

Season's Greetings And Best wishes for 2017

This issue includes:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Local Cuisine around Japan | 7 Kobe City Delegation |
| 2 Nagoya City's Courtesy Call to Sydney Town Hall | 8 Joetsu City Delegation |
| 3 Taronga Zoo's Centenary Celebration | 8 Shizuoka Prefetural Assembly Delegation |
| 3 JETAA Oceania Conference | 9 JETAA Australia Representative – Mr Eden Law |
| 4 The Annual General Meeting of the AJS NSW | 10 Supporting Chiba Prefecture |
| 4 Research on City Planning in Melbourne | 10 JET Programme Returnees Reception |
| 5 JET Programme's 30 th Anniversary Event | 11 Japan Festival Wellington |
| 6 Busselton – RIKAI(Understanding) Exhibition | 11 Representing JETAA New Zealand in Tokyo
– Ms Raewyn MacGregor |
| 7 Careers in Language Fair - Japanese | 13 From the Director |
| 7 Sydney Lord Mayor's Christmas Reception | |

Local Cuisine around Japan: Vol. 2 Kurihara

Cuisine is the best way to know the region

Kurihara's cuisine is mostly famous for a mochi dish which is mainly eaten during times of celebration. Mochi is a Japanese rice cake made of mochigome rice. There are a variety of mochi dishes in the Kurihara region. A few decades ago, mochi was an extravagant cuisine loved by children.

Kurihara Tourism Network Food Research Group has researched Kurihara's local dishes, how to cook them, their ingredients, the best season to eat certain foods, and other such food-related topics for three years.



We realized that Kurihara actually has a rich regional history after researching these local dishes. For example, mochi dishes were eaten 70 days a year before the Edo Period. During most of the Edo period, half of the total rice distributed in Edo (current-day Tokyo) was transported from Sendai Date Domain (currently Miyagi pref.), including the Kurihara region. This meant that a lot of Kurihara residents didn't have enough rice because Sendai Domain bought most of their rice to sell in Edo. The farmers thought they could eat more rice if they make offerings of mochi to their ancestors. Therefore, Kurihara's people had a lot of opportunity to eat mochi dishes.



Our food culture, recipes, and traditional customs have been handed down from our ancestors to us. They made various improvements to culinary techniques depending on the times. In addition, our regional food culture has many original and ingenious ways to satisfy one's hunger, such as a snack called *kate-shoku*, which is eaten while working in the fields. Various non-perishable foods were also invented.

We summarized our research findings in a book and introduced them at cooking classes and events. We would like to tell people about our city through our food culture, and we look forward to sharing our traditional values such as home cooking with as many people as possible.

Nagoya City's Courtesy Call to Sydney Town Hall

On 2 November, the Deputy Mayor of Nagoya City and Representatives of Nagoya City Assembly visited Sydney to celebrate Taronga Zoo's 100th anniversary and paid a courtesy call to Sydney Town Hall, supported by CLAIR, Sydney.

At the courtesy visit, the City of Nagoya congratulated Sydney on the 100th anniversary of Taronga Zoo and showed their appreciation for last year's 35th anniversary celebrations of the sister-city relationship. They also passed on the message of gratitude from Higashiyama Zoo for the koalas given by Taronga Zoo to mark the zoos'30-year relationship in 2014. City of Sydney



Councillor Jess Scully met with the delegation and she thought it was wonderful that both cities constantly keep in touch and maintain friendly relations through animal exchanges and marathon participation.

Moreover, they exchanged their thoughts on how to prioritise eco-friendly policies in both cities. While acknowledging Sydney's plans to

reduce greenhouse emissions, the Deputy Mayor of Nagoya, Mr Teruo Shinkai, expressed his hope that Nagoya would also become more eco-friendly as it traditionally focused its efforts on transport infrastructure (wide roads, etc) as a city renowned for its automotive industry.

Taronga Zoo's Centenary Celebration



On the evening of 2 November, Taronga Zoo's Centenary Celebration Dinner was held by the City of Nagoya and Nagoya City Assembly at the Tea Room, a popular place to relax in the CBD of Sydney. Guests included Mr. Cameron Kerr, Chief Executive and Director of Taronga, Mr Keizo Takewaka, Consul-General of Japan in Sydney and other VIP guests of Taronga Zoo, Sydney Council and the Sydney-Nagoya Sister City Committee. In all, about 50 people attended. The participants had a great time and also enjoyed a film on the 32-year-old history of animal exchanges between Taronga Zoo and Higashiyama Zoo, which started with Taronga Zoo donating two koalas to Higashiyama Zoo.

Moreover, Dr David Butcher, the Chair of the Sydney- Nagoya Sister City Committee was given an award by Mr Keizo Takewaka for promoting mutual understanding and deepening the friendship between Australia and Japan.



Dr Butcher, in fact, was responsible for transporting the first two koalas to Japan. He has devoted himself to strengthening the relationship between Australia and Japan and was deeply involved in the 35th sister-city anniversary between Sydney and Nagoya and homestay for Nagoya high school students whilst they were in Australia.

JETAA Oceania Conference

On 12-13 November, the JETAA Oceania Conference was held in Canberra, Australia.

In this annual conference, all JETAA chapters in Australia and New Zealand assemble to share information and discuss how JETAA can help solve issues associated with the JET Programme.

Participants from JETAA chapters made videos to advertise the JET Programme on the first day's session (we



will post these videos on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/clair.syd/>).

In addition, each chapter's representatives made a presentation on how to vitalize their JETAA activities (e.g. managing the chapter, recruiting new JETAA members and so on).

Also Mr Eden Law and Ms Raewyn McGregor, JETAA Australia and New Zealand country representatives suggested with other country representatives to share their ideas for JETAA activities.

As a result of this Conference, we hope JETAA will be more active in the future as we believe this will contribute to better relationships between Australia, New Zealand and Japan.



The Annual General Meeting of the Australia Japan Society of NSW

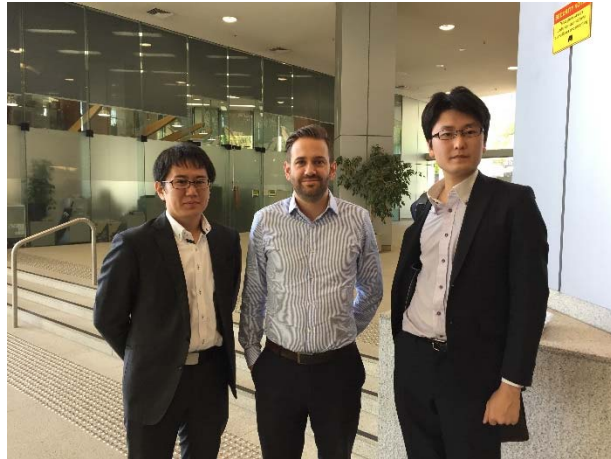
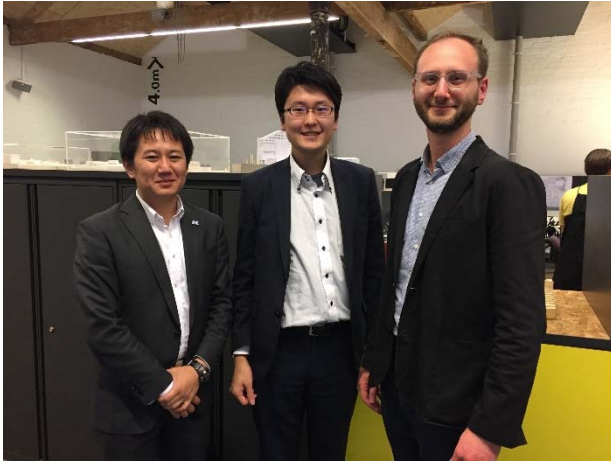
On 22 November, the Annual General Meeting of the Australia Japan Society (AJS) of NSW was held in Sydney. The President of AJS made a speech to welcome members and discussions were held on a variety of different topics like the Treasurer's report and financial statements. An election for office bearers as well as board members for the coming year was also held. After the meeting, we got a chance to network with AJS members. We were glad to be able to exchange opinions and information with a lot of people who work in many different types of industries that support the friendly relations between Japan and Australia.

Research on City Planning in Melbourne

On 3-4 November, CLAIR conducted research on city planning in Melbourne and met with the following organisations:

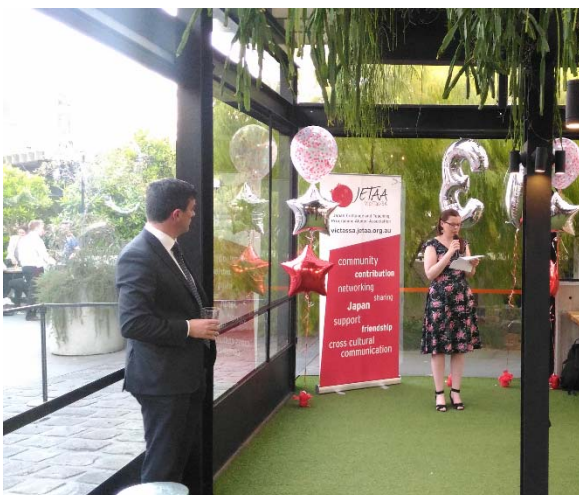
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning of Victoria State Government
- Places Victoria
- RMIT
- MGS Architects

As a result, we now have a better understanding of Melbourne 2030 and PLAN MELBOURNE, particularly in terms of compact city planning in Melbourne. We really appreciate all interviewees for providing information. We plan to write a report on this topic.



JET Programme's 30th Anniversary Event

On 4 November, the JET Programme's 30th Anniversary event was held by JETAA Victoria/Tasmania/South Australia in Melbourne. Mr Battin, Shadow Minister for Emergency Services & for the Environment of Victoria, Ms Libbis, the president of JETAA Vic/Tas/SA, and Mr Suzuki, Assistant Director at CLAIR Sydney, made speeches at the beginning of the event. It was a really good opportunity for attendees to network and talk about their individual JET experiences. We will continue to strive to work together to ensure the ongoing success of the JET Programme.



Busselton – RIKAI(Understanding) Exhibition

Exhibition of Japanese artefacts at ArtGeo Gallery Busselton

- Article submitted by Busselton, sister city of Sugito in Saitama



Western Australia's new Japanese Consul General Mr Tatsuo Hirayama and his wife Mrs Sachiko Hirayama officially opened the art exhibition RIKAI (understanding) a Japanese art exhibition at Art Geo Gallery, Busselton on Saturday 5 November. The exhibition is one of many events created to mark the 20th anniversary of Busselton's Sister City relationship with Sugito in Japan.

The exhibition featured an eclectic mix of Japanese art forms, including woodblock prints, traditional kimonos and ikebana-inspired floral pieces arranged by the Bunbury Flower Designers Club.

The woodblock prints by renowned master printmaker Hiroshi Tomihari (b. 1936) were gifted to the City of Busselton by the artist.

"It's fitting that some of Tomihari's work be on show as part of the Sister City anniversary celebrations because the initial sister city discussions began when he visited Busselton as a guest of the Rotary Club to run a printmaking workshop," said ArtGeo Complex Coordinator Diana McGirr.

Tomihari has been named a National Treasure in Japan and his work is represented in major European galleries.

The exhibition also included a selection of intricate Kimonos and Obis, some of which have also been gifted to the City of Busselton. Among them are children's and wedding kimonos.



"We were so thrilled to have had this exhibition at ArtGeo Gallery as part of the Busselton and Sugito 20th Anniversary Celebrations" said Pauline Vukelic, President of the Busselton and Sugito Sister Cities Association. "It was the perfect way to launch the year-long celebration of our special relationship with the people of Sugito."

CLAIR at Careers in Language Fair—Japanese



On 9 November, CLAIR Sydney’s Research and Liaison Officer, Jason Khoh, was invited to take part in a panel discussion at the Careers in Language Fair – Japanese (Bryan Brown Theatre, Bankstown) with UNSW Innovations’ Joshua Flannery and ABC Radio’s Eleni Psaltis to discuss the types of opportunities that exist for students and recent graduates who have Japanese language skills. It was great to be able to share ideas with these two outstanding professionals, hear what the other panellists had to say in other sessions, and most importantly, speak with the students afterwards. It was a good opportunity to spread the word about the JET Program and internship opportunities that exist here at CLAIR Sydney.

CLAIR at the City of Sydney Lord Mayor’s Christmas Reception



On 22 November, CLAIR Sydney was invited to attend Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore’s Christmas Reception at Sydney Town Hall. During the reception we caught up with members of the Sydney-Nagoya Sister City Committee, including President Mr David Butcher.

Lord Mayor gave a speech highlighting all the work that the City of Sydney has done in the past year with a strong emphasis on business and the environment. CLAIR Sydney looks forward to more collaborations with Lord Mayor and the City of Sydney in the coming year and beyond.



Kobe City Delegation

On 29 November, a delegation from Kobe City visited our office and we exchanged ideas and information about local disaster management in both Australia and Japan. The delegation is currently conducting

research on local disaster management in several countries for Kobe Institute of Urban Research to help motivate younger generations to participate in local disaster management.

After visiting the CLAIR Sydney office, the delegation visited organisations such as the NSW State Emergency Service, the Rural Fire Service Queensland, and also the University of Queensland.

Joetsu City Delegation

On 29th November, Ms Mayumi Nakabayashi, a delegate from Joetsu city to Cowra council, visited our office after her official visit to the council came to an end. We made a presentation outlining Australia and the structure of the Australian local government for her.

Joetsu City and Cowra have a long-standing friendship agreement and resumed their staff exchange program this year. Ms Nakabayashi's visit marks the recommencement of the program and she stayed at Cowra for the latter half of November.

We hope this exchange will strengthen the goodwill and friendship not only between the two cities but also between Australia and Japan.



Shizuoka Prefectural Assembly Delegation

On 10 November, CLAIR Sydney supported the activities of the Shizuoka Prefectural Assembly Delegation relating to industrial development and sports. The delegation visited Sydney to inspect Sydney Olympic Park and Dunc Gray Velodrome (venue for cycling events at the 2000 Sydney Olympics), as Shizuoka Prefecture will be the hosts for cycling events at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Staff members of CLAIR Sydney accompanied the delegation and provided information on Sydney.



JETAA Australia Representative—Mr Eden Law

Did you know that JETAA has 52 active chapters across the globe, in 15 countries? On Nov 6-7 2016, a landmark meeting of 14 JETAA Country Representatives was held in Tokyo - the first in three years for the new JETAAI (JET Alumni Association International) committee.

As a bit of background, months of discussion and planning took place in restructuring the new and hopefully improved JETAAI chapter. As the representative for Australia, I had the opportunity to participate in the international discussions and planning, which included creating new by-laws for JETAAI and the JET Declaration, a memorandum that stated the purpose and direction for JETs and JETAA, which was formally read and presented at the 30th Anniversary Ceremony.

The two-day event saw delegates discuss challenges and issues common to all chapters, and ways that the global community could collaborate, strengthen ties, and provide support for each other, especially smaller chapters that would face additional challenges of growing and establishing themselves in their local communities (as a side-note, we welcomed the addition of the newest chapter, Trinidad & Tobago at the international meeting). CLAIR also updated us with news and developments – which included the possibility that the Satogaeri Project may be continued annually. Representatives from AJET were also present, adding their voice to the table, and calling for closer ties that will link current JETs with their home country's chapters.

We also met and discussed with the Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games on how JET and JETAA could be involved (e.g. promotion and support). In addition, as the new Webmaster for JETAAI, I presented and lead a discussion on JETAAI website (<http://www.jetaainternational.org/>), and in general about the use of online and social media.

The conference ended with the 30th Anniversary Commemorative Ceremony and Reception, which took place in Keio Plaza Hotel – a nostalgic return for many of us – and saw speeches from CLAIR, the Ministries of MIC, MEXT and MOFA, including from the Imperial Highness, the Crown Prince Naruhito, with Crown Princess Masako also in attendance. Incredibly, we were then granted a private, meet-and-greet session with the royal couple – an experience which was quite an amazing one that I am unlikely to forget. Prizes were also given out for 30th anniversary competitions held throughout the year, with the top prize for video being won by an Australian JET (go Aussie!).

From one conference, to another – it was the turn of JETAA Oceania conference (Canberra, Nov 12-13th). Always good to be on home ground, as the seven chapters of Australia and New Zealand got together to discuss ideas relating to the 30th anniversary, specifically, on future-proofing chapters to remain relevant and dynamic, exchanging tips on holding better events, and of course, reaffirming the bond between the collective chapters of our two nations. With that in mind, I would like to convey on behalf of the Australian JETAA community, our well wishes and regards for the safety and well-being of our JETAA cousins, after the occurrence of the recent earthquake in New Zealand.

Conferences such as these (while exhausting) are a great way for JETAA members to get a sense of the community that they are part of, and to be inspired by the spirit of camaraderie that comes from having had a shared experience. Having being part of the international meeting made me realise that the JET Programme has moved beyond just being an exchange programme, with far-reaching consequences and influence, as we can be found at all walks of life, in every occupation and in every industry. While recognition and exposure of JET vary considerably in every country, the opportunities afforded by being part of the alumni association is unique. Once a JET, always a JET – so get involved with your local chapter. You never know what awaits you.



Supporting Chiba Prefecture

On 2 November, staff from Chiba Prefectural government's Tourism Promotion division visited CLAIR Sydney. They are currently working on the promotion of educational tours and school exchange programs, and they gave us a detailed explanation of their current situation. As the prefecture has been conducting educational tours for some time now, we suggested that it would be more effective to promote activities such as Japanese cultural experience packages and to foster wide ranging cooperation with adjacent cities in Chiba that could possibly become new destinations for future exchange programs.



JET Programme Returnees Reception

On 17 November, CLAIR Sydney attended the JET Programme Returnees Reception and Career Event which was held by JETAA Vic/Tas/SA. During the Career Event, which was held right before the reception, JETAA members gave the JET returnees advice about job hunting. Ms Haneda, Consul-General of Japan in



Melbourne; Ms Graley, Parliamentary Secretary for Education of Victoria; Mr Battin, Shadow Minister for Emergency Services & for the Environment of Victoria; Mr Angus, Shadow Parliamentary Secretary to the Shadow Treasurer; and Ms Libbis, the President of JETAA Vic/Tas/SA, made speeches to start off the reception. After that, the JET returnees introduced themselves and Mr Crang made a speech on behalf of all of them. Also, Mr Kamibo, the Director of CLAIR Sydney, made a speech and encouraged the returnees to join JETAA.

Japan Festival Wellington



On 26 November, CLAIR Sydney ran a booth at the Japan Festival Wellington in Wellington City, New Zealand. This event is held by Wellington City Council, Asia New Zealand Foundation and the Embassy of Japan in New Zealand every two years to promote Japanese culture such as food, calligraphy, Rakugo (Japanese traditional comedy) and Wadaiko (Japanese drums) .

By distributing travel brochures, CLAIR Sydney promoted a number of Japanese regional localities like Sakai City, which has a sister-city relationship with Wellington. We also introduced people who

have an interest in working in regional Japanese to the JET Programme.

We'd like to thank Sister Cities New Zealand for helping us on the day; thanks to their support, our booth was full of visitors.

Representing JETAA New Zealand in Tokyo – Ms Raewyn McGregor

At 2015's JETAA Oceania conference Fukukawa-san, Executive Consultant at CLAIR HQ in Tokyo indicated that country representatives would be called in Tokyo in November 2016 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the JET Programme. I wasn't sure if I believed that it would ever actually happen. Some months later, Okamoto-san, Chairman of the Board of Directors at CLAIR HQ, indicated that this event may have royalty

involved. I nearly fell off my chair. I didn't fully believe it at the time but all of that did happen and then some.

On 25 October 2016, I departed on a journey that would remind me that, yes, New Zealand is where I belong and yes, Japan is a part of me. I got lost in Nihombashi that night as one sometimes does on one's return home after a long period of time away—six years and two months and nineteen days to be exact.

I visited Matsuyama, where I have never been before. I also visited Hiroshima's brand new Orizuru Tower and Miyajima. But for me the most important piece of the puzzle came next. I returned home to Takaoka, to the Okonomiyaki shop that became my Takaoka family. Auntie Ayumi and Uncle Yacchin will forever hold a place my heart. I was welcomed back with open arms, given food and a bed for the weekend. The Toyama Marathon was on and there were no hotel beds left in Takaoka but they wanted to make sure that I could come home. I had dinner with my old teachers and found out that not many of us keep in touch. It seemed strange to me that I was back there and that I wasn't going home to the Shinkai Residence Apartments. But it was amazing to be home. The same feelings came with a return to my host family's house in Kashiba, Nara. My Japanese friends were all so warm and welcoming about my return.



The JETAA international meeting was a chance for country representatives to meet each other and talk through some of the issues the JET Programme faces, how alumni can better support those currently on JET, and how the international JET community can get behind things like the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics and more relevant to New Zealand's interests, how we can support Japan as they host the Rugby World Cup in 2019.



The 30th Anniversary Ceremony and Reception after the international meeting was a chance for us to celebrate everything we have achieved over the past 30 years. The JET community really came into its own after the 2011 earthquakes that affected New Zealand and Japan. The JET Programme contributed to the support both countries give each other in times of great need. Friends come to the aid of friends and it's believed that JET has contributed to our countries coming closer together because we know each other on a grassroots level. The Crown Prince spoke of these connections in his speech and it was an honour to talk to him about the beauty of both countries at a private welcome before the big reception.

At the reception, I met the New Zealand Ambassador to Japan and introduced him to CLAIR Chairman Okamoto-san. They talked at length in Japanese about how CLAIR and New Zealand can work together.

It seemed like they wanted to work together to support the Rugby World Cup as JETs and as New Zealanders, amongst other things like increasing the number of New Zealand JETs to Japan, despite New Zealand being one of the highest groups per capita on the programme. I expressed my concern to both that some prefectures only have one lonely kiwi. This is something we plan to work on in the future.



The highlights of this trip were returning and reconnecting with friends and “family” in Japan, seeing Kiwi JETs in their element, and talking about the JET Programme in general. The trip reaffirmed my passion for the programme and the importance of leaving one’s comfort zone for a land where linguistically and culturally you are in a very different place. The JET Programme is in good shape and I hope to continue to build on the relationships established on this trip for the programme’s future.

From the Director

14 – Anti-crime and Fire-prevention Activities –

A Year of Local Governments in Japan

December is the last month of the year and we Japanese are busy preparing for the New Year because New Year celebrations are the most anticipated event throughout Japan, much like Christmas in Western countries. Every Japanese person wants to wear new clothes for Hatsumode (the first visit to a shrine in the New Year) and have Osechi-ryori, a traditional Japanese meal, specially prepared for the New Year which often consists of lobsters, kazunoko (herring roe) and other foods.

Thieves also want to get money to prepare for their New Year so the number of robberies increases in December. Moreover December is a cold, dry and windy season in Japan, especially on the Pacific Ocean side, and the risk of fire multiplies dramatically.

As such, Japanese people have, for many years, been aware of the heightened risk of theft and fire damage, with many local neighbourhood associations voluntarily participating in anti-crime and fire-prevention activities. Japanese local governments and police support these activities by participating in them and providing financial assistance.

Neighbourhood associations organise groups that walk around their towns every night chanting ‘Hi no youjin!’ (Be careful with fire!) and beating wooden clappers, since fire is the most dangerous hazard in Japanese towns as many of our houses are made primarily of wood. At the same time, they also look out for suspicious characters and/or activities.

Thus it can be said that the very low rate of crime in Japan is, in part, maintained by the voluntary cooperation of our residents.

YOI OTOSHI WO! Have a great 2017!

Katsunori Kamibo

Director