

Newsletter



Setagaya City is located in the southwestern part of Tokyo's 23 wards and boasts a population of approximately 920,000, which is the largest of the 23 wards. The city has an area of about 58 square kilometres making it the second largest city after Ota City from among Tokyo's 23 wards.

DISCOVER
JAPAN

Welcome to
Setagaya City



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Welcome Setagaya City

Consisting of 5 districts of Setagaya, Kitazawa, Tamagawa, Kinuta and Karasuyama, the city has a characteristic calm atmosphere despite being located in the Tokyo Metropolis, and makes itself a comfortable residential city with abundant nature.

The city has many places where people can enjoy art and culture, and an attraction of the city is that it holds various festivals and events throughout the year such as the historical 'Setagaya Boro Ichi' as captured on the cover.



Setagaya City formed a sister city relationship with City of Bunbury in Western Australia in November 1992, led by primary school students' visits from Setagaya to Bunbury. Since this affiliation was established, the two cities have organised many exchanges in various areas and celebrated their 30th anniversary in 2022.

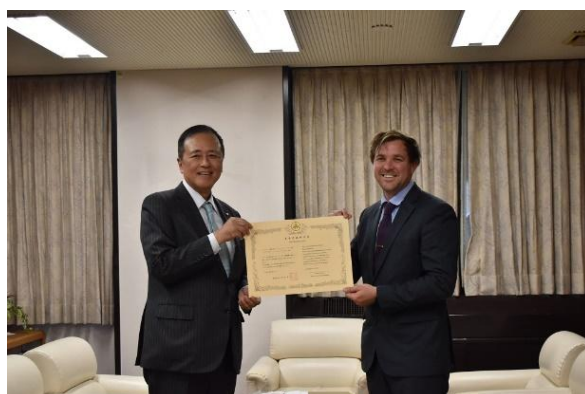


The two cities have been deepening their friendship especially in the fields of education, sports, culture and art. In the field of education, friendship delegations of primary and junior high school students have visited each other's cities, where students experienced homestays and participated in school activities during their visits. In the area of sports, they have had marathon exchanges such as runners from Bunbury participating in the Setagaya 246 Marathon, and in the area of culture and art, both cities have held photo exhibitions which showcase the photographs taken by residents of each other's cities.

Although these exchanges had halted due to the pandemic, Setagaya City was able to resume in-person exchange programs for the first time in four years, beginning with the Setagaya Junior High School Student Delegation's visit in September 2023, followed by the Setagaya Elementary School Student Delegation's visit in November. On both occasions, Bunbury locals welcomed the young participants so warmly that Setagaya City strongly felt the strong bond of sister cities that had been fostered over the years.



In December 2023, Bunbury Mayor Jaysen De San Miguel visited Setagaya City when he participated in the Local Government Exchange & Cooperation Seminar held by CLAIR in Japan. This event gave both cities' mayors the opportunity to exchange their opinions face to face, and Mr Miguel was awarded 'Honorary City Citizen' of Setagaya City on this special occasion.



In 2024, the exchanges with Bunbury have been continuing proactively. For example, the Bunbury Primary School Student Delegation visited Setagaya City in September, and two Bunbury marathon runners participated in the Setagaya 246 Marathon for the first time in five years. Through these events, Setagaya City has rediscovered how wonderful face-to-face interactions with people are, which cannot be experienced online.

Setagaya City sincerely hopes that their friendship with City of Bunbury will further deepen through the various exchange programs including educational exchanges.



News from CLAIR Sydney

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)

2025 CLAIR Forum – Registrations are open now!

Theme: Waste Reduction and Circular Economy

Waste Reduction and Circular Economy are crucial for local governments as they help minimize environmental impact, conserve resources, create sustainable systems, and ensure the long-term well-being and prosperity of communities. With growing concerns over climate change and resource depletion, these practices have become more important than ever in recent years. In the 2025 CLAIR Forum, presented by CLAIR Sydney and [University of Technology Sydney \(UTS\): Institute for Public Policy and Governance](#), we will explore the practices of waste management in local governments in Australia and Japan. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in collaborative learning through discussions on these initiatives and their potential applications.

Date: Monday 10 March
Time: 2:00pm to 5:00pm (AEST)
Venue: UTS Building 1, level 22, room 10 (Hybrid)
Address: 15 Broadway, Ultimo, New South Wales

Speakers

- Masahiro Nishimura (Assistant Director, CLAIR Sydney/Tokyo Metropolitan Government)
- Gemma Dawson (Manager Waste Strategy, City of Sydney)
- Morihito Munakata (Assistant Director, CLAIR Sydney/Kuroishi City Council in Aomori Prefecture)
- Carla Nelmes (Resource Recovery Education Officer, Penrith Council)

2025 CLAIR Forum will be held in person and also live streamed through 'Zoom'. The Zoom link will be sent to your email after your registration. (The link will be sent automatically, regardless of whether you choose to attend online or in person.)

Light refreshments will be provided and entry is free of charge.

To register, follow the link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_s61wSqhfRbqp5iBJFRIQ-Q

Registrations close on Thursday 6 March.



CLAIR Sydney January Activity Report

JET Programme Returnee Welcome Reception in Sydney (23 Jan)

On 23 January 2025, we attended the Returnee Welcome Reception of the JET Programme (The Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme) organised by the Consulate General of Japan in Sydney.

The event featured speeches from Consul-General Yamanaka, a representative of JETAA NSW chapter, and our Executive Director who expressed gratitude for the returnees' efforts in Japan and encouraged them to become actively involved with JETAA.

The exchange with the returnees was particularly impressive, as they enthusiastically shared their experiences from Japan. We hope that the knowledge and connections they gained through the JET programme will continue to strengthen the relationship between Japan and Australia.

For more information about the JET Programme, please visit the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/clair.syd/posts/668799495432848>



Support Activities for Tokyo Metropolitan Government (28 Jan)

On Tuesday, 28 January 2025, 6 officials from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, including the Deputy Director General, Bureau of Digital Services visited the CLAIR Sydney office.

At our office, we provided a briefing on Australia's administrative and economic landscape, as well as sister city exchanges. During the Q&A session, the officials asked many questions particularly regarding our views on the usage of administrative procedures and the convenience of online services in Australia, from the perspective of staff based in Sydney.

We will continue to support Japanese local governments in their overseas activities, including research on Australian policies and advanced practices.



From the Executive Director

Registration for 2025 CLAIR Forum: 'Waste Reduction and the Circular Economy' Now Open!

On Monday 10th of March, the 2025 CLAIR Forum, an annual half-day seminar organised by CLAIR Sydney and UTS IPPG, will be held at UTS. We invite you to an interactive panel session, held both in person and on Zoom, where our local government staff members will explore innovative waste reduction strategies and circular economy initiatives.

I believe it will be very interesting and useful to identify and discuss the similarities and differences between Japan and Australia/New Zealand's local government initiatives. One key difference I personally feel from my life in Sydney is the rubbish disposal system. We have often been asked by councillors about how rubbish is separated in Japan. In Japan, residents are required to separate their rubbish broadly into four categories: burnable, non-burnable, recyclable and oversized items, and take out their rubbish to the set place on the set day for each type of rubbish as determined by the municipality. Local governments in Japan try to recycle rubbish and reduce the amount of waste as much as possible due to our country's limited space for landfill among other reasons. The increased environmental awareness in recent years with regards to climate change and resource depletion has further promoted efforts to reduce waste.

We would like to thank UTS Institute for Public Policy and Governance for their support in co-hosting the event. Two of our staff members will introduce the efforts of their respective local governments: Mr. Nishimura, seconded from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, will introduce the history of Tokyo's waste management and key initiatives, as well as their latest efforts to promote a circular economy. Mr. Munakata, seconded from Kuroishi City Council in Aomori Prefecture, will be giving a presentation on their waste treatment plant. We are looking forward to an insightful and enlightening forum.

Please find the details of the event below. We look forward to you joining us.

<https://www.ilgc.org.au/our-activities/clair-forum/>



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