



# 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

## English World ~ Let's Travel Abroad!



On November 23rd, 2017, an English event for children called "English World" was held at Yamato Takada Public Interaction Hall, nicknamed 'Cosmos Plaza,' sponsored by Yamato Takada Lismore Sister City Association.

Through this event, which was assisted by the 6 instructors coming from 6 different English-speaking countries, the children present at this event were expected to learn a lot about different cultures and characteristics of their countries.

Each child, who got a sham passport at the entrance of the meeting hall, moved around to each booth characteristic of every country one by one learning a

lot about cultural differences among different countries. In each booth every child had a country stamp put on his or her passport.

78 children came to the event that day. 4 student volunteers of Kio University and 3 local volunteers, including some staff of the Sister City Association, helped the participants do their activities happily and enjoy talking with the 6 native speakers of English.

The children who took part in this program listened carefully to the instructors, learned that every country has its own culture and customs and surely enjoyed themselves at the program 'English World.'



## Welcome to 'English World!'

For 7 months of preparing and coordinating this wonderful event. English World was an overall success which the children had an excellent time learning different countries from all over the world. As we had countries from Canada, the United States, England, the Philippines, Ghana and St Vincent and the Grenadines and Australia, the children experienced many cultures and customs from each teacher. The children who attended the English event, were very happy and had a lot of fun learning new experiences in English. I would like to give a big thank you to all of my English teacher friends for attending this event and teaching the children about their countries, I would like to say a big thank you to the volunteers Rika, Akemi, Keiko, Fumiko, Ms Kanata and the college students who came to help in the event and also a thank you to most importantly, THE CHILDREN for coming out and learning. Without them, the event would not be possible. We will do the event next year which will be more fun.



English Teacher  
Adolfo Claudio Lopez

## Bamboo English

Bamboo English is coming more and more popular in Yamato-takada. The kids are learning English the fun way with activities and games. With the help and support of the city and its volunteers to continue this program. I am very honored to continue to teach the kids English in Yamato-takada. They are very dedicated students and are an important part of Bamboo English. Without their dedication, the program would not exist.

(英文は、原文のとおりです)



## Questionnaire to Lismore Students, 2017

### 1) What were your first impressions of Yamatotakada?

- It was very pretty and peaceful and very different to Lismore.
- My first impression was that it was very beautiful, but also very different to Australia which I enjoyed very much. There were lots of rice fields which I found to be very interesting!
- When I first left Lismore to go to Yamatotakada, Japan on the 22/09/17 I was so excited. When I got there I couldn't believe how beautiful it was. I loved it so much I never wanted to leave. One day I want to take my family to Japan!
- The city is fairly large and immensely beautiful. The people there were very nice.

### 2) What differences were you surprised at in terms of culture/manners and customs?

- Japan was very traditional and very well mannered compared to us.
- I liked how traditional Japan is. Everyone is very respectful towards everyone, and the students even clear their schools!!! I was also surprised by the differences in the houses. They didn't seem to have ovens, and most things were cooked on the kitchen table.
- I love both Australians and Japanese people, but they are very different as Japanese take more care in looking respectful and being very well mannered. Japanese people are literally perfect! Aussies really have to step up their game. I was mostly surprised about how well mannered they are.
- The toilets are very confusing. Those can be difficult, but I got used to it quickly.

### 3) What impressed you most with regard to your hostfamily?

- Their good and the way they treated me like family.

• They were all very kind and welcoming! They always made sure I was comfortable, Haruki was amazing, and I'm in love with her family! The grandparents live with the family, which isn't very common in Australia, but I enjoyed spending time with them because despite their lack of English they were still very lovely.

• I love them. I wanted to pack them in my suitcase and take them home. They were so loving and caring towards me. My host mother made me feel like one of the kids, she was always trying her best around me and I am so thankful for that. My host sister, Hikari always tried to make me feel comfortable with her family by only speaking English around me and making them speak English too. I loved it so much.

• They were very polite. People got home at very different time. They had a big house in a smallspace.

### 4) Did you enjoy yourself in Hiroshima?

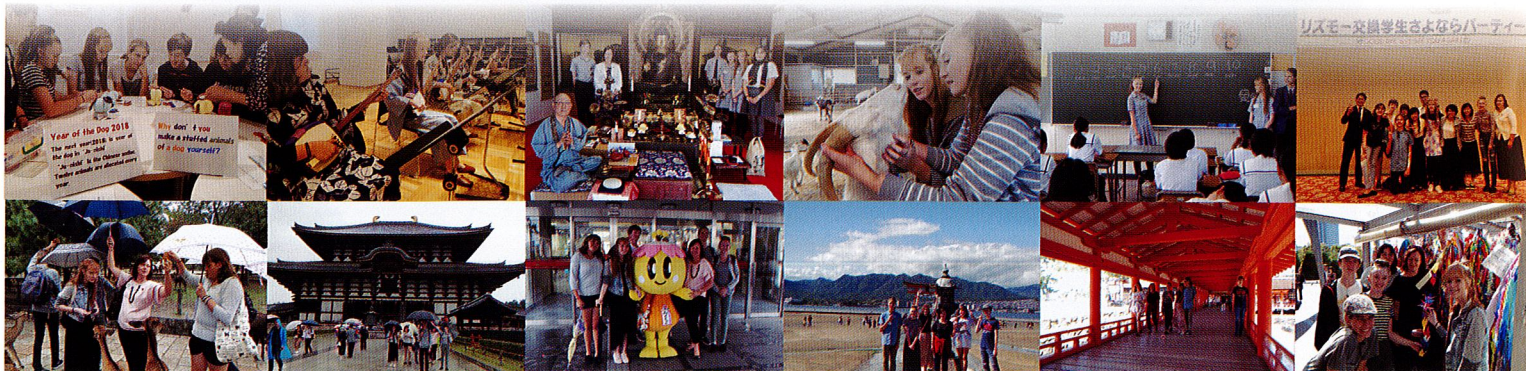
#### What was your impression about Hiroshima?

• I did enjoy it and it was very different from what I expected.

• I loved going to Hiroshima, it was a very beautiful city. I enjoyed going to the peace memorial, and I'm going to miss it very much!

• I loved Hiroshima we did some fun activities although I did feel very sad when we went to the peace museum. I am glad we went there because now I know what truly happened to Hiroshima and how it all happened. My impression on Hiroshima is that how strong the city is, from what happened to what they have made it into, and how beautiful it really is.

• Hiroshima was very interesting yet sad.



# Questionnaires to Host Families, 2017

## 1) What confused you during your overseas student's stay with you?

- We were always wondering if our student was able to understand our poor English well so that we could have a detailed mutual understanding with him in our daily life.
- Since we live in an apartment house, it was impossible for the student to have his own room. So we were worried about whether he felt uneasy about it, wondering whether he felt himself watched or observed all day during his stay with us. In addition, we worried whether we could make ourselves understood in broken English all through his stay with us.
- About meals, as we wanted to know her favorite food, we asked her what she liked or disliked, but she told us that anything would do. We were very much puzzled about what to make for her.
- We had nothing particular to worry about. Everything was going to be all right with our student.

## 2) What you realized about the differences concerning culture, manners and customs:

- Our student had a short-time shower. She ate every food in a regular way, or in order of dish. She didn't try dishes in a so-called triangle way, or at random. It was contrary to our expectations.
- Our student made a habit of taking a shower in the morning, so we felt that the way of spend the morning time was kind of different from ours. At the table he used chopsticks very well instead of using knives and forks, which we had prepared for him. We realized that he had tried hard to get used to following Japanese culture.
- Every time when we treated her politely, she showed us her great surprise. That surely came from the cultural differences between us. We realized about that again.

## 3) What you felt happy with your overseas student.

- We enjoyed travelling with our student to some sightseeing sites, where we had not visited before. She said that the Japanese food she ate at every restaurant was very good. We were really glad to hear that. We played games with her using our poor English and it made our free time really liven up. Our poor English or broken English was not altogether worthless.
- We just enjoyed every single day with our student talking to each other. We thought we should have had much more happy time with him. We really felt happy when he helped us do chores without showing any sign of being annoyed. He always said "OK, OK" with a smile on his face. He also tried to understand us even when we spoke to him in broken English. To understand us he showed us some gestures and tried to speak a little bit of broken Japanese.
- We could have a lot of nice and happy memories, such as especially when we visited various places to eat some unknown Japanese food for our student, she was very much pleased to have it showing us a big and happy gesture. Our eyes were suddenly filled with tears at such a sight of her.

## 4) Would you like to be a host family again, if you have another opportunity?

- We cannot help but say for now "No." Our family don't always live together, so we won't be able to give a warm welcome to an overseas student even from Lismore.
- Judging from our situations and conditions for now, we think it impossible to welcome an overseas student, especially a student from Lismore. Sorry to say, we have no confidence.
- We would like to welcome an Australian student, if possible.
- How nice it would be if we could spend our life with an Australian student!

