

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.

Welcoming 50th Sister City Anniversary, Friendly Football Game in Lismore



Yamato Takada Football Association made up a new soccer team, the players of which were selected from among the first year students at junior high school. After visiting the Lismore City Council, they played a friendly soccer game with a club team in Lismore, the members of which were in the same generation, and mixed well with local people there.

The players of Diablossa Takada FC belonging to Takada Football Association and the 20 players selected from the members of Takada West Junior High School Soccer Club stayed in Lismore for 7 days from March 22nd to 28th, as an exchange project tour, and they played soccer with Goonellabah Soccer Team as a joint practice and friendly games as well on March 23 and 24. Takada players were able to have a tiptop experience playing on a wide and fine field with green grass.

At BBQ party Takada players enjoyed eating genuine Aussie beef at the club house in Goonellabah. They also enjoyed sea swimming and shopping with their host family. They paid a courtesy visit to Lismore City Council to meet mayor Jonny Dowell. They also visited The Japan Center in Southern Cross University and there they met many local citizens, learning real friendship and mutual understanding among them.

They took a bus tour to Byron Bay at the end of the eastern part of Australia and looked around the lighthouse there. At Calanbin Wild Park they enjoyed feeding kangaroo, cuddling koalas in their arms and seeing bird and snake shows. They had great fun at a hotel and a restaurant communicating with local people in native English. At a restaurant in Ashmore some of them tried to eat 600g steak, but none of them could eat it up.



What Takada players learned through their experiences in Lismore this time were as follows:

- They were prepossessed by local people's gentle manners and learned a lot about their culture.
- When they were in trouble they felt another sort of kindness in local citizens different from that of Japanese.
- Their host families were all kind enough to explain everything easily.
- They felt very happy to be able to play soccer with local players who were very considerate of Takada players.
- They were quite happy to have been able to make themselves understood in English though they were worrying about it very much.
- They had a strong hope of putting their experiences this time to good account in future.

Cherishing a variety of precious memories in Lismore they started a homeward journey.

Immediately after returning to Takada, the players, along with the brains of the group, visited Takada City Hall and met Mayor Yoshida to report that they had made good use of their life in Lismore. Mr. Yoshida said with high expectation that he wanted them to become main players of Takada soccer team at the time of the 60th and 70th Anniversary when they could have friendly soccer games between the two cities.

It is said that some of the players keep in touch with Lismore players by e-mail or in Facebook and continue their own exchanges among themselves. Some years later when they are young adults, they will surely meet grown-up Lismore players in soccer fields.



Birth of Young Drummers in Yamato Takada, around the corner



“*Wa-daiko* or Japanese drums” have been inherited for a long time in Japan. At some festivals held here in Yamato Takada a wa-daiko is settled on the ‘*danjiri* or float’ and drummers beat the wa-daiko rhythmically.

Yamato Takada citizens had been unable to pleasantly practice up on the wa-daiko. However, to their great joy, ‘*Doyo-juku* or a private class only for Saturdays,’ in which parents and their children get together on Saturdays and learn a lot from their own communities, was opened and a wa-daiko club was to be launched in the Doyo-juku.

About 40 members of parents and children got together in the wa-daiko lesson on the first practice day, June 16.

The lesson was done in a house called ‘*Tokimeki-Takada*,’ and it is at a corner of the multipurpose General Park Centre, where members of Takada Sister City Association, including mayor Yoshida, planted eucalyptus trees in memory of friendship between the two cities of Lismore and Takada. Also, farmers around the Park Centre come and sell fresh vegetables twice a week at Tokimeki-Takada. A wa-daiko is very expensive and the parents cannot afford to buy it, so children practice it with a ‘tyre-drum,’ which means a drum an old tyre stuck on it with tapes for packing.

An organizer said, “We hope that children will appear at some festivals as young drummers.”

What we would like to do in Lismore

The following 6 students were selected to be the exchange students delegated this year by Takada city. The 6 senior high school students are going to visit Lismore, Australia, for 15 days from July 26 through August 9, being accompanied by Mr. Ogawa, an English teacher at Katashio junior high school.

【Mr. Kazuto Ogawa, English teacher】



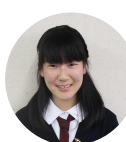
I want to know how the natives live there through the communication between them and us. Using English, I will do my best to communicate with the natives. I also want to let the students from Japan make a wonderful memory, and enjoy a lot.

【Mr. Takumi Isoo】



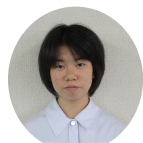
I'd like to experience the culture of Australia different from that of Japan through getting on with Lismore residents positively. I want to be a teacher in the coming future, so when my dream comes true, I intend to make use of my homestay this time in Lismore.

【Ms. Yuka Naka】



I think Japan is a wonderful country in many ways. The four seasons in Japan are nice. Since I like spring and autumn, I'd like to show people in Lismore how to do *origami* and explain them about some flowers and Japanese events in these seasons. On top of that I want to learn practical English and how we should show consideration for each other with an expressive smile..

【Ms. Saho Nakashima】



In Lismore I'd like to learn various kinds of differences between Japanese culture and Australian culture. I want to tell local people in Lismore about some Japanese traditional culture, for example, about historical tea ceremony through recent comic books and animated cartoons. I intend to tell many people about wonderful Japanese culture.

【Ms. Mayu Fukui】



By learning the life and culture of Lismore and also through communicating with as many Lismore citizens as possible, I'd like to establish friendly relations between Yamato Takada and Lismore. In addition I want to tell them about Japanese traditional culture, for example, about Japanese calligraphy and *aikido* or a Japanese art of self-defense practice.

【Ms. Risa Morita】



I do want to learn to speak natural English in Lismore. I want to sound natural a little more when I speak English. I'd like to tell Lismore citizens what a wonderful country Japan is. I also want to talk to as many people as possible in English and by doing that I want to get along with them and understand one another.

【Ms. Chinatsu Yoshikawa】



Since the 50th Anniversary of Sister Cities Relationships between Takada and Lismore falls in August this year, we'll be able to know each other more deeply. We'd like to get in touch with each other's history and invisible culture as much as possible at this good opportunity.

Bottlebrush Tree in Full Bloom

Last September the bottlebrush trees were planted at a corner of the Yamato Takada Multipurpose General Park Center in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Sister Cities Friendship between the great cities of Lismore and Takada. Now the trees are covered with



a lot of beautiful flowers, just in full bloom. The trees have taken root deep and firmly and grown up tall. “Lismore Garden” has completely become a relaxation place and spiritual home for Takada citizens.

