



CLAIR Sydney Celebrates its 20th Anniversary

Correspondence

In This Issue:

1-3 Nara City/Canberra Nara Candle Festival 2014

4 Japan Pop Culture Festival 2014 in Matsudo

5-6 2014 CLAIR Forum

6 Promotion for Japan tourism at JNTO Travel Seminar

7 "C the Future" Conference

7 Assisting Dr. Yoshida's Research

7-8 Visit for the Sydney Running Festival
and promoting the Nagoya City Marathon

8 Participation in Japanese class of the UNSW

9-10 Sister Cities 2014 Music Exchange

11 JETAA NSW Activities

12 Introducing our New Staff

12 From the Director

2014 CLAIR Forum

Forum Theme: ~Revitalise Your City~

Date: **Thursday 27 November**

Time: **2:00pm to 5:00pm**

Venue: **Aerial Function Centre at Level 7, University of Technology, Sydney**
(235 Jones St (Building 10) Ultimo, NSW)

Registrations are now open! Please complete the [Registration Form](#) and send it to: mailbox@jlgc.org.au

For more details of the Forum, please refer to [page 5](#).



Nara is the capital city of Nara prefecture, located in the central part of the main island.

Nara was established by Empress Genmei in 710 as a

capital of Japan, then called Heijokyo. Heijokyo was Japan's first international city because many artworks arrived from other countries such as China, Korea, and

Persia. Shosoin (the Imperial Repository) stores many ancient imported goods. Different cultures mixed in Nara and it became the origin of Japanese spirit and culture.

Nara has many places to visit, especially the Great Buddha of Todaiji temple and the deer – the main symbol of Nara city. Todaiji temple is the largest wooden structure in the world, and its Great Buddha statue, with a height of 15 meters, is also the world’s largest bronze Buddha statue.

There are more than 1200 deer roaming around the Nara

Park, and they have been protected by the local people as messengers of the Grand Shrine of Kasuga for over centuries.

In 1998, 8 sites in Nara were registered on the UNESCO World Heritage list: the temples of Todaiji, Kofukuji, Gangoji, Yakushiji, Toshodaiji, the Kasuga Grand Shrine, Heijo Palace Site, and Kasugayama Primeval Forest. This rare simultaneous inscription of cultural and natural heritage sites means that you can feel the history, the culture, the tradition and nature.

Nara, the Birthplace of . . .

Tea

Japanese tea in Nara is called Yamato-cha (Yamato tea), derived from the ancient name of Nara.

Nara has the longest history of tea cultivation in Japan, beginning when the Buddhist priest Kukai (also known as Kobo Daishi) brought seeds of tea tree from China and planted them in Nara.

Seishu (refined Sake)

Sake (Japanese rice wine) has become famous worldwide, but very few know that the birthplace of Sake is Nara. In the old days, Sake used to be unrefined. In the 15th century, Buddhist monks of Shoryaku-ji Temple, located in Nara city, invented the production method of clear transparent Sake.



Pouring Sake into Bamboo cup



Yamato Tea garden

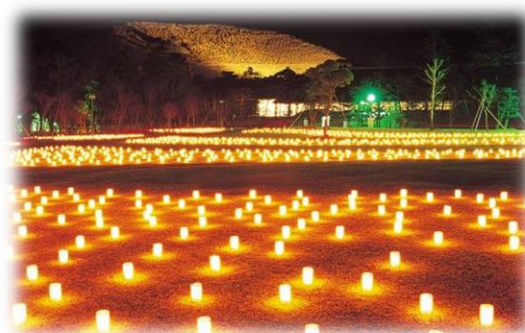
Why don't you try Yamato tea and Seishu and enjoy the traditional and historical taste?

Relations with Australia

Thanks to the grass-roots exchange between Japanese and Australians, Nara city and Canberra established a formal sister city relationship in 1993. Since then both



Canberra Nara Candle Festival in Canberra Nara Park



Tokae in Nara

cities have deepened exchange activities.

The Canberra Nara Candle Festival is held annually either in September or in October in Canberra, inspired by a much larger candle festival called “Tokae” held in August

in Nara. At the Tokae festival, about twenty thousand candles light up the ancient capital after dusk.

Gazing at the lights in Canberra Nara Park, you will feel like you are in Nara.

EVENT

Canberra Nara Candle Festival 2014

Saturday 25 October 4:30pm-9:00pm

Venue: Canberra Nara Peace Park & Lennox Gardens (behind Hyatt Hotel Canberra)

Enjoy the spectacular visual of 2,000 shimmering candles at the Canberra Nara Candle Festival 2014 to celebrate the 21st year of the Sister City relationship between Canberra and Nara.

CLAIR Sydney will have a booth in the festival to promote Japanese tourism.

For more details of the Canberra Nara Candle Festival 2014, please visit: <http://www.events.act.gov.au/nara>



*Photos: Canberra Nara
Candle Festival 2013*

JAPAN POP CULTURE CARNIVAL 2014 in MATSUDO



Japan Pop Culture Carnival 2014 in Matsudo

An event that celebrates the world-famous Japanese Pop Culture will be held on 2 and 3 November in Matsudo, Chiba. Its highlight is the live performances which feature the collaborations of anime song singers, idols and rock musicians. Don't miss this incredible collaboration seen

only at this event!

For more information: <http://www.jlgc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Japan-Pop-Culture-Carnival-2014-in-Matsudo.pdf>

Asian Championship of Rubik's Cube in 2014

The 2014 Asian Championship of Rubik's Cube will be held in Matsudo. All are welcome to the event, from the speedcubers who rapidly solve the cubes to those beginners who have never solved even one face. Don't

miss this opportunity to witness the world's Rubik's cube masters' miraculous acts! You can also enjoy the production and display of the mosaic art installations that feature Rubik's Cubes.

- **Date:** **2 November (Sun)** 9:30 am to 8:35pm
 3 November (Mon) 9:30 am to 3:20pm
- **Place:** Mori no Hall 21 (Small Hall)
- **Admission:** Free

For more information: <http://jrca.cc/ac2014/index.php>



At the venue for both events "The 21st Century Forest and Square (21 Seiki no Mori to Hiroba)", huge three-dimensional works created by two artists will be exhibited. You can see, touch, and sometimes look into the works to feel the wonderful art yourself.

A temporary stage will also be set up, where performances by new idols or anime song show will be held on 2 to 3 November. Live performances of artists from Matsudo, other performances, and cosplay fashion show and contest will also take place on stage.

Inquiry: Office of JPCC2014 Executive Committee (Culture & Tourism Sec., Matsudo City)

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2014 CLAIR Forum

Forum Theme: *~Revitalise Your City~*

Date: **Thursday 27 November**

Time: **2:00pm to 5:00pm**

Venue: **Aerial Function Centre at Level 7, University of Technology, Sydney**
(235 Jones St (Building 10) Ultimo, NSW)

Co-hosted by the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG) and CLAIR Sydney.



Entry to the Forum is **free of charge**. For registration, please complete the [Registration Form](#) and send it to: mailbox@jlgc.org.au

Please note seats are limited!

The Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR) and the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG) are co-hosting the 2014 CLAIR Forum to be held at the University of Technology, Sydney on Thursday 27 November between 2pm and 5pm. All are welcome to attend.

The theme of this year's Forum is 'Revitalise Your City', and will feature presentations from senior staff and researchers both from Australian and Japanese local governments, [ACELG](#) and [CLAIR](#), on how regional centres can promote local products, as well as attract jobs, new residents and investment by maximising regional characteristics.



2012 CLAIR Forum at UTS

This is an issue that Japan and Australia share – how to promote regional areas as both attractive places to live and conduct business in, and to ensure such areas can provide appropriate infrastructure and services for new and existing populations.

Session topics include 'Promoting local products and tourism', and 'Attracting people to the region'.

Provisional speakers include Councillor James Walker, Clarence City Council (Tasmania) discussing economic development in his local region, and Alex Gooding, ACELG Associate, who will outline key 'ingredients' for encouraging population growth and retention in regional capitals. As well, Japanese examples will be introduced by CLAIR's Assistant Directors: Hiroaki Seino (from Aomori),

Misa Hirasawa (Hiroshima), Hiromi Hakuta (Shikaoi town, Hokkaido) and Noriyuki Shiba (Wakayama).

Provisional findings and case studies will also be presented from a new ACELG research project called 'Local government leading the development of regional

Australia'. This is a partnership project with Regional Capitals Australia, an alliance of local government organisations that represent Australia's regional cities.

ACELG Director, Associate Professor Roberta Ryan will facilitate discussion.

Program

13:30	Registrations open
14:00	<u>Session 1 "Advertise local products and tourism"</u> Promoting local tourism or products helps in the development of local economies and strengthens regional identities. In this session, speakers will introduce three examples of how to promote local products and places followed by Q&A.
15:15	Afternoon tea
15:45	<u>Session 2 "Attracting people to your region "</u> Rural and regional areas in Japan and Australia that face depopulation are striving to attract people to their cities and towns. Japan's local governments have encouraged 'U-turn' and 'I-turn' internal migration, where people living in the city move to a rural area. In this session, three panelists will share their experiences in encouraging settlement to their regions followed by a Q&A session.
17:00	Networking

Promotion for Japan tourism at JNTO Travel Seminar

JNTO Japan Endless Discovery Seminar 2014 was held in Brisbane and Sydney. Japanese local governments such as Tokyo, Toyama, Takayama, Wakayama, Hiroshima and Okinawa joined the Seminar, which was aimed at travel agencies and air lines in Australia to promote Japanese local governments. To convey the charm of their regions to the audience as best as possible, presenters gave humorous speeches coupled with breathtaking pictures.

Assistant Director Hirasawa gave a presentation on a behalf of the Hiroshima Prefectural Office. At a business session following the Seminar, some agencies asked contact details for package tours or hotels that were featured in the presentation, which proved to be excellent feedback to the presenter.



“C the Future” Conference



Leading experts and established global businesses offered their insights into the new Australia Japan relationship at the “C the Future” Conference, in Brisbane on September 5 and 6.

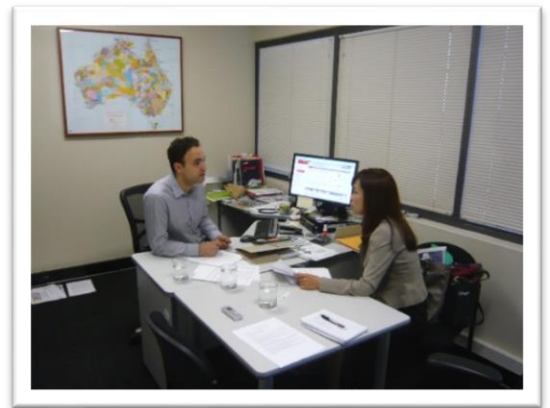
This Biennial Conference of the National Federation of Australia Japan Societies discussed emerging trade and investment opportunities, following on from the Japan Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (JAEPA).

The day two focused on grass roots relationships between the two countries. Our director joined the panel session and talked about Japan-Australia sister city relationships.

Assisting Dr. Yoshida’s research

Dr. Yoshida who is a professor at Wakayama University in western Japan researches about issues surrounding immigrants.

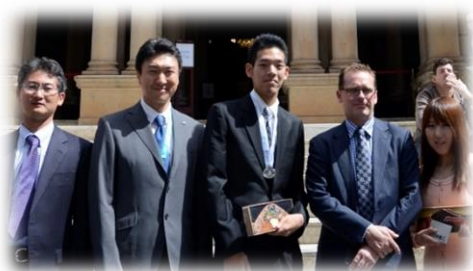
She visited an alternative detention centre in Inverbrackie in South Australia and went to a school which accepts refugee children. She researched how they treated asylum seekers and how the centre affects the local community. She also researched about Italian immigrants’ community in Sydney. She visited Leichhardt municipality council and an organisation which supports the Italian immigrant community. She talked with them on how they support Italian community and how they work to maintain Italian community together.



We believe her research will be of great help for Japanese people, to whom immigration policies are increasingly relevant.

We would like to thank all organisations we visited for their cooperation with Dr. Yoshida’s research.

Visit to Sydney for the Sydney Running Festival and Promoting the Nagoya City Marathon (18-22 September)



The male and female winners of the 2014 Nagoya City Marathon visited Sydney, running in the Sydney Running Festival on 21 September. The Sydney Running Festival and Nagoya City Marathon signed a sister marathon affiliation in August 2012, as one of many projects to bring the two sister cities closer together. Joining the runners was an official from the Marathon

Festival Nagoya-Aichi Organising Committee, to coordinate PR activities for the Nagoya City Marathon on 8 March 2015.

On 22 September, the two delegate runners paid a courtesy visit to the Sydney Town Hall, meeting with Deputy Lord Mayor Robyn Kemmis who congratulated them on their achievements both in Nagoya and Sydney, wishing them a pleasant rest of stay in Sydney.

On a related note, CLAIR Sydney's Deputy Director (9km Bridge Run) and three Assistant Directors (Full/Half Marathon) ran in the Festival as local entrants, with Assistant Director Hiromi Hakuta (from Hokkaido) completing the full marathon with a top-100 time.



CLAIR Assistant Director Hiromi Hakuta ran in the Sydney Running Festival

Participation in Japanese language class of The University of New South Wales (UNSW)



Two Clair staff members participated in a Japanese language class at UNSW. Native Japanese from and outside of UNSW took part in an advanced Japanese language class. The students researching about Japanese language (four-character, honorific words, young people's language and so on) asked about these topics to Native Japanese, directly in Japanese. For native Japanese people, because Japanese is acquired naturally, some questions were hard to answer. However, the experience made us re-understand difference between English and Japanese, and think about the Japanese language's profoundness.

Sister cities music exchange hailed as a great success.....

~ Photos and Article by Latrobe City Council ~

The 2014 Music Exchange has been hailed as a huge success with seventeen young Latrobe City ambassadors, a Musical Director and Band Manager recently returning from our Sister Cities.

Since the inception of Latrobe City's Sister Cities program and formal signing of agreements with Takasago (Japan) and Taizhou (China), over 550 young people from Latrobe City have now experienced Japanese and/or Chinese culture through exchanges with our sister cities.



Latrobe City's International Relations program intends to serve many purposes, including the broadening of a range of existing cultural, sporting, and educational, youth and economic exchange opportunities and to establish a lasting friendly relationship. There is no doubt that the recent trip to Takasago and Taizhou met these objectives.

The program took place from the 27 June 2014 to 13 July 2014 encompassing visits and performances at Latrobe City's Sister Cities, Takasago, Japan and Taizhou, China.



The dedication and commitment of the students both prior to and during their visits, was outstanding. Before the ensemble left Australia, they attended rehearsals, language and cultural awareness sessions, fundraising activities and performed at the Latrobe City Sister Cities Festival and the Traralgon Farmer's Market. They also organized and participated in the Latrobe City Combined Bands Concert and the final concert in the Performing Arts Centre in Traralgon – where the students were conditioned to take full

ownership of their performance by sharing the MC role, set up and pack up equipment, as well as socialising with the audience.

The program was very successful, enabling local musicians the opportunity to experience the culture of China and Japan by actually being part of a community, experiencing home-stays, attendance at schools and undertaking cultural activities. The Latrobe City Ensemble performed admirably, providing excellent entertainment to large audiences. The repertoire consisted of Australian "made" or "influenced" works from a variety of musical genres.



Comment from the Band Director:

*“This exchange program has definitely changed us all in one way or another. I can see that your young people definitely have a greater appreciation for the surroundings, amenities and resources they have at their disposal, as well as what is on offer to them, especially from an educational/study perspective. Upon arrival, I know some have changed their study focus to include an Asian language component as part of their current studies. I also know that some of our young people have had some difficulty in comprehending what family is in both Japan and China, as opposed to what it really is at home – in this instance such exchange programs are so vital for those who would never have had the opportunity to witness what family could possibly be like. I definitely know that this journey has influenced me, especially within my own work place and at home.” -- **Band Director, Joseph Bonnici***



Although titled as being a “music exchange”, the music component to this program was somewhat secondary with the focus predominantly on enhancing cultural understanding and awareness.

At the conclusion on the trip the ensemble members all conveyed their thanks to Latrobe City Council, Musical Director, Band Manager and major sponsors - Allan Wilson Insurance, Gippsland Dental Group, Century Inn and everyone else who made their trip possible.



While there was a significant contribution made by council in terms of funding the trip, the majority of the trip was funded through corporate sponsorship, individual contributions and major fundraising initiatives.

In summary, the music exchange visit provided young people from a range of socio-economic backgrounds within the municipality, an opportunity to develop and demonstrate their musical and personal skills without any barriers and prejudices.



JETAA NSW Activities

~ Photos and Article by JETAA NSW ~

Spring has arrived in a splendiferous display of clear blue skies and warm weather! We at JETAA NSW reflect on our winter activities of the past few months, which includes our recent trip to Cowra and our trivia night. Let's go!

August - Trivia Night:

Our ever popular trivia night was held at the AB Hotel. As always, our MC kept things moving along really well, and competition was FIERCE for the bottles of wine, and a special Japanese snack pack. Special thanks go to the Japan Foundation for donating a double pass to the upcoming Japanese Film Festival, as we're always highly appreciative of gifts from friends and associates. Our mental agility was put to task to answering many questions from Japanese history culture, and performing silly games as we laughed our way to the finishing line.



September - Tabaimo - Mekurumeku:

JETAA has always strived hard to promote Japanese culture, and we were invited to view the Tabaimo: Mekurumeku exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art. With a tour of the exhibition conducted in Japanese, it was fascinating to see the rich

and sensual complexities of Tabaimo's art, as we delved deep into the artist's inside mind, in a mesmerising display of the dark side of Japanese society during the GFC, and its desire to break free from it.

September - Cowra Cherry Blossom Festival:

Due to overwhelming demand we decided to organise what has been our most popular event in the JETAA calendar – the Japanese Spring tradition of *Hanami* (flower viewing).



And what better location than Cowra, the site of the Cowra breakout during WWII and now a

significant cultural site with a beautiful Japanese garden. Travelling on a mini bus hired by JETAA NSW, a group of our members enjoyed this peaceful regional town's annual Sakura Festival, filled with colour, sounds, food and of lots and lots of cherry blossoms! Everyone had a really great time and it was a great bonding experience as members come closer together in the spirit of friendship and adventure, and reflected on the Australia-Japan relationship. We intend to run our trip as regularly as we can as long as our funds and demand allows us.

Upcoming:

The JETAA Oceania Conference will take place in Melbourne this year, and the topic will be about "Staying Relevant", and examine the future and survival of JETAA in Australia and New Zealand. Representatives from each of our chapters will get together and talk about problems and issues facing JETAA's ongoing viability, and share stories and strategies on how to best remain dynamic

and active, with the very little resources available to us. It promises to be a very thought-provoking and exciting conference!

Thanks for reading about our JETAA NSW activities. We hope to see you all at one or all of our events, and please, come say hi to us!

Introducing Our New Staff



Miwa Okawachi
Assistant Director

Hello, my name is Miwa Okawachi, and I'm from Wakayama city in Japan.

I will be staying in Sydney for one and a half years from this October. This is my first time living and working abroad, so I'm a little bit nervous but also excited.

I'm especially interested in seeing a lot of historical buildings and Australia's vast nature. My hometown, Wakayama city is the capital of Wakayama Prefecture, located in the Kansai region of Western Japan. It is a city that is blessed with rich nature, a beautiful ocean, and a mild climate.

If you are interested in Wakayama city, please visit the link below:

<http://www.wakayamakanko.com/eng/>

I'm looking forward to experiencing a new and different culture and meeting many new people during my stay.

From The Director

Comparative study of Local governments

On 2 October, I talked about Japanese local governments at the Comparative Local Governance course organised by the ACELG, UTS (<http://www.jlgc.org.au/about-japan/1110-2/>).

This program introduced participants to the key elements of comparative local governance by showing the case studies of Pakistan, South Korea, Canada, New Zealand, UK and Japan.

Since I came to Australia, I have been studying about the Australian local government system and I sometimes write reports for the Japanese people. In my recent report, I explained about the NSW local government

reform by introducing the Independent Local Government Review Panel's recommendations and insisted that there are a lot of common challenges local governments of the two countries face such as financial sustainability, amalgamation, effective audit system, effective governance, problems of rural areas and metropolitan areas.

I think the system of local governments varies from country to country but also has a lot of common aspects. Comparison of the situation of our country and another's can be used in order to identify lessons and to reflect on our own situation. That is why comparative study is very informative and refreshing.

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