



# Happy New Year 2017!



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## 2017 CLAIR Forum

CLAIR and UTS:CLG cordially invite you to this year's CLAIR Forum

### *"Regional Activation"*

Date: **Wednesday 22 February**

Time: **1:30pm to 5:20pm**

Venue: **Junee Athenium Theatre**

89 Broadway St, Junee, NSW 2663

*Light refreshments will be provided and entry is free of charge*

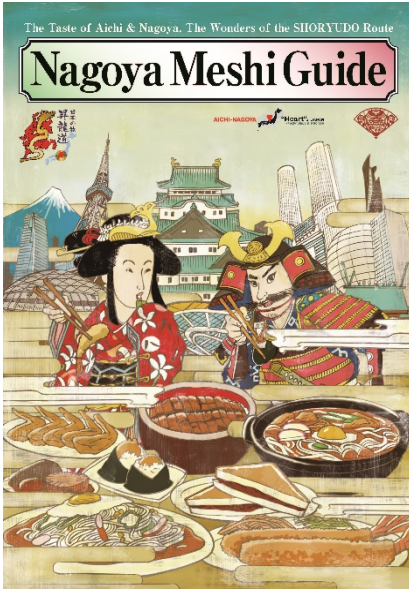


For registration, please [click here](#) and follow the instructions

(URL: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/2017-clair-forum-tickets-30315280821>)

# Local Cuisine around Japan: Vol. 3 Nagoya

## *Nagoya Meshi, Our Food Culture and Pride*



A long time ago, brave samurai heroes lived in the Aichi-Nagoya region. These samurai brought soybean miso—a food unique to the region—as rations for battle.

“Soybean Miso Culture” was passed down from the samurai times, and led to the local cuisine of Aichi-Nagoya known as “Nagoya Meshi.”

The slow maturation of soybean miso produces a thick and savory umami taste, which has come to be an indispensable flavour to the people of Aichi-Nagoya. The preference for this taste has given birth to much of our local cuisine, known as Nagoya Meshi.

Today, the popularity for Nagoya Meshi has spread across Japan as demand continues to grow.

The local governments of Aichi Prefecture and Nagoya City have joined together to form the “Nagoya Meshi PR Council” in an effort to spread the delicious taste of Nagoya Meshi outside of Japan and to the whole world.

The Nagoya Meshi PR Council has developed a website and brochure introducing you to Nagoya Meshi. We hope you enjoy learning about Nagoya Meshi and share this discovery with your friends.

Nagoya Meshi is the cuisine to satisfy your hunger and taste buds. We invite all to Nagoya to try our delicious Nagoya Meshi.

For more information, please visit the Nagoya Meshi PR Council website (English):

URL: [http://nagoya-meshi.jp/index\\_en.html](http://nagoya-meshi.jp/index_en.html)



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# Internship in Invercargill, New Zealand

From 28 November to 2 December, Assistant Director Tomohiro Koike visited the Invercargill City Council in New Zealand for his internship.

During his internship, he met with Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Richard King and several Directors, gaining insights from them about a host of topics including community service, tourism policy and industrial promotion.



Invercargill city is situated at the southern end of the New Zealand South Island and has a population of 52,000 people and is a sister city of Kumagaya City in Saitama Prefecture. Tomohiro noted the strong sense of connection Invercargill has with Japan as both cities share an active high school exchange programme through their sister schools.

Tomohiro learnt a lot about historic buildings in Invercargill City and their management through his internship. Historic buildings (Heritage Buildings) are often found in cities and serve as popular tourist attractions. Many citizens see the value in such historical sites and believe that it is desirable to preserve them. However, the Building (Earthquake-prone Buildings) Act in New Zealand was amended in May 2016 and it became necessary to fix reinforcement and reinstatement in buildings corresponding to each category of earthquake risk as described in the Act. Because the owner of the building will shoulder the cost of reinforcing and restoring heritage buildings, Tomohiro understood that it is difficult to coordinate with the owners who have to rebuild and reinforce their property and want their expenses subsidised.



Tomohiro also managed to learn more about solid waste disposal and recycling as it is one of the basic duties of the municipalities in New Zealand. Solid waste disposal is classified into two types: general waste and recyclables. Each households' bins are collected once a week, and recyclable items are collected twice a month. Unlike Japan, general waste is not incinerated, landfill processing is done, and waste that can be recycled is separated and recycled at the recycling separation centre and exported or reused as resources.

Tomohiro also noted that there are shops that collect and sell unused items. Such stores are unique and sell a variety of random everyday appliances such as remote controls for television sets, the front baskets of bicycles, clothes, electric appliances and much more.





Aluminium smelting is the largest industry in Invercargill. New Zealand Aluminium Smelter (NZAS), a subsidiary of Australian companies and Japanese companies (Sumitomo Chemicals) is producing aluminium products near ports in the suburbs of Invercargill. Raw bauxite is imported from Australia. The production of aluminium requires a lot of electricity, so the electricity is

covered by using a dedicated transmission line from a neighbouring hydropower plant. The aluminium product is very high quality and is mostly used for airplanes. 90% of the aluminium products are exported, 70% of the exports are to Japan.



Tomohiro notes that his time in Invercargill was an unforgettable and awesome experience. He sincerely appreciates the kindness and effort of the CEO, the Directors and all the staff in Invercargill city council who helped arrange and facilitate his internship.

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## His Majesty the Emperor of Japan Birthday Reception in Sydney

On 6 December, Consul-General Keizo Takewaka held a reception to celebrate the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan at the Consul-General's residence in Sydney. Our Director, Mr. Kamibo attended the reception along with approximately 230 guests from various fields.

At the reception, CLAIR promoted Nagoya City's tourist spots along with other popular destinations in Japan. The guests visited our booth and took brochures home. It was a good opportunity to introduce the representatives of the New South Wales government and others to the history and culture of Nagoya City and other main sightseeing areas in Japan.

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## His Majesty the Emperor of Japan Birthday Reception in Brisbane

On 1 December, CLAIR Sydney attended the reception to celebrate the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, which was held at the residence of the Consul-General of Japan in Brisbane.

Through the reception, CLAIR Sydney was able to reconnect with other guests from various fields including Brisbane City Council, Australia Japan Society, Brisbane Sister Cities Steering Committee and JETAA QLD. It was also a great opportunity for CLAIR Sydney to network with other guests whom we met for the first time. CLAIR Sydney hopes to develop professional relationships with all the amazing guests we met.

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## Supporting Kurihara City

From 30 November to 2 December, CLAIR Sydney supported the activities of Kurihara City, Miyagi. On 30 November, Mayor Isamu Sato and staff members of Kurihara City visited CLAIR to listen to a presentation on the Australian economic and government system. On the following day, one of our staff members of CLAIR accompanied the delegation to the State Netball and Hockey Centre and Hockey Australia which are based in Melbourne. On 2 December, CLAIR accompanied them in visiting Mr Takewaka, Consul-General of Japan, in Sydney. One of their main purposes of their visit to Australia was to invite the national hockey team to their city. CLAIR Sydney continuously supports Kurihara City.



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## UNSW Innovation Dojo

On 8 December 2016, CLAIR Sydney's Research & Liaison Officer, Jason Khoh, went to Haymarket HQ, a coworking space in Sydney's Chinatown, as one of the 25 mentors for the inaugural University of New South Wales (UNSW) Innovation Dojo program. The main goal of the program is to facilitate the formation of startups to launch in both Australia and Japan. Jason gave a presentation on the importance of having robust sales and communication strategies for both domestic and foreign markets. The attendees of the



program (UNSW students/graduates and students from Tokyo Institute of Technology) formed groups to develop their startup plans and eventually pitched to a panel of judges the following week. The top three teams won return flights to Japan to pitch their ideas to potential clients and investors in Japan. More information on the program can be found here:

<http://innovationdojo.com.au/>

# Matsuri Japan Festival 2016

On 10 December, Matsuri Japan Festival 2016 was held in Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbor, Sydney. This annual event has been held since 2006 to introduce Japanese culture to local Australians.

This year, visitors enjoyed Japanese cuisine and cultural workshops teaching the art of ikebana, calligraphy and origami. 35 guests also performed anime songs, group dances and taiko drum displays on stage. There were many information stalls on Japan including ones run by Fukushima prefecture and Nagoya City.



Many people visited our booth, taking home brochures and other promotional materials. Notwithstanding Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka, what is called “Golden route” cities were still very popular. Many visitors also had high interest in other destinations, since many of them have been to Japan before and are planning their next visit. Although we added more brochures in the middle of the event, the restocked brochures nearly ran out before the closing ceremony, contrary to our expectations.

Prior to the event, we advertised to Japanese local governments the opportunity to participate in the festival with us. As a result, Ishikawa prefecture, Okinawa prefecture and “The Kyushu Big Four” joined us in promoting their local areas. It is one of our aims to provide local governments in Japan with the opportunity to promote their regions in Australia. We are happy to have been able to achieve this aim during the festival and will continue to support the promotional activities of Japanese local governments.



According to the event organizer, the event posted a peak of approximately 30,000 people in attendance and we were able to hand out about 7,500 brochures to visitors who stopped by our stall. Overall the event was a great success!

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## Supporting visitors from ‘The Kyushu Big Four’

On 8 December, the delegates from “The Kyushu Big Four” visited our office. “The Kyushu Big Four” is an association organized by Fukuoka City, Kitakyushu City, Kumamoto City and Kagoshima City.

Tourists from East Asia visiting Kyushu are increasing rapidly. As such, in order to diversify, the association has started tourism promotional activities in Australia. They visited JNTO and other tourism agencies in Sydney and joined the Matsuri Japan Festival 2016 in cooperation with CLAIR.

During our meeting, “Kyushu” and CLAIR exchanged ideas and information about the market for Japan

tours, and CLAIR offered its continuous support in promoting the appeal of Kyushu to Australians and New Zealanders.



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## Busselton: Re-affirming sister city friendship in Sugito Japan



City of Busselton Mayor, Grant Henley, CEO Mike Archer and Busselton Sugito Sister City Association President, Pauline Vukelic recently visited Japan and participated in two very special ceremonies.

The first ceremony held on the 28 October was the official signing of the Mayors for Peace Accord at Hiroshima Peace Park.

Mayor Grant Henley said, “It was very moving to be in Hiroshima for the signing of the Mayors for Peace Accord in the presence of both the Mayor of Hiroshima and the Mayor of Sugito. It was a very formal ceremony reflecting

the City’s sad history, but it was also very positive and I applaud the leadership role Japan has taken in the pursuit of world peace. Becoming a signatory of Mayors for Peace reflects our community’s support for world peace and I was honoured to able to solemnise our collective commitment.”

Mayor Henley also presented 1000 paper cranes made by Dunsborough Primary School students in commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of



the Hiroshima bombings. Like thousands of other cranes made by school children across the world, these cranes were hung in the Children's Memorial as a sign of peace.



The visit to Hiroshima coincided with commencement of the 20th anniversary celebrations of the Busselton and Sugito Sister City relationship.

Mayor Henley took part in a ceremony hosted by the Mayor of Sugito, Furuya Matsuo, which involved reaffirmation of the Sister City Agreement. "Our friendship with Sugito has strengthened over the last two decades and it is appropriate that we reaffirm our commitment at this important milestone," said Mayor Henley.

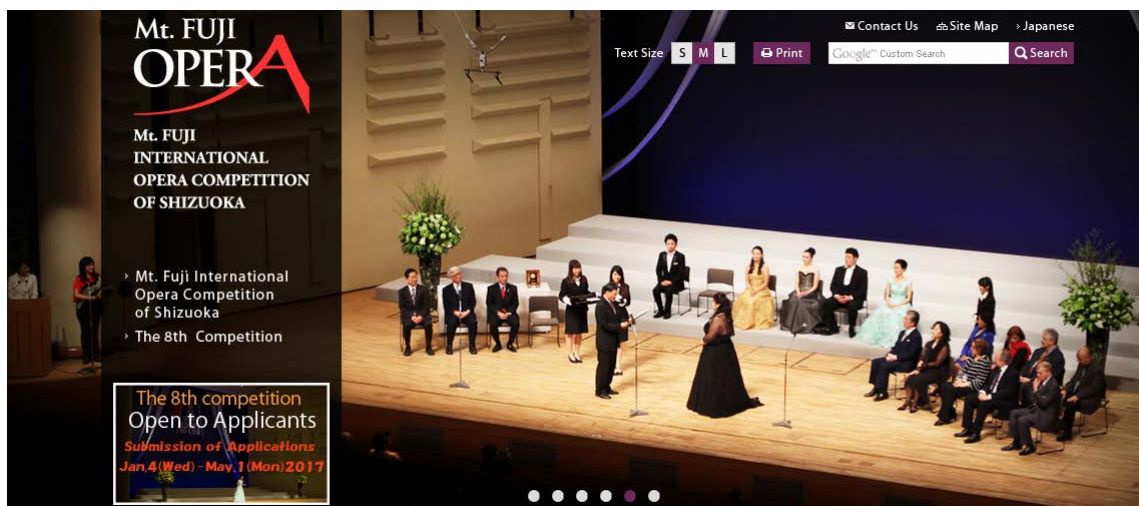
While in Sugito, City of Busselton representatives were also invited to join in the 400th Anniversary celebrations of Sugito as a post station on the old Nikko Highway, donning traditional samurai suits for the occasion.



## The 8<sup>th</sup> Mt. Fuji International Opera Competition of Shizuoka

Shizuoka Prefecture calls for applicants to participate in its international opera competition. Please check the following link for details!

<http://www.suac.ac.jp/opera-en/>





# JETAA Oceania Conference 2016 – Canberra, Australia

~ Article & photos from Mr Michael Anziliero, JETAA Canberra – President ~

On the evening of 11 November 2016, one of the biggest events to ever hit JETAA Canberra was about to begin. It was the 30 year anniversary of the JET programme, and all Australian and New Zealand chapters sent representatives to Canberra to exchange ideas, strengthen the work of JETAA chapters and contribute to the future of the JET Programme.



Starting the week with a reception at the Japanese Ambassador's residence, the attendees went on to address a wide range of practical and strategic issues including recruitment, expanding membership, and language exchange over the two day conference. Country representatives reported on the outcomes of the JETAA International Meeting and JET Global Forum

held in Tokyo the week before and put forward proposals to revise the processes for electing country representatives. There was also some discussion of the opportunities and challenges associated with establishing a more integrated global network of JET alumni. In addition, special guests Yoshihide Miwa from the Embassy of Japan and Samuel Beever, Director of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Japan section provided valuable insights on the policy frameworks and imperatives which support the JET Programme's ongoing role in bilateral relations between Japan and Australia and New Zealand respectively. The conference was also a valuable opportunity for participants to socialise, network and enjoy themselves. Attendees showed off their creative side by making a number of entertaining JET promotional videos and enjoyed a sightseeing tour of Canberra during which one member, Keith Parker, dazzled everyone with his live commentary and trivia. Another member, Darryl Pearce, snuck in a surprise blues performance titled "The Lonesome Small Town AET Blues" filled with lyrics and jokes about Darryl's time on JET back in the day when ALTs were known as AETs.



In all, the Oceania Conference accomplished its goal of bringing the JETAA community together to reflect, plan and look forward towards the next 30 years of the JET Programme. I really hope all guests enjoyed their time in Canberra and could take home fresh ideas on how to improve their local chapters and the JET Programme overall.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed towards making this event a great success!

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# From the Director

## 15 – Fire Brigades Review - A Year of Local Governments in Japan

AKEMASHITE OMEDETO! (Happy New Year!)

As I have mentioned before, the Japanese believe everything becomes fresh and new in the New Year, so almost every Japanese work place holds a New Year's ceremony to make sure staff are motivated in starting the new year. Within local government, the most well-known New Year's ceremony is held by the fire brigade in the form of the "Fire Brigade Review". It is famous with the public due to its scale and spectacle.

The largest review is held by the Tokyo Fire Department. This year's review was held on 6 January and about 2,800 firefighters joined in in front of more than 10,000 spectators. They showcased their skill through demonstrations of firefighting and rescue drills for earthquakes, chemical terrorism incidents and other disasters. Volunteer fire brigades for regions and buildings, some companies and students also participated and some volunteers displayed traditional acrobatic techniques performed on ladders which were passed down from 17th century fire brigades.

In Japan, municipalities are responsible for firefighting and residents expect municipal fire brigades to protect their lives and property. Large cities have their own fire departments and small cities, towns and villages have joint ones, making a total of 750 fire departments and more than 160,000 firefighters working in fire defense. Every brigade in the municipality deals with standard fire outbreaks and in case of a huge fire and earthquakes, other fire brigades come together to protect civilians.

Katsunori Kamibo  
Director