



Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR, Sydney)

Issue 154 – January 2022

NEWSLETTER

C O N T E N T S

	(Page)
Welcome to Toyama	1
The Saitama and Queensland Webinar Series	2
The Australian Multicultural Webinar Series – Session 3 & 4	3
JETAA Oceania Conference – Online	4
JET Programme Welcome Reception in Melbourne	5
The Flavours of Fukuoka VIP Night	5
JAPAN EXPO	6
First Time Exhibiting at the Matsuri Japan Festival in Chatswood 2021 (NSW)	7
From the Executive Director	8

Welcome to Toyama

Toyama Prefecture is located almost equal distance from Tokyo, Osaka, and Nagoya. It is approximately two hours on the Hokuriku Shinkansen between Tokyo and Toyama.

Nanto City in southwest Toyama is home to the Gokayama Gassho-style Villages, a registered UNESCO World Heritage site. The villages' large 'Gassho' thatched-roof houses are thought to date back to the 17th century and are a unique architectural style of the Gokayama region, which is well-known as an area with some of Japan's heaviest snowfall. People still live within the villages today and some still live a traditional lifestyle. Once you enter a village, you can see the beautiful scenery interwoven with mountains and fields; and in winter, a fantastic world of pure white snow awaits.

Travellers can enjoy many aspects of Japanese culture in the villages. In Ainokura Village, you can experience traditional washi papermaking. Gokayama's washi paper has been made for over 400 years and is famous for the paper's quality and integrity that remain unchanged even after a century. There are washi-made handicrafts available for purchase and are perfect souvenirs for travellers to take home. Ainokura also has



a 300-year-old thatched-roof guesthouse where travellers can spend the night, sit around a traditional sunken fireplace, and enjoy local village cuisine made with ingredients from Gokayama.

Toyama Bay is known as Toyama’s nature preserve and is famous for Toyama Bay Sushi which uses fresh local fish. Surrounded by 3000-metre-tall mountains and a 1000-metre-deep bay, Toyama Prefecture harbours a variety of delicious fish and produces well-matured rice. In the winter months, travellers can savour winter Japanese amberjacks in their most fatty state and red snow crabs known as ‘Koshi red snow crabs’ that are caught along the Toyama Bay coast.

Toyama Prefecture has many more attractions to offer besides its Gassho Style Villages and seafood, so please come and explore them for yourself!



The Saitama and Queensland Webinar Series

On 3 Nov, the Saitama Prefectural Government held the first session of its Saitama and Queensland Webinar Series. Staff from CLAIR Sydney took part as presenters in this first webinar session. This webinar series is held for the first time to provide the general public in Saitama with opportunities to learn about Australia and the prefecture’s sister state, Queensland.

Staff from CLAIR Sydney delivered a presentation with some brief information on Australia and live-streamed from tourist spots in Sydney such as Circular Quay and The Rocks during the webinar. In the Q&A session, there were many questions on the current COVID situation in Sydney and so forth from the attendees, and made the session a meaningful opportunity for the people of Saitama to further their understanding of Australia. We received many positive feedback in the post-webinar survey.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to support the sister state exchange activities between Queensland and Saitama.

Australia and Japan Comparison

Australia		Japan	
7,702,135 kfl	Area	377,974 kfl	
25,694,393 (estimated as of 31 Dec 2020)	Population	125,630,000 (estimated as of 1 Jan 2021)	
3.34 persons/kfl	Population Density	332 persons/kfl	
Canberra (431,380 estimated as of 30 June 2020)	Capital City (Population)	Tokyo (13,999,624 estimated as of 1 July 2020)	Largest City (Population)
37.8 years old (estimated as of 30 June 2020)	Median Age	46.4 years old (2015 census)	
Male: 80.9 years Female: 85 years	Life Expectancy (2019)	Male: 81.41 years Female: 87.45 years	

Source: Australian Government Bureau of Statistics; Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications; Tokyo Metropolitan Government; The World Bank



The Australian Multicultural Webinar Series – Session 3 & 4

– The Australian Multicultural Webinar Series, Session 3 –

As mentioned in the last issue of our monthly newsletter, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, CLAIR Sydney has been holding a webinar series that focuses on the range of multicultural policies and services in Australia. This webinar series is held in place of our annual Australian Multicultural Study Tour, which we had been holding on-site in Australia before the pandemic.

This study tour/webinar series is held to provide Japanese public servants and other relevant persons with opportunities to learn about the best multicultural policies and practices in Australia, which then the knowledge gained could be applied in the planning of multicultural policies and practices in Japan.

In the third webinar held on 10 Nov, Ms Jetinder Macfarlane, General Manager from Navitas English, gave a presentation on the Adult Migrant English Program and other government-funded programs that support the settlement of migrants and refugees in Australia and provide training to support the employability of job seekers. Ms Macfarlane also shared success stories of former program participants and it was encouraging to see how successfully planned programs benefit those who needed assistance.

– The Australian Multicultural Webinar Series, Session 4 –

In the fourth webinar of our Australian Multicultural Webinar Series held on 29 Nov, Ms Himalee Raj, Business Development, Marketing & Communications Officer from Ethnic Community Services Co-operative (ECSC), gave a presentation on multiculturalism in Australia, ECSC's services and how the organisation supports people with disability. Following that, Ms Kylie Ashley, Manager of Children's Services, shared information on ECSC's services for multicultural children, and Mr Bharat Rai, Manager of Multicultural Aged Care Services, explained about ECSC's multicultural aged care services.



CLAIR Sydney will continue to research multicultural policies in Australia and assist Japanese local governments in their development of initiatives to facilitate an intercultural society.

Cultural Diversity

- Australia is home to the world's oldest continuous cultures.
- 270+ languages spoken
- 1 in 4 Australians were born overseas
- 1 in 2 have an overseas born parent
- 20% of Australia speak a language other than English at home
- 2013 overseas migration represented 5.3% of Australia's population growth
- It is estimated that migrants contribute over \$10 billion to the Australian economy in their first 10 years of settlement.
- \$10 billion in 10 years
- Top migrants to Australia: India (5.3%), China (2.8%), New Zealand (1.8%), UK (1.6%), South Africa (0.9%)
- 1 in 5 Australians have experienced race hate talk
- 86% of Australians support action to tackle racism

Multicultural Disability Services

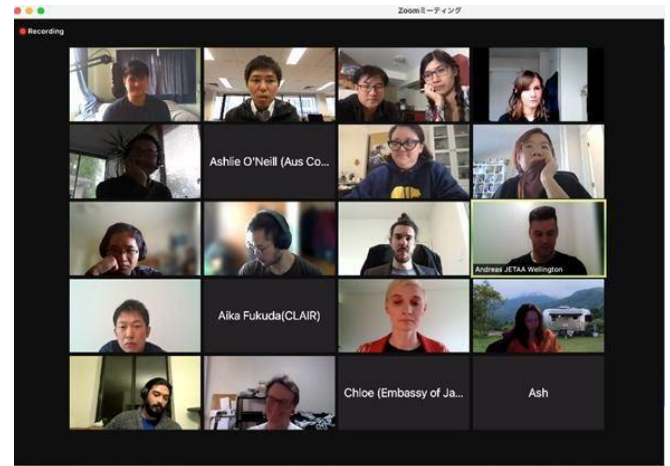
Our projects and teams

Ethnic Community Services Co-operative
A voice for diversity and inclusion



JETAA Oceania Conference – Online

The JETAA Oceania Conference was held online on 20-21 Nov and three CLAIR Sydney staff took part in the conference. The conference is held annually for all JETAA chapters in Oceania to update one another on their chapter's recent activities, and to share ideas and discuss issues they may have. However, last year's conference had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, thus, this was the first time in about two years that key members of all JETAA chapters in Australia and New Zealand came together.



The first day started with a welcoming speech from the hosting chapter, JETAA Wellington, followed by various breakout activities. Dynamic discussions took place on topics such as how to invigorate JETAA's future activities and the different challenges the chapters are currently facing.



On the second day, a presentation session was created for CLAIR Sydney. Since their arrival in Sydney, the Deputy Executive Director of CLAIR Sydney and the two staff members in charge of JET related matters were finally able to virtually meet members of each chapter for the first time. CLAIR Sydney was able to express our gratitude for JETAA's assistance in creating the Australian and New Zealand JET Programme Alumni Testimonials booklet and asked the chapters to proactively make use of the booklet when promoting the JET Programme. CLAIR also asked for the chapters' further support in promoting the JET Programme in future.

CLAIR Sydney deeply appreciates JETAA's continued support and wishes for the further prosperity of its activities in the future.

※ The English and Japanese versions of the booklet can be viewed from CLAIR Sydney's website via the links below.
 English: <https://www.jlgc.org.au/our-activities/jet-programme/the-australian-and-new-zealand-jet-programme-alumni-testimonials/>

JET Programme Welcome Reception in Melbourne



On 1 Dec, the Consulate-General of Japan in Melbourne hosted a welcome reception for recent JET returnees. Three staff members from CLAIR Sydney also attended the reception. The number of attendees, which included returnees, persons involved in the JET Programme and representatives from relevant Japanese organisations, was less than anticipated due to the recent COVID-19 situation. However, everyone at the reception welcomed the returnees warmly and enjoyed the conversations throughout the evening. The reception provided an excellent networking opportunity for the JET community in Melbourne as the recent returnees and reception attendees, including members of JETAA Vic/Tas/SA, discussed the experiences and memories they had in Japan.

We hope that all returnees will play an active role in various sectors in Australia by leveraging their experiences in Japan on the JET Programme.



The Flavours of Fukuoka VIP Night

On 13 Dec, the Fukuoka Prefectural Government held a reception in Sydney to promote a wide range of attractions in Fukuoka Prefecture such as tourism, food, industries and sports.

The reception was held at GOGYO in Sydney, a sister restaurant of the IPPUDO restaurant chain originally from Fukuoka.

Attendees included representatives from the NSW Government, Japanese government-related organisations in Sydney, local travel companies, the media and other relevant organisations. During the reception, in anticipation of post-COVID-19 travel, the latest tourist information on Fukuoka Prefecture was provided to the attendees. A CLAIR Sydney staff who was seconded from the Fukuoka Prefectural Government also delivered a presentation that highlights the distinctive features of Fukuoka Prefecture in the fields of industry, sports and education. Furthermore, a staff in charge of international policies in the Fukuoka Prefectural Government joined the reception virtually from Japan and discussed future exchange opportunities between Fukuoka Prefecture and NSW with representatives from the NSW Government. On the night there were also a pork-bone broth ramen cooking demonstration and a special promotion of Fukuoka's locally produced sake.



Many of the guests gave generous feedback in the post-reception survey and expressed that they have refreshed their knowledge on the attractions of Fukuoka through the reception.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to support the promotional activities of the Fukuoka Prefectural Government.

JAPAN EXPO

On 17 Dec, the JAPAN EXPO was held at Sydney Town Hall. The JAPAN EXPO was a new initiative in 2021 to promote Japanese cultures, traditions, food, tourism and other attractions. During the event, promotions of Japanese foods and tourist destinations, and exhibitions of Japanese crafts took place at booths set up at the venue. There were also performances of Karate, flower arrangement and calligraphy.



CLAIR Sydney ran a booth at the event and promoted Japanese regional tourist destinations, the JET Programme and the 19th FINA World Championships Fukuoka & 19th FINA World Masters Championships Kyushu. Since the event took

place in the city centre of Sydney following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions in New South Wales, it was attended by many visitors, many of whom visited our booth to collect information on popular tourist destinations in Japan for their future travel plans.

Many of the visitors said that they have visited Japan previously and expressed interest in visiting tourist spots in regional Japan where they have never visited before once quarantine in Japan is no longer required for travellers. We anticipate that demand for inbound tourism in Japan will bounce back quickly after the border control measures in Japan are lifted.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to support Japanese local governments' destination promotion activities in Australia and New Zealand.



First Time Exhibiting at the Matsuri Japan Festival in Chatswood 2021 (NSW)

On 18 Dec, the Matsuri Japan Festival in Chatswood 2021 was held in Chatswood, New South Wales.

CLAIR Sydney took part in the event for the first time and ran a booth to promote the JET Programme, regional tourist destinations in Japan, etc. Many festival attendees visited the CLAIR Sydney booth to find information on popular tourist spots in Japan.

Since the restrictions on international travel have been significantly eased for Australians, many attendees who visited our booth said that they would like to visit Japan soon once quarantine in Japan is no longer required for travellers. We can anticipate that demand for inbound tourism in Japan will bounce back after Japan lifts its quarantine restrictions in place for overseas travellers.

CLAIR Sydney will continue to support Japanese local governments' destination promotion activities in Australia and New Zealand.



From the Executive Director

– New Year Greetings from CLAIR Sydney –

On behalf of all of the staff at CLAIR Sydney, I would like to wish all our readers a Happy New Year.

In the past two years, the lives of the people of Australia, New Zealand, and the rest of the world have changed in unprecedented ways due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Almost every country in the world has been faced with the challenging and arduous task of managing the pandemic and combating the virus. CLAIR Sydney staff hope that the situation will improve significantly in this new year with the high vaccination rates, development and availability of new drugs, and the collective actions of the people in the world.

CLAIR Sydney has continued our activities on a reduced scale in the past two years. Although most of our activities are still online-based, since the easing of restrictions in New South Wales, we have restarted our in-person activities by taking part in events in a COVID safe manner. You can find reports of our recent activities in this newsletter. We hope that we can have many more opportunities to meet you at upcoming events and meetings in this new year.

We hope that you will take care of yourself and that you, your family, and the wider communities around you will stay well and healthy in 2022.