



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

Collecting Donations for Lismore Damaged by Flood

Lismore city had torrential rain with very strong winds for a couple of days from June 3 and on June 5 the banks of the rivers were breached here and there, the flood causing extensive damage to a lot of houses all over the city. The city was completely destroyed, so that some roads and streets were closed by massive landslides due to the flood and heavy rain. Lismore city council announced that approximately 2.5 million Australian dollars (some 2 hundred million yen rated 80 yen a dollar) would be estimated to restore the roads and streets and also to remove a variety of things destroyed.

Taking the situation mentioned above seriously, Yamato Takada Sister City Association has decided to raise funds for the flood disaster in Lismore, sister city of Yamato Takada. The total money raised for donations is expected to be used for the restoration of the flood disaster in Lismore. Takada citizens' cooperation in the raising funds is asked for.



Donation Box

Mr. Yoshikiyo Wakimoto's greetings as New President of Yamato Takada Lismore Sister City Association



Yoshikiyo Wakimoto

Hello, everyone. My name is Yoshikiyo Wakimoto, who was selected to be the new president of Yamato Takada Lismore Sister City Association.

Mr. Seiichirou Murashima, the previous president of the association, had strived for the development of the association for a long time. I would like to express my thanks to him for what he had done for us and I sincerely wish for his great help to us, when necessary, in the future.

53 years have passed since we began to get along with Lismore city in a friendly way. The origin of the sister city relationship with Lismore is as follows: Father Paul Glynn, who founded a Catholic church in our city, had a talk with Mayor Senzo Nagura at that time on the establishment of a sister city friendship between the two cities. Father Glynn was born in Lismore, Australia, which was very lucky. Immediately they agreed with each other on this matter. Their dream came true and the relationship between us happily started and has been maintained up to now. Historically, this was the first sister city relationship between Australia and Japan.

In 2013 we marked the 50th anniversary of our sister city foundation and had its commemorative ceremony at Sydney, Australia, organized by Japanese and Australian

governments. Also in Lismore and our city as well the ceremony was held.

In the last 53 years a lot of people have supported the activities of the association in many ways, which shows historical signs of a great success during the half century.

Mr. Yoshio Yabuuchi, a former member of the board of the association, made a great effort to publish the association newsletter "The Bamboo Shoots" for the first time, and he continued to engage himself in publishing it for a long time.

At present some of the members of the board have been publishing it by taking over his mind. They make every effort in interviewing, editing and English translating, and so on.

Several students from Lismore visit our city and some Yamato Takada students visit Lismore every year to learn about each other's culture and to deepen their friendship through staying with each family.

Yamato Takada Lismore Association has been supported with the help of many citizens, and we are hoping that more and more members join the association to make it far more attractive. We will do our best to broaden the public relation activities so that more citizens can join us easily and actively.

Lastly I do hope for your further cooperation with us and understanding of the activities, thanking you for your kind help and support shown to us so far.

New Yamato Takada Community Center now opens!

The newly founded center has opened long awaited by Takada citizens on April 24, 2016. It is expected that Takada local citizens get together, extend their activities helping one another in many respects and make friends through each other's interaction. In other words, the center is expected to be the place where parents in their child raising generation gather together, and senior citizens come together to help and support each other through interacting with many people, young and old.

Additionally, in case of emergency and at the time of disasters the whole center will function as a base of evacuation center.

"Cosmos Plaza" is the nickname of the center, which is made up of a compound word of 'cosmos,' the name of Yamato Takada city flower, and 'plaza' meaning a place of interaction. The nickname was decided among a lot of ideas collected from Takada citizens.



Exchange Students to Lismore Announced

The exchange students this year were decided, including Mrs. Mika Ogawa, an English teacher of Yamato Takada Commercial Senior High School, who is in charge of the students. The following five students are expected to stay at Lismore for 12 days from July 28 to August 8.



Nanami Fujisawa

I had this Exchange Student Project Test in order to change myself. It was a great decision and challenge for me even to take this test. Happily, I am now one of the exchange students this year.

I'm getting nervous day by day though I can spend a little less than two happy weeks in Lismore. Anyway I'll take a positive attitude for this challenging opportunity of mine. I could see some officials in charge of the project, the four members of the exchange students and an attendant English teacher. I'll be able to meet Lismore citizens soon. I will cherish this wonderful encounter. I will try to do my best as an exchange student, knowing myself and my position as well.



Ryusei Tsujimoto

The reason I applied for this project at first was that I wanted to brush up my English. But gradually, I came to have a strong desire to let people abroad know our city Yamato Takada, including its culture, which I take pride in, not just to Lismore people but to people living in other countries. Honestly, I have a mixed feeling of hopes and anxieties, but I want to bring back a lot of experiences and memories there in Lismore.



Miu Ueno

I stay with a family abroad for the first time. I think there are a number of things for me to learn about. I will challenge them positively. I'd like to tell as much as possible what I've learned about our city Yamato Takada to Lismore citizens. And at the same time I do want to study more about Australia. I'll try my best to communicate with many local people as well as my host family.



Shota Konomi

I have once been to Lismore, Australia, in private. Then I could have a happy opportunity to show local people how to do origami, such as making a paper crane and so on. I used gestures to show it to them because I couldn't speak English well then. Through

this poor experience I came to know that anything could be understood without using a language if I tried hard. However this time, I'm going to use as much English as I can to make Lismore people understand Japanese culture as well as an actual state of Yamato Takada city. I do hope that our sister city relationship with Lismore which has a long history of 53 years will continue forever and ever. For that I will try whatever I can do.



Shota Kanjo

I am extremely happy now since I can have a good chance to visit Lismore city as an exchange student from Takada. This is my first time to go abroad, so I'm getting nervous and wondering if I can make myself understood in English when I communicate with my host family. But I'll stick it out there in Lismore as one of the chosen student. What I anticipate most of all is to interact with local high school students. By talking to students in the same generation, both Japanese students and Lismore students are able to understand some differences of each other's culture and way of thinking. I want to bring back a lot of experiences I'll get there and tell them to my family and friends too.

I do think we have to strengthen our friendship between us much more and also I hope that my opportunity this time will help and support it.



Mika Ogawa

When I went to Lismore for the first time, I was really impressed with not only rich nature but warmth of people in Lismore. So, I'm very glad to go back to Lismore again. I hope that all exchange students have wonderful time and it will be a great treasure for their life.