



The Bamboo Shoots

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Yamato Takada Lismore Sister City Association, Nara, Japan

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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.

Children's pictures presented to Lismore



The publicity and information section of Yamato-Takada city advertised in its official newsletter for children who would draw or paint pictures sent to Lismore. 74 children applied for the plan and all of the picture, some of which showed their playing soccer, their running about with their friends, their gathering tomatoes and their blowing soap bubbles for example, were full of their excitement and warm hearts wishing their

thoughts would reach the people of Lismore.

The Sister City Association put each picture an English explanation on it.

The exchange students visiting Lismore from July 25 this year handed the pictures to Jenney Dowell, mayor of Lismore city.

Exchange students make Propaganda brochure



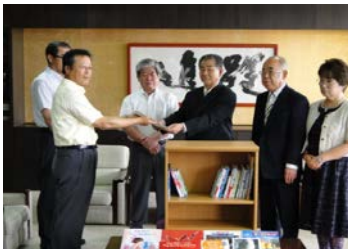
of Yamato Takada City

The 5 exchange students and their teacher sent to Lismore this year edited a Yamato Takada PR brochure made up of 8 pages in full color and completed it on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Lismore and Yamato Takada next year.

The activities of Father Paul Glynn, who fulfilled the important role of connecting the two cities as Sister Cities, Takada *Senbon-Zakura*, or a thousand cherry trees in Takada city, Takada's peculiar agricultural products, city facilities such as the city hospital and the city library, food, fashions, sports and so on are explained in English in the brochure.

The 1,000 copies are expected to be handed out in Lismore directly by the exchange students and their teacher.

Books related to Australia donated to each municipal school in Takada City



The Yamato-Takada Lismore Sister City Association donated 139 books in all, which are related to Australia, to 8 elementary schools, 3 junior high schools and Takada commercial high school in Takada city. In addition a bookcase was given to each school. The titles of the books are "The Tale of Aborigines", "A Plain Book of Australian Railways", "Viva Sydney! Koalas in Pure Heart", which are all suitable for the students of each school.

The Sister City Relationship between Takada and Lismore was born in 1963 and it will be 50 years old next year. The main project of the sister city relationship is, above all, the exchange student program between the two cities. The number of the exchange students dispatched from Takada to Lismore was 154 until 2011 and the program has continued without a break for 26 years so far.

The association planned this donation in order to let the school boys and girls have much more interest in Lismore, Australia and English itself than they have now.

The association is planning to donate some useful books as mentioned above to each school every year.

Wonderful Stay in Lismore !

For 14 days through July 25 to August 7 this year 5 exchange students and an English teacher stayed in Lismore. It seemed that they had spent their first experience of staying at Australian homes happily and usefully under extreme tension.



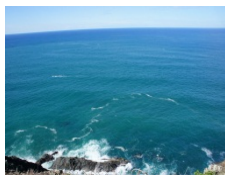
1. What did you feel about Lismore city?

- Lismore is far more developed compared with Takada.
- People enjoyed their slow lives with no traffic signals in Lismore and all vehicles stopped even when they walked slowly under "Right of Way for Pedestrians."
- Store owners were very friendly to us at any time.
- Lismore is rich in nature.



2. What places impressed you most at your sightseeing tour there?

- Open and boundless sea whose beauty was beyond description.
- Or there are dolphins and whales in the ocean, people were surprised to have entered the sea in winter
- Byron Bay and Gold Coast.
- Candle factory
- Wonderful row of houses and streets in Nimbin.



3. What differences in culture and customs were you surprised at?

*About everyday life;

- Big difference in temperature between night and day, due to that I caught a cold.
- I couldn't take a bath, just taking shower every day. That was a big difference for me.
- Different from Japanese weather, it was not so humid in the daytime though it was very hot. The air was purer than that of Japan.
- I couldn't find 'a box of tissue paper' and probably due to the difference of culture I had trouble using toilet while someone took a bath.
- I was surprised to see a number of people in the park eating food of their own cooking.

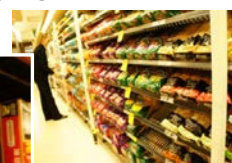
*About school life

- Very free in class anyway.
- Students were free to use their personal computers in class, which was more progressive than Japanese way of learning.
- Not teacher but students moved their classrooms one after another for their lessons.
- Students enjoyed their school life to the fullest.
- They had light uniforms in class. They said, "It is like a dress," when I showed some pictures of our uniforms.
- The system of Morning Tea was wonderful. They enjoyed tea and cakes at 10 a.m.
- We could interchange Lismore students actively, because they were very friendly and some students spoke to us in Japanese,



4. What pleasant memories recurred to you when you thought of your host family?

- All my host family were very kind-hearted and interesting people as well.
- I came to realize that I could manage to express myself by gestures even if I couldn't make myself understood in English.
- Though I could not listen to their English for the first two weeks, I could be on friendly terms with my host family when I gradually understood their English spoken to me slowly.
- My host family welcomed me as if I were one of the members of their family. How happy I was with them!
- I took origami as one of my souvenirs to my host family and enjoyed doing origami and cutting paper as a Japanese cultural play and also enjoyed shopping with them.



[various Japanese food seen at supermarkets]

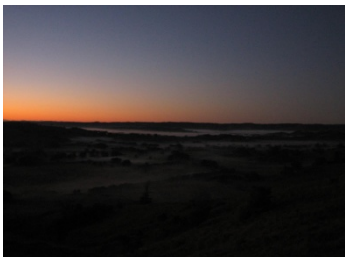


5. What did you find most pleasant?

- We were excited in Dreamworld.
- I held a koala in my arms and tried to touch a kangaroo.
- I was very happy to see koalas, kangaroos, emus and other famous animals very close to me.
- Above all, I could spend 14 useful days full of dreams with my host family.
- We, exchange students, and our teacher enjoyed visiting a variety of interesting places in Lismore all together.



[various types of candles]



6. What you want to put your experience this time to good account in your future:

- I realized that I was a poor speaker of English, so I'd like to study English much harder, so that I can communicate with foreigners in English.
- I want to go abroad, so I will try to study English more seriously.
- I'll never forget the precious experience of mine this summer. I want to be a person who will be able to see the world from various and diversified points of view. I strongly want to step to a further way on the basis of this experience.
- I want to tell my experience in Australia to my friends to share with them.
- If I have another chance to go abroad, I think it necessary for me to try to check out everything in detail beforehand in order not to fail in the life abroad.



Happy Days with 5 Exchange Students

Hiroko Yokoi, English teacher

First of all I appreciate all of your support and kindness. Thanks to that we had amazing 2 weeks in Lismore. Compare to population of Yamato-takada city, 6 of us is small number, it's an only dot. But I think that this dot is a seed of our relationship. I hope that every year we keep to sow seeds and our flower of friendship continue to bloom forever



Two ALTs named Matthew

There are two English teachers called ALT (Assistant Language Teacher) in Yamatotakada city this year. One is Matthew Roberts and the other is Matthew Palmer, two Matthews by chance. They started teaching English from April at 8 elementary schools, 3 junior high schools and 1 commercial high school in Takada city sharing the job of teaching English with each other.

Matthew Roberts (32 years old) comes from Australia and his wife is Japanese. He likes *sushi*, *takoyaki*, *okonomiyaki*, *yakimeshi* and many other kinds of Japanese dishes very much. He has lived in Japan for 2 years. He says that Japanese generally use a family name in calling others adding '~san' to it but that in Australia they are on a first name basis in everyday life. He also says that though he finds some other cultural differences, Japanese people always honour their soundly based society and that it is very comfortable to live in Japan. He feels very happy to see his students study English cheerfully with a loud



voice at his classes, some of them being nervous to do so.

It is said that he is newly married, so his dream is to have a great family.

Matthew Palmer (30 years old) comes from Jamaica. His favorite dishes are sushi and *oyakodon* and he loves almost all Japanese food.



When in Jamaica he had a keen interest in Japanese culture such as *karate* and calligraphy and after studying Japanese he came to Japan by himself 5 years ago. Some of what he said about Japanese students run as follows.

Jamaican students are more expressing of their thoughts and opinions, while Japanese students are more obedient. Talking of cultural differences, Japanese are generally trying to be polite and try to maintain good relations between themselves, while Jamaicans are more real among themselves. Jamaicans are polite but we clearly express our opinions even if it is against what the group believes. My dream is to show students how fun it is to study and use English.

What wonderful ALTs the two Matthews are!

Lanterns bound by Bonds of Friendship, this Year's Theme

In the event of "Children's Road to Dream" held on July 21 by the Yamatotakada PTA council lanterns made by kindergartners and elementary school children were lit in the precincts of *Tenjinsha* Shrine. The lanterns were arranged in circles, which referred to friendship. The theme this year was "Bonds of Friendship" for the Olympic year. The handmade lanterns were made of PET bottles at the bottoms of which were cut. Various handprints, pictures and *senryu* poems were seen on the paper-pasted bottles of lanterns.

The lanterns filled with a variety of expressions and thoughts of every child were producing a kind of romantic atmosphere with fantastic lights.



Place of Interest in Yamato Takada City (12)

Bentenza Theatre



In 1910 three people opened a performing theatre in Takada with mutual efforts, including Miyazaki. The Theatre gradually became a pleasant place for people in those days. Later it was remodeled into a movie theatre and it became popular among people again. Time passed and in 2005 it newly appeared as a popular and general-interest playhouse named "Bentenza". The playhouse seats 120 people. A new theatrical company plays for a month and another alternates taking turns playing a new performance for a month. People can enjoy a new drama company every

month and in addition they can enjoy a different play twice in the morning and the evening. The play starts with a mini show as a first stage, a drama at a second stage, and a dramatical action performance at a third stage. The audiences are always satisfied with all the stages lasting 3 and half hours. Every dramatic company is made up of 10 to 15 members and it moves to another place to play after a month's performance. Different costumes and implements must be prepared for different plays, so 2 trucks of 10 tons burden are needed to transfer from one place to another. If a company has 10 performers, the company has to prepare 300 drama wigs for them.

Every company plays to a large audience every time at this theatre "Bentenza" and people look forward to its play, so Bentenza is a most famous and popular place for them to entertain themselves in Yamatotakada city.