

Correspondence

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Welcome to Odawara City

Located in western Kanagawa Prefecture, Odawara is about 40 minutes by Shinkansen (bullet train) from nearby Tokyo, and serves a role as the gateway to Mount Fuji, Hakone, and Izu. Based on its rich natural environment and temperate climate, it prospered as a castle town where various forms of traditional culture thrived from the days of old, as evidenced by its many historical sites and local products.

Visit Odawara to get to know the city, its people, and its artisanship through its history, culture, noted local specialties, nature, and hands-on experiences.

- Population: Approx. 200,000
- Size: 114.06 km²



Odawara Castle, Symbol of Odawara

Various resources developed over several eras, centring on Odawara Castle, have given rise to the town of Odawara. Let's cast our thoughts back to antiquity and get a feel for the history that has been passed down to us.

Donjon

The castle's predecessor was a castle built on a hill by the Omori clan in the Muromachi era (1338–1573), and after becoming the seat of Odawara Hojo clan in the Warring States period, it was expanded as a base from which to control the Kanto region. The donjon is a 1960 reproduction of its appearance at the end of the Edo era.



The three-tiered, four-story keep is equipped with attached and connecting gallery turrets, suits of armour, swords, old documents and other historical materials are on exhibit inside. The uppermost floor overlooks Sagami Bay and the city.

Odawara Castle Park

With the donjon that stands in the inner citadel as its centrepiece, Castle Park is a leisure spot for city residents and sightseers that is known for its flowers, including plum blossoms, cherry blossoms, and hydrangeas. The Tokiwagi and other castle gates and Umayu Bailey were rebuilt after the donjon's reconstruction. Most of the inner and outer citadels and part of the outer walls have been designated as national historical sites. Vestiges of the Edo period, including the site of Ote-mon Gate and the former site of Kodaguchimon Gate, remain throughout the vicinity.



Castle Turret and cherry blossoms

The Manly Odawara Student Exchange Program: "Tokimeki International School"



Odawara city and Australia's Manly city share friendship town relations. We have run the "Tokimeki International School" student exchange program with Manly since 1991. This year marked the 25th anniversary of the program.

Students from both Manly and Odawara visit each other's schools and stay with their host families every year. Through this program and the associated cultural experience, the students begin their path to becoming true global citizens.

Smoking Ceremony and Hiroshima 70th Anniversary Peace Day Ceremony at Peace Park, Manly, Australia

Students from Manly and Odawara participated in a Hiroshima 70th Anniversary Peace Day Ceremony at Peace Park, Manly on August 6 2015. As part of the Peace Day event, they took part in a Smoking Ceremony conducted by local Indigenous elders.

The students prayed for peace and gave thanks for our two countries' peaceful relationship, especially between our two cities, Odawara and Manly.

We cherish the many friendships that have developed as a result of this exchange program and we hope that such friendships will continue to be made in the future.

This program is supported by many people in Manly, Odawara, and beyond – we always appreciate their support for Manly and Odawara. This year, we wish to express our thanks to Mr Rajic and Mr Shiba of CLAIR Sydney, who supported the exchange program as interpreters.



Japan Centre for Regional Development's fieldwork in New Zealand (7-11 September)

Members of the Japan Centre for Regional Development, a public sector agency, visited New Zealand from 7-11 September for research on policies to promote regional growth and community sports, as well as fieldwork on disaster recovery. CLAIR Sydney supported their activities with pre-arrival logistics and accompanying the delegation to their meetings in Auckland and Christchurch.

In Christchurch, the staff of CERA (Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority) guided them to the areas damaged by 2011 Canterbury Earthquake, in which many Japanese nationals perished, and gave a comprehensive explanation about regional revitalisation. Research staff from the Japanese regions affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake 2011 listened to their explanation carefully.

On 9 September, we were fortunate enough to be in the city at the same time as the JETAASI JET Returnees' Welcome Back 2015 gathering, sponsored by the JETAA on New Zealand's South Island. Seven JET returnees attended the party. The researchers also attended the party, discussing life in Japan with the returnees.



Meeting with staff from Wakayama prefecture



On 9 September, we met two staff members from the Wakayama prefectural government's Tourism Exchange Division. We shared our thoughts about Australian outbound tourism trends, as well as promotions and other efforts by Wakayama to promote its inbound overseas tourism.

Their efforts look to be paying off - last year they welcomed a record largest number of overseas tourists. If trends continue, Wakayama could become one of the most popular destinations in Japan.

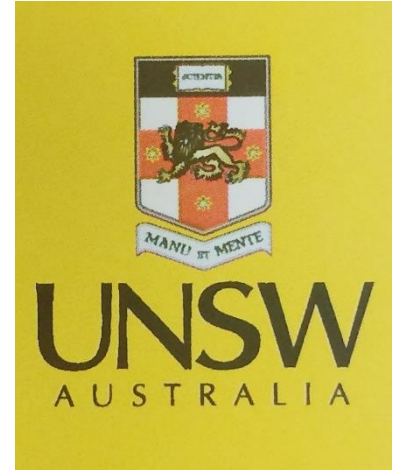
They also attended a seminar held by Japan National Tourism Organisation in Sydney, and visited many local travel agencies. Judging by their tourism promotion strategy and results so far, we expect further growth in Wakayama's tourism market in the medium term.

CLAIR Staff participate in UNSW Japanese language class

Four CLAIR staff members took part in a Japanese language class at UNSW (the University of New South Wales) on 24 September.

Native Japanese speaking visitors as well as people from UNSW joined an advanced Japanese language class on campus. Students researching particular parts of the Japanese language (e.g. omitting subjects, postpositional particles, onomatopoeia, 'four-character' idioms, youth slang) asked the visiting native speakers about these topics, directly in Japanese.

For native Japanese people, because Japanese is acquired naturally, some questions were hard to answer. However, we rediscovered the delicate differences between English and Japanese, and had a chance to discover the subtle charm and profoundness of our native tongue, as seen through the students' many interesting questions.



Exchange staff between Koshigaya and Campbelltown

Koshigaya (Saitama prefecture) has a long-standing Sister City relationship with Campbelltown City Council. As part of their friendly relations, the cities hold an annual staff exchange program, where in principle, a staff member from Koshigaya goes to Campbelltown in odd-numbered years, and vice versa for even-numbered years. This time, Mr Higuchi from Koshigaya stayed in Campbelltown and learned about Australia's local government system. On 30 September, he and two staff from Campbelltown visited our office. We gave them a presentation on the outline of Australia and what Japanese local governments are doing to attract Australian tourists. We also talked about the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, especially its potential to attract visitors to Japanese regions and the benefits of holding training camps for foreign Olympic teams.

Their staff exchange programme is one of the liveliest programmes between Japan and Australia. We look forward to seeing their relationship continue to grow.



Runner from Nagoya places fourth at the 2015 Sydney Running Festival!



Nagoya runner Sumiko Matsushita (4th from left), Deputy Lord Mayor Robyn Kemmis (4th from right), Nagoya runner Masahiro Kinoshita (3rd from right), Wayne Larden, Race Director (2nd from right)

On 20 September, over 32,000 runners took part in the Sydney Marathon and other events at the 2015 Sydney Running Festival. CLAIR Sydney was there to assist the City of Nagoya with its two runners and exhibition booth.

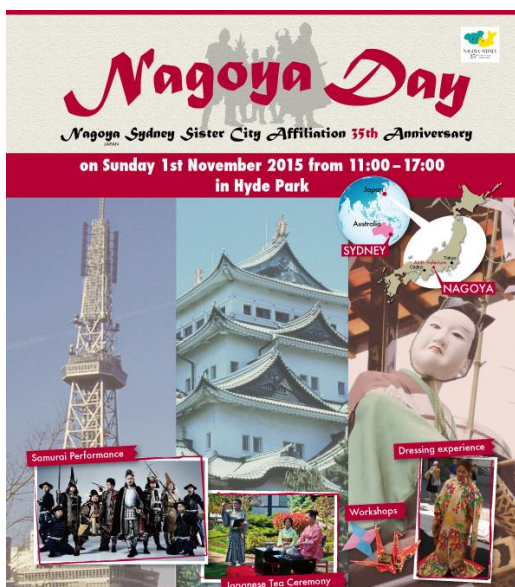
The two citizen entrants from Nagoya, who were invited by the Sydney Marathon Committee, chose to participate in the half marathon (21.0975 km). One of them, Mr Masahiro Kinoshita, who won 4th place prize, said it was a difficult race with many hills to overcome. The other runner, Ms Sumiko Matsushita, who completed the race inside her target time, commented that she had fun, enjoying the

beautiful sites of Sydney during the run.

The following day, both of them made a courtesy call to the Deputy Lord Mayor, Robyn Kemmis. Councillor Kemmis praised the long-standing Sydney-Nagoya sister-city relationship and was delighted to be part of the relationship's 35th anniversary celebrations.

Prior to the race (16-19 September), Sydney Town Hall hosted the Sydney Running Festival's Event Expo, where competitors picked up their running bibs and visited exhibition stands, including one for Nagoya City Marathon, the sister marathon of Sydney's event since a partnership agreement was signed in 2012. This year, Nagoya City sent two officials to Sydney to promote the 2016 Nagoya City Marathon (12-13 March).

The Sydney Marathon was recently awarded the prestigious IAAF Marathon Gold Label Road Race status from the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), recognising the event as one of the leading road races around the world, on par with household-name marathons such as the London Marathon, Boston Marathon and New York Marathon.



Summary	
Stage Event	Booth Event
Opening Ceremony	Nagoya Food Sampling Service Free/Limited Quantities/Nagoya-meshi
Classical Japanese dance Performance	Japanese Cultural Dress up, Craft and Calligraphy Experience Kimono and Yukata Wearing, Origami, Calligraphy, Water balloon
Samurai Performance (Nagoya PR Stage)	Japanese Tea Ceremony Free Japanese Tea
Cosplay Show	Display Area Introduce Nagoya Video and Panel
Choir Performance	
Japanese Pop Songs Performance	
Closing Event	

Nagoya Day

Time/Date: 11:00~17:00 1 Nov 2015

Location: Hyde Park (corner of Elizabeth st and Park st)

Internship in East Pilbara, Western Australia

From 27 August to 2 September, Assistant Director Hiroaki Seino visited the Shire of East Pilbara in Western Australia for his internship, a vital part of CLAIR Sydney's Japanese staff secondments to Australia.

During his internship, he met with Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Allen Cooper and several managers, gaining insights from them about a host of topics including community development, economic development, and tourism promotion.

His internship coincided with the Art at the Heart Artist Residency program's opening exhibition, with a piece by the winner of the residency, Japanese artist Yasuaki Onishi from Osaka.



CEO Allen Cooper and Council staff members



Open cut mining site

East Pilbara is famous for iron ore mining, and is the largest LGA by land area in Australia (as large as Japan!)

As such, the Shire's operations are different in many respects to other local governments. While local governments around Australia have similar services and operational requirements, Hiroaki saw in East Pilbara that each local authority must adapt its operations to the situation at hand in order to give relevant services to local citizens.

On the last day of internship, on 2 September, Hiroaki attended the Art at the Heart opening exhibition. Yasuaki Onishi amazed the community at the unveiling of his art which featured an untitled piece made entirely of glue, suspended from fishing line and wire.

The artwork was constructed and installed on a local squash court. The artwork could be walked through and viewed from the rear, front, inside and from the viewing platform above. Hiroaki also took pride that a fellow Japanese person Japanese guy had made such a beautiful piece of art.

Hiroaki notes that his time in East Pilbara was an unforgettable experience. He sincerely appreciates the CEO's and Community Wellbeing division's assistance in making this internship a reality.



With Japanese artist Yasuaki Onishi (left)

Student exchange an eye-opening experience

~ Article and photos from Lismore City Council ~



*2015 Sister City Student Exchange Program participants
with students and teachers from Kadina High School*

Lismore once again played host to students from our Japanese sister city Yamato Takada this August as part of the 2015 Sister City Student Exchange Program.

Lismore and Yamato Takada have enjoyed a sister city relationship for 52 years and the exchange program is a fantastic way for young people from both countries to share one another's culture and experience new things.

The five students and their chaperone had a wonderful time exploring the Northern Rivers region, visiting local sights as diverse as our major water reservoir Rocky Creek Dam to our famous alternative capital, Nimbin.

The students also spent three days at a local secondary school, Kadina High School, where they got to try both ordinary and extraordinary Australian experiences, from making Anzac biscuits and lamingtons to undertaking science experiments with eucalyptus oil!

Members of Kadina High School's Japanese Club took the students under their wing, giving the Japanese visitors a taste of felting, farm agriculture (essentially patting baby chickens!) and photography.

"The students loved every minute of it... they made so many new friends, although I am sure they were tired once they got back home. We packed so much into 11 days!" laughed Lismore City Council's Michella Wade, who chaperoned the students during their stay.

"I think their exchange gave them insight into our culture, which is vastly different to theirs, and the fact they were hosted by local families meant they got a very personal experience of our family dynamics and lifestyle.

I definitely think it opened their eyes to a new world and gave them a different perspective on their own lives.

"For us as the chaperones and hosts, it was an absolute joy... they were so respectful and very willing to have a go at anything. We would have them back in a second!"

Students from Lismore will return the favour, travelling to Yamato Takada from 23 September to 2 October 2015 to experience all that Japanese culture has to offer.



*Yamato Takada students and their chaperone
on the 2015 Sister City Student Exchange Program
with Lismore City Council's Michella Wade*

Cairns to Japan Student Scholarship Program

~ Article and photos from Australia-Japan Society Far North Queensland ~

Once again in December / January during the high school Summer holidays, the **Australia-Japan Society FNQ** will again send two high school students from Cairns to study, speak, live, breath, eat and experience real home life in the amazing country of Japan.

At the end of August these two Cairns students and their parents were interviewed by a panel of AJS FNQ members and community members and were considered to be the most worthy candidates. This AJS program has been purposely modelled by **Makoto Kamatani Haynes**, the Scholarship Coordinator, as a **Cairns / Japan Sister City** program.



The two Scholarship recipients for 2015-16 are:

LUKE STEVENSON, (Left) and SCOTT ZAPPULLA (Right).

They will each travel to a different Cairns / Japan Sister City of **Minami Town in Tokushima** for Scott, with Luke travelling to **Oyama City, Tochigi**. Interestingly the two recipients of last year's scholarship were both young ladies.

The program package includes return travel air fares, transfers and accommodation, (if necessary) school meals and uniform if available, they will also study in a Japanese Junior High School for 2-3 weeks and home-stay with a local family for 4-5 weeks.

The two supporting Japanese councils also arrange traditional Japanese cultural activities and sports. The 2014-15 two students claimed the scholarship program was a life changing experience.

On their return the two students are encouraged to stay involved and volunteer with the AJS FNQ for the next 12 months and assisting with scholarship film and food fundraising events and the promotion of the next scholarship program. These two AJS ambassadors of Cairns will make new friends and further the special relationships with the Cairns / Japan Sister Cities, Minami Town & Oyama City. The AJS are very grateful for the contributions and support from the two Council Mayors and community in strengthening the valuable friendships.

Jeff Haynes – 0417 756 849 **Makoto Kamatani-Haynes** – 0405 144 533

President Student Scholarship Coordinator

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Australia - Japan Society FNQ Inc.



JETAA WA Activities ~ Article and photos from JETAA WA ~

JETAAWA has had a lot of things happening over the last few months, with attendance and participation continuing to be strong at our various events.



Julius Pang Photography

26 June: Outgoing JETs' Q&A and Sayonara Evening

This annual evening is a chance for the outgoing JETs to ask questions and chat about their concerns in an informal environment – this follows from the more formal orientation provided by the Japanese Consulate-General. This year we were happy to welcome all 17 of the outgoing WA participants, with almost everyone sticking around for ramen afterwards.

11 July: Annual Winter Matsuri

This annual event is our chance to take the Japanese community of Perth (including ourselves!) on a tour of the picturesque Swan Valley for a day of food and wine tasting, *natsukashii* bus activities and making new friends.



22 July: Outgoing JETs Reception



Julius Pang Photography

WA's new Consul-General, Mr Masanobu Yoshii, was kind enough to invite us to attend the formal reception for the outgoing JETs.

Aimi Bell gave a fantastic address on behalf of her fellow participants and we look forward to hearing about their experiences when they return.

8 August: Committee Chocolate Tasting



Julius Pang Photography

In 2015 JETAAWA is making a special effort to reward our fantastic committee of volunteers with extra activities – in August this was a special chocolate tasting with Nakamura Chocolates, a boutique chocolatier based in Perth.

17 September: Careers Night



Julius Pang Photography

The JETA AWA Careers Night has gone from strength to strength over the last couple of years, with over 80 attendees at our 2015 event at the University of Western Australia. We were once again most grateful to the speakers who came from industry, community and entrepreneurship to reflect on the opportunities that exist in relation to Japan. Many of them were also former JET participants, including members of our own committee, and it was great to see how their JET experience has shaped their future careers and personal development. Coming up in the next couple of months, we've got the Japanese Film Festival, *Hanami*, the World of Food Festival and more – we'll also be unpacking the *kakigori* machines for the sweltering WA summer (35 degrees today!), so lots on the horizon for the JET Alumni Association of WA.

Best wishes to all,

Will

Farewell Message



Petar Rajic

Research & Liaison Officer

The time has come for me to bid farewell to CLAIR Sydney after three years here as a Research and Liaison Officer. I am privileged to have met countless local government staff and elected representatives from Australia, New Zealand and Japan, all dedicated to the regions they proudly serve.

My work at CLAIR has helped me see the important role local government plays in all parts of Australia and New Zealand, often with limited and shrinking sources of revenue.

Among the many people I wish to thank, I must single out my long-time Director and mentor, Yasuhiko Tanabe, and his successor, Katsunori Kamibo, for giving me the opportunity to grow into my role, always providing new challenges to grasp, particularly with Australian political, economic and social policy analysis, helping contribute to local government policy debates in Japan.

To the Federal, State and Local Government staff I had the pleasure of meeting and discussing topics as far-reaching as refugee settlement policy, staff performance management, flexible working arrangements, and precinct committee coordination, I express my deep thanks for making my work informative, productive and enjoyable. Australian local government's relationship with Japan is a long and deep one, starting with the August 1963 Sister City Agreement between Lismore in New South Wales and Yamato Takada in Nara prefecture, developed with the help of Father Paul Glynn, an inspirational figure and pioneer of friendly post-war relations between the two countries. From this one seed, over 100 sister city and friendship city agreements, as well as sister school links, have grown, keeping the grassroots relationship between the two countries vibrant and ever-visible. Long may the links between Australia and Japan remain!

I wish many prosperous and healthy years to the readers of this newsletter, the many friends of CLAIR, and all those connected with Australia-New Zealand-Japan relations.

Thank you!

Petar Rajic CLAIR Sydney 10/2012-10/2015 (prajic@gmail.com)

Introducing Our New Staff



Jason Khoh

Research & Liaison Officer

G'day, this is Jason your new Research & Liaison Officer at CLAIR Sydney, taking over the reins from my very capable and good-humoured predecessor, Julian Ansart. I do hope this message finds you all well.

During my 11 years in Japan, I formed lifelong friendships with many wonderful and sincere people, visited countless breathtakingly beautiful places, and immersed myself in many unique cultural traditions.

I was fortunate to wear many different hats while in Japan as a university student, language/medical communications specialist, translator, and business-development manager.

I look forward to working with my colleagues and doing all I can to foster and develop meaningful and long-lasting relationships between the people of Japan and Australia/New Zealand.

Increased cooperation and understanding not only helps us in our day-to-day lives, but also helps to secure a bright future for future generations and our home, planet Earth.

From the Director

2 - School sports day in Japan - A Year of Local Governments in Japan

In Japan, the hot and humid summer has gone, and now October is the best month to participate in many different kinds of sports. Health Sports Day is a national holiday observed on the second Monday in October, chosen as it was the opening day of the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. As a result, many schools in Japan choose to hold school sports day in October.

Popular events at school sports day include running races, obstacle courses, tug-of-war, mock cavalry battles (where students ride on the backs of others), and the final main event, the relay race. Typically, ball games are not part of the day's events.

The school sports day is not only a festival for the school but also for the community as a whole. Schools, especially primary schools, play a central role in communities and municipalities. The students' parents and other people often attend.

Western-style education was introduced in Japan around 140 years ago. Municipalities set up primary schools and, in a sense, school administration was and still is a fundamental task of Japanese local governments. The Japanese greatly respect and understand the importance of sound education. Although running a school is one duty of the board of education, most mayors attend and speak at school sports days and other school-related events, underlining the importance of schools and education. Primary schools (years 1-6) and junior high schools (years 7-9) are mostly operated by municipalities. Senior high schools (years 10-12) are managed at a prefectural level.