



This issue includes:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Local Cuisine around Japan | 6 Commonwealth Games Research -Part 2- |
| 2 School Exchange Opportunities | 6 Visit to NSW Department of Industry |
| 3 Setouchi Shimanami Kaido International Cycling
Event | 7 Matsuri Japan Festival Advisory Committee |
| 4 Commonwealth Games Research -Part 1- | 7 JETAA Vic/Tas/SA Update |
| | 9 From the Director |

Local Cuisine around Japan: Vol.19

Oita

Oita Prefecture is blessed with a warm climate, bountiful nature from both the land and sea, and food that is freshly sourced. There are many places to visit in Oita, such as important historical cultural heritage sites like the Usa-jingu shrine, Rokugo Manzan, and images of the Buddha carved into rock such as the Usuki Stone Buddhas.

Furthermore, the hot springs that stretch out all across the prefecture boast the highest yield of hot spring water and the highest number of hot spring sources in all of Japan. Of the ten different types of hot springs in the world, eight are available in Oita Prefecture.

Still yet, Oita is full of marvelous foodstuffs including high quality food products such as seki-aji horse mackerel, seki-saba mackerel fish, and Bungo beef, as well as kabosu citrus fruits and shiitake mushrooms.



Jigoku Mushi (“Hell” Steamed Cuisine)

This simple and healthy steamed cuisine features seasonal vegetables, seafood, chicken, and various other items steam-cooked with local hot spring water. The light salt content of the spring water brings out the flavours of the ingredients very nicely. Local specialty Jigoku Mushi eggs, steamed pork buns, and custard pudding make nice snacks after an onsen visit or a quick stroll through the city.



School Exchange Opportunities

CLAIR Sydney promotes school exchange programs between schools in Australia / New Zealand and schools in Japan. We provide information on schools that are seeking a sister school or a partner school on our website.

Genkai Mirai Gakuen in Genkai Town, Saga Prefecture has established an exchange program with Korowal School in Hazelbrook, NSW through our website. The delegation from Genkai Mirai Gakuen visited Korowal School last August. Recently, Fumigaoka Primary School in Yamato City, Kanagawa Prefecture has just started an interactive program with Bute Primary School in Bute, South Australia via Skype. More and more schools are becoming interested in such exchange programs.

If you have interest in establishing a school exchange program, please do not hesitate to contact us on mailbox@jlgc.org.au

<http://www.jlgc.org.au/international-exchange-2/sister-school-exchange/australia-%E3%83%BBnew-zealand/>



Skype communication between Bute and Fumigaoka



Genkai Mirai Gakuen visited Korowal School

Setouchi Shimanami Kaido International Cycling Event – Cycling Shimanami 2018

Applications Now Open!

Cycling Shimanami 2018, an annual international cycling event along the famous Shimanami Kaido Expressway, is now accepting applications from around the world. You can enjoy the stunning views of Ehime Prefecture, as well as the Seto Inland Sea on all the courses of this event!

↓ Application and course information can be found below ↓
<http://cycling-shimanami.jp/english/>

Cycling Shimanami 2018 Event Overview

Date : 【Reception】 October 27, 2018 (Sat)

【Event】 October 28, 2018 (Sun)

Course : The Seto Inland Shimanami Sea Route and its surrounding areas (7 courses that range from approximately 30km~140km)

Number of Participants : 7,000

Application Period : April 25, 2018 (Wed) ~ May 31, 2018 (Thu)

(Applicants will be chosen by lottery should applications exceed the capacity of the venue)

Application Method : Online



Every course includes the unique chance to run directly on the highway bridges that connect the islands. Come enjoy a sense of freedom as you travel on a course normally closed off to cyclists.

“Cycling Shimanami 2018” is the only cycling event in Japan that allows participants to ride across the main road of an in-service highway.

The seven courses allow for participants of various levels to enjoy the event, such as the Long Course which has cyclists make a round trip across the Shimanami Kaido, the Middle Course that allows participants to enjoy the refreshing scenery between Imabari and Onomichi and finally the Enjoy Course for beginners and families that would like to travel carefree during the event.

The scenery, history, culture, delicious foods and welcoming hearts of the people on these beautiful islands are waiting for you.



Commonwealth Games Research -Part 1-

The 21st Commonwealth Games was held in Gold Coast, Queensland from April 4 to 15, 2018. CLAIR Sydney has previously conducted research on international multi-sport events in both Australia and New Zealand and this time joined the Observers Programme held by CGF Partnership to learn more about the operations of the Commonwealth Games.





CLAIR Sydney staff were briefed on the Games' master plan, the venue master plan, the financing aspect of the Games and so on. Participating staff members also visited the venues to see how the plans were being implemented. One of the venues visited was the Coolangatta Beachfront, a picturesque location used to

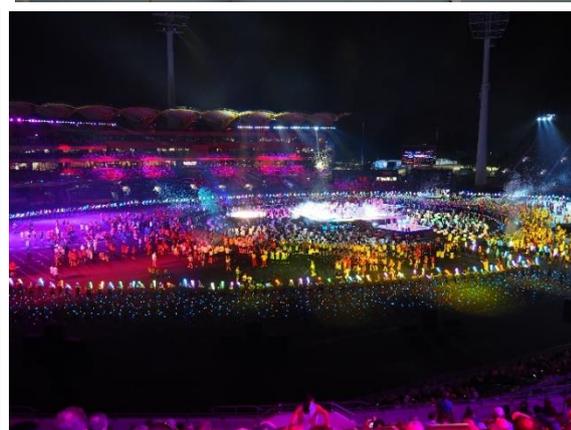


communicate the beauty and attractiveness of the Gold Coast to visitors. We were also given the opportunity to visit broadcast media outlets, uniform, accreditation and also ticketing units.

Our participation in the Observer's Programme not only allowed us to better understand the operations aspect of the Games, but also enabled us to connect with other visiting delegations, especially the team from Birmingham who are hosting the next Commonwealth Games and the team from

Indonesia who will be hosting the Asian Games later this year.

We will publish a report on the results of the research in Japanese later so that Japanese local government officers can learn from this event and potentially apply the knowledge to their own international events.



Commonwealth Games Research -Part 2-



On April 6, our staff visited Cairns Regional Council as part of our research on the Commonwealth Games. Cairns serves as one of the venues for the Games and the preliminary rounds for basketball took place there. Ms. Belinda Hutchinson, Cairns Regional Council Economic Development Officer kindly hosted us, and explained that the council views the Games as an opportunity to showcase and promote themselves to the world from a cultural and economic point of view through accommodating delegations from Commonwealth countries. She also said that hosting big international events in itself can bring confidence to the region and their residents and urging residents to take part in these events as volunteers can contribute to the internationalisation of their region.

After the meeting, our staff observed some events related to the Games held in Cairns, Brisbane and the Gold Coast. These events were organised by staff and volunteers from the respective councils, not only to entertain visitors but also to showcase their traditional culture and history to them. Various events were held every day during the period of the Games, creating an exciting atmosphere in the cities.



Visit to NSW Department of Industry

On April 18, Assistant Director Yusuke Sasaki, who is seconded from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, visited the NSW Department of Industry to meet with the international relations unit. New South Wales is a sister state of Tokyo.

Assistant Director Sasaki introduced himself to the unit and talked about CLAIR Sydney.

He also discussed the recent meeting between the Premier of NSW and the Governor of Tokyo and personnel exchange program in the urban development field.



The NSW government is interested in inviting Japanese companies to invest in Western Sydney where a lot of infrastructure projects are taking place. The annual AJBCC conference (The Australia Japan Business Co-operation Committee) which will be held in Sydney in October this year was also discussed. Both sides reaffirmed their desire to continue working with each other in the future.

2018 Matsuri Japan Advisory Committee

On April 30, the first meeting of the 2018 Matsuri Japan Festival Advisory Committee was held at the Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney. The committee updated everyone on the planning progress and announced the official date of the Matsuri which is Saturday, December 8 to be held at Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbour, Sydney. Applications will be open by early June. We hope this year's event will be another success!



Photos: Matsuri Japan Festival held in 2017

JETAA VIC/TAS/SA Update

At our yearly AGM in February, we voted in a new president (Maia Martucci) and vice-president (Jayka Bugay) for the year.



On May 12, we organised and hosted a trivia night that was held at Coopers Inn, Melbourne. It was our first big, public event of the year and was received very well by all those who attended. A special thanks to Keith

Parker, and his brother Ken, for coming all the way down to Melbourne to be our quiz masters. Please enjoy the pictures we took of the event down below.

Secondly, we have recently decided upon a new logo for the JETAA Vic/Tas/SA chapter.

The white silhouette of flowers in the red sun of Japan's flag are common heaths. They are Victoria's state flower and only grow in Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia. Therefore, we thought the flower better represented us and set us apart from the other Australian JETAA chapters. A special thanks to our committee members, Amon Bradshaw and Daniel Jong, for rendering the design.

Lastly, we are co-hosting a networking event with the AJSV in June. JETAA and AJSV have very similar goals, so it is only natural that we join forces and organise more events to further our relationship and bridge the gap between Australia and Japan.

We will be at the Box Hill Japan festival on May 20, so please come by and say hi! Should you have any further enquires, please do not hesitate to email us.

Jayka Bugay
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From the Director

31 –International Exchange in Local Governments - A Year of Local Governments in Japan

Governor of Okayama Prefecture, Mr. Ryuta Ibaragi, and Okayama prefectural government staff visited South Australia this May to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Sister State relationship between Okayama Prefecture and South Australia and CLAIR supported their activities (we will talk more about this in our next issue).

CLAIR facilitates the international activities of Japanese local governments, gathers information on local development efforts of other countries and helps communicate the Japanese local government system to the world.

Our Sydney office supports Japanese government officials in Australia and New Zealand by facilitating visits and exchange programmes, liaising between local governments and researching local government systems for the benefit of Japanese prefectures and municipalities.

We now have 109 sister city relationships with Australia which includes 6 sister state-prefecture relationships and we also have 43 sister city relationships with New Zealand. The largest number is with the US, the second with China, the third with Korea, with Australia coming in fourth and New Zealand in tenth. Japan ranks first in terms of the number of sister city relationships it has with Australia and New Zealand. We are very proud and happy of this fact.

The historical trend in the number of sister cities between Australia and New Zealand with Japan increased dramatically in the 1990s. That was when Japanese local governments were getting more and more engaged in international activities. Proof of this increased international engagement can be seen through the commencement of the JET programme in 1987 and the establishment of CLAIR in 1988.

I would like to add that CLAIR Sydney is able to facilitate the creation and maintenance of strong sister city relationships with the help of Sister Cities Australia (SCA) and Sister Cities New Zealand (SCNZ). We are grateful for their continued support and look forward to continue working together in the future.