



Former Mayor's grandson returns as 2015 Australia Day Ambassador

Clyde Campbell, founder of the Shake It Up Australia Foundation and grandson of a former Lismore Mayor, has been announced as the city's 2015 Australia Day Ambassador.

Clyde is named after his grandfather Clyde Campbell, the Mayor of Lismore from 1956 to 1966. Alderman Campbell was the first Mayor to commence Lismore's Sister City relationship with Yamato Takada in 1963 and was the first Mayor to travel to Japan to extend the hand of friendship.

Young Clyde is a successful Sydney businessman who was diagnosed at the age of 44 with Parkinson's disease. The owner of a machinery and robotics company with 60 staff, Clyde has turned the same determination in building a business to raising awareness of Parkinson's disease, establishing the Shake It Up Australia Foundation.

"We are so honoured to have the namesake and grandson of a Lismore Mayor coming to present our Australia Day Awards – I think it will be a very special moment for both parties," Mayor Jenny Dowell said.

"Clyde's story is one of courage and determination and he will share this journey with us on the day. While I have not personally met Clyde, it sounds like his grandfather's pioneering spirit and commitment to creating positive change have certainly been passed down.

"I am very excited to meet Clyde and take him to some of the places in Lismore that hold his grandfather's memory, especially the Sister City 50th anniversary memorial that was unveiled last year. This was the first Sister City relationship between Australia and Japan, and it was Mayor Campbell's vision that made such friendship possible."

Clyde started life as an industrial electronics apprentice in country NSW, and worked his way from apprentice to CEO of Machinery Automation & Robotics in Sydney.

He was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2009 after noticing a tremor in his left hand as he held notes while presenting at a company meeting. After coming to terms with his prognosis, Clyde set out to learn as much as possible about Parkinson's disease and what was being done worldwide to find a cure.

In 2011, the father of three launched the Shake It Up Foundation Australia, an organisation that partners with the Michael J. Fox Foundation to research Parkinson's disease, increase awareness in Australia and raise funds towards finding a cure.



Australia Day in brief

Australia Day held annually on the 26th of January is an important national holiday for Australians. The Day, which can be said National Foundation Day, is widely celebrated in commemoration of the discovery of the continent in 1788.



On that day the national flags of Australia are displayed here and there throughout the country and fabulous fireworks are set off, along with various parades marching down the streets, so the whole nation is coloured with a festive mood.



The Bamboo Shoots

A local newsletter quarterly issued
Yamato Takada Lismore Sister City Association, Nara, Japan
Autumn Winter Issue, 2014

No.164

Contact :

Yamato Takada Lismore Sister City Association

TEL : 0745-22-1101

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

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



"Genki" Week in high spirits

"Yamato Takada Genki Week, which is held once a year as one of the popular annual events, took place cheerfully and energetically in Yamato Takada City from November 8 through November 16. During the period a variety of events were presented here and there in the city. Especially on the 15th (Sat), "Bright Future Festival" was held in the east open space adjoining JR Takada Station, and a lot of "Yuru-Charas," or gentle and attractive logo-characters, were gathered together to meet "Miku-chan," which is Yamatotakada's mascot logo-character. The stage shows by local mascots, the gourmet and special cuisine shows and so on were crowded with many people of all ages, who very much enjoyed them. Naturally,

some of the members of The Yamato Takada Lismore Association participated in the "Week Event" by opening up a booth called "Lismore Products Exhibition," selling lamingtons, makadamia nuts and a bag of popcorn. The exchange students sent to Lismore in 2014 participated in the event and helped out in the booth. Quite a few people gathered around the booth since they called out aloud asking for buying the Lismore products. The prepared 300 packets were all sold out by the evening. Lamingtons are not very familiar with Japanese but the products gained a high reputation for their good tastes among those who bought them.



HOUONKOU



On November 16 (Sat.) “Houonkou,” which is a very important memorial holiday for Japanese Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, was observed at Senryu-ji temple with a long history in Takada city. This holiday is for followers to observe the memorial of Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Followers belonging to the temple gathered at the temple several days before and worked together in order to cleanly polish the ornaments decorated in the main Hall of the temple, to do the cleaning in and around the temple and to wipe the floors. On the holiday many priests came from other temples to recite Shinran's hymn, the Shosinge, in a large chorus. Besides our reciting the sutra with priests we followers had a good opportunity

to listen to an excellent lecture by a famous and respectable priest. The lecture captured the hearts and minds of us audience, feeling much happier and relaxing ourselves. After such a typical service for Houonkou, we were able to enjoy a mini-concert performed by a group band called ‘Iroha,’ consisting of three wonderful girls, that is, one in charge of niko, or two-stringed Chinese instrument, another one of piano and the other in charge of shakuhachi, or a Japanese vertical bamboo flute. Listening to their elegant performance wishing for world peace made us calm ourselves and also made us smile, making us forget something worldly and troublesome.

Coming-of-Age Day



“Coming-of-Age Day” is a national holiday which falls on the second Monday of January. On this day “Coming-of-Age Ceremonies” are held in many of the local cities and communities to celebrate the new adults. In Japan all the people over 20 are prescribed as “adults.” “Coming-of-Age Day” was created in 1948 and is described as the day when young people become aware of their achievement of adulthood and they formally

pledge their determination to strive for their own life. By doing so the new adults are given a boost and are congratulated. In Yamato Takada City, the celebration ceremony was held this day and the mayor gave the 791 new adults his congratulations and one of them spoke on behalf of the others their strong will to become good members of society.



Yamatotakada’s Fabulous Brand “SAKURA COTTON”

In Yamato Takada City, which is located in the low-rainfall area of the Yamato Basin, rice crops and cotton started to be raised and harvested by turns in the Edo period. As ‘Yamato Momen’ or cotton cultivated in the Yamato Basin, was getting more popular throughout the country, the processing technique of dyeing began to show its great development.

In the Meiji era a spinning factory was built in Yamatotakada and it made the city flourish in many ways. In 1977, however, the city began to fall into decline by degrees, partly because the oil crisis occurred and partly because textile manufacturing companies were forced to be relocated to some countries overseas. Now nothing remained of the Yamato Cotton Products, which had flourished in Yamatotakada in the Edo period.

The members of the Yamatotakada Chamber of Commerce and Industry decided to start finding out about the local history of the city for the purpose of having the local community revitalized. As a result, they finally came to realize that the local cotton products had supported the development of the old town then. So in 2007 the local chamber of commerce, being eager to see the fields full of cotton as the very local symbol again, began distributing its seeds and nursery plants widely, their project successfully resulting in cultivating cotton in and around the city.

The traditional farming method led to the success in the manual production of the organically grown cotton, due to every effort possible made by producers pursuing the safety-based process of it.

In 2011, in addition to producing organic cotton, a project was set up to develop some goods from locally cropped cotton. Well-established local knitwear companies in Yamatotakada worked together and succeeded in making some locally manufactured items from organic cotton in the region. The fabric involves no chemical processes but is woven manually and carefully as well into baby wear, such as pajamas and pants.

Local citizens take pride in Sakura, the cherry trees, planted along the Takada-gawa River after World War II, so “Sakura Cotton” is named after the Sakura tree, which is a symbol referring to tenderness as well as courageousness in itself.

In June of 2013, local baby wear made from organically grown Sakura Cotton began to be sold at Kyoto Isetan’s for the first time and gained tremendous popularity among customers because of Sakura cotton’s being agreeable to its soft touch to babies’ delicate skin.

With confidence and pride, the city of Yamatotakada has a strong desire to be known not just as a prosperous city in industry but as a town of textile industry.



Dainippon Spinning Factory in Takada, modern and brick, which had been cultivating the neighborhood industries after taking over the former Yamato Spinning Factory