



Japan Local Government Centre
(CLAIR, Sydney)

Correspondence

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Tokachi is the only place in the world you can enjoy a truly amazing winter!



Tokachi is located in central **Hokkaido**, an already popular destination with Australian skiers. As you know there are lots of hot springs called "Onsen" in Japan, but you can't soak in an amazing one anywhere but here. The Ice Bar that stands next to the hot spring will take your breath away! You can experience this wonderful combination at the [Shikaribetsuko-Kotan Festival](#) that takes place on the frozen lake, which is also where the building's material come from! Can you believe that? You should check it out with your own eyes!

You can also enjoy the fantastic festival called [Sairinka](#) that features colored light objects, music and snow. It's like living in a fairy tale! You can relax at the [Tokachigawa Onsen](#), a hot spring known for its excellent moisturising and smoothing effect that can be felt after taking bath. If you would like to go skiing, we can offer one of the nicest powder snow slopes in Japan at [Tokachi Sahoro Resort](#), where you can also find one of the world famous [Club Med Resort](#). At Obihiro Ice festival, lots of icy sculptures, snow attractions and big fireworks will delight you.



There is accommodation near the site that I introduced and shuttle buses to take you there as well, so you don't need to worry about driving on snowy road. Do you know any other places where you can enjoy both winter and snow satisfactorily?

Tokachi is also known as having the clearest winter weather in Hokkaido. Just imagine enjoy skiing and soaking in an outdoor hot spring under the very clear sky or starry night. Why don't you visit the nicest winter paradise in Ja...no no, in the world! And then, let's boast of your experience that you can have only here in the world!



For more information: **Tokachi Tourism Federation**

<http://www.tokachibare.jp/foreign/english/>

~ Photos and article by Queanbeyan City Council ~

The Sister City relationship, originally between Queanbeyan and Hattamura, was formally established in 1992 and student and community/adult delegations have taken place every year since 1993. Usually Japanese students come here in August (their summer holidays); and Queanbeyan has been sending students there in our spring holidays (October).

On 1 April 2003 Minami-Alps City was formed due to the merger of four towns and two villages including Hatta. The towns and villages that complete Minami-Alps City are Hatta Village, Shirane Town, Ashiyasu Village, Wakakusa Town, Kushigata Town and Kosai Town. Queanbeyan has continued a sister city relationship with Minami-Alps City.



Minami-Alps city hosted a formal celebration of the 10 year anniversary on 17 October 2013 and as such has invited representatives from all their six sister cities.

Council's delegates, Cr Sue Whelan, General Manager Gary Chapman and Sister City Coordinator Ms Helen Hone, departed Canberra Airport on Monday 14 October and arrived at Narita Airport Japan 6am Tuesday 15 October. We were greeted by Taeko Lino and Kaori Hara who would be our escorts and interpreters for the time we were there.

While waiting for other sister city delegates from the US towns of Marshalltown and Winterset to arrive at 5pm the group visited Tokyo, then to arrive in Minami-Alps 9.30pm that evening to be met by our hosts and travel to their homes.

Home stay allows visitors to experience full Japanese life and we are very grateful to our hosts who invited us into their homes so we could experience their home life and culture.

October 17 was the formal day and commenced with a ceremony at Tougenbunka Hall, where the 10 years, since the time of the amalgamation of councils, including Hatta-Mura, to form Minami-Alps City Council was celebrated. All Sister Cities were represented, as well as the mayors of the former council areas, including Mr. Saito who was Mayor of Hatta-Mura, our original Sister City.

In the evening the Sister City relationship was celebrated at another function at Tougenbunka Hall. Cr Whelan spoke and extended greetings and congratulations



on behalf of our Mayor and the Council and presented Queanbeyan's gift; a painting by local Queanbeyan artist Sue Roger to the Mayor of Minami Alps. A presentation was also made to Queanbeyan City Council.

As part of the visit, delegates were taken to a number of cultural and other significant features within the region. These included a visit to ANDO House – a very old traditional Japanese house, dating from the 1600's, Shunsen Museum, Mt. Fuji, Shousenkyo – a wonderful scenic area in the surrounding mountains and an old restored heritage hotel in Tokyo, considered to be a national treasure.

Would you like to share your activities in our newsletter?

If your organisation is interested in having your article in our monthly newsletter, please feel free to contact us at mailbox@ilgc.org.au.



Supporting Delegates from the association of west and North Tsugaru Towns and Villages

Delegates from the association of west and north Tsugaru Towns and Villages – a leading apple producing region – visited Sydney to research about the local production methods of apples and Wagyu beef.

Our Director Yasuhiko Tanabe briefed the delegation on Australia and its government composition at the CLAIR Sydney office. While visiting an apple farm, the delegation actively discussed about the difference in apple cultivation with the Australian farmer.



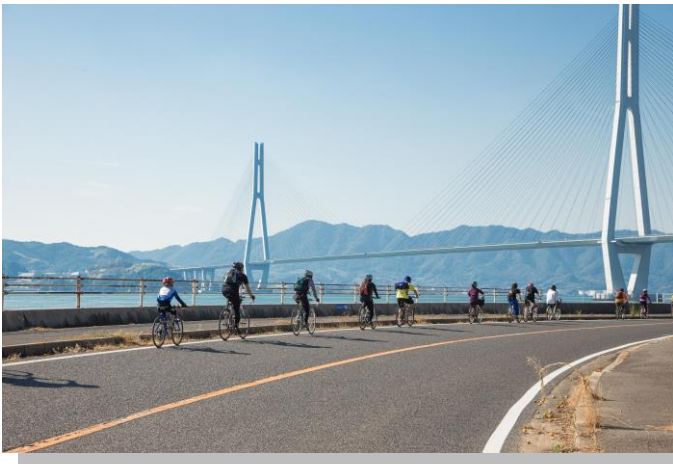
Supporting Aomori Prefectural Assembly

In order to look into the Australian agricultural production and to attract Australian tourists to their region, 6 members of the Aomori prefectural assembly visited Sydney.

At CLAIR Sydney's office, Director Yasuhiko Tanabe briefed the delegation about the structure of the Australian government and about Australian tourists' preferences when visiting Japan. During the briefing the delegation deepened their knowledge of Australian tourism tendencies. For example they learned that Australian tourists tend to stay in Japan longer than other tourists and are more likely to visit during the Japanese winter.



Assisting the research of the needs of local cyclists in relation to the Setouchi Shimanami Kaido International Cycling Festival (from 13 to 17 January)



In order to attract as many Australian participants as possible, we researched the needs of Australian cyclists and the most effective way to promote this International Cycling Festival. This event will take place on the Setouchi Shimanami Kaido and will be held by the Hiroshima Prefectural Government and other related organisations.

Cycling is very popular in Australia and not only is there many local governments that encourage cycling, there

are also many cycling clubs founded cycling enthusiasts.

The cyclists who helped us with our survey gave us positive feedback, indicating us that many travelers are expected to come to Setouchi Shimanami Kaido, which is one of the most popular cycling spots in Japan.

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Looking to form a *Sister School Exchange*?

At CLAIR Sydney, we encourage Sister School Exchanges between Japan and Australia/New Zealand. Through a Sister School Exchange, students from both countries are able to gain new experiences and opportunities. We are happy to assist any municipalities or schools interested in establishing a Sister School Exchange.

On our website, we have a list of schools that are interested in forming a Sister School Exchange. If you would like to know more about a school on this list, please contact our office or get in touch with the school directly. Also, if you would like to have your school listed on our website, please let us know by filling out the application form online.

At the moment, three High Schools in Chiba and in Kanagawa (both near Tokyo) are looking for sister schools in Australia or New Zealand. For more information, please check the URL below as well as our website.

- **Sawahakuyou High School** (Japanese Website) <http://cms2.chiba-c.ed.jp/sawahakuyo-h/>



- **Hadano High School** (Japanese Website) <http://www.hadano-h.pen-kanagawa.ed.jp/>

- **Hitorizawa High School** (Japanese Website) <http://www.hitorizawa-h.pen-kanagawa.ed.jp/>

CLAIR Website

<http://www.jlgc.org.au/international-exchange-2/sister-school-exchange/australia-%e3%83%bbnew-zealand/>

Again, if you are looking to establish a Sister School Exchange with a school in Japan, please feel free to contact us. We hope to see more Sister School Exchanges being established in the future.

Exploring Creativity: *JETAA NSW's Art Projects*

~ Photos and Article by JETAA NSW ~



One of the best reasons to be a JETAA member is the chance to carry out truly creative and innovative projects. As an example of this, in 2013, JETAA NSW conceived of an uchiwa design competition which was open to the public. The winning design would then be sent to printers in Japan, to be printed on a thousand uchiwa, to be given out to the public at 2013's Sydney Japan Festival. The intention of such a project was to engage the Australian public in the creation of a Japanese cultural object, as well as raise the profile of JETAA

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NSW.

The competition was won by a Queensland high school student, which was a surprise, but a good one, indicating the level of interest across all age groups. Thanks to the generous support of the Consulate of Japan, the project was made possible, showing how proactive cooperation between groups can achieve great things. The public too, were very positive in their response, ensuring that the uchiwa were all taken by the public by the afternoon (but helped no doubt by the hot weather which made the use of an uchiwa a practical, as well as a fashionable, necessity).



Another side-project that JETAA NSW was involved in at the festival also involved uchiwa, this time with the additional support of the Japan Club of Sydney. JETAA NSW ordered 300 blank uchiwa, as part of their contribution to the children's activity area of the festival. Children (and adults) were invited to draw and colour their own uchiwa, and it proved so popular that some children came back to visit the activity tent again and again. The parents and also some Japanese language teachers expressed their delight and enjoyment of seeing children having fun at this activity.

Successful activities like this form part of JETAA NSW's yearly calendar, which includes fundraising (the Big Bento at www.bigbentolunch.com.au), pub trivia night, Shaberanaito nights (language exchange events, coordinated with the Australia-Japan Society of NSW) and of course, helping out with the JET Programme selection process. As a volunteer organisation, JETAA NSW depends on the support and enthusiasm of its members and of Japanese cultural groups in Sydney, and looks forward to even more original and exciting projects in the new year of 2014.

To keep up to date with JETAA NSW, please visit our website at www.jetaansw.org, or join our [Facebook group](#) (JETAA NSW), our Twitter and Instagram (@jetaansw). Thank you very much to everyone for their support!

We're JETAA Oceania!



We are the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme Alumni Association, the bridge between Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

Please visit our website and check our activities!

★ **JET Programme**

<http://www.jetprogramme.org/index.html>

- JETAA NSW <http://www.sydneyjetaa.org/>
- JETAA Vic/Tas/SA <http://www.victassa.jetaa.org.au/>
- JETAA WA <http://jetaawa.com/>
- JETAA Canberra <http://jetaacanberra.org/>
- JETAA QLD <http://www.jetaaqlld.org/>
- JETAA Wellington <http://www.jetaawgtn.org.nz/>
- JETAA South Island <http://jetaasouthisland.wordpress.com/>
- JETAA Auckland <http://aucklandjetaa.org/>



Introducing *Angela Nguyen*, a new intern at CLAIR



My name is Angela Nguyen, and I am currently studying towards a Masters in International Security at the University of Sydney. I am born and raised in Norway, but have Vietnamese descent. Having a strong interest in International Politics in Asia, in particular Japan, I seek to broaden my knowledge by interning at CLAIR Sydney. From a global view, Japan is of essential importance, where its cultural, economic and political relations reach far beyond its borders. My aim is to gain insight into Japanese local governments' relations abroad, and to contribute to

the work of building trust and mutual understanding as well as promoting Japan's internationalization and exchange. I am eager to embrace this unique opportunity to learn more about CLAIR as a joint organization, but also the grassroots effort by the prefectures and municipalities.

I hope my previous experience such as internship at TransAfrica Forum in Washington D.C., the work at Amnesty International and Vietnamese Boat People Monument Committee in Norway would be useful for Japan Local Government Centre.

I would also express gratitude to CLAIR for giving me the opportunity to work here, and look forward to getting to know the various members. Hopefully, I will one day get a chance to work in Japan!

From The Director

Local Autonomy College

In Japan, there has been an increasing trend towards a decentralised society, and the trend seems to continue into the future. Under such circumstances, the Local Autonomy College, established in 1955 as Japan's central training institution for local government executives, plays the important role of fostering local government staff's policy making capabilities and administrative management skills.

At the College, trainees sent from local governments throughout the country can obtain a wide range of knowledge and views through participation in camp training under a full residential system and active exchange with other trainees. It has been producing excellent local government staff for over half a century since its launch, and many of its graduates have been working actively in the front lines as executives.



At the end of January, Ms Roberta Ryan, Director of the UTS Centre for Local Government had a chance to visit the College and exchanged views about challenges they face as the core training centre for local government (future) executives.

I hope cooperation and information exchange between the two countries' local government staff training centres will further grow.