



NEWSLETTER

Issue 164 – January 2023



Japan Local Government Centre

Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR Sydney)

Welcome to Koshigaya City

Koshigaya City is located in the south-east part of Saitama Prefecture, 25 km north of central Tokyo. Koshigaya has developed as a core city with a current population of approximately 345,000 people, having rapidly increased in population since its establishment in 1958 as a residential area near the capital. In addition, the city has many rivers and waterways flowing through the city and has long been familiar to many people as 'Suigo Koshigaya' ('Water Town Koshigaya'). It is a city where rich nature meets history. In the Edo period (1603-1867), Koshigaya flourished as the third shukuba-machi (posting station town) on the Nikko Douchu Road (Nikko Kaido), and the remnants of that still exist in the city.

C O N T E N T S

Discover JAPAN - Welcome to Koshigaya City

News from CLAIR Sydney - School Exchange Opportunities

CLAIR Sydney December Activity Reports

From the Executive Director



Koshigaya City formed a sister city affiliation with Campbelltown, New South Wales in 1984. Since then, the two cities have deepened exchanges and established friendly relations through mutual exchange of delegations and staff dispatch programs.



Koshigaya City had been implementing two main exchange programs every year: sending a delegation of junior high school students from Koshigaya City to Campbelltown and receiving a youth delegation from Campbelltown in Koshigaya City. However, due to the spread of Covid-19 in 2020, these programs were cancelled for three years.

To continue the exchange and provide an opportunity for students who were unable to go to Campbelltown, Koshigaya City considered whether there was a way of conducting the exchange that could be implemented even during Covid-19.

As a result, it was decided to implement the 'Video Online Sister City Exchange Program' as an alternative to the Junior High School Student Delegation Program. In this project, junior high school students from Koshigaya City and students



from Campbelltown make a video introducing their city and their country's culture, etc. After watching each other's videos, they shared their impressions and asked questions about the videos in an online exchange meeting. The students who participated in this project worked enthusiastically on creating a video, and at the exchange meeting, they were able to enjoy virtual interactions, asking each other about their interests and what is popular in their respective countries.

In 2024, Koshigaya and Campbelltown will celebrate the 40th anniversary of their sister city affiliation. Both cities are very much looking forward to celebrating this milestone. Koshigaya City hopes to continue exchanges with Campbelltown in the future and further develop their relationship.



News from CLAIR Sydney

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.



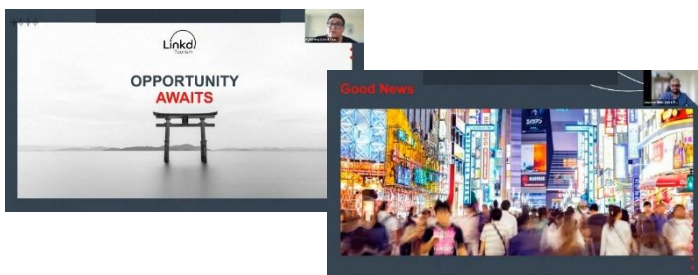
Please click on the link or scan the QR code below for more information on the respective schools. Should you be interested in a particular school, please get in touch with them!



<http://www.jlgc.org.au/international-exchange-2/sister-school-exchange/australia-%e3%83%bbnew-zealand/>

CLAIR Sydney December Activity Report

- [Canberra Nara Candle Festival \(3 Dec 2022\)](#)
- [The Inbound Tourism Promotion Webinar \(19 Dec 2022\)](#)



The Inbound Tourism Promotion Webinar



Canberra Nara Candle Festival



From the Executive Director

New Year Greetings from CLAIR Sydney

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

Now that we are co-existing with COVID-19, looking back on last year, I think many people around the world are trying to compensate for the diminished activities in the previous three years while trying to balance socioeconomic activities and staying safe. We wish you all the best and hope that this year will be a year of great progress.

CLAIR Sydney has had more opportunities participating in in-person events and supporting the overseas activities of Japanese local governments since the second half of last year. Our activities are also returning to pre-pandemic levels. In this new year, we expect that there will be more interactions between Japan and Australia/New Zealand and they will gain momentum and steadily make up for lost time. We also expect that we will have more opportunities to meet our partners across Australia and New Zealand at future events and meetings, and we will make all efforts to accomplish our mission.

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 2023.