



*Season's Greetings  
and  
Best Wishes  
for the New Year  
from all of us  
at CLAIR Sydney*

December 2013 / Newsletter Issue No.70

## Correspondence

*Australia-Japan Partner for Tourism Exchange 2013*

### **Wakayama – Japan's Spiritual Heartland**

Wakayama Prefecture is located on the Kii Peninsula (the largest peninsula in Japan) in the Kansai region, which is also home to Osaka and Kyoto. The Kii Mountains tower over central Wakayama Prefecture wrapped in a veil of green. To the north and south are two sacred areas registered as World Heritage: *Koyasan* and *Kumano*. Here you will encounter the allure of a spiritual world that has drawn mankind in a search of faith for more than a thousand years.



Koyasan, the holy site at the top of the mountain was founded by the famous Buddhist monk Kobo Daishi about 1,200 years ago. The site welcomes visitors and worshippers regardless of their sect. Temple lodgings are available to visitors at 52 temples. You can experience the daily life of monks by joining meditation, morning ceremony and trying

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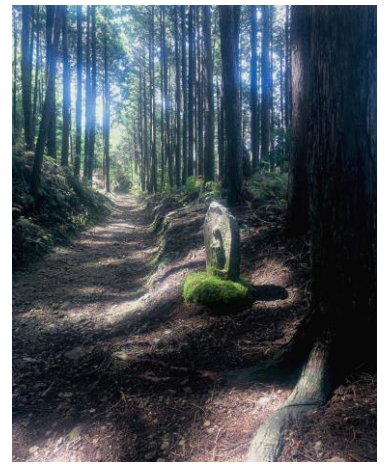
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*shojin ryori* (Buddhist vegetarian cuisine).

Since long ago, Kumano, at the southern end of the Kii Mountains, has been a pilgrimage destination. Faith in Kumano Sanzan – the three grand shrines of Kumano Hongu, Kumano Hayatama, and Kumano Nachi – led emperors and nobility to these unexplored regions in search of heaven on earth.

Kumano is blessed with a rich cultural and natural heritage and is also known for its soothing hot springs, delicious cuisine and authentic accommodations.



For more information on Wakayama, please click on the link:

<http://www.wakayama-kanko.or.jp/world/english/index.html>



- Article and Photos by Wakayama Prefecture -

**EVENT**

***Japan Expo and Matsuri in Sydney -Saturday, 14 December-***

## **Japan Expo and Matsuri in Sydney 2013**

Date: **Saturday 14 December, 2013**

Time: **10:00am – 7:00pm**

Venue: **Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbour**

**Japan Expo  
and  
Matsuri in Sydney  
2013**

日豪観光  
交流年  
2013  
Australia-Japan  
Tourism Exchange Year  
2013

Japan Expo and Matsuri in Sydney is a good old-fashioned Japanese festival held annually in Darling Harbour's Tumbalong Park, right in the heart of Sydney. The 2012 festival drew an enormous crowd of around 16,000 and was a huge success!

There will be exhibitions, food stalls, stage shows and stage performances – so many things to enjoy!

For the details, please go to <http://matsurisydney.com/>

## Sister Cities and Economic Development

~ Article and Photos by Gosford City Council ~

Gosford City Council celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its sister city relationships with Edogawa, Japan and Nitra, Slovakia, earlier in 2013. According to Deputy Mayor, Chairman of council's Employment and Economic Development committee and a member of the Sister City committee, Clr Bob Ward, sister city relationships offer a strong foundation for economic development including tourism, rather than simply a focus on cultural and educational activities. .

"I recently visited Edogawa as a member of council's sister city delegation and after fulfilling my sister city responsibilities, with the aid of Edogawa City staff members, I successfully represented a number of potential exporters and tourist destinations from the Gosford local government area.



*Mayor of Edogawa, Mr. Tada*



*Meeting Mayor Tada in Edogawa*

During this period, I met executives from Tokyo Chamber of Commerce, Asahi Travel International, the Commissioner-JapanTrade and Investment NSW, the Austrade Commissioner and the Regional Manager for Japan and Korea from Tourism Australia.

Whilst my objective was to introduce businesses, which I was representing, to the Japanese market and determine the opportunities available to them, through a process of presenting their materials to a group of business influencers. I was able to achieve some direct results.

"I'm still working on a project to develop a relationship between the Edogawa and Gosford Chambers of Commerce," Clr Ward said.

Clr Ward went to say that he believed that the current Japanese economic environment is ripe for appropriate Australian export businesses and tourist destinations.

"According to Austrade, Japan is one of Australia's most important and strategic international business partners with an ever-evolving partnership that extends over 50 years. With a population of 128 million, Japan is the third largest global economy. The Japanese market is characterised by consumers with high levels of disposable income and companies with a strong global orientation and willingness to invest in sustainable, long-term products and services. Tourism Australia indicated that there were 353,900 visitors from Japan for calendar year 2012, an increase of 6.4 per cent compared to 2011. Visitors from Japan generated \$1.6 billion in total expenditure in 2012. The Tourism 2020 Strategy estimates that the Japan market has the potential to grow to between \$2.7 billion and \$3.3 billion in total expenditure by 2020. They state that Japan is in a category, including 4 other countries, which are expected to potentially total over \$1 billion by 2020 in visitor spending," Clr Ward concluded.

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## **MOSAIC 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**



Run by the Willoughby City Council, the Multicultural One-Stop Assistance Information Centre (MOSAIC) provides a wide range of programs and events, such as English lessons and ethno-specific activities.

MOSAIC celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary by holding a ceremony, to which roughly 100 people attended. Guests included volunteers, who have shown continuous support, as well as Willoughby's Vice Mayor and Councilors.

Seeing the immigrants who volunteer to help other non-native English speakers was an energetic scene and also highlighted how strong of a backbone diversity is to this society.

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## **2013 Sister Cities Australia (SCA) National Conference in Broken Hill**

This year, the SCA National Conference was held in Broken Hill from 10-13 November. We attended this conference and Assistant Director Tomo Okuno gave a speech titled "CLAIR Sydney's Activities". Among many topics, Tomo spoke about the opportunity for local governments to work with JET participants in Sister City activities, promoting sister city and school relationships and making good use of CLAIR Sydney.



At the conference many sister city related activities were reported by city councils, who worked very hard to promote sister city relationships as well as finding innovative solutions to challenging problems. Some were awarded for these achievements by SCA. There also were workshops where attendees discussed about the activities of sister city relationships.



In addition, young students also attended this conference because there was a youth program which aimed to promote sister city related youth activities in the field of culture, art, education, sports, etc. We took this opportunity to tell them about the JET program. We hope some of them will be the leaders who take over the sister city activities in the future.

The next annual SCA National conference will be held at Bunbury, WA which has a sister city relationship with Setagaya, Tokyo in Japan.

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## ***Supporting Tokyo Metropolitan Government Staff***

Yoshitake Hayashi from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government visited Australia to research about environmental policies. CLAIR Sydney supported him by lending office space and accompanying him to a visit. He has already visited the UK, Singapore and New Zealand.

In Australia he visited the Environment & Heritage of NSW Government and the Sydney Olympic Park Authority.



He is interested about Australia's BioBanking system, which is a market-based ecological conservation. It is a streamlining biodiversity assessment process for development, a rigorous and credible offsetting scheme as well as an opportunity for rural landowners to generate income by managing land for conservation. Given that Tokyo is hosting the 2020 Olympics, while in Olympic Park Yoshitake learned about the eco-friendly approach the Authority took when organising the Sydney Olympic Games.

He enjoyed his stay in Australia very much and found his trip to be very informative.

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## ***A delegation from Otsu in Shiga prefecture visits Mosman***



On 13 November a delegation from the Otsu Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited the Mosman municipal council to talk about their friendship city relationship. Since its establishment in 2010 the agreement has provided both parties the opportunity to engage in cultural exchange, notably the art exchange between primary school students in Otsu and Mosman where students create art works that reflect their local environments. As a result of the meeting both parties confirmed that they will discuss about organising students exchanges in the near future.

In order to further their international bilateral relationships – including the one they have with Otsu – Mosman recently established a community-led international friendship committee. This visit was a good opportunity for the committee members and the Japanese delegates as they got to meet face to face.

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## ***Celebration the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sister City Partnership with the City of Port Phillip and Obu***

On 14 November, celebrations for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sister City Relationship with the City of Port Phillip and the City of Obu were held in the St. Kilda Town Hall Auditorium.

The sister city agreement was signed in 1993 to support the pre-existing sister school relationship between Elwood College and Obu Higashi Senior High School and to increase opportunities for cross-educational learning, cross cultural awareness and international understanding.

During the celebration Mayor of Obu Takayasu Kuno announced that the City of Obu received the International Affiliation Exchange Commendation from the Minister for internal Affairs and Communication this June. A square dance was then held thanks to the Obu square dancers and South Melbourne Square Dance Group. The dance livened up the atmosphere of the reception gorgeously.



### **Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR, Sydney)**

Level 12 Challis House 4 Martin Place Sydney NSW 2000

P: 02 9241 5033 F: 02 9241 5014

Web: [www.ilgc.org.au](http://www.ilgc.org.au)

Email: [mailbox@ilgc.org.au](mailto:mailbox@ilgc.org.au)

## JETAA Regional Conference in Brisbane

From 15 to 17 November we visited Brisbane to attend the JET Alumni Association (JETAA) Oceania Regional Conference hosted by the JETAA QLD chapter. The conference is held every year by JETAA Oceania to discuss and improve its activities and is attended by a few members from each chapter (5 chapters in Australia and 3 chapters in New Zealand). This year's theme was "Sister City Relationships" since we reached the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of sister city relationship between Australia and Japan and the 40<sup>th</sup> one between New Zealand and Japan.

At the beginning of the conference Hakuta, on behalf of CLAIR delivered a presentation about the tradition and current situation of the sister city relationships among the three countries. The attendees then exchanged views on how they could get involved in sister city programs and what fields would be better for them to play a role in. In light of these new ideas, we at CLAIR have confirmed our renewed commitment to cooperate with JETAA as to further develop sister city relationships.



Held jointly with the conference were the Welcome Home Reception for QLD JET programme participants – held on the evening of 15 November – and the JETAA QLD 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration which was held in the evening of 16 November.

## We're JETAA Oceania!



**We are the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme Alumni Association, the bridge between Australia, New Zealand and Japan.**

**Please visit our website and check our activities!**

★ **JET Programme**

<http://www.jetprogramme.org/index.html>

- **JETAA NSW** <http://www.sydneyjetaa.org/>
- **JETAA Vic/Tas/SA** <http://www.victassa.jetaa.org.au/>
- **JETAA WA** <http://jetaawa.com/>
- **JETAA Canberra** <http://jetaacanberra.org/>
- **JETAA QLD** <http://www.jetaaqlld.org/>
- **JETAA Wellington** <http://www.jetaawgtn.org.nz/>
- **JETAA South Island** <http://jetaasouthisland.wordpress.com/>
- **JETAA Auckland** <http://aucklandjetaa.org/>



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# **The Christchurch Kurashiki Sister City Committee**

## **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Inbound Delegation**

**17-18<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

— *Photos and article by Mr. David Bolam-Smith,  
Chairman of Christchurch-Kurashiki Sister City Committee* —

After months of preparation the big day finally arrived when 67 visitors from our Sister City Kurashiki landed at Christchurch International Airport.

The inbound delegation was led by Mayor Kaori ITO and included Mr. Kinji MATSUURA Chairman of the Kurashiki City Council, Ten City Councillors, Mr Hitoshi FUJIWARA Chairman of Kurashiki International Association, Mr. Masahiro MIYAKE Chairman of Kurashiki Christchurch Association, Mr Kodo UENISHI, and the delegation of Kurashiki Citizens.

The evening started with the Kurashiki Delegation attending a Maori Welcome Ceremony in the Camelot Room of the Chateau on the Park. After the Welcome, members move to the Great Hall for the Anniversary Banquet.

Official Speakers were:

Ms Lianne DAZIEL, Christchurch City Mayor

Ms Kaori ITO, Kurashiki City Mayor

Mr Yasuaki NOGAWA, Ambassador of Japan

Mr David BOLAM-SMITH, Chairman of Christchurch Kurashiki Sister City Committee

Mr Kenji MATSUURA, Chairman of Kurashiki City Council

The official programme included,

1. Signing of Sister City Pledge by Mayor ITO and Mayor DAZIEL
2. Cutting of the Cake by the 2 Mayors
3. Ms Hiromi MORRIS Chair person New Zealand Sister Cities presented a Certificate of Congratulations to Mayor ITO Kurashiki and Mayor DAZIEL.
4. The Evening concluded with the toast by Mr FUJIWARA

Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> of November, the delegation travelled in three coaches to view the Transitional Cathedral, then on to the Christchurch Gondola to enjoy the Panorama view of Christchurch City and Canterbury plains.

### **Sister City Garden Visit:**

Mid morning the Anniversary Tree Planting ceremony took place at the Kurashiki Sister City Garden at the Halswell Quarry Park. Both Mayor ITO and Mayor DAZIEL planted the tree with Mayor DAZIEL making a speech. Both Mayors then proceeded to unveil the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Garden Plaque with Mayor ITO responding to David Bolam-Smith's description of the Garden

*Continued on next page→*



### **Solidarity Grid:**

One Thirty in the afternoon saw everyone gathered on the banks of the Avon River to unveil the Street Lamp that Kurashiki City donated to the Christchurch Public Art Solidarity Grid, which was designed by Mischa Kubull Germany.

### **Violin Recital by Ms Honoka KISHIMOTO:**

Ms Honoka KISHIMOTO a 19 year old student from Kurashiki City who is attending Tokyo University of Arts performed Violin recital at the Transitional Cathedral on Monday evening in front of a full house. Honoka was accompanied by Pianist Ms Alison Holden from Christchurch. The recital was a real treat and was enjoyed by everyone who attended. The Canterbury Japanese Choir also performed at the concert along with Scottish Piper. The Gold coin admission raised \$410.00 for the Westpac Air Rescue Trust.

### **Farewell Party:**

The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festivity concluded with a Christchurch Kurashiki Sister City Committee hosted farewell dinner at the Flames Restaurant.

The inbound delegation visit to Christchurch was a great success, thanks all concerned who helped with this very important project.

As a Committee, we look forward to working towards our 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



*Mayor ITO and Mayor DAZIEL planting the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tree*



*Mayor DAZIEL, Mayor ITO, and Chairman David Bolam-Smith unveiling the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Garden*

***Would you like to share your activities in our newsletter?***

If your organisation is interested in having your article in our monthly newsletter, please feel free to contact us at [mailbox@jlgc.org.au](mailto:mailbox@jlgc.org.au).



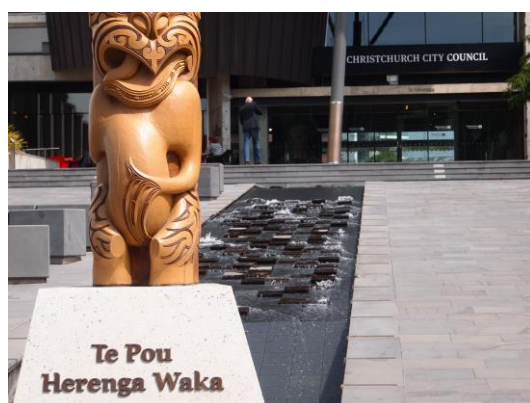
## ***Internship in Christchurch (19 -25 November)***

***Tomohiko Okuno, Assistant Director***

***in charge of Sister City/School***

Between 19-25 November, I was fortunate to complete an internship program with Christchurch City Council, on New Zealand's South Island. As readers may know, Christchurch has recently been through three large earthquakes; the largest one hit in February 2011. There is still a lot of damage, especially in Central City areas. That is why I chose Christchurch - my research is about community engagement and collaboration policy. In the process of reconstruction after the disaster, there are many projects and plans in Christchurch City Council's policies which align with my research theme and work.

The first day, I visited the Canterbury Development Corporation's International Education team. They took me to the Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology, where I heard about the Institute's activities relating to international students. From the afternoon, I had time to discuss sister school and exchange programs at the Canterbury Development Corporation office. During this time, I met local school teachers and exchanged views on sister school activities.



*The International Relations Team and I*

The City Council's International Relations team, which assisted with my internship, guided me to the City Hall on my second day. I also joined a meeting with Deputy Mayor Vicki Buck and a delegation of education officials from Japan. We discussed study abroad programs and I explained CLAIR's activities regarding sister schools.

The third day, I met Counsellor Mr Aoyama, head of Japan's Consular Office in Christchurch, hearing about the local Japanese community and the general state of the city. From the afternoon, I met a manager from Christchurch City Council's disaster measures section and received a briefing on their community engagement and collaboration policy.

I visited community group representatives from earthquake-affected neighbourhoods on my fourth day. The group's aim is for full community engagement in recovery processes and working in partnership with recovery agencies – it was a valuable opportunity to hear residents' views. Christchurch Mayor Lianne Dalziel suggested I meet with this community group for my research. Before I started my internship, I had a chance to meet with Mayor Dalziel at the ceremony commemorating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the relationship between Christchurch and its Japanese sister city, Kurashiki, Okayama prefecture.

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After the community group meeting, I visited the City Council's Community Board Advisor to discuss Christchurch's Community Board System. The eight Community Boards are a part of the City Council structure; one of their roles is to represent and act as advocates for the interests of their community. I also met the manager of Marketing Services and talked about the new commercial zone plan for Christchurch City, and citizens' views on that plan.

The fifth day, I visited the chairman of the Christchurch-Kurashiki Sister City Committee to discuss their activities. This committee has a good relationship with the City Council; this volunteer body fits well with the Council's community collaboration policy. I saw clearly their enthusiasm for the sister city relationship. I also had the chance to learn about their many types of activities, handing roles to younger people, new types of relations, and so on.

During my stay in Christchurch, I could only see a part of the city, though I believe I had the chance to deepen my understanding of the recovery effort and related community activity.

I greatly appreciate the kind assistance of the many people who assisted me in Christchurch.

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## ***Multicultural Study Tour***

CLAIR held a Multicultural Study Tour organised for staff from Japanese local governments and organisations relating to internationalisation.

This year we not only picked places to visit according to the demand of the multicultural offices in Japanese local governments but also gave the participants more time to revise the visits.

The delegates learned about Australia's progressive multicultural policy by listening to lectures given by people in charge of education, activities for disaster prevention awareness and settlement supports. Participants reported that the study tour was informative. They also noted that administrative agencies such as the Federal, State and Local Governments, non-profit organisations and educational institutions not only implement their roles respectively but also cooperated with each other, each organisation exercising ingenuity and new ideas.

Places visited during the study tour are as below. We thank you all for your cooperation and assistance.

- Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW
- Parramatta City Council
- Community Migrant Resource Centre
- NSW Police Force
- Fairfield High School
- Bankstown City Council
- Immigrant Women's Health Service
- Fire & Rescue NSW
- The University of New South Wales



Details of the study tour will be put up on our website shortly.

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## ***Introducing Rachel Pierce, a new intern at CLAIR***



Hello, my name is Rachel Pierce and I have just begun my internship at CLAIR. I was born in Wales, but moved to Sydney with my family 13 years ago. I am currently a student at the University of Technology Sydney, where I study Business majoring in Marketing/Advertising combined with International Studies majoring in Japanese. In 2012, I had the amazing experience of participating in an exchange program where I was spent 2 semesters studying at Yokohama National University. Needless to say the joy and self-confidence I gained from being able to put into practice my language skills was immeasurable. I also loved experiencing Japan's rich and vibrant culture first-hand and particularly enjoyed the energetic summer festival atmosphere which united the community through song and dance. One of my proudest moments of the year was climbing to the summit of Mount Fuji, a fulfilling challenge I thoroughly recommend to those looking for an adventure.

As my career goal is to work in the field of international relations, I am excited to gain insight into the operations of a Japanese governmental organisation. I am very interested in how CLAIR fosters collaboration between Japan and Australia through facilitating activities such as cultural exchange, promoting tourism, supporting the JET program and strengthening sister city affiliations. I also hope to gain practical skills by working on research projects, as well as improve my ability to understand and speak Keigo; a necessary skill in the Japanese office environment.

I look forward to working with the warm and welcoming people at CLAIR and am grateful to have been given this invaluable opportunity to learn from and contribute to the CLAIR team.

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## ***From The Director***

Last month, I attended the Japan Business Promotion Symposium jointly hosted by the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, the Cabinet Office, Government of Japan and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO). The Symposium showcased the opportunities and potential now available in doing business with Japan. At the Symposium, I made a presentation entitled "Tohoku is Back", which highlighted how promptly the recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami took place, how strong the Tohoku people are and about the economic recovery situation of the four affected prefectures: Fukushima, Miyagi, Iwate and Aomori.



In my presentation, I explained the many advantages of doing business in the Tohoku region, one of which is a skilled and educated workforce. Even among the Japanese people, Tohoku people are known to be very polite, patient and diligent. You can imagine how calm and organised they were when the disaster struck.

My presentation slides are at the link below:

<http://www.jlgc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Tohoku-is-back.pdf>

If you are interested in my presentation, I am happy to talk about Japanese disaster recovery with your council staff.