



NEWSLETTER

Issue 165 – February 2023



Japan Local Government Centre

Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR, Sydney)

News from CLAIR Sydney

**25
MAR**

Perth Japan Festival 2023

Perth Japanese Festival to be held for the first time in two years

On Saturday 25th of March, the Perth Japan Festival will be held for the first time in two years at Supreme Court Garden.

We will be there to introduce Japanese tourist attractions and hand out Japanese brochures and goods to visitors. We hope that many people will come and enjoy the event. We hope to see you all there!

More information about the event can be found at the following link.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JapanFestivalPerth/>



Perth Japan Festival 2019



Perth Japan Festival 2020

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School Exchange Opportunities

To support cultural exchange between schools in Japan and Australia/New Zealand, CLAIR Sydney has a dedicated page on our website that lists schools in Japan that are interested in initiating cultural exchange with schools in Australia/New Zealand.

Please click on the link or scan the QR code below for more information on the respective schools.

Should you be interested in a particular school, please get in touch with them!



<http://www.jlgc.org.au/international-exchange-2/sister-school-exchange/australia-%E3%83%BBnew-zealand/>

Farewell Message from Carol



Carol Cheng

Senior Research and Liaison Officer

to mingle and work with leaders, community contributors and subject matter experts across different areas here in Australia while living and breathing Japan.

As the title of this article entails, it is my time to bow out after five years as a Research and Liaison Officer at CLAIR Sydney. After farewelling over two dozen staff members over the years, words cannot express the peculiar feelings running through my mind over the past weeks as I count down to my last day working in this office.

Reflecting on my time at CLAIR Sydney, I am humbled by all the different experiences I was able to have over the years. In the past five years, I was immersed in different aspects of Japanese culture while putting my language skills and knowledge and experiences in Japan to use. I had never imagined that I would be able

Though there are countless unforgettable memories over the past five years, one stands out remarkably. In August 2019, I was asked by the City of Hamamatsu to assist during the Hamamatsu Mayor's inbound tourism promotion trip in Sydney. Hamamatsu was where I worked in Japan as a JET participant for three-and-a-half years so it was surreal being able to have a full-circle moment in which I was once again working with the Mayor of Hamamatsu and other city staff to promote Hamamatsu. The only difference was, instead of working with them in Japan as a "guest" from a foreign country, I was the "local" guiding them around Sydney.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the wonderful representatives and organisations that I worked with over the years for their warm support and friendship, in particular, the members of the Sydney-Nagoya Sister City Committee. I would also like to thank the three Executive Directors, three Deputy Executive Directors and 30 Assistant Directors, Research and Liaison Officers and Office Administrators I worked alongside over the past five years for their support, guidance and friendship.



I am pleased that I am leaving CLAIR Sydney in the very capable hands of my successor Ms Yuna Saito and I wish Yuna and the team at CLAIR Sydney all the best for their future endeavours in Sydney and back in Japan.

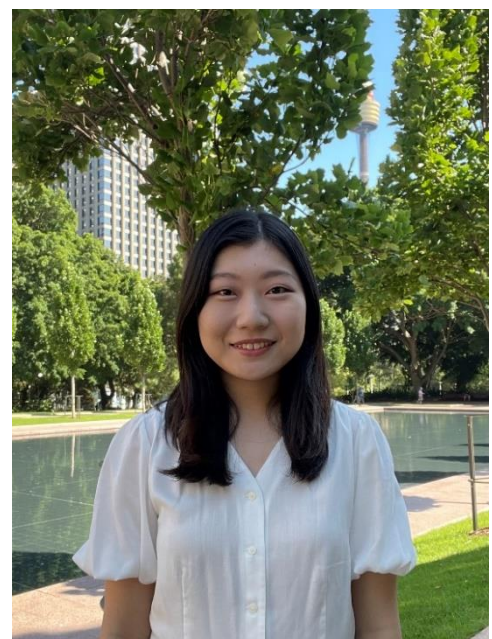
Welcome Message from Yuna

Hello, my name is Yuna and I am the new Research and Liaison Officer at CLAIR Sydney. I have recently graduated with a Master of Translation for Japanese and English at UNSW.

My parents are Japanese but I was born and raised in Australia. Growing up I was surrounded by both Japanese and Australian culture so it has always been my career goal to be able to bridge these two cultures together.

In my role at CLAIR I will be able to accomplish that so I am very grateful. I started the role in January and it has only been a month but I have already gained many new skills and knowledge.

I look forward to working on further deepening the relationship between Japan and Australia with the team at CLAIR.



Yuna Saito
New Research and Liaison Officer

CLAIR Sydney January Activity Report

Supporting Activity for Sannohe Town in Aomori Prefecture

On Tuesday, 24 January, Mayor Matsuo of Sannohe Town, Aomori Prefecture and members of the Sannohe Town International Exchange Promotion Committee travelled to Australia to visit Tamworth, which the town has a sister city relationship with.

They also dropped by the CLAIR Sydney Office and CLAIR provided an overview of Australia and exchanged our views.

Sannohe Town and Tamworth used to visit each other regularly and are hoping to resume their visits after the pandemic. The CLAIR Sydney Office will continue to support the sister city relationship between Sannohe Town and Tamworth.

From the Executive Director

Farewell and Thank you to Carol

Unfortunately, we are saying goodbye to our colleague Carol as it is the end of her term. On behalf of all of us including former staff members at CLAIR Sydney, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to her.

She had supported our activities as a Research and Liaison Officer for 5 years. Bringing her experience and knowledge to the fullest extent. She is very fluent in Japanese, very knowledgeable about the regions of Japan, and understands the Japanese municipality system very well. As an Australian English native speaker, she gave us various insights about local opinions and customs.

She conducted research on topics across all tiers of government in Australia and New Zealand, specifically in relation to governance systems and current challenges. She also coordinated appointments with local organisations for Japanese local governments. At our annual Australian Multicultural Study Tour in Melbourne in November last year, participants appreciated this program highly because of how she effectively coordinated the tour. Overall she did an excellent job at all her tasks.

We wish for her continued success.