



# NEWSLETTER

## C O N T E N T S

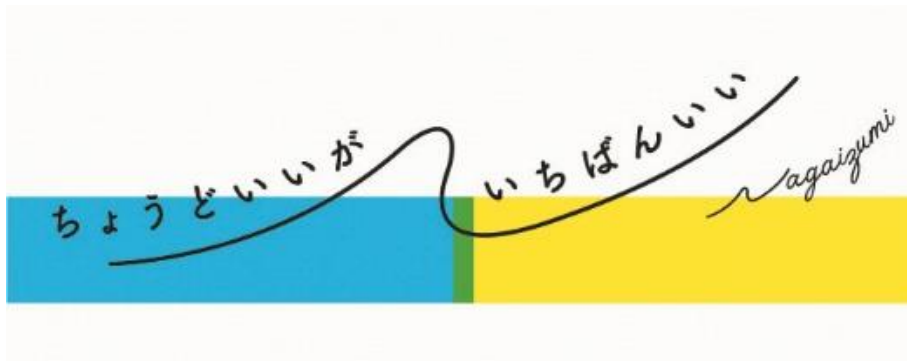
	(Page)		(Page)
Welcome to Nagaizumi	1-3	JET Programme Returnee Welcome Reception (Melbourne)	6-7
Nagano Delegation Visited CLAIR Sydney	3	The Australian Multicultural Study Tour in Melbourne	7
2022 JET Programme Returnee Reception (Sydney)	4	Sister Cities Australia Online Forum and Annual General Meeting 2022	8
Notice: School Exchange Opportunities	4	Taituarā Annual Conference 2022	8
Japan Day 2022 – Auckland	5	From the Executive Director	9
Global Cities New Zealand 2022 Annual Conference	5-6		

## Welcome to Nagaizumi

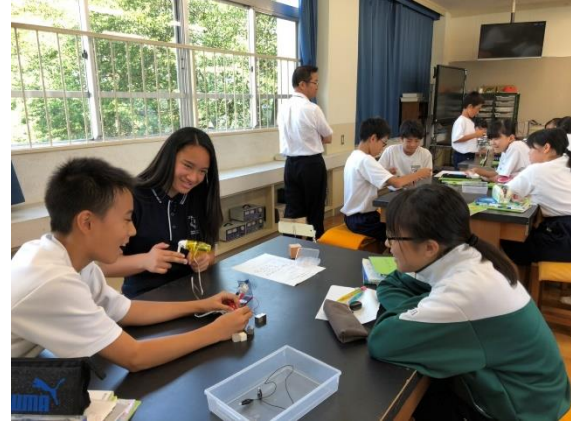
### Good Balance is the Best - Nagaizumi

Nagaizumi is an industrial town in Eastern Shizuoka Prefecture. Sitting at the base of the world famous Mount Fuji, Nagaizumi is the biggest township in Shizuoka Prefecture and has a population of approximately 43,000 people.

Nagaizumi and Whanganui, New Zealand, signed a sister city agreement in April 1988 and have continued to interact through culture and sports. The two municipalities will celebrate the 35th anniversary of their sister city affiliation next year.



Since the sister city agreement, the two municipalities have been holding student exchange visits over the years. Nagaizumi has been sending junior and senior high school students to Whanganui every year, where the students attend local schools and experience New Zealand culture, while students from Whanganui also visit Nagaizumi reciprocally.



### Sister City Promotional Event Originated from the COVID Pandemic: Kia Ora Nagaizumi

With the COVID pandemic disrupting the flow of people to and from New Zealand, an event called 'Kia Ora! Nagaizumi' was initiated to let people in Nagaizumi learn about their sister city's attractions. This is the third year that the Nagaizumi Town Government has organised this event, which allows their locals to experience the culture and taste the food of New Zealand while they are in Japan. For more information, you can check out the event via the QR code below.



A photo exhibition was organised in Nagaizumi with the help of a photographer who captures sceneries in New Zealand. The exhibition featured pictures drawn by kindergarten students in Nagaizumi and photos of New Zealand. The exhibition was visited by people from the town and beyond, and provided an excellent opportunity to showcase New Zealand in Japan.



Restaurants in Nagaizumi took part in the event and offered New Zealand-inspired dishes.

### **Online Interactions between Children**

While the COVID pandemic prevented people from physically interacting with each other, the children from Whanganui and Nagaizumi connected virtually and had fun introducing themselves to each other and singing and dancing together.



### **Towards the Resumption of In-person Exchange after COVID**

With the removal of border restrictions, the Nagaizumi Town Government is making plans to send students to Whanganui in 2023 and is looking forward to further developing the sister city exchanges in the future, with high hopes for the first in-person exchange in three years.

## **Nagano Delegation Visited CLAIR Sydney**

On 1 November, the Nagano Prefectural Governor, Mayor of Nozawa Onsen Village and Mayor of Hakuba Village visited the CLAIR Sydney office. The delegation visited Australia to promote Nagano's tourist destinations and specialty products and to conduct a site visit to learn about sustainable urban development in Sydney. CLAIR Sydney supported the delegation's visit by setting up a meeting with a relevant department in the NSW Government and accompanied



the delegation to the meeting. We also provided the delegation with a briefing on the political and economic situation in Australia and Australia's multicultural policies. CLAIR Sydney will continue to support Nagano Prefecture's activities in Australia.

## 2022 JET Programme Returnee Reception (Sydney)

On 2 November, the Consul-General of Japan in Sydney hosted a returnee reception for JET Programme returnees. Several returnees attended the reception and deepened their friendships through talking about their experiences in Japan. All of the reception attendees, including JETAA NSW members, celebrated the returnees' successes in the JET Programme and welcomed them warmly. We hope that all returnees make the most of their knowledge and networks gained through their JET Programme experiences in Japan, and that they will play an important role in further strengthening the relationship between Australia and Japan.

## School Exchange Opportunities

To support cultural exchange between schools in Japan and Australia/New Zealand, CLAIR Sydney has a dedicated page on our website that lists schools in Japan that are interested in initiating cultural exchange with schools in Australia/New Zealand.



Please click on the link or scan the QR code below lists schools and provided for more information on the respective schools.

Should you be interested in a particular school, please get in touch with them!

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



# Japan Day 2022 – Auckland

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On Sunday, 6 November, the Japan Day 2022 – Auckland was held in Auckland, the largest city in New Zealand for the first time in two years. With various booths selling food such as onigiri and Takoyaki, as well as booths with kimono displays, Japanese sake tastings and tourism information, the event attracted a huge crowd of visitors.



CLAIR Sydney took part in the event and promoted tourist destinations in various parts of Japan and Expo 2025 Osaka. It could be because it was the month after the announcement of the removal of international arrival caps, the resumption of visa-free entry and the lifting of individual travel bans to Japan, people seemed excited to be able to travel to Japan without restrictions and many people visited our booth to gather information to plan for their trips to Japan.

We will continue to promote Japan at similar events to pique New Zealander's interest in Japan and encourage them to choose Japan as a travel destination. We will also continue our efforts to promote exchange between New Zealand and Japan.



# Global Cities New Zealand 2022 Annual Conference

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On 10 November, the Global Cities New Zealand 2022 Annual Conference was held in Wellington, New Zealand, and attracted many participants from all over New Zealand. This conference commemorated the anniversaries of diplomatic relations between New Zealand and the USA (80 years), Japan (70 years), South Korea (60 years) and China (50 years).



At the conference, the Ambassador to New Zealand of each country gave a presentation and citizens who engage in sister city matters ran a panel discussion. The conference participants listened to them attentively.

CLAIR Sydney staff interacted with representatives from various sister cities in New Zealand and we strengthened our network with them.

We will continue to collaborate with Global Cities New Zealand to contribute to the enhancement of sister city exchanges between Japan and New Zealand.



## JET Programme Returnee Welcome Reception (Melbourne)

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On Thursday, 10 November, the Consul-General of Japan in Melbourne hosted the Returnee Welcome Reception for 12 JET Programme returnees. A staff member from the CLAIR Sydney office attended the event.

At the event, there was a video message from the Hon Natalie Hutchins MP, Victoria's Minister for Education, and the event was attended by Mr Murray McLean AO, the Former Ambassador of Australia to Japan, JETAA members, and representatives from the Japanese language education sectors and Japanese businesses, where they celebrated the

success of the returnees. The reception provided a great opportunity for the returnees to talk about their lives and memories in Japan and network with all the attendees.

We hope that the returnees will continue to use the knowledge and networks they developed through their experience on the JET Programme to further enhance the relationship between Australia and Japan.

## The Australian Multicultural Study Tour in Melbourne

On 14-19 November, CLAIR Sydney held our annual Australian Multicultural Study Tour in Melbourne.

This study tour is held for staff of Japanese local governments, international associations and other relevant organisations to learn about the best multicultural policies and practices in Australia, where approximately 30% of the estimated resident population was born overseas. The experience and knowledge gained will be applied in the policymaking of multicultural policies and practices in Japan.



CLAIR Sydney was pleased to welcome 13 delegates from all over Japan to our first on-site seminar held in three years since the

onset of the pandemic. The delegates visited nine organisations to learn about their progressive policies, practices and services. The organisations the delegates visited included governmental bodies such as Fire Rescue Victoria and Melton City Council, and schools and non-profit organisations in Melbourne.



The delegates had opportunities to hear directly from staff at the discussion session held at each organisation and attained invaluable first-hand information.

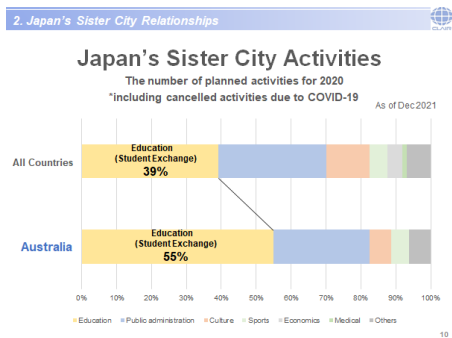
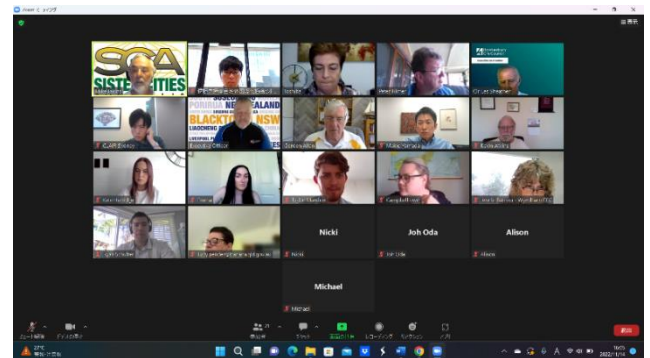
CLAIR Sydney will continue to research multicultural policies in Australia and assist Japanese local governments in their development of initiatives for facilitating an intercultural society.



# Sister Cities Australia Online Forum and Annual General Meeting 2022

On 14 November, the Sister Cities Australia Online Forum and Annual General Meeting were held virtually and attracted many participants from all over Australia.

CLAIR Sydney was provided with an opportunity to give a presentation. In the presentation, we introduced the audience to the functions of CLAIR and explained Japan's sister city relationships and CLAIR's support for sister city relationships.



CLAIR Sydney staff interacted with representatives from various sister cities in Australia and we strengthened our networks with them.

We will continue to collaborate with Sister Cities Australia to contribute to the enhancement of sister city exchanges between Japan and Australia.

# The Taituarā Annual Conference 2022

The Taituarā Annual Conference 2022 was held from 29 to 30 November in Wellington and was attended by local government officials from all around New Zealand.

The conference featured presentations and workshops on a variety of topics such as climate change, community activation, and work styles.

CLAIR Sydney provided information about our recent activities, upcoming notable sports events and Japanese tourism destinations. Through the opportunities provided by the conference, which includes meeting alumni of the CLAIR Local Government Exchange and Cooperation Seminar, CLAIR Sydney was able to network with many local governments in New Zealand.



We will continue to learn and research the current challenges and best practices of New Zealand local governments, strengthen our relationship with local governments in New Zealand and support the international activities of Japanese local governments.



# From the Executive Director

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## – Australian Multicultural Study Tour – the Advantages of Online vs In-person –

Last month, we held our annual Australian Multicultural Study Tour in Melbourne. It was the first time we held this study tour in person in three years since the outbreak of COVID-19 and we were delighted to welcome 13 delegates from all over Japan for the study tour. Together with the participants, we visited nine organisations that have strategies, initiatives and services that contribute to the Australian multicultural society.

At each organisation, the participants received a briefing on each organisation's strategies and services, and had opportunities to discuss with staff working on the ground. The discussions were all so dynamic that many of the discussion sessions exceeded the scheduled time. We anticipate that the participants will apply their learnings from the study tour in their current and future roles.

We would like to take this opportunity and thank all the organisations and individuals who kindly assisted with our study tour.

Last year's Australian Multicultural Study Tour was held online due to COVID-19, and I think online events are prevalent since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout this year's study tour, I was able to see that both online and in-person events have their advantages for Japanese local governments' activities in Australia and New Zealand.

During last year's online study tour, due to the elimination of travel costs and time, more employees from Japanese local governments and other organisations could take part to learn about the progressive policies and initiatives in Australia. I think that the participation of people from a variety of backgrounds, positions and departments can lead to more diverse opinions and questions. As the event organiser, the online study tour allowed us flexibility with the date and time of the sessions as we are not restricted to the in-person availability of participants and could coordinate session dates and times with the hosting organisations across a broader period.

On the other hand, in this year's in-person study tour, I think the participants deepened their understandings and awareness of issues they are interested in because they had more opportunities to ask questions due to the smaller size of the group, individually ask questions after the sessions and during the site visits and take part in group discussions with other participants at the end of the tour. Since the participants worked together during the week-long tour, connections were built among them and they voluntarily shared information and exchanged ideas throughout the week. I believe these connections will be useful in their activities back in Japan.

When we organise events in the future, it is important for us to consider the delivery method of the events, taking into account the advantages of running the events online and in person depending on the purpose and aims of the events.