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Local Cuisine around Japan: Vol. 10 Takayama

Doburoku in Takayama



The Hida area, which also includes Takayama city, is famous for its high-quality sake. The Hida area is surrounded by mountains more than 3000 m in height, so it has an abundance of natural water and produces very flavorful rice. Sake brewers have been making sake earnestly since the Edo period (1603-1867). At present there are 12 sake breweries. Outside of these breweries, there is a homemade sake called *doburoku*. *Doburoku* can only be found in specific areas and seasons. *Doburoku* is muddy white in colour as the rice is fermented using a traditional method. It is easy to drink as its refreshing taste (similar to sparkling wine) combines well with

the unique acidity inherent in sake. However, during the Meiji era (1868-1912), production of home-brewed sake was prohibited by law, *doburoku* is currently brewed by only a small number of shrines in the World Heritage site, Shirakawa Village, and can only be drunk during the local autumn festival.

In Takayama city, there is an unusual habit, which began in the Edo period, regarding sake where people cannot leave their seats during the first 30 to 45 minutes of a banquet. After this, all guests sing a celebratory song called *medeta* together. Only after this can people leave their seats.

As the taste of sake differs depending on the region and brewery, you can enjoy looking for that perfect bottle of sake while travelling in Japan. Please find your favorite local brew in the Hida area and in Takayama city.



Oasis in Central Auckland blooms again

~Article and photos from Ms Kimberley Wu, Auckland Council~

Tranquil, authentic and beautiful are just some of the words to describe the restored Fukuoka Garden, which opened on 17 July at its new location in Western Springs Lakeside Park.

The garden replaces the original Fukuoka Friendship Garden built in Auckland Zoo, which was given to Auckland in 1989 from Japan's Fukuoka City in recognition of the sister-city relationship.

Mayor Phil Goff says Auckland Council has worked closely with the city of Fukuoka to re-establish the garden in its new home.

“Auckland and Fukuoka have been sister cities for more than 30 years. The Fukuoka Garden recognises the strong bond between our two cities and it's great that we can join together today to celebrate a wonderful gift to our city and an important relationship that brings our cultures closer together,” he says.

“The relocation of the Fukuoka Garden from its original site was part of an expansion plan for the Auckland Zoo. The garden's redevelopment has been an opportunity to collaborate closely with Fukuoka City, and deepen our sister-city ties, to create an enhanced and more accessible Japanese garden that all Aucklanders can enjoy.”



Fukuoka City Council Vice Chairperson Mr Masaaki Ishida, Mayor Phil Goff, Mayor Takashima of Fukuoka City, Consul-General of Japan Mr Yoshitaka Yokoyama, Waitemata Local Board member Vernon Tava and Albert-Eden-Roskill Councillor Cathy Casey

The new garden, which is 2.6 times larger than the original and free for people to enjoy, has a tea pavilion, waterfall and pond. It features over 1800 native Japanese and New Zealand species and incorporates items preserved from the original garden including four bonsai trees, paving stones, lanterns, a water basin and the entrance.



Stone lantern nestled among plants and stone features next to a pond.



Entrance way to the Fukuoka Garden

The design of the new garden was created by Fukuoka's ZEN Environmental Design Ltd, with Fukuoka City Greenery Department and Professor Iekatsu Kubota, the designer of the original garden.

Auckland Council's landscape architects have also worked closely with the Japanese-based designers to ensure the garden remains true to traditional Japanese design.

The garden's opening was celebrated with a ceremony attended by Mayor Phil Goff, the Mayor of Fukuoka City, mana whenua, representatives from Fukuoka and Auckland Council and members of the Friends of Fukuoka Friendship Garden.

Opening hours

10am - 5.30pm winter

10am - 6.30pm summer

Website: <http://ourauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/articles/news/2017/07/oasis-in-central-auckland-blooms-again/>

A delegation from Otsu City visited Mosman Council in NSW

On 5 July, a delegation led by Mr Eisuke Kawamoto (President of the Otsu-Mosman friendship committee, Otsu Chamber of Commerce and Industry) from Otsu City in Shiga Prefecture visited Mosman Council in NSW.

Mosman Council signed a Citizens' Friendship Agreement with Otsu City in 2010. The Mayor of Mosman Council, Dr Peter Abelson, welcomed the delegation and the Manager





of Cultural Services and Director of Mosman Art Gallery, Mr John Cheeseman, facilitated talks and gave the delegation a tour of the art gallery. The delegation voiced their hopes for Mosman-based athletes to participate in the World Master's Games 2021 which will be held in the Kansai region of Japan.

The delegation also visited CLAIR Sydney. They were briefed on multicultural policies in Australia by CLAIR Sydney Director, Mr Katsunori Kamibo, and exchanged opinions on multiple related topics. We hope the information we provided them proves to be useful for their international engagements with Australia moving forward.

Multicultural seminar meeting

On 4 July, CLAIR Sydney had a meeting with Multicultural Affairs and Social Cohesion Division of the Victorian State Government and Emergency Management Victoria to talk about our upcoming Multicultural seminar. We also discussed topics with the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Board and Country Fire Authority.

According to the Census 2016, Victoria has the largest number of immigrants in Australia and it is predicted that the population of Melbourne will overtake Sydney in the near future.

This year's seminar will focus on employment, emergency management and school education. In addition to this, we will organise a one-day seminar at Monash University Asia Institute and a study tour at Brimbank City Council.

JET Programme Reception and 30th Anniversary



Farewell receptions for new JET participants were organised by the Embassy and Consulate-Generals of Japan across Australia. CLAIR staff attended receptions held in Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth.

New JET participants were very excited to be able to work in Japan and talked about what they hoped to achieve as JET participants.

Along with the farewell reception in Canberra, the Embassy of Japan and JETAA (JET Alumni Association) Canberra held a JET Programme 30th anniversary commemorative ceremony. Former JETs enjoyed talking about their memories while they were JETs while viewing photos and videos taken while they were in Japan. They also created a unique map of Japan which decorated each region of Japan they were dispatched to. Former JETs shared their experiences and tips for living in Japan with the new JETs.

These new JET participants arrived in Japan from 23 July. CLAIR Sydney hopes they make the most of their time in Japan.



Kanto Regional Association of Towns and Villages

On 14 July, CLAIR Sydney accompanied the delegation from the Kanto Regional Association of Towns and Villages to the Local Government NSW (LGNSW) office. The delegation received an outline of roles and management at LGNSW and exchanged opinions on public administrative problems such as energy policy and waste disposal. After that, CLAIR Sydney gave a presentation on Australia. This visit was also a good opportunity for us to learn more about LGNSW and deepen our relationship with them. CLAIR Sydney will continue to work with local government related organisations in Australia such as LGNSW.



Promoting Japan at the 2017 Local Government New Zealand Conference



CLAIR Sydney staff members attended the 2017 Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Conference held in Auckland City, New Zealand from 23 to 25 July.

This year's theme was 'creating pathways to 2050: liveable spaces and loveable places', and the conference was attended by over 600 participants including mayors and other government officers from all over New Zealand. CLAIR Sydney staff participated in various keynote sessions and interactive workshops to learn more about current challenges and best practices in New Zealand local

governments.

We provided information on CLAIR's activities, including our annual local government exchange and cooperation seminar, Japanese culture and sightseeing destinations. We also exchanged ideas and information with a lot of mayors, councillors and local government officers. Moreover, under the request of the President of Sister Cities New Zealand (SCNZ), Ms Hiromi Morris, we promoted their activities by helping to hand out SCNZ and 2019 Japan Rugby World Cup brochures.



Manly and Odawara friendship



A reception event hosted by Northern Beaches Council for 18 students from Odawara city was held on 26 July at the former Manly Council Chambers. This student exchange program between Manly and Odawara is in its 27th year. The Odawara students experienced Australian culture and practiced their English communication skills with their homestay families during the study program and while participating in many other activities. At the reception, the former Mayor of Manly, Ms Jean Hay, presented each student with a certificate

of participation, reaffirming the strong bond that these two cities share.

Nagoya high school students visit Sydney



From 24 July to 3 August, 12 high school students from Nagoya visited Sydney for a ten-day study tour.

First, they visited Blue Mountains Grammar School to experience classes in Australia for four days. After that, they headed to Jamberoo to meet some of the Sydney-Nagoya Sister City Committee members and their host families. At night, they had a good time enjoying dinner at a popular restaurant in the area where the students also surprised everyone at the

restaurant with a traditional Yosakoi dance performance. The host families also kindly took the students to Kiama to do the Gerringong Coast Walk during their stay. They learned not the only about beauty of Australia but also the Australian culture and way of life.

On 31 July, they visited St. Aloysius College to attend classes with its students. During the class, students formed teams to take part in a quiz about Australian and Japanese culture and language which proved to be a lot of fun.

On 1 August, the students paid a courtesy call to Sydney Town Hall and met with Councillor Robert Kok, representing the Lord Mayor of Sydney Clover Moore. Following a delightful tour of Town Hall led by the President of the Friends of Sydney Town Hall, member of the Sydney-Nagoya Sister City Committee and recent OAM recipient, Mr Kieran Tonge. During the courtesy call the students also met with members of the Sydney-Nagoya Sister City Committee and the Consul General of Japan in Sydney, Mr Keizo Takewaka. A wonderful time was had by all at the Lord Mayoress' room, especially when the students did a Japanese dance for all in attendance. After the Courtesy call to Sydney Town Hall, the students visited CLAIR Sydney and interviewed CLAIR staff about life in Australia and career advancement while talking about their goals for the future.

On 2 August, the students visited two private high schools, Shore and Wenona, both located in North Sydney. All the students tried their best to communicate in English with the Aussie students who participated actively in group discussions.

On 3 August, the students visited Taronga Zoo. Taronga and Nagoya Higashiyama Zoo, as part of their sister-zoo relationship, have been exchanging a variety of different animals over the past 30 years, ever since the first Koala came to Japan in 1984.

The students were really proactive in sparking conversation with locals in English during the study tour and a student representative also made a speech during the courtesy call at Sydney Town Hall. We believe the students will be active global citizens in various fields in the future and wish them all the very best.

Saitama high school students visit Sydney

On 31 July, 19 junior high school students from Toda city in Saitama prefecture came to our office. They visited Liverpool city which is the sister city of Toda and did four days of homestay. If you looked at the students' faces you could tell that they were enjoying their stay here in Australia.

Staff at CLAIR Sydney gave an outline of Australia, talked about how they got this opportunity to work abroad and gave information on the role of CLAIR Sydney together with life in Sydney. The students listened eagerly and talked about their experiences with their host families. They asked us about the best way to enjoy Vegemite, what we have for breakfast and so on. It indicated to us that they are very interested in life in a foreign country.

We hope this visit will be a precious and unforgettable memory for them.

Also, staff from the Toda International Friendship Association, which organised the students' visit, came to our office to exchange opinions on school exchanges between Australia and Japan.

CLAIR FORUM meeting

CLAIR Sydney will hold our annual CLAIR FORUM next February to exchange ideas and information on local administration between Japan and Australia/New Zealand, supported by the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). We had a meeting with Prof. Roberta Ryan, Director of UTS:IPPG on 27 July to discuss plans for this event.

Last year, the theme was 'Regional Activation' and it was held in Junee Shire in NSW. During our meeting with Roberta we talked about next year's theme: regional revitalization activities, and considered several options for the event's location.

When more details come to hand we'll be sure to let you know.

Local Government Exchange and Cooperation Seminar 2017 Japan

We are offering eligible participants the opportunity to visit Japan

In order to promote a better understanding of Japanese local governments and culture, the Local Government Exchange and Cooperation Seminar aims to bring together people from Japan, Australia and New Zealand who are working at local governments and related organisations by exchanging information regarding current issues of local governments.

General information about past seminars are available on our [website](#).

In this issue, we would like to tell you more about the programme's purpose and Higashine City, Yamagata, which is this year's host local government.

Seminar details:

Local Government Exchange and Cooperation Seminar 2017 includes

- Seminars on Japanese Local Government in Tokyo (4 nights) and this year's host local government Higashine City (5 nights)
- Tour of national/local government facilities and cultural sites
- Home-stay with Japanese families
- Feedback/Discussion

The seminar will be held on:

12-21 February 2018

Eligible Participants

- Applicants must be local government executives or executives involved in the promotion of international exchange and cooperation in local areas.
- In addition, applicants from national organisations, research institutes, or other related organisations may be eligible to participate, providing their backgrounds are related to the theme of the Seminar.
- Up to 5 participants will be accepted from Australia and New Zealand.

Expenses

- Expenses incurred for the Seminar registration and materials will be borne by CLAIR.
- Any expenses prior to arrival in Japan and after departing from Japan shall be borne by participants. (This includes but is not limited to the costs incurred for a returned flight ticket to Japan.)
- Expenses incurred during the Seminar period in Japan will be borne by CLAIR.

Application

To apply, please fill in the [Form](#) and send it to mailbox@jlgc.org.au by Friday 13 October 2017.

- For more details on the seminar, please refer to the [Outline](#).
- Please note that there is a limit to the number of participants (5), the outcome of your application will be made available to you by the middle of November 2017.

If you have any questions about the Seminar, please feel free to contact us at mailbox@jlgc.org.au or on 02 9241 5033. We look forward to receiving your application.

About the host local government Higashine city

Let nature's sparkle heal your heart in Higashine City!

Host Local Government Higashine city in Yamagata prefecture

— Overview of Higashine City —

Higashine city is located in Yamagata prefecture which is in the northeast of Japan (also known as the Tohoku region). Its population is 47,622 (as of 1 July 2017) and has an area of 206.94 km².

It is located in the Murayama basin, in the middle of Yamagata prefecture, with Sendai city in the east and Yamagata city and Tendou city in the south. The area is also renowned for its beautiful nature, relaxing hot springs, and thanks to its convenient location and transport infrastructure, it is strong in a number of different industries including agriculture and manufacturing.

— Seminar Themes —

■ Town planning and personal development through child care measures and education geared towards population growth.

■ Efforts by regional cities to encourage more international tourists to visit by making full use of local resources.

— Surrounding sites and attractions —

■ Mogami River Boat Tour

Leave all your troubles behind as you embark on a leisurely boat ride down the Mogami River. The surrounding scenery will take your breath away and the views can be enjoyed all year round. To top it all off, the boatman will serenade you and your group with traditional songs popular amongst the locals.

■ The importance of water in the local food culture

Yakifu is a traditional Japanese food made from gluten extracted from wheat flour, which is then grilled and dried. The local *yakifu* is made using the region's delicious crystal clear water and the recipe has been perfected over the years (ever since the Edo Period; 1603-1867) by the local manufacturers. Learn more about the local food culture while enjoying freshly grilled *yakifu*!

■ Sake brewery (Rokkasen)

The name of our sake, Rokkasen, is inspired by the six immortals of Japanese poetry of the mid-9th century. Our goal was to brew a sake that flows as smoothly as the lines written by these Japanese poetry masters. We invite you to enjoy the elegant and refined taste of Rokkasen!

JETAA Canberra ~Article and photos from JETAA Canberra~

Celebrating 30 years of the JET Programme



On Thursday 6 July, the Embassy of Japan and JET Alumni Association of Canberra celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme, and farewelled Canberra's latest round of successful JET participants.

Ambassador Kusaka graciously welcomed attendees to his official residence where alumni from the first and second generation of the programme, representatives of interstate chapters, Australia's national JETAA representative and a large number of local alumni were joined by university professors,

officials from CLAIR Sydney, and Australian Government officials. This large and diverse turn-out made for a wealth of engaging conversations, shared stories and new connections established.

The Ambassador expressed his gratitude to everyone who supported the JET Programme over the last 30 years. He also expressed his view that JET participants in Japan will continue to make a profound contribution to the relationship between Japan and Australia. Director of CLAIR Sydney, Katsunori Kamibo, spoke movingly of his experience as a student who benefitted greatly from the programme. JETAA Canberra president, Michael Anziliero emphasised the unique benefits of the programme and encouraged participants to maintain and cherish their connections to Japan upon their return.

A photo exhibit showcased the human connections and quintessentially Japanese moments that make the JET programme so special. Alumni, both new and old, contributed photos from their time on JET to enliven the display. Also on show was a map of Japan scattered with pins reflecting the communities where JET alumni lived and worked. Attendees placed pins on the map throughout the night, and the final product provided but a glimpse of the JET programme's truly national reach.

Nobody went home hungry. Attendees were treated to a dinner that exemplified the best aspects of Japanese cuisine and Australian produce. The immaculately presented dishes ranged from fresh sushi, to tempura, to rare roast beef and a range of modern Japanese desserts.

Outgoing JETs prepared speeches in Japanese to close out formal proceedings. JETAA Canberra wishes them all the best for their adventures in Japan and we look forward to welcoming them back in the coming years:

がんばれ！



Our new Intern



Rie Sato

Hi, my name is Rie Sato and I started my internship at CLAIR this July. I am currently a third-year law student at Keio University on a one-year exchange program at the University of Sydney studying business.

I applied for this internship as I wanted to make the most of my time on this exchange program. I was interested in participating in extracurricular activities to complement my time attending lectures at the university.

In addition, I would like to better understand the role and functions of Japanese public organisations stationed overseas. Since I was a child, I have been interested in international exchange and I actually took part in some short-term programs while in Japan.

This internship is a great opportunity for me to gain insight into how Japanese local governments build and maintain relationships with their counterparts in Australia and how they promote themselves, their local government attractions and their activities.

I am very excited to be accepted as an intern at CLAIR Sydney and I look forward to experiencing new things and contributing in whatever way I can.

From the Director

22 – Anime and Local Revitalisation

- A Year of Local Governments in Japan

SMASH! (Sydney Manga Anime Show) will be held at Rosehill Gardens on 19-20 August; CLAIR will participate and promote Japanese local areas, with a focus on areas famous for their contributions to Japanese *manga* and *anime*.

As you may know, *manga* is the Japanese word for ‘cartoons’ and *anime* is the Japanese loanword derived from ‘animation’ in English. Both are very popular among youth in Japan and abroad—this, of course, includes many Aussies and New Zealanders.

Most *manga* and *anime* have fictitious characters and stories, but the backdrops are often based on actual buildings and landscapes of a particular town to ground it in some reality and keep the storyline consistent. Many fans are eager to locate and visit locations depicted in their favourite *manga* and *anime* as for them they are *seichi* (a sacred place). These pilgrims want to hunt down the actual spots and take pictures at precisely the same angles as in the *manga* and *anime* scenes—sometimes even inserting themselves into the shots, dressed in cosplay of their favourite characters. They are extremely passionate and will go anywhere regardless of distance or poor accessibility.

Some Japanese local governments provide information on their *manga*- and *anime*-related activities to attract fans and promote local revitalisation. The benefits of having *manga* and *anime* basing their stories in actual towns and villages are tangible, which is why many local governments in Japan are keen to promote such regions both domestically and abroad.

Visit our booth at SMASH! to learn more about different *seichi* for *manga* and *anime* scattered throughout Japan. We look forward to seeing you there!

Katsunori Kamibo
Director