



# 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

## 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Sister City Relationship between Yamato Takada City and Lismore City

From April 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> a nine-member delegation from our sister city, Lismore, Australia, including Mayor Steve Krieg, visited our city.

The delegation toured Yamato Takada city and the flood recovery site in Gojo city, as well as visited Takada Senbonzakura. They enjoyed cherry blossom viewing, citizen exchange events and watching Gagaku and Noh at Sazanka Hall.

It was the first time in 27 years that the delegation from Lismore city visited, since October, 1997. With the aims of further interaction and mutual understanding, both mayors were able to exchange opinions face-to-face, which had been cancelled for a few years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They also tried to deepen the sister city relationship between the two cities more than ever before.



## Comments from both mayor :



Mayor of Lismore  
Steve Krieg

It is an honor to be with eight representatives from Lismore. I am extremely proud to be the Mayor of Lismore. I would hear of the exchange program between students from our cities and would also marvel at the beautiful lantern "Miku-chan", a tribute to our sister city relationship during our annual Lantern Parade.

Lismore has had many floods throughout its history. The worst flood recorded was just two years ago, when we had a flood measuring 14.4 meters through our city. We are very grateful for the kindness and support that your city showed to us after the flood. Thank you for your hospitality during our visit. We look forward to many more years of building the strong friendship that has grown into a model of what can be achieved with mutual respect and understanding across cultures.



Mayor of Yamato Takada  
Taizo Horiuchi

We are very pleased to welcome Lismore Mayor Steve Krieg and the Lismore delegation to Yamato Takada city. Welcome to Yamato Takada city!

Last year, Lismore city and Yamato Takada city celebrated the 60th anniversary of their sister city relationship on August 7, 2023. We would like to thank everyone who has been involved in sister city exchanges so far. I would also like to once again express my gratitude to Father Paulo Grin and Mr. Senzo Nagura, the mayor of Yamato Takada at the time, who were the foundation of this exchange. We would like to carry on this friendship and continue to deepen our relationship with the aim of further development.



## Comments from Lismore delegation :

As a Lismore community member of the delegation visiting Yamato Takada, Japan, for the 60th-anniversary celebration of the Sister City friendship with Lismore, I was deeply touched by the incredible warmth and kindness of the local community. From the moment we arrived, we were enveloped in a sense of genuine welcome that made us feel like old friends returning home.

Sharing meals with Yamato Takada Lismore Sister City Association members and engaging in heartfelt conversations with city officials, I couldn't help but be moved by the genuine interest and hospitality extended to us. Engaging in activities such as the cherry blossom viewing along the Takada River with the Yamato Takada Exchange Students, partaking in traditional Japanese Saori weaving, enjoying the mesmerizing Gagaku and Nogaku performances, and experiencing the beauty of Kashiara Shrine and Todaiji Temple were highlights that fostered a deeper understanding and appreciation of Japanese culture. Collaborating with local associations and government officials during meetings and tours provided valuable insights into the history and heritage of Yamato Takada.

This visit not only strengthened the bond between our communities but also paved the way for continued collaboration and friendship for years to come.



## Exchange Students to Lismore have been selected!

The five students visited Lismore together with Mr. Uno at Takada commercial high school through July 24<sup>th</sup> till August 9<sup>th</sup>.



Shion Ishijima

I would like to visit to Lismore City and introduce the charms of Japanese culture and Yamato Takada City, as well as learn about Australian life and culture.



Hirofumi Uejima

Through this exchange program, I want to learn about Australian culture, which is different from Japanese culture and also share the good points about Yamato Takada City.



Mina Yamamoto

I want to share the beauty of the Japanese language, which can only be recognized by our communication in English.



Yuna Matsubara

I'm very happy to be able to visit to Lismore City as an exchange student. I will do my best to learn a lot about both cities and convey their charms to each.



Mizuki Ueda

I would like to convey the charms and culture of Yamato Takada City, interact with people of Lismore City and also enjoy valuable experiences through a lot of talks with them



Teacher of  
Takada commercial high school  
Issei Uno

As an English teacher, I hope to learn various things through this program, and at the same time, I pledge to dedicate myself to supporting the students participating in the program as a chaperone.