



28 July Meeting at the Council chambers Mayor Jenny was a very kind lady.



29 July We took a walk looking around Botanic Garden Mr. Jeff taught us about medical herbs of Aborigines.



30 July Visit to Our Lady Help of Christian School The school warmly welcomed us with open hands. We were deeply touched then.



31 July Pleasant Bus Trip! Colleen & Ric made lunch for us and we ate kangaroo sausages cooked by them for the first time. They were so good!



1 August Lantern making Making Lanterns were very difficult for us. The Lanterns we made are expected to be seen in the Lantern Parade next year.



4 August Visit to Kadina High School We had great fun making lamington chocolate cakes and boomerangs with local students.



5 August All of us were very excited about running around Byron Bay beaches. What a beautiful sea!



6 August Study tour of Candle factory in Nimbin. Multi-coloured candles, which had a distinctive sweet scent, were very attractive.



7 August Participation in the 51st Sister City Anniversary. We surely gained a precious experience in the celebration. We had a good time at the farewell dinner that night.



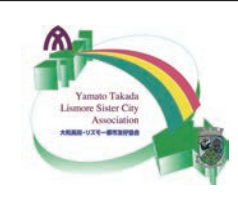
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# The Bamboo Shoots

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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



## Sister City Ceremony connected on Skype

On 7 August in 1963, 51 years ago, the Sister City Agreement was concluded for the first time between the City of Lismore, Australia, and Yamato Takada City, Japan. So the 51st Sister City Anniversary was held in Lismore City, Australia, on 7 August this year as well. The live scene of the ceremony appeared on the screen in both of the cities by the use of Skype (Internet telephone service). Some citizens of Takada participated in the ceremony held in Lismore.

Ms. Jenny Dowell, mayor of Lismore City Council, and her group visited our city Yamato Takada officially in April this year to have the Sister City School Agreement concluded with three elementary schools and one senior high school in Yamato Takada. And it was reported at the agreement ceremony that a sister school group was newly born hand in hand between Okanishi elementary school and Our Lady Help of Christian School. Mayor Jenny made a speech at the ceremony, saying, "Some of our high school students already want to visit Yamato Takada in the coming year. We know that the friendship between your city and ours will strengthen and grow as these young people grow as Ambassadors for our cities." Additionally, the annual sister city ceremony is supposed to be held in Lismore on 7th of August in the future.







## Questionnaires to Exchange Students

### 1. Your impressions of Lismore City:

- Rows of the streets different from those in Takada were filled with colourful and cheerful atmosphere.
- We could get a fine view of Lismore from wherever we were, because many of the buildings and houses were low-rise.
- The beauty of Lismore city will remain forever in my memory. I have never seen such a beautiful city in Japan.
- We were surprised to know that there were no traffic lights there.
- Lismore city was full of open spaces.
- Lismore city is, above anything else, abundantly blessed with nature, so we felt very comfortable during our stay there. Happily, we could see various kinds of animals and birds, too.
- Shopping districts were bustling with customers in the daytime and happily we could find many coffee houses there.

### 2. Unforgettable places for sightseeing:

- Goonellabah Sports & Aquatic Center
- Ocean view from Byron Bay
- I felt comfortable in the places of 'Rain Forest' and 'Rocky Creek Dam', surrounded by the beauties of nature. When I visited the areas of the rain forest, I felt as if the time wasn't flying. I was fully satisfied with the so-called slow life there and the natural beauties as well.
- Brisbane is a bigger city than Lismore. We enjoyed shopping and a ballet performance there to the fullest.
- The scenery of Dunoon, surrounded by endless rows of macadamia plantations, was beauty itself when I saw it from the veranda of my host family's house.

### 3. Culture, manners and customs different from those of Japan:

#### \* In everyday life

- I caught a slight cold because I couldn't soak in a bathtub in winter, though.

- I felt happy to see a lot of people from different age groups jogging on the roads and in the parks.
- We could find no toilets equipped with automatic bidet functions in ordinary houses.
- Basically, the rooms were not so bright as to read books clearly because of economies and weakness of electricity.
- I could not get used to the life with my shoes on in the rooms, so I had to ask the host family to borrow me a pair of slippers. I should have brought my slippers.
- They accustomed themselves to eating vegetables without washing them.
- I was surprised at the morning tea time, because we Japanese didn't have such a custom as this. So I felt very happy at the morning tea time. I wish I could have such a wonderful time in Japan, too.

#### \* At school

- Many students were willing to study hard and tried to positively work on everything at school.
- Some students in Lismore spoke to us in Japanese.
- Origami is very popular with them. They were willing to make flapping paper cranes. Though it was difficult for us to show them how to do origami in English, it was a good experience for us.
- I was very impressed by Lismore students' positive and earnest attitudes toward learning lessons at school.
- Students looked as if they were mature or grown-ups.
- Lismore students weren't afraid of making mistakes in answering questions in class. Every student was trying to positively or actively answer questions. This attitude toward the class was not seen so often in our classes, I think.

### 4. Impressions of your host family:

- They didn't eat so much as I had thought, and most of the food they served us was plain. They ate a lot of vegetables which were delicious. We also enjoyed eating them.
- They were very kind and we could experience a



- wonderful days in Lismore. We also could gain much knowledge in many ways.
- We were at a loss when to start eating, because they didn't say anything at the beginning of every meal, such as 'itadakimasu' or something like that.
- I was very happy because they took me out to Brisbane, to the sea and went on a picnic and so on.
- They had a big BBQ together with their relatives. I was very happy with them.
- Colleen and Ric were a pleasant couple and we enjoyed a friendly atmosphere with them.
- I enjoyed every meal time along with my host family, and the conversation during meals always became lively. The more positively I spoke English, the greater the pleasure of our meal time became.

### 5. Your impressions when you took part in the 51st Sister City Anniversary:

- We could spend a good time in the ceremony although we got most nervous in our life.
- We were sure that we could have such a precious experience for the first time in our life by attending the ceremony.
- At the ceremony the modern technology of Skype was used. I thought it was a good way for communication. I regret to say that the pictures of Japan's side were a little blurred (laughing).
- I managed to make a speech before a large audience, including Lismore mayor at the ceremony. After the ceremony was over, some of them praised me for my speech, saying "Great," "You did a good job." or "I enjoyed your speech very much." Of course I had never been that happy to hear these words.
- I was much moved to know that the Sister City relationship between Lismore and Takada had continued for as many as fifty years.
- In casual wear like yukata, I could be mixed up with local people and it was a fine experience for me to have been able to talk with Takada citizens on skype.
- My first attendance at the ceremony, where I happily

made a speech in English was, I believe, a precious experience for me. I was very proud of the ceremony where the two mayors signed the sister city school agreements right before my very eyes.

### 6. Your expectations in the future through your experiences this time:

- I could find a clue in the future. I expect my dreams to come true.
- As an exchange student I could learn a variety of things, which I couldn't learn at school. I do believe through my experience this time that no matter what may happen in my future, I cannot fail to overcome every difficulty that may fall on me.
- I think I can expect much development in my future, because I went over to Australia with a strong mind of making good use of precious two weeks in Lismore. My effort and preparation I made beforehand for the two-week stay in Lismore will surely develop myself in the true sense of the word.
- I thought that I had to know much more about Japan and Australia. I want to study English more and more so that I can get involved in various activities with Australians and other foreigners in the future.
- We promised Mr. Andrew Weir that we would show him here and there in Japan during the period of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and the Paralympics. So before that time we will have to master English enough to show him around Japan. I wish we, all the members who participated in the exchange student project this year, could get together again in 2020 to meet Mr. Andrew Weir.

### First visit to Lismore

Mika Ogawa, English teacher

It was the first time for me to visit Lismore. As a teacher, I was glad to see that the students tried hard to communicate in English. Also, we made great memories such as Origami making at school, the time with host families and so on. After coming back to Japan, I always miss people I met and meals and sweets which I had in Australia.

