



# The Bamboo Shoots

A local newsletter quarterly issued  
Yamato Takada Lismore Sister City Association, Nara, Japan  
Autumn Issue, 2017

No.172

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



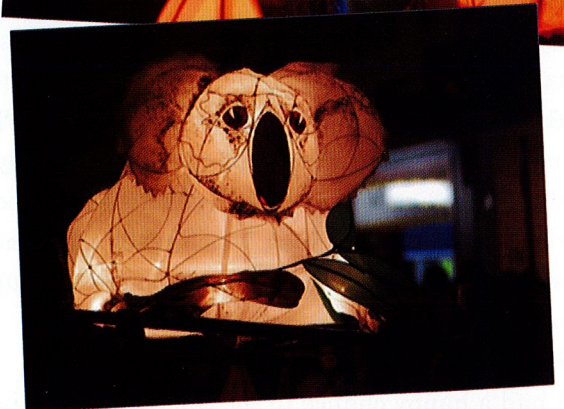
## Mayor of Lismore City visits Yamato Takada

Mr. Isaac Smith, Lismore city mayor, Australia, Madam Denis Smith, Amber Smith, their daughter, and Mr. Neel Marks, city councilor, visited Yamato Takada City, the four of whom stayed in Takada from August 11th until August 14th.

After Mayor Smith attended the 'Peace Conference' by Heads of local governments, which had been held in Nagasaki Prefecture from August 7th through 9th, he came to Yamato Takada, Nara Prefecture, by way of Osaka.

The four members visited Todaiji Temple in Nara, took part in the welcoming dinner party held by Yamato Takada city and also in the interaction meeting in the social gathering center 'Takada Cosmos Plaza' in order to come into contact with its cultural activity groups. On August 14th the four members held a meeting with the board members of Yamato Takada Lismore Sister City Association to talk about how to celebrate the exchange project between the two cities on the 55th anniversary of their sister city friendship relations, which falls in 2018.

Mayor Smith expressed his opinion that Lismore city council would warmly welcome Takada citizens on 'Lantern Parade' held on a large scale there in Lismore in June every year.



# Questionnaires: Yamato T



## 1) What attracted you most in Lismore city?

- Downtown was relatively alive with people and vehicles, while in the neighbouring areas a little far from the centre green farms blessed with nature were there, and cattle and goats could be seen everywhere on the farms. I felt that the town was quiet and comfortable to live in.
- There were a lot of shops in Lismore downtown, where only some good-looking young people were sparsely walking happily. The streets were very quiet.
- The city centre was very much developed and a lot of people could be seen there, but the rural areas not so far away from the centre were abundantly full of nature with animals like cattle and goats walking slowly, grazing and lying on the farms and meadows there. I was amazed to see this difference. Few traffic lights were there, which was very impressive and unforgettable to me.
- I was very surprised to see that Lismore city was blessed with nature. Most of the cities in Japan are not so much blessed with nature as Lismore city, I think. Looking down from the window of the airplane, I found that Australia were covered with green all over.
- Lismore, I felt, was an extremely beautiful city and I found that many heart-shaped marks♥ here and here, which was Lismore's symbol mark.
- The space between the houses was even more widely than in Japan, I thought. There were a lot of green spaces like parks in Lismore.

## 2) What sightseeing sites were you interested in or what scenes impressed you most on your memories?

- Strolling in and around the downtown. There still remained the signs of the damage to Lismore by the flood and I heard that water flooded even above the second floors of the houses in some areas, which really made me seriously wonder about what I could do for Lismore and support local people there.
- Byron Bay, Sky point tower and Ninbin
- I had a happy chance to see the ocean four times on the weekdays and also on the weekends with my host family. We drove on the unpaved roads through the forests and played merrily in the rivers, which was the opportunity for me to come into contact with nature. That was what I'd never experienced before.
- Byron Bay. The water was very clean and beautiful. Wild

dolphins were swimming there. I was very much surprised at that.

## 3) What surprised or bothered you about the differences of culture, manners and customs?

\* About life (inconvenient, troublesome or better points compared to Japan):

- They would often do the washing every third or fourth day. Personally, I wanted to have them do the laundry every other day, but I followed my host family. It might be said that 'No traffic signals' was characteristic of Lismore.
  - Many of the people walking on the street heartily exchanged greetings with me. I really appreciated it. Lismore city was much larger than Takada city, so it took me a long time to walk to the city hall.
  - They had no bath tub in the bathroom and they had a shower in a short time. I was afraid to cross the road, since there were no traffic lights there. I could breathe fresh air everywhere.
  - They had an early dinner, often at 5 or 6 o'clock in the evening. Parents took their children to and from the school. Children didn't have to go to school by themselves.
  - My host family often told me to take a shower in between 5 and 7 minutes, so I would often take a shower in a rush. I was very troubled by it.
  - Unknown people walking in the streets talked to me casually and brightly, saying "Hello!" or "How are you?" I felt very happy to have their warm and comfortable greetings. I was sometimes troubled at their carelessness with punctuality. Even in winter it was warm enough to swim in the sea and so comfortable as to spend everyday life happily in Lismore.
- \* About life at school (through interaction among local students)
- Local students were just relaxed in class. They were talking freely during class about what was not relevant to their lessons and also there were some who didn't care about using their mobile phones in class, but on the other hand many students actively worked on their lessons giving their own thoughts and opinions to their teacher. This difference was very interesting to me.
  - Students in Lismore didn't mind talking to their friends in class. They also walked around without paying no attention to their teacher. However, their desire to learn was much stronger than ours.
  - I thought they worked harder than Japanese students, positively raising their hands to answer their teacher's questions and asking questions of the teacher. Every time I met local students at school, some students gave me warm greetings saying "konnichiwa" in Japanese.
  - Feeling relaxed, each student actively studied hard. Most

# Takada Exchange Students

of the students positively tried to ask questions one after another and answered the teacher cheerfully. I was truly touched by their serious attitudes toward studying.

- They had some curious lessons we didn't have in Japan, such as physical activity lessons and so on. They seemed quite happy with the lessons, which interested me very much.

- The lessons they had were not the same as those we had in Japan, most of which were discussion-centered or student-centered. Students spoke happily and excitedly in class. I often heard them laugh cheerfully during class. I don't think that I can forget their voices I heard in Lismore. What good students they were!

#### 4) What impressions did you have during your stay with your host family?

- I had a good time every day in Lismore with my host family practicing karate in karate dojo, working out at a gym, enjoying BBQ for dinner almost every night and seeing movies at home together with my host family. I can still clearly remember that they took me to some of the coastal areas and beaches. That was very impressive to me.

- It gave me more pleasure to talk with my host family doing origami at home than to go out with them.

- Honestly speaking, my host family were all kind and gentle to me. Since I had my birthday during my stay in Lismore, they held a birthday party and we played some musical instruments together.

- My host family were very kind and attentive to me. They spoke English slowly and they tried to amuse me in many respects. We played the violin together, enjoyed swimming in the sea and did various things which I had never experienced in Japan.

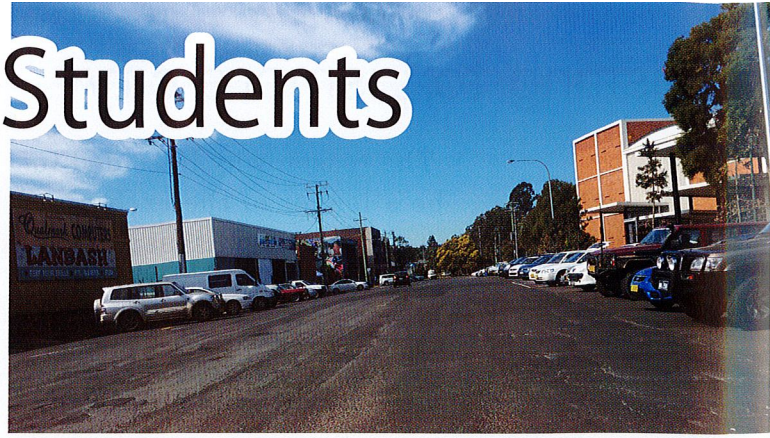
- My family did not wear shoes in the house, though I had thought they had their shoes on. That was the same as in Japan, which I felt relieved at. I was very happy that they tried to learn many Japanese words and useful expressions.

- My family didn't have the same life-style. Some would get up early and others wouldn't. Each of them went to bed as they liked to. We visited a variety of places, such as Byron Bay and a safari park which was exiting as an activity amusement park.

#### 5) How could you enjoy interacting with local students over Skype?

- I thought it a good way to have a talk on Skype each other. It was a little difficult to hear the voices at first, but the interpreter helped us to interact with each other and we could look each other in the face on the screen, so I think that we could have a good chance to deepen our contact between the two cities.

- We felt relaxed and relieved as well to have a conversation



in Japanese after being away from Takada for a while.

- I became nervous when I made a speech, but after I finished it, some said "You did a great job." I tried my best in it, so hearing that, I felt very happy.

- Happily, I could understand Mayor of Lismore speaking over Skype, because the mayor gave us his speech in a polite way of speaking without using honorific expressions.

#### 6) How do you make use of your experiences as exchange students in the future?

- I would like to check my life in Japan again, because I could have another way of thinking and sense of values through the life in Lismore. And at the same time I'd like to tell my experiences there to many people.

- I would like to tell Takada students that they should visit Lismore through this exchange project. I think it is good to communicate each other in English even if we use some gestures, facial expressions, eye contact and so on.

- I would like to keep trying to use English without being afraid of making mistakes when I speak it. I think it important to have various opportunities to learn English.

- I would like to get a job in the future where English can be used. When I find some foreigners losing their way here in Japan, I would like to help them in English.

- I have come to know how important English is, and I could have a dream through my experiences this time. When I find my dream come to a dead end, my experience in Lismore will surely help me carry it out.

- I am sure that the experiences I had through the two-week stay in Lismore this time will be very helpful to me in the future by trying to make use of them. Such a great chance as that was given to me!



# Visiting to Lismore city



## Akira Fukuoka

English Teacher of  
Takada\_nishi Junior  
High School

The reason why I decided to be a leader of the exchange student group to Lismore is that I thought I could utilize my experiences which I had in Canada for my students. Five high school students I took were all unique, energetic and had harmonious atmosphere.

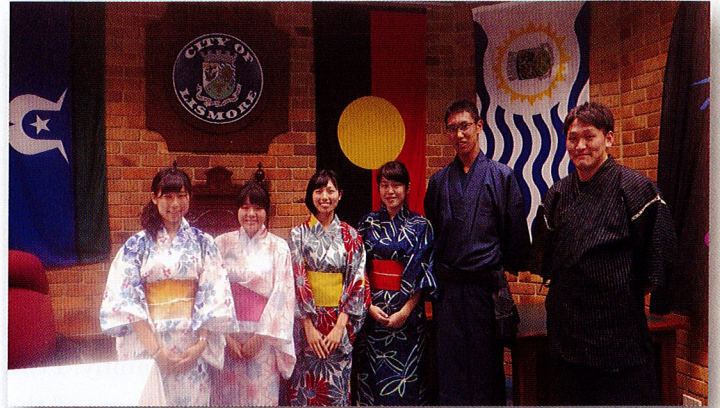
After our arrival at Gold Coast, we got on the bus, and it took about 1 hour to Lismore. First, I was thinking the nature was wonderful, expecting that

students were going to really enjoy it, and I was looking forward to staying in Lismore. But the bus ride was really painful and bumpy because the road was much wider, but it was not straight. The bus went on with so much speed. The beginning of the trip was a carsick for all of us.



When we visited the council, we were served lamington, Tim Tam, and a lot of fruits. It was morning tea that was a new culture for us. The Mayor Isaac and staff from the council welcomed us with smile and kindness, so we felt very relaxed. On weekdays, Michella guided us to the various places in Lismore. We visited some schools, made lantern, and saw coals. When we went to downtown in Lismore, the town was full of people but we saw the devastation of the flood and we realized how serious it was. Each of the host families

picked up the students at the end of the day with hug and handshake which made students very happy. Everyday students talked about how they spent their time with their families. They worried they might get homesick before they went to Lismore, but there was no worries at all. Students really enjoyed the trip and the time with their host families. They even said they didn't want to go back to Japan. Time went by so quickly and the two weeks were really fulfilling. They treated us as if we were part of their families. We appreciate their kindness and humanity. My host family, Cameron, treated me very kindly. I really appreciate them all.



We learned a lot about different culture in Lismore, and told the attraction of Yamatotakada city and Japanese culture such as origami, tea ceremony, and yukata. I'm honored to have this kind of opportunity to be a bridge between Yamatotakada and Lismore because we have a long history as a sister city. I will pass down this experience so that students can feel the attraction of Lismore. Thank you so much.

