourite sport of the locals since the Taisho era.

Fujieda City can be described as both moderately urban and moderately rural. Around the Fujieda Station, there is a commercial facility with a library and a movie theatre as well as a complex with an international tourist hotel, restaurants and offices. The rural area, which is easily accessible from the urban area, has many places where visitors can enjoy the richness of nature, such as campsites, a grass ski site, natural hot springs, and markets selling fresh local produce. Fujieda City looks forward to welcoming visitors to experience its attractions firsthand, which offers both the convenience of city life and abundant nature.



Fujieda City formed a sister city relationship with City of Penrith in New South Wales, Australia in 1984, and this year marks the 40th anniversary. Since then, they have been conducting the high school student exchange program for over 30 years and so far, 348 students have expanded their circle of interaction.

Due to the pandemic, the two cities have been holding online exchange meeting for junior high/high school students.

Fujieda City considers such exchanges among the younger generation, who will be responsible for the future generation, are great opportunities to foster a global mindset and promote cross-cultural understanding.



Fujieda City hopes that the city will continue to work together with the City of Penrith to achieve mutual exchanges between the respective locals from various generations, further deepening the bond the two cities have cultivated, and that these exchanges will continue for many years to come.

News from CLAIR Sydney

🎉 Matsuri Japan Festival in Sydney – 1 December 🎉

We are going to run a stall at Matsuri Japan Festival on 1 December to promote all of Japan.

We hope to see you there!

<https://matsurisydney.com/>



**MATSURI
JAPAN
FESTIVAL
2024**

**Matsuri is
BACK!!!**

Date & Time
Sunday
1st December 2024
from 11am to 6pm

Where
Wentworth Park Sporting Complex,
42 Wattle Street, Ultimo NSW 2007

Get Tickets Now!

[www.matsurisydney.com](https://matsurisydney.com/)

Get Tickets Now!



[www.matsurisydney.com](https://matsurisydney.com/)

School Exchange Opportunities

To support cultural exchange between schools in Japan and Australia/New Zealand, CLAIR Sydney has a dedicated page on our website that lists schools in Japan that are interested in initiating cultural exchange with schools in Australia/New Zealand. Please click on the link or scan the QR code below for more information on the respective schools.

Should you be interested in a particular school, please get in touch with them!



[Schools interested in exchange opportunities - CLAIR Sydney \(jlga.org.au\)](https://www.jlga.org.au/)



Announcement from Shiga Prefectural Government

Please see below announcement from Shiga Prefecture.

A Consulting Service for Overseas Companies Seeking Industrial Tours, Tech Tour SHIGA, has been Launched!



In Shiga Prefecture, we have established a consultation service for industrial tours called 'Tech Tour SHIGA' to propose and coordinate places to visit within the prefecture for companies, organisations, and government officials visiting from overseas, taking advantage of the 2025 Osaka-Kansai Expo.

The Tech Tour SHIGA aims to build new networks and create new business opportunities through exchanges among companies and organisations, and handles a wide range of requests from overseas companies, such as request to learn about companies in Shiga Prefecture and to learn about leading technologies in the prefecture to more specific requests including considering potential joint research partners and exploring potential suppliers for different products. Please note that we do not handle arrangements for meals, sightseeing facilities, accommodations, interpreters, or transportation.

* Consultations for tourism purposes are not eligible for this service.

* Consultations are free of charge.

◇ Please see our website for details. A list of sites and companies you can visit is also available from the URL below.

URL: <https://www.pref.shiga.lg.jp/.../shi.../syougyou/339585.html>

◇ Tech Tour SHIGA Secretariat ◇

(Commerce and Industry Policy Division, Commerce, Industry, Tourism and Labor Department, Shiga Prefecture)

Address: 4-1-1 Kyomachi, Otsu, Shiga 520-8577

Email: fa0002@pref.shiga.lg.jp

CLAIR Sydney October Activity Report

JET Programme Returnee Welcome Reception Held in Melbourne (7 Oct)

CLAIR Sydney attended the JET Programme Returnee Welcome Reception held by the Consulate-General of Japan in Melbourne on 7 October, 2024, which welcomed four recent returnees.

At the reception, Consul-General Shimada, along with representatives from JETAA Victoria/Tasmania/South Australia Chapter, CLAIR Sydney, among others expressed their gratitude to the returnees for their contributions in Japan. The event brought together not only JET returnees but also JET alumni and Japanese company representatives, providing an excellent networking opportunity.

We look forward to seeing the returnees apply their knowledge and connections gained through the JET Programme to further strengthen the relationship between Japan and Australia.

For more information about the JET Programme, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/clair.syd/posts/668799495432848>



JETAA Oceania Conference 2024 in Christchurch (19-20 Oct)



On 19 and 20 October 2024, JETAA chapter representatives from across Oceania gathered in Christchurch, New Zealand, for the annual Oceania Conference. The evening before the conference, a welcome reception was hosted by the Consular Office of Japan in Christchurch, providing a warm setting for meaningful exchanges.

In addition to representatives from JETAA chapters in Australia and New Zealand, a delegate from the Singapore chapter also attended the conference. Each chapter shared updates on their activities, and participants engaged in discussions about the cultural challenges they face upon returning home and the difficulties of maintaining connections with Japan. Through these exchanges, participants reaffirmed the vital role that JETAA plays in supporting alumni, especially as they navigate these



challenges. The conference further strengthened participants' resolve to enhance collaboration between chapters and deepen their commitment to future activities.



CLAIR Sydney also delivered a presentation, sharing updates on this fiscal year's activities with JETAA members and creating a valuable opportunity to inform every one of our efforts. We at CLAIR Sydney are deeply grateful for the steadfast dedication each chapter shows toward the JET Programme and their commitment to fostering ties with Japan. We will continue to offer our support to JETAA, ensuring their activities become even more fulfilling in the years to come.



Canberra Nara Candle Festival (26 Oct)



On Saturday, 26 October, the Canberra Nara Candle Festival, held annually, celebrated the sister city relationship between Canberra and Nara City. Around 12,000 event attendees enjoyed the Japanese music performances on stage, various Japanese food stalls and Japanese cultural experiences of trying origami and calligraphy at the booth of the Embassy of Japan in Australia.

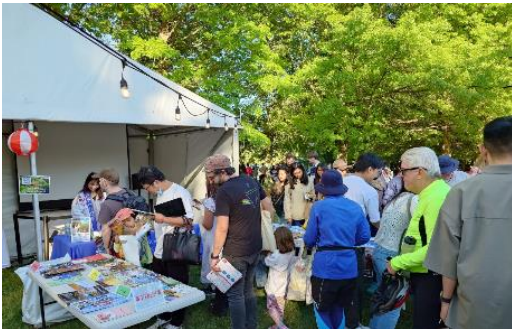
JETAA Canberra ran a food stall that attracted many people. After sunset, thousands of candles were lit up among colourful illuminations at the venue, which encapsulated the place with a magical atmosphere.



CLAIR Sydney utilised a section of the Embassy of Japan in Australia to promote Nara City and other regional destinations in Japan. Many event attendees visited our booth and enjoyed collecting travel information about Japan. Many of those who had visited Japan before told us that they had been to Nara as well, which gave us a sense of the permeating impact of sister city relationships among Australians.

We will continue to promote cultural exchange between Australia and Japan and increase Australians' interest in Japan by supporting sister city relationships.

We sincerely thank everyone who visited our booth, and hope to see you again next year.



From the Executive Director

Electoral System of the House of Representatives in Japan

As you may be aware from the news, a general election for the members of the House of Representatives was held in Japan last month on 27 October. As electoral systems vary from country to country, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the electoral system of the House of Representatives in Japan and explain how the ballots are counted.

A general election of the House of Representatives is held either when the four-year term of a member of the House of Representatives expires, or when the House of Representatives is dissolved. This year's election was held due to the latter. A general election of the House of Representatives consists of single-seat constituencies election and proportional representation election. The House of Representatives has 465 members, 289 of whom are elected by single-seat constituencies election and 176 of whom are elected by proportional representation election.

Under the single-seat constituencies election, Japan is divided into 289 constituencies and one representative is chosen from each constituency. Voters cast one vote with the name of the candidate they choose, and the candidate who receives the highest number of votes is elected.

Proportional representation election, on the other hand, is held in the 11 regional blocks of Japan where each block has a fixed number of members. Under this system, voters in a given region vote for a political party (or a political organisation), instead of an individual candidate. The number of elected representatives for each party is determined based on the number of votes received by the parties using the D'Hondt method. The seats are allocated to the top candidates, who are ranked from highest to lowest by the party prior to the election, and the top candidates listed up to the number of elected representatives on each list will be the elected candidates. The D'Hondt formula is a method in which the total number of votes received by the party is divided by a positive integer starting from 1, and the number of seats is assigned in the order of the quotient of the larger number. Candidates for single-seat constituencies election may also be listed on a party's proportional representation list, with the same ranking. If a candidate wins in the single-member district election, this takes priority, so their placement on the proportional representation list is removed. Among the candidates who were not elected in the single-seat constituencies election, the rankings are assigned to the overlapping candidates based on the ratio of their votes to the highest vote count in their respective single-seat constituencies.

We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss these differences between Japan and Australia/New Zealand with you.



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