



This issue includes:

1-2 Festivals around Japan

3 Supporting Nagoya at the 2016 Sydney Running Festival

3 Supporting Toyota city's activities

4 National Federation of Australia Japan Societies Conference

4 2016 Municipal Association of Vic (MAV) Conference

5 Building valuable friendship between Cairns & Japan

6 JETAA Queensland Activities

7 From the Director

Festivals around Japan: Vol. 12 Hiroshima

Peace Arch Hiroshima Project

- A message of peace through music from Hiroshima to the world -



Hiroshima – a symbol of peace

Hiroshima is internationally known as a symbol of recovery and peace. The Peace Arch Hiroshima Project aims to send a strong message of peace from Hiroshima to the world through music as the universal “language”, and create a system that continuously supports peace promotion activities.

Through this project, Hiroshima hopes to lead the way when it comes to promoting the need for a globally connected and sustainable society based on a new way of living in true peace and a new vision for society in order to preserve the future for generations to come. For world peace to truly happen, Hiroshima seeks to become an “International Peace Hub” that promotes world peace by connecting people around the world, encouraging people to think together about common issues and creating a global community for peace.

Ms. Martha Argerich agrees with us



As you may know, Ms. Martha Argerich is a world-famous pianist. The Chairperson of the Peace Arch Hiroshima Executive Committee (the Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture) awarded her the *Hiroshima Peace Prize*, which is for musicians who made the greatest contribution to sending out Hiroshima’s message of peace to the world.

She was praised for playing at *An Evening of Peace Concert 2015* with the Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra, which has a mission of *music for peace*.

The concert and her message of peace was widely

reported by the press. Ms. Argerich said, "I’m very proud to be part of this contribution to the Peace Music Project in Hiroshima. It’s the best possible place to start peace and music."

It's never too late to join us! You can watch our concerts on the web!

The Project consisted of three concerts this year. Approximately 4,000 people came to see the concerts. We were able to provide the audience with an opportunity to reconsider world peace through music.

One of our objectives is to spread a message of peace from Hiroshima to the world, and to produce content that attracts large audiences. We are uploading clips of these concerts on our website that will be available to stream from 17 October for free!

1 Classical Music Concert

The Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra, Polish Orchestra and a Japanese pianist—who was a finalist of the *2015 Chopin International Piano Competition* —performed together on stage. Is classical music boring? Long winded? Not at all! These pieces are hauntingly beautiful and stunning.



PROGRAM

- Chopin Piano Concerto No. 1 in E Minor, Op 11
- Beethoven Symphony No. 9 in D Minor, Op 125 (with chorus)

2 Requiem Concert

A pianist from Hiroshima, Ms. Mami Hagiwara, performed on a piano that survived the atomic bomb in front of the Peace Memorial Dome. Gentle piano sounds, in front of a monument of peace, create the most peaceful moment.



PROGRAM

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| -Bach-Gounod | Ave Maria |
| -Schumann | Arabesque |
| -Schumann-Liszt | Widmung |

3 Local Artists Concert



This was a three-part concert featuring many genres performed by artists who play mainly in Hiroshima or were selected through public invitation.

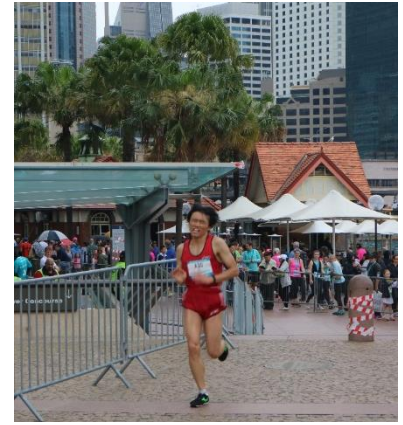
Several different types of musical instruments, such as a Japanese harp (koto), drums, gamelans and a synthesizer, created a harmony for peace. All performers improvised together to produce this sound which is rich in originality and talent!

For more information, please visit the PEACE ARCH HIROSHIMA website. You don't want to miss it!

Nagoya city support at the 2016 Sydney Running Festival

On 18 September, over 33,000 runners took part in the Sydney Marathon and other events at the 2016 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 full and half marathon. One of them, Mr Taiki Ito, who came 11th in the men's full marathon, and the other runner, Ms Mirai Jinno, who is a high school student and completed the half marathon inside her target time, commented that she had fun and enjoyed the beautiful sites of Sydney during her run.



The following day, both of them made a courtesy call to the City of Sydney where they met with Councilor Robert Kok. He praised the continuous marathon relationship following the sister marathon agreement in 2012. Prior to the race (September 14-17), 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 event is one of the most popular overseas marathons for Japanese with more than 600 Japanese entries out of the total 33,000 participants.



Toyota city members' visit to Australia

On 30 September, the members of the special committee of the assembly of Toyota-city, which is going to hold the 2019 Rugby World Cup games, visited our office during their business trip to Australia and New Zealand. We presented them with the outline of the Australian public administration system and related that to the 2000 Sydney Olympics and the 2003 and 2011 Rugby World Cup.



They were interested in the costs and benefits in holding such big sports events and we explained that the effects on civic-pride and participation in sports were enormous although it was very difficult to calculate a concrete figure. We also proposed to promote Toyota-city through English brochures and our webpage.

National Federation of Australia Japan Societies Conference



On 2 - 3 September, the National Federation of Australia Japan Societies Conference was held in Cairns QLD. This organisation is made up of 16 different groups whose activities promote mutual understanding between Australia and Japan throughout all the states and territories of Australia. The themes for this conference were 'New opportunities in the Australia-Japan relationship' and 'Cities, communities and collaborations'.

Mr Murray Mclean AO who is the chairman of the Australia Japan Foundation and former Australian Ambassador to Japan made a speech about the opportunities for Australia and Japan working together. And then Ms Wendy Holdenson who is Director and Chief Operating Officer Mitsui (Australia) Limited made a speech about how Mitsui are meeting the rapid changes in today's global business environment and lessons for the Australia Japan relationship.

We made a presentation on sister-city relationships and the JET program. After that Mr Richard Wilding, President of JETAA QLD, made a presentation on JETAA's activities. The National Federation of Australia Japan Societies presented JETAA Australia with a certificate in recognition for JETAA chapters' activities promoting Australia-Japan ties and to celebrate the JET Program's 30th anniversary.



2016 Municipal Association of Vic (MAV) Annual Conference

On 8 September, CLAIR Sydney staff attended the 2016 MAV Annual Conference and official dinner in Melbourne. The conference discussed a number of pertinent issues affecting the state overall and how to attract more people to regional areas of Victoria not just Melbourne.



CLAIR had a booth at the event where we introduced CLAIR's activities and promoted Japanese tourism.

We were glad to also have the opportunity to exchange opinions and information with many Mayors and Councillors whose cities have sister-city ties with Japan.



Building valuable friendship between Cairns & Japan since Nov 1981

~ Article & photos from Australia Japan Society Far North Queensland ~



During the recent 2016 NFAJS Conference held in Cairns, the AJS FNQ introduced the Japanese 'Not for profit' group, "Smile with Kids". (SWK) <http://www.smilewithkids.com.au/>

The AJS FNQ partnered with SWK during 2015 and worked together on joint fundraising events for the AJS Student Scholarship and the SWK organisation. **Maki McCarthy the President of SWK** gave an interesting presentation during Day 2 and the Conference and community session, of *why and what* is SWK. There was an **Anniversary & Celebration Dinner** held at the Cairns Pacific Int. Hotel on the Saturday night with a specially made **Clair Jet Program 30th Anniversary** and the **Australia-Japan Foundation 40th Anniversary**. There was a cake cutting ceremony of the delicious Anniversary Cake. The AJS FNQ also donated several items for the **SWK Fun / Fundraising Auction** of bottles of Sake, locally made sweets from 'Stillwater' and more.



The generous dinner attendees seemed to have a lot of fun with cross-bidding for the ten or so items which raised over \$1000.00 for the SWK organisation. The **Vice President AJS FNQ, Jeff Haynes** as the dinner auctioneer was extremely pleased with the result as was Maki McCarthy of SWK.



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JETAA Queensland Activities

~ Article & photos from President Richard Wilding, JETAA Queensland ~

March: Griffith University Gold Coast Careers Fair

Members of JETAA and CLAIR spent a busy day introducing the JET Programme to students at the Gold Coast campus of Griffith University. The Japanese language department there is a continual source of fantastic JET participants, so it was great to have the opportunity to spread the word. Thanks to Tomohiro Koike of CLAIR, Sydney, for making the trip up to the Gold Coast to help us out.

May: Members Dinner and Riverside Picnic

Our autumn dinner at Bishamon gave a chance for members to meet the new committee while sharing some great sukiyaki and shabu shabu. We followed this up with a family-friendly picnic at Rocks Riverside Park by the Brisbane River. This year again, some of the new JET participants joined us for both events.

August: Trivia Afternoon



I had the chance This year's trivia event was at a new venue in West End: The Catchment Brewing Co.. We spent the afternoon in a room filled with retro charm, sampling craft beers and fingerfood, while enjoying testing our wits against our formidable quizmasters, Keith and Ken Parker. A big thank you to CLAIR for providing a challenging round of questions on the history of JET Programme to mark the 30th anniversary!

September: National Federation of Australia-Japan Societies Conference

I had the chance in early September to attend the AJS annual conference in Cairns as a guest of both the National Federation and CLAIR. The Saturday session of the proceedings focused on community groups with a panel on sister city relationships and presentations from schools and James Cook University. The general trend in the educational discussions was a demonstration of the continuing popularity of Japanese language and culture studies in the region.

I had the opportunity to present aspects of the life and work of a JET in Japan and was overwhelmed by the huge interest in the programme from teachers who attended the conference. Connections were made and we are planning school visits by our alumni living in Cairns. We were also entertained by demonstrations of kendo, taiko drumming and the soran dance by local high school students. I also had the great honour to represent all the Australian JETAA chapters in accepting an award celebrating the work that we do in promoting Australia-Japan relations in the community.



From the Director

12 – Two Tokyo Olympics - A Year of Local Governments in Japan

The exciting Rio Olympic Games concluded in late August and team Japan's triumphant return parade was held in Ginza, Tokyo on 7 October with an audience of almost eight hundred thousand people. The next Olympics will be set in Tokyo in 2020.

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, 10 October. The Japanese remember the date because epoch-making infrastructure to accommodate the games was put in place at the time, such as the *Shinkansen* bullet trains, metropolitan expressways and many world class hotels. Thus the approaching Tokyo Olympics remind the Japanese of the effect of the 1964 Olympic Games which signified the recovery from the disaster of WW II and Japan's reentry into the group of developed nations.

Although Japan is struggling to recover from the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake in time for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, we Japanese welcome the next Olympics Games not only in Tokyo but in every region. Many local governments want to invite various sports organisations to train in their local governments whilst promoting their relationships with foreign countries.

Why are we so passionate about the 2020 Tokyo Olympics you might ask? In short, it is because we have splendid memories of the 1964 Tokyo Olympics and we are the most enthusiastic fans of the Games and eagerly look forward to inviting athletes and spectators from all over the world to witness the heated competition alongside us.

Katsunori Kamibo
Director