

“The efforts of the two cities will contribute to the peace of the whole world.” — from the pledge from the sister city agreement

Yamato Takada City



Background and Reason for the Project

In 1952, shortly after World War II, Father Paul Glynn from Lismore was appointed to Yamato Takada Catholic Church in Yamato-Takada City, Nara.

Father Paul Glynn, who felt the city still under reconstruction needed a kindergarten, raised funds in Australia and New Zealand, where citizens still had anti-Japanese feelings due to the Japanese invasion, and established Takada Catholic Kindergarten. To find land for the kindergarten, Father Glynn wrote a letter to Senzo Nagura, the city mayor at that time, in English because the father was still not familiar with Japanese. Fortunately, since the mayor had experience in studying overseas and was fluent in English, they met each other directly and it did not take so long for them to deepen their relationship. This relationship prompted Mayor Nagura to make an offer to the mayor of Lismore, Clyde Campbell, to make a sister city agreement, which was the first sister city agreement attempt between Australia and Japan. On 7 August, 1963, Mayor Nagura visited Lismore and concluded the first sister city agreement between the two countries.



Project Aims

- (1) Deepen mutual friendship and cooperation between the citizens of both cities.
- (2) Contribute to goodwill between Japan and Australia
- (3) Contribute to the peace of the world by the efforts between the two cities

Project Outline

The Sister Cities Relationship Project is outsourced to the Yamato Takada Lismore Sister City Association, and the following projects are undertaken in collaboration with the city.

1. Mutual student exchange between the two cities (Dispatch/ accept students to/ from Lismore City with the aim of showing the appeal of Yamato Takada City to its sister city Lismore through interactions with host families and local high school students, help students understand the differences in the lifestyle and culture between Japan and Australia, and develop students'

international outlook, including contributions to goodwill between the two countries and global peace.)

2. Mayors, city council members and citizens visit each other every five years.
3. Hold ceremonies for anniversary of the signing of the sister city agreement by linking the cities through the Internet with attendance of the city mayors and citizens.
4. Issue an English-language newspaper, "Bamboo Shoots" (English Version and Japanese Version), to deliver information on Yamato Takada City to citizens of Lismore City and Yamato Takada City and the sister city association members.
5. Provide a host family program and opportunity for interactions at the citizen level.
6. Run a booth at events in the city, sell Australian lamington cakes and introduce the relationship between the sister cities to publicize Lismore and the Yamato Takada Lismore Sister City Association.
7. One kindergarten, one primary school and one high school in each city have signed sister school agreements.
8. Distribute "Lismore wo Manabu (Learn about Lismore)" to the third-grade students in the city every year to introduce Lismore and the history of the signing of the sister city agreement.
9. Association members provide Bamboo English, a class for mainly primary school students to enjoy English, and have them participate in sister city exchange events.
10. Create a DVD to publicize the sister city relationship and have it available to be lent out



Features and Innovations

Lismore City and Yamato Takada City have a mutual student exchange. (Yamato Takada City has dispatched 194 high school students up until 2019 (33 times) and accepted 178 students from Lismore (27 times)). Since the beginning, students from both cities have stayed with local host families in each city. Both cities have found it effective that students have deepened their understanding of the culture and attractions of each city and have expanded the extent of the exchange.

Also, every five years on the anniversary of the signing of the sister city relationship, the mayor, city council members and citizens in both cities visit each other, deepening the relationship further by participating in city tours and events and having opportunities to widely associate with citizens, which are becoming important opportunities to confirm each other's willingness to continue the sister city relationship.

As stated in the pledge between the two cities "The horizons of this contract, this friendship, are not just the two Cities, but also the motherlands, Australia and Japan. Moreover, it is our firm belief that our efforts will contribute to the peace of the whole world". It is significant that the agreement referred to

global peace as these were the first cities that signed a sister city agreement between Australia and Japan, and therefore the sister city relationship is thought to be unique .

In recent years, citizens in both cities have spoken out to try to raise funds for typhoon and flood victims in both cities to express sympathy.



Results of the Project

Dispatched students keep in touch with each other, re-visit the cities or go again for study after the dispatch programs and continue developing relationships at the citizen level. Also, the Yamato Takada Lismore Sister City Association consists of individuals and businesses including Yamato Takada citizens. By the association taking the initiative to run the project, citizens are improving their

understanding and cooperation for the sister city relationship.

Issues, Problems and Responses

In conjunction with the project outsourcee, the Yamato Takada Lismore Sister City Association, the city wishes to consider providing exchange opportunities in line with the times which encourages citizens from both cities to understand and become interested in the sister city relationship.

Future Developments (expected effects and project vision and issues)

The city wishes to expand the wave of exchange at the citizen level, engaging primarily in student exchange projects and explore opportunities to expand into industry and tourism.

Reference URL

<https://www.city.yamatotakada.nara.jp/city/gaiyo/kokusai/>

<http://www.city.yamatotakada.nara.jp/lismore/>

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