

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.

Congratulations on 50 Years of Sister City Relationship, Lismore & Takada !

Lismore-Takada Sister City Relationship 50th Anniversary was held solemnly and peacefully as well at the refurbished Lismore City Hall on 7 August, 2013. 50 years have passed this year since the first Sister City Relation between Japan and Australia and also Lismore and Yamato Takada began at the same time.

In the ceremony Father Glynn, who took an active part in the big project connecting the two countries and the cities, made a wonderful speech and after that Mayor Yoshida and Mayor Jenny Dowell as well addressed a large audience there, all of whom were moved by their speeches.

Mayor Yoshida's speech

I would like to make my speech to represent 70 thousand of Yamato Takada citizens. I am very pleased to be here tonight for the truly special occasion, the Lismore Yamato Takada Sister Cities 50th Anniversary ceremony.



First of all, I would like take this opportunity to express my deepest and most sincere gratitude to the Australian government and its people for providing tremendous support to our country, which suffered badly from the Great East Japan Earthquake two years ago on the 11th of March, 2011.

Only a week after the earthquake had struck, the people of Lismore began raising relief funds to aid victims. I thank you for this, Mayor Dowell and people in Lismore. Also in Lismore at 2012, when the exchange students from Yamato Takada have visited here, Lismore city held a memorial service and Father Glynn have attended for whom have lost their lives at the earthquake on the 11th of March, 2011. We deeply thank you from our heart for your thought.

I have come to Lismore with 50 of Yamato Takada citizen. I am very delighted that I could be here tonight at this moment with you. I would like to thank you for inviting us, and your sincere thought.

Since the sister city agreement, we have had visiting Lismore and Yamato Takada for cultural exchange throughout sports and music. Through our student exchange program, which began in 1985, more than 300 students have stayed with families in each other's country, experiencing first hand, differences in culture and ways of living. I truly believe that these exchanges are precious and meaningful opportunities for people to learn to understand each other, and to deepen and spread their bonds of friendship.

Lismore and Yamato Takada will grow together in various fields includes welfare, education, and environmental project through the exchange of our sister city project.

As the sister city agreement, I cannot stop myself wishing that this deepen and tight bond will expand in the future.
(partly omitted)

Mayor Jenny Dowell's speech

Earlier today we gathered to celebrate a bond of friendship that connects two cities for ever. Mayor Clyde Campbell of Lismore and Mayor Senzo Nagura of Yamato Takada signed a Friendship agreement that developed through the initiative of Father Paul Glynn.



In part, the words of that Sister City Friendship signed on this day in 1963 read:

'The horizons of this contract, this friendship are not just the two cities but the Motherlands Australia and Japan. More, it is our firm belief that our efforts will contribute to the peace of the whole world'

Across the decades, there have been regular exchanges of letters, gifts and visits. We have helped each other in challenging times and established close bonds that have stood the test of time.

Lismore, like Yamato Takada, is a different place than it was 50 years ago. So there are many changes, but one thing remains constant-the value we place on our relationship. An important part of that relationship's constancy has been the annual student exchanges that operate between our secondary schools. I thank Colleen and Ric Virtue for their organization of those visits over many years on behalf of Lismore council.

On Monday in Sydney, CLAIR hosted a forum in recognition of our 50th anniversary. This morning we unveiled a plaque at a Japanese maple tree at City Hall.

Tonight we celebrate and re-commit to the continuation of the Lismore Yamato Takada 50 year Sister City relationship.

Mayor Masakatsu Yoshida and citizens of Yamato Takada, your presence shows your willingness to further cement our Friendship. I assure you that Lismore shares your



commitment. I look forward to an opportunity when I and some Lismore citizens might visit your city to demonstrate to your community that our resolve to maintaining this special Friendship is also strong.
(partly omitted)

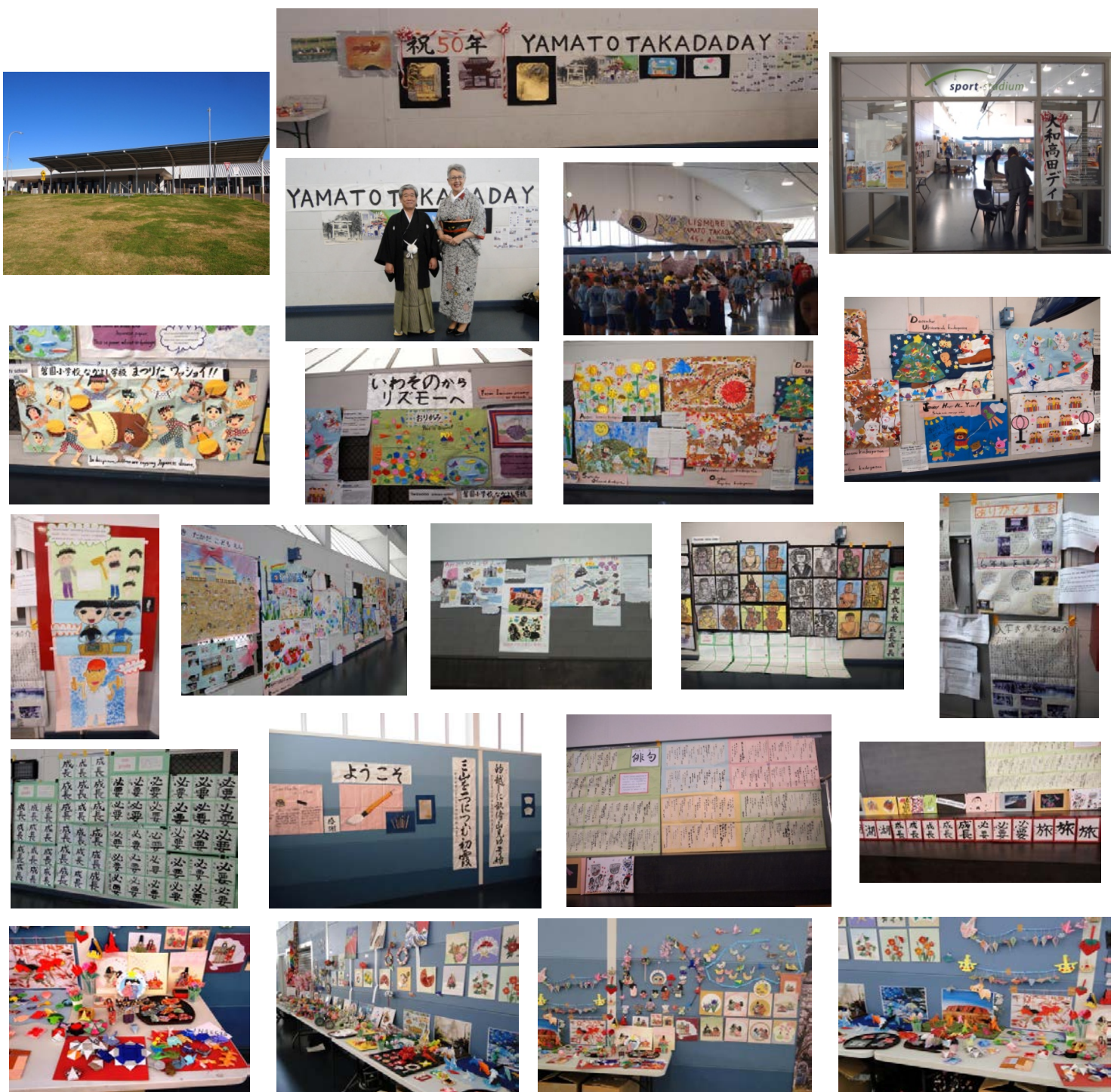
YAMATO TAKADA DAY in LISMORE

The big event 'YAMATO TAKADA DAY' took place in Goonellabah Centre on the morning of 8 August in order to get Lismore citizens to know more about Japanese culture and Yamato Takada City. About 500 kindergarteners and school children and some 100 citizens visited the centre and enjoyed the event. They experienced Japanese culture and games, such as 'goldfish scooping,' 'playing with yo-yo and super-balls,' 'trying-on kimono,' 'Japanese dancing,' 'tea ceremony,' 'flower arrangement,' 'practising calligraphy,' 'origami or paper folding,' 'how to celebrate the Star Festival,' 'kite flying,' 'flying carp-shaped streamer,' and so on. The exchange students from Takada played a drama 'Momotaro' in English. Happily, the hall swarmed with a lot of children and Lismore people.

On the walls of the hall were displayed a lot of works from elementary schools in Takada, such as various pictures and paintings, especially introducing Japanese culture, and a variety of Japanese mural decorations painted by kindergarteners.

Children of each school in Lismore came to the hall by bus one after another and there was a long line of children at the entrance of the hall. They very much enjoyed knowing the Japanese culture by doing some games and touching Japanese works. They participated in the event as a part of school curriculums.

Mayor Jenny Dowell wore a kimono and dressed with great chic. The officers of Lismore City Council were very cooperative in the event, which brought a significant result in terms of the exchange project between the two cities in its true sense of the word.





playing with yo-yo



paper-folding · flying-kite



experiencing Japanese culture



“YAMATO TAKADA DAY” makes a great coup

President of Sister City Association Seiichiro Murashima



My main concern was whether or not the event of “Yamato Takada Day” on 8 of August was able to bear fruit, because it was one of the biggest events in the 50th Anniversary of Sister Cities Relation between Yamato Takada and Lismore, Australia.

The direct reason why the event could be successful depended on the careful plans made by Takada city officials who prepared for the event, arranging various tools, devices and so on. I believe that these efforts in advance made Australian children understand the Japanese culture and things Japanese.

I would like to express my deepest thanks to Lismore City Staff concerned, who took care of the children coming to the hall and arranged the hall for Takada City Day and also readily help us out in preparing some materials and tools used for the event. Besides, I must say “thank you very much” from the bottom of my heart

to Mayor Jenny Dowell, who was willing to wear a *kimono* which we presented, manager Rino Santin, also readily help us out in preparing some materials and tools used for the event. Sue Wade, secretary to Mayor, who always kept in touch with us in many ways. In addition, Ms. Tazuko McLaren showed us here and there at Japan Center in Southern Cross University. I really appreciate it.

The snacks, especially the biscuits served at the end of luncheon in Rocky Creek as well were very good.

It is certain that Lismore citizens gave us a hearty welcome and reception and that the cultural exchange full of sincerity between the two cities deepened the real friendship between each other.

I am absolutely sure that the 50th Anniversary resulted in a great success and again I would like to express my deepest thanks to all the people concerned.


Takada Exchange Students to Lismore in Excitement

6 high school exchange students stayed in Lismore for 15 days from 26 July to 9 August with an English teacher as an attendant. They had a significant experience in Lismore, though this was their first homestay there. Under considerable tension they tried to communicate with their family and local residents. Since this was a special year of the 50th Anniversary of Sister Cities between Lismore and Takada, they had a wonderful opportunity of participating in some events in Lismore, so that they could learn a lot about the history of both these cities, too.



What they felt and thought about Lismore are as follows.

1. About the city of Lismore

- The streets were wide and the whole city was very cool. I felt as if I were seeing the movies.
 - There were almost no traffic signals in the city. Cars were running smoothly at the roundabouts.
 - We found many stores in downtown.
- 
- On the contrary there were almost no street lamps on the outskirts of the city, so it was pretty dark.
- We saw various kinds of colorful birds inside the city, but we couldn't see pigeons and crows there.

2. About good places and impressive sights

- We had a wonderful time at the schools we visited twice for two days. The students of each school had a Japanese lesson.
- We were very much impressed with the falls and the beach where my host family took me. Wherever we went, the countryside had a rich natural environment.
- We experienced what we call 'negative ion' in Killen Falls.
- We were happy to see the beautiful horizontal line of the sea with the snow-white lighthouse against the deep blue sky and sea in Byron Bay.
- We saw whales and dolphins swimming in the sea.



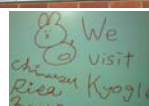
3. About different culture and manners and customs you were surprised at

* About everyday life

- They had no custom of soaking themselves in a bathtub unlike Japanese, so I could not help taking a shower with considerable spirit because it was cold in the mornings and in the evenings.
- The most surprising thing for me was that they bit an apple without peeling it and also without cutting it into pieces. (The apples were rather small, though.)
- On the general streets the speed limit was 100km/h, which was unbelievable for me, but the speed limit inside the school zone was 40km/h, so that school children could walk to school safely in the zone. Drivers observed the traffic rules and regulations.
- Lismore still has a rich natural environment, so I felt that time passes slowly there.
- In Lismore they have a custom of having a morning tea. At 11 a.m everyday Colleen served us handmade cookies and cakes, which I enjoyed eating.
- I hear that when they caught cold, they would rather work harder without taking a rest in bed in order that they could have good blood run smoothly in the blood vessels.
- A 600ml bottle of water was usually 3 Australian dollars (about 270 yen), which was expensive, and I was not able to find and buy bottled water easily everywhere without circumstance like in Japan.

* About school life

- Students use PC in class and they are free to walk about in class, eating cakes.
- They need not do the cleanings of their classrooms.
- They have no club activities after school and most of the students go home soon after school by bus.
- Japanese lessons were very fresh and pleasant for me.
- They had agriculture classes. They were breeding alpacas as well as hens and cattle.
- They had a morning teatime between the 2nd and the 3rd period and later they had N0.1 and N0.2 lunch time to eat snacks.





4. About your impression on homestay you still kept in mind

- Husband and wife loved each other and they always talked pleasantly hand in hand. They ate meals communicating merrily. I strongly wanted to live a happy life like them in future.
- Time passed before I knew. We had a happy time doing *origami*, looking at the photos of my host family and listening to their talk about their job.
- My host family warmly welcomed me to their home. They were very kind to me. I was very happy to have lived with my host family and I will never forget their kindness.
- When I had a small talk with my host family without using my e-dictionary, my host father praised me on my English, saying, "You can speak English well." I am happy to hear that.
- All of my host family were interested in things Japanese, which made me feel happy.
- My host family had a wide circle of their relatives, so some of them often came to see my host family. The girl of my host family, who had visited Japan before, and I read some *manga* books aloud with her. We were of an age. At night we enjoyed BBQ and after that we sometimes swam in the pool.
- I was always thinking to myself why my host family were so kind to a Japanese like me, who was a complete stranger to them. When the time came that I had to say good-bye, they told me that they were looking forward to seeing me soon, and that they were waiting for me to come back. Then I missed them very much. My eyes were watery.



5. What you felt about Sister City Relationship 50th Anniversary you participated in

- I was happy that I could visit Lismore in the year when 50th Anniversary was held.
- I was all keyed up in the ceremony since I had hardly participated in this kind of ceremony.
- I surely felt that the relationship between two cities would be getting firmer.
- As Lismore and Takada have been on friendly terms with each other for 50 years as Sister Cities, so I thought that we, Takada citizens, should be more familiar with people of other countries.
- As the speech of mayor of Yamato Takada said that Takada citizens would never fail to participate in 100th Anniversary, I felt that the hope would be surely realised.

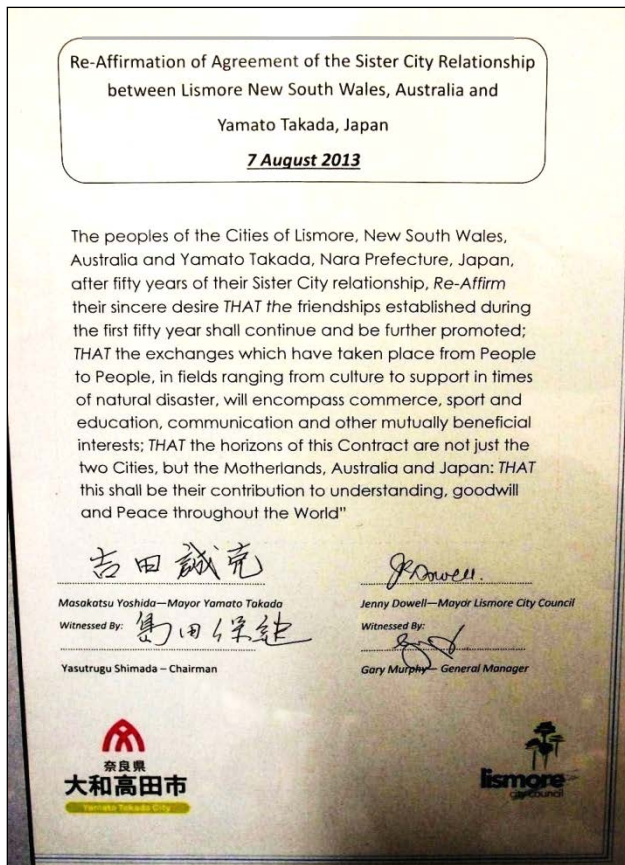


6. How do you put your experience this time to good account in days to come?

- I want to be an elementary school teacher and I will tell my students my experiences in Lismore, so that they can show interest in a homestay in Lismore.
- I would like to get on with foreign people positively and I'll try to live my life significantly in order to get them to know how wonderful a country Japan is.
- I want to study English much harder in university, because I have a strong will to stay and study in Australia.
- I'd like to know much more about our country Japan and I want to tell foreigners more accurately about Japan and Japanese people.
- I have come to understand the true meaning of the words of "It is essential to think about others from different points of view."
- I could understand the pleasure of sharing the different culture with each other.
- The kindness shown unconsciously by many people moved me very much, so I want to be such a kind of person as they are. I hope that I will visit my host family in Lismore again holding up my head after I become a fluent speaker of English.

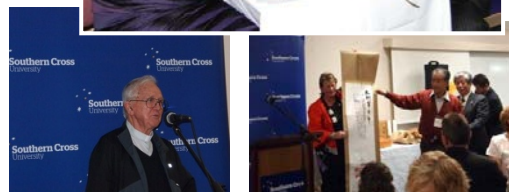


50th Anniversary in Lismore



On 7 August a dinner party for the 50th Anniversary of Lismore and Yamato Takada Sister City Relationship was held at Invercauld House. At the party both of the mayors exchanged the Sister City Agreement just to make sure and by confirming it they signed Re-Confirmation Agreement, which says that the two cities continue keeping bonds of their relationship another 50 years or more, that is, forever.

The mayors respectively exchanged a memorial gift, and mayor Yoshida gave a testimonial and a gift to Father Glynn and also to Colleen, who has been exerting herself for the exchange student project between the two cities.



Japan-Australia Sister Cities 50th Anniversary Forum

Firstly, prior to the ceremony in Lismore, on 5 August Japan and Australia Sister Cities 50th Anniversary Forum was held on a grand scale at the Westin Hotel in Sydney, mainly hosted by Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR Sydney). Approximately 150 people participated in the Forum, including Council-General of Japan in Sydney, the people concerned in Japan-Australia Sister City Relation and the Takada citizens concerned in Sister City Relation between Lismore, NSW, and Takada, Nara Prefecture.



A Letter of Thanks from Goonellabah Public School

The letter was kindly sent to Mr. Yoshida, mayor of Takada city, from the principal of the school above. The students and staff of the school participated in 'Yamato Takada Day' held on 8 August.

To: Mayor Masakatsu Yoshida and the Yamato Takada Contingent

The students and staff of our school Appreciated the opportunity to be involved in the Yamato Takada Cultural Day celebration

On

8th August, 2013, at Lismore City council.

It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn about your culture.

Mark Spencer, Principal

