

Newsletter

Special Issue
May 2025



Introducing our new staff!

In early April, we welcomed new staff members who have commenced their secondments at CLAIR Sydney.



Shuhei NISHIKAWA

Deputy Executive Director from Nagoya City Government



Hello everyone, my name is Shuhei Nishikawa.

I am from Nagoya City in Aichi Prefecture. Before being posted to Sydney,

I worked in the Tourism and Multicultural Society Division at the Nagoya City Government office.

In Japan, I supported foreigners living in Nagoya, and now I myself am a foreigner in Sydney. Fortunately, Australian people are very kind.

I am interested in history, culture and customs of different countries around the world. I have just moved to Sydney with my family as part of my work and I am especially eager to learn more about Australian history and culture, particularly the differences between Japan and Australia.

Actually, I lived in Brisbane for two months when I was a university student. That was my first experience living abroad. At the time, there were no smartphones, so whenever I missed Japan, I often made calls from a public phone using a telephone card. It's been over 20 years since then, and I was surprised to see how much Australia has changed.



Cultural exchange with Uzbek residents in Nagoya



Donating necessities to Ukrainian evacuees

The cities are much bigger and there are many more people, but the beautiful nature is still here, and I am happy to be back.



Nagoya Castle

This is my first time living in Sydney, so everything feels new and exciting. I am looking forward to meeting many people and learning more about local life and culture. Please feel free to talk to me—I would love to get to know you. Thank you.

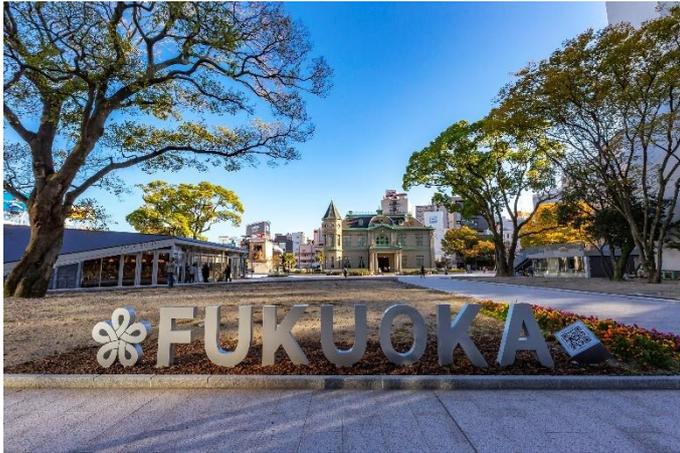
Sho KUWANO

Assistant Director from Fukuoka Prefecture



Hello everyone!

I'm Sho Kuwano and I have been appointed by the Fukuoka Prefectural Government to work at the CLAIR Sydney office for the next two years.



Tenjin Chuo Park

As part of my mission here, I aim to strengthen ties between my hometown of Fukuoka and New South Wales, particularly in the areas of hydrogen industry, sports, and tourism.

Fukuoka prefecture is in the south of Japan, on the island of Kyushu. It's renowned for its beautiful nature, rich cultural heritage and mouthwatering traditional dishes such as *tonkotsu ramen*, *yakitori* (grilled chicken skewers) and fresh seafood. Fukuoka City is also incredibly convenient to access—just a five-minute subway ride from Fukuoka airport to downtown!



Momochi Seaside



Fukuoka Castle in Maizuru Park

A bit about me—my family includes my wife and daughter, and we are expecting a new baby in October 2025. I enjoy running and bushwalking, and one of my favourite routes is around the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House. I'm excited to experience the cultural diversity and to explore the stunning natural beauty of Australia and New Zealand. I look forward to meeting you soon!

VISIT FUKUOKA <https://www.crossroadfukuoka.jp/en>

Ryosuke TABUCHI

Assistant Director from Ehime Prefecture



Hi everyone,

My name is Ryosuke Tabuchi from the Ehime Prefectural Government, and I'm currently on secondment at the Japan Local Government Centre for the next two years.

Let me begin by introducing my hometown, Ehime Prefecture, located on Shikoku Island in western Japan. It's a hidden gem, known for its breathtaking nature, rich history and culture, and delicious local cuisine.

Among its many attractions, the **Shimanami Kaido**, a scenic cycling route, and **Dogo Onsen**, one of Japan's oldest hot springs, are particular highlights. I'd be delighted if you had a chance to visit someday.



Shimanami Kaido

This isn't actually my first time in Australia. Seven years ago, my wife and I visited Cairns, Uluru, and the Great Barrier Reef on our honeymoon—an unforgettable trip that left a lasting impression. Now, I feel incredibly lucky to be back in this amazing country, this time with my wife and our children.

While I'm here, I'd like to explore different places in Australia and New Zealand, and to learn from the people I meet, both through everyday encounters and professional exchanges.



Dogo Onsen

I look forward to bringing these insights back to help strengthen local government practices in Japan.

I'm excited to connect with many of you.

See you soon!

Natsuki NISHIZAKA

Assistant Director from Okayama Prefecture



Hello everyone!

I'm Natsuki Nishizaka, and I have been seconded to CLAIR Sydney from the Okayama Prefectural Government in Japan. Please feel free to call me Nina.



Asahi River and Okayama Castle

Have you heard of the Japanese folktale Momotaro? He is a legendary boy, based on a Japanese folktale, who was born from inside a giant peach, and he set off on an adventure with a dog, a monkey, and a pheasant to fight ogres. Okayama is known as his hometown, and you can find peach symbols everywhere. Our prefecture is famous for its super sweet and juicy peaches, especially in the summer!

[Top page - Okayama Prefecture Official Tourism Guide](#)
[Explore Okayama, the Land of Sunshine](#)

My hometown is very flat, so when I arrived in Sydney, I was surprised by all the hills! I think walking here will definitely help me get fitter and healthier. Although I'm not a strong runner yet, living in such a hilly city has inspired me to get more active and I'm even thinking about joining a marathon or running event while I'm here.

Interestingly, before moving to Sydney, I worked in the Okayama Marathon department in my hometown. The Okayama Marathon course, like the city itself, is very flat, making it perfect for setting a personal best. This year's event will be held on 9 November, and entries are open until 19 May, 11:59pm (JST). Feel free to check it out and consider joining us!

[Okayama Marathon 2025 | OkayamaMarathon2025](#)



OKAYAMA MARATHON 2024

I'm passionate about travelling, walking, and of course, enjoying tasty food. I love discovering how vast and diverse the world is through nature, culture, and history. I'm really excited to explore the many beautiful places and unique experiences that Australia and New Zealand have to offer. I especially love vast natural landscapes, and I have a big bucket list for my time here. If you know any hidden gems — not just around Sydney — please let me know. I'd love to explore them!

Yuki MIYAUCHI

Assistant Director from Hokuto City Government



Hello, everyone!

My name is Yuki Miyouchi, and I am currently seconded to CLAIR Sydney from the Hokuto City Government in Yamanashi Prefecture. Hokuto City is located in the northern part of Yamanashi, near the border with Nagano Prefecture. It is a beautiful rural area characterised by mountains, forests, and farmland, and is about a two-hour train journey from Tokyo.



Southern Alps in spring



Japanese Children's Day flags in Hokuto City

Born and raised in Hokuto, I take great pride in my hometown. The city is known for its pure water, rich natural beauty, and breathtaking views of surrounding mountains, including Mt Fuji. Yamanashi isn't just well known for its stunning scenery but it's also home to delicious fruit, meat and local cuisines. With easy access from Tokyo, I highly recommend you visiting Yamanashi Prefecture! Especially Hokuto City – it's a hidden gem full of charm.

I enjoy walking and discovering new places on foot. Since Yamanashi is landlocked and has no coastline, I'm particularly excited to explore Sydney's beautiful beaches and take long walks along the coast. I also love to travel, and I am keen to visit many parts of Australia and New Zealand. In particular, I can't wait to visit New Zealand, as I'm a huge fan of *The Lord of the Rings* films! I look forward to meeting you all soon!



Mt. Fuji from Lake Shoji, Yamanashi Prefecture

Fumiya NAKATANI

Assistant Director from Kurihara City Government



Hello everyone!!

My name is Fumiya Nakatani, and I'm from Kurihara City in Miyagi Prefecture.

I'm truly delighted to have the opportunity to introduce my hometown to people from Australia and New Zealand over the next two years.

Much like Australia and New Zealand, Kurihara is blessed with stunning nature and fresh, clean air. Located just 2 hours from Tokyo Station by Shinkansen, our city is both beautiful and easily accessible.



A scene from the summit of Mt Kurikoma



A Carpet of the Gods, Mt Kurikoma

One of my top recommendations for visitors is **Mount Kurikoma**—one of the most scenic mountains in the region.

In autumn, the view from the summit is known as the “**Carpet of the Gods**” because of its breathtaking colours.

Kurihara is also conveniently located near Sendai and Morioka, both of which are famous for their historical castles—**Aoba Castle** in Sendai and **Morioka Castle** in

Morioka. With so many travel options across the Tohoku region, you'll never run out of places to explore. And if you're not sure where to start, I'd be more than happy to help you plan your trip!

I'm especially excited to be working in Sydney, as I've always dreamed of living abroad. This is my first time living outside of Japan, and I'm eager to experience life in a new country—and eventually bringing those experiences back to benefit my hometown.



Lotus flower at Izunuma

I'm looking forward to everything, and, most of all, to meeting all of you!

↓ Please visit the site below for some great ideas to your next trip to Kurihara:

[Kurihara City Official Tourism Site \(Gyugyutto Kurihara\)](#)



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