



The Bamboo Shoots

A local newsletter quarterly issued
Yamatotakada Lismore Sister City Association, Nara, Japan
Autumn • Winter Issue, 2019

No.179

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We do hope The Bamboo Shoots born out of the soil of Yamato-Takada will grow up and act as a go-between for the citizens in Lismore and in Yamato-Takada



Lismore Exchange Students visit Yamato Takada

From September 27th to October 9th, 2019

Lismore council sent the six exchange students from thirteen to seventeen years of age and a chaperone, their group leader, to Yamato Takada this year.

They visited elementary, junior high and high schools in Yamato Takada and traveled to Hiroshima for Peace learning.

During their stay in Japan, they stayed with their host families and experienced a lot of Japanese culture. After they finished the program in Japan for 2 weeks, they returned to Australia safely.



Questionnaire to Lismore Students 2019

1) What were your first impressions of Yamatotakada?

• I thought it was very big, and was a little intimidated by its size. After a few days, however, I got used to the large buildings and crowded streets.



• It was a lot more busy than I thought it would be but everyone was very nice. All the people were very excited to show us their home and culture.

• It's a lovely place, it's beautiful and I enjoyed the sense of community.

• My first impressions of Yamatotakada were that it was a very community-minded city. Everyone was extremely kind when we arrived and were excited because we are from Lismore. The city was a lot busier than I thought it was going to be.

• Big and crowded.



2) What differences were you surprised at in terms of culture/manners and customs?

•I was surprised by the grounded toilets; I had never seen ones like them in Japan before. I was also surprised at the number of small details and etiquette during the tea ceremonies I attended.

•I was actually surprised at the similarities, my host family had a great sense of humor.

However, it was clear that Australians are much more casual people. The culture is strong and it was very nice to see.

•I found out 16- year-old girls can get married but they can't drive.

•I was surprised about the way the Japanese people have a certain special way of doing most things. For example, they all say "itadakimasu" before they eat, they all wash their hands in a special sequence before entering a temple and the way that they pray.

•Taking shoes off before entering houses.

3) What impressed you most with regard to your host family?

•I was impressed by the amount of work everyone in my family did during the day, The dad, who left for work at 4:30 am and didn't get back until late; The mum, who prepared dinner, accounted for the dad's company and managed the family's finances and the kids, who went to school early, returned late, then studied hard.

•My host mother was almost fluent in English and it made it very easy to bond and become comfortable around them They were also very easy going and not offended easily.

•How kind and generous they were!

•I was really impressed with how kind and generous they were. They included me in everything that they did, and made my experience really fun, by taking me to places and preparing amazing Japanese food for me. They made me feel welcome and part of their family. They made my Japanese experience amazing and memorable.

•How welcoming my host family was! And they treated me like a family member. They didn't want to give me everything and they made me do chores. It made me feel like a family member.

4) Did you enjoy yourself in Hiroshima? What was your impression about Hiroshima?

•Hiroshima was a fun but inevitably sad experience that I will always remember. We learnt about Hiroshima's sad history at the Peace Museum, witnessed firsthand Hiroshima's plea for the abolishment of nuclear weapons, and were guided through the Peace Park to a final destination of the Hiroshima Dome.

•I did. I think it was a great group bonding experience. I think it was very important for us to see as well.

•The city was bright, beautiful, and lively. It was very difficult to visualise the tragedy of the bombing.

•I enjoyed my experience in Hiroshima. I found it extremely sad and it made me feel sick, too.

•I enjoyed myself in Hiroshima. Hiroshima was a good place. The museum was sad and hearting. After seeing the museum once I don't want to see it again.

Questionnaire to Host Families: 2019

1) Some puzzlements while welcoming students from Australia.

- At first I was quite at a loss what to make meals for her, because I didn't know her likes and dislikes.
- It took us a while to get used to communicating and enjoying English conversation with her.
- We wanted to do the washing every day or every other day for her, but she hesitated to ask us to do the laundry for her.
- She was a small eater, but she willingly became a big eater of candies, biscuits and so on when served before her.
- No one in my family had any ability of speaking English, so we made every effort to communicate with her, which reminds us of those happy days with her at that time.
- In order to enjoy English conversation, we tried to use translation software of our mobile phones and at the same time we asked someone who was good at English to visit our home and help us.
- The number of exchange students from Lismore, who stayed with us, amounted to eleven for the last 30 years or so. Now we became an elderly couple and we had no young children, of course. So our anxiety was, the exchange student this year might feel unhappy without young children at our home. But to my delight, he got along with my grandchildren, speaking friendly to each other in katakoto, or in broken English and Japanese. Now in Australia, Japanese food is very popular among them, I hear, so we had no worries about food for the Lismore exchange student who stayed with us this time as well. It looks like Australians eat fish raw and sushi seems to be a choice of food that appeals to Australians. I was very happy that my exchange student ate sushi a lot.

2) What you realized about differences in culture and manners and customs:

- Our student didn't take a bath every day.
- He said that it was stifling hot and sultry even in the morning here in Takada. He wore short pants and short sleeves all day long. I realized that the difference of heat and humidity was big between the two countries.
- She had no custom of turning off the light nor closing the door, so the light was left on and the door was kept open in her room.
- She took a shower for only a few minutes.
- She got used to using chopsticks, so she ate every kind of food using them well like us. We realized that there were little differences in eating habits between us. In addition, we were really surprised to find that the student knew very well about what kind of ingredients and foodstuffs we used in such and such a Japanese cooking.
- The number of times the student asked us to do the washing for her was very few, so we were confused about what to do for her.
- In Australia, I heard, breakfast was simple, but on the other hand dinner was full of gorgeous dishes and all the family got together to enjoy eating dinner. On the contrary, it was difficult for our family to get together because they came home at different times. In addition,

it often happened that we kept him waiting so long before dinner was ready.

In Australia almost all of the shops, groceries, and supermarkets closed early between four and five o'clock in the afternoon, so Australians might get together easily for dinner, I think. It happened very often that I hurriedly ran to some shops to buy some foodstuffs for dinner during my stay in Australia, which I could clearly remember those days.

3) Delight and trouble during his or her stay with you:

- We had great fun while my student was free. We enjoyed sightseeing and shopping in and around Kyoto, playing in some parks and playing free online games or video games for hours at home. We spent all her free time happily to the full.
- My student made some cakes called 'Pavlova'. He always said to me, "How's your health? Don't work so hard for me. Please try to take good care of yourself." I really admired him for his consideration.
- We were very much worried about his health, because he suddenly had a sharp stomachache very often.
- At first we could not communicate with each other in English, but we were very glad that we learned to understand what she wanted to say in English.
- We were lucky to have a student who had a lot of experiences abroad other than in Australia through emigrating to or traveling in some countries. She talked a lot to us about the countries, showing a lot of pictures taken there.
- We were relaxed and at the same time refreshed when we saw her laughing and chatting over tea or coffee.
- In spite of our broken English, she tried to listen to us and understand us, staying in the living room for a long time. We were able to spend a happy time with her.
- She seemed that she had a keen interest in things Japanese. She was willing to pay a visit to shrines and temples, so we were very happy together with her.
- When we took the wrong road in Kyoto and we were at a loss which way to go, someone showed us the way to go. We were able to reach the place we wanted to go. We thanked the man for his kindness and felt very happy. On top of that, Yamatotakada citizens, including children, showed us a warm and heartfelt welcome. We would like to really appreciate it whenever my grandchildren had a quarrel between themselves just in front of our student. He showed a very kindly attitude towards them. In the end they stopped quarreling after that they played happily together as if there had been no quarreling and fighting.
- We learned a lot as a host family. The opportunity gave us a precious experience and a real treasure of life. We feel very happy to have had an exchange student from Lismore.
- When my daughter stayed abroad as an exchange student, the host family there warmly welcomed her from the bottom of their heart. In return we decided to be a host family this time, thanking them for their kindness shown to her.

4) Would you like to positively admit an Australian exchange student, if you have an opportunity?

- We are ready to welcome a student from Lismore, if possible.
- Yes, we can, but that depends.
- We understand that we'll get a lot of precious things as a host family, but to be honest, prior to that we have something important for us to do for the time being.
- All of our family were able to spend a splendid time with an exchange student from Lismore, though it was so short

a time. We miss her that much. So we haven't decided yet to be a host family again for now.

·Though our service as a host family was not under careful and considerate condition, we would like to be helpful for a student from Lismore, if possible. No preparation for lunch was one of the good plans to us.

·We warmly welcomed an exchange student with all our family, including our daughter, who had started her new life independent of us parents. She came back home all the way from far away to meet her.

The Bamboo English Class Happy Days with Claudio!2019



The Bamboo English class started as one of the international exchange programs conducted by Yamato Takada Lismore Sister City Association 4 years ago. The English class is practiced twice a month for 4 to 12 years-old children living in Yamato Takada city. Using the so-called human five senses, children are expected to enjoy singing in English and dancing with Mr. Claudio Lopez, a native speaker of English, and some of the members of the association as well. What is more, in the programs they will be able to enjoy easy everyday English conversation through familiar topics of their daily life.

Get confident in speaking English!

Claudio Lopez
English Teacher



As i start my 4th year doing bamboo english, i am very grateful and proud of the student's english learning and communication skills that have been developed when they attend and learn at bamboo english . The students are learning very well and are getting confident in speaking english. This is why i love teaching english to the kids here in Yamato Takada. As we do interesting and fun lessons, the students are getting more comfortable speaking and learning english.

