



# The Bamboo Shoots

A local newsletter quarterly issued

Yamato Takada Lismore Sister City Association, Nara, Japan

Autumn Issue, 2012

No.157

Contact :

Takada Sister City Association

TEL: 0745-22-1101

<http://www.city.yamatotakada.nara.jp/>

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 Garden



The 22<sup>nd</sup> “Arbor Day (Tree-Planting Ceremony) of Yamato Takada City” was held on a large scale in the North Area of Takada Multipurpose City Park on September 28. In this park people can see proudly the Eucalyptus tree. It has been brought up out of the seed, which was sent in 1983 from Lismore city here to Yamato Takada city in commemoration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sister City Exchange Relationship between the two cities.

Yamato Takada city thinks highly of the importance of Green and has come to think that Green should be seen everywhere in the city. And as a result the city has decided that memorial trees should be planted every year “to make the hometown rich in green.” As a memorial tree this year a bolt-brush tree (Japanese name: tree of brush) was planted.

This tree is originally Australian, slender flowers blossoming just like brushes washing bolts.

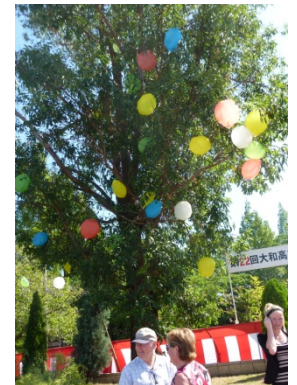


The exchange students from Lismore attended the ceremony of this day.

The Yamato Takada Sister City Association donated the ornaments of kangaroo and koala and a memorial plate as proof of friendship to Yamato Takada city as the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sister City Exchange Relationship comes next year. Mr. Yoshida, mayor, along with the exchange students and Mr. and Mrs. Virtue unveiled them.

This place was named “Lismore Garden” under the hope that the memorial trees will grow up larger and taller and the exchange relationship between Lismore and Takada will continue forever and ever.

Around the end of the ceremony various colors of balloons were flown high in the air successively by kindergartners. The rising of the balloons looked like beautiful flowers against the grown-up eucalyptus tree, the view of which was very splendid.



## Lismore Children's Painting Exhibition

About 100 pictures painted by children in Lismore were handed to Mayor Yoshida by the Lismore exchange students who arrived here at Takada at the end of September.

These pictures were in return for the pictures painted by children in Takada, which had been sent to Mayor of Lismore city in July.



The pictures were brilliantly painted in clear colors. They showed beautiful pieces of scenery of Lismore, children playing merrily, cute koalas and so on. The pictures, which were painted by 5 or 6 year-old kids, were exhibited at the kindergartens in Takada city and at the central community hall and also at the Lismore stall in “Genki Week” fair. A lot of Takada citizens enjoyed seeing the pictures painted by Lismore children.

The pictures painted by Takada children were exhibited in the Lismore city library.





# Lismore Students to Takada

Five members made up of three high school students and two coordinators of the students exchange program, Colleen and Ric, visited Yamato Takada for 15 days from Sep. 22 until Oct. 6.

The program was cancelled due to the Great East Japan Disaster last year, so it was practiced after an interval of two years.

The group learned about peace in Hiroshima, experienced school life in elementary schools and junior high schools within the city as well as Takada city commercial high school, and participated in the tree-planting ceremony held in the city.

◎Exchange students from Lismore this year



Charlotte Teague



Dominique Bryant



Eden Sainty

◎Schedule during their stay

• 1st day (Seps.22, Sat.)

Night Arrival at Yamato Takada City from Kansai Airport

• 2nd day (Sep.23, Sun)

Staying with each host family



• 3rd day and 4th day (Sep.24,Mon. and 25,Tue.)

Visiting Hiroshima



• 5th day (Sep.26,Wed.)

Paying a Courtesy visit to Mayor of Takada city



Visiting Asuka



• 6th day (Sep.27,Thur.)

Visiting Kyoto



• 7th day (Sep.28,Fri.)

Participating in the Tree-Planting Ceremony in Takada city



• 8th day and 9th day (Sep.29,Sat. and 30,Sun.)

Staying with each host family

• 10th day (Oct.1,Mon.)

Visiting Universal Studios Japan

• 11th day (Oct.2,Tue.)

Visiting Takada Commercial Senior High School



• 12th day (Oct.3,Wed.)

Visiting Nara



• 13th day (Oct.4,Thur.)

Visiting Ukiana West Elementary School



Visiting the kendo club of Katashio Junior High School



• 14th day (Oct.5,Fri.)

Attending "SAYONARA PAARTY" in the evening



• 15th day (Oct.6,Sat.)

To KANSAI AIRPORT by limousine in the evening. Departure for Lismore Australia





The followings are the Lismore students' answers to the questionnaires before their departure.

### 1. What were your first impressions of Yamatotakada?

- It is a beautiful city that is always busy and filled with exciting adventures.
- Although the streets were very narrow and attempting to track our progress through them proved very confusing.
- All the bicycles surprised me though. There were many people riding bicycles, even the elderly.



### 2. What places were most favorite / impressive for sightseeing in Japan?

- Kyoto was absolutely beautiful with much nature. The temples and shops were really cool.
- My favourite day trips would probably have to be the trips to Asaka, Hiroshima and Miyajima Island.
- I loved going and watching traditional Japanese dancing with my host family and my favourite eating place was the sushi and tempura bars!

### 3. What differences were you surprised at in terms of culture/ manners and customs?

#### ★About living:

- The wearing of slippers inside the houses was a considerable change, remembering to take them off when stepping on the Tatami.
- I was surprised at how close together the houses were and how busy the city was.
- All Japanese seem very polite and formal.

The following remarks are about questionnaires on the exchange program given to host families.

### 1. What were Japanese hosts puzzled about by receiving students from Lismore?

- Language problem is the biggest. We couldn't understand parts of their English.
- We were always worried about what kind of food and dishes they would like.
- Some of the exchange students had likes and dislikes about food.
- We were troubled as to where we should take them or what places they wanted to visit in order to make them happy there.

### 2. What did you fully realize about the difference of culture or manners and customs?

- They were surprised at so many dishes on the table for breakfast and dinner. It seems that breakfast and dinner are a little simple in Australia.
- They were very open-minded and they did everything without getting nervous and feeling shy.
- They acted everything without caring about time.
- They already knew very well about Japan and Japanese culture.

### 3. What were the things you felt happy with them?

- They said, "You cook very well. I like Japanese food very much. I liked all the dishes you cooked."

#### ★About school life:

- The wearing of slippers within the school was fascinating and very different from the constant use of shoes within Australia.
- The whole class would bow to the teacher before and after every class.
- The teachers moved classed, instead of the students.
- It surprised me at school the passion that the students have to learn.
- They were to meet us and practise their English skills. Also how keen the boys at the schools were to talk to me!

### 4. What impressed you most with regard to your host family?

- The politeness and concern shown by my host family towards me was very nice and welcoming, it allowed me to feel more at home with my new house and living conditions.
- They were also interested to hear about my life in Australia and were always keen to know what I had done after each day trip.
- They would always go out of their way to make sure I was happy and comfortable



- As time passed we could make ourselves in English through gestures and using words only without making sentences. They tried to understand us. We really enjoyed talking to each other.
- We had fun doing a lot of things, such as games, karaoke, playing catch and so on. We were pleased to know that they enjoyed themselves with us.
- We have no daughter, so I felt very happy and new when she said to me at a shopping center, "How do you like this? I like it."
- We went shopping with my exchange student in order to cook a big meat spaghetti which she liked very much, and she helped us very hard to cook the dish. Of course we all of our family members had a good time eating it and having a chat with her.
- In the course of her stay with us she showed more interest in Japan than before she visited us and we could use Japanese more and more.
- When we heard her say, "I intend to come to Japan someday again," and "Next time I visit Japan, I would like to stay here longer than this time," we really became very happy.

### 4. Do you apply for the host family plan if you have another opportunity?

Each host family this time answered to the questionnaire, "We are willing to welcome the exchange student from Lismore if we have an opportunity.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

# Colleen's Letter

Rick and I have been to Yamato Takada so many times, it feels like our second home. It is difficult to distinguish differences. This time we arrived in Yamato Takada on the Saturday night, on the Sunday morning we went for a walk, we hadn't left our host families home for more than twenty minutes when we met a lady we have met and gotten to know through the student exchange program.



It is lovely to be so comfortable in Lismore's Sister City. We have many special friendships and truly enjoy seeing our friends each time we visit. It is our privilege to share with students from Lismore and encourages them to realize their dreams.

## ◎Relationship between Colleen and the exchange students

We became involved in 1992, Byron Stevens, the co-ordinator placed an advertisement in the local newspaper asking for host families for Yamato Takada student exchange. Our family hosted Aki Okano in 1992 for six weeks and loved it.

So the following year he contacted us and we have been hosting every year since.

I was very happy to be involved so when Byron Stevens realised he was not able to continue mainly due to his age and health he asked me to take over the organisation of both incoming and outgoing groups. I officially took over the program in 1998, my first trip to Japan. Byron Stevens had started the student exchange and knew I had the commitment to continue the program.

## Genki Week



"Genki Week," which was one of the projects backed up by Yamato Takada City, was actively practiced for 9 days from Nov. 10 until 18, and various events were held everywhere within the city. This project started up 7 years ago in order to show the active state of Yamato Takada City as well as to make the streets much more crowded with a lot of people.

During the period of the Week people had fun enjoying a variety of interesting entertainments held here and there in the city, such as art exhibitions, concerts, agricultural shows and exhibitions of works for sale, different stalls by some organizations, free markets and fire-fighting-fest and so on.



With the aim of having Takada residents know Lismore more, YTLSCA opened "Lismore Stall of Australian Product." at the fair.

The staff members of the association set out some kinds of nuts, cookies, chocolates and salt at the stall, all of which are peculiar to Australia. In addition the native flowers unique to Australia were displayed there this time and many people enjoyed shopping some of the flowers and other things. The staff arranged the flowers on the spot as some of the shoppers asked them to do so, getting a favorable reception by showing them flower arranging.

As a part of PR activities of the Sister City Friendship Association the staff also exhibited the pictures painted by children in Lismore, which were brought by the exchange students from Lismore this year.

