



KCC Newsletter

February, 2025

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Exchange Programs with
Sister & Friendship Cities of Kashiwa

The 1st Kashiwa City Youth Delegation to Camden Town Announced

Sending youth delegations to Camden Town will resume with the aim of deepening friendship and goodwill between Kashiwa and Camden, Australia. The application ages have been raised, and more practical and fulfilling activities are expected. As a new first step, six university students, Suzu Otaki, Airi Kurusu, Kaito Hirai, Kotaro Mizuma, Asuka Yamaguchi, and Masako Wakana, were selected for this year's Youth Exchange Program after an interview selection process. They will be accompanied by Miyuki Kubo as their adult leader.



Youth delegates and their adult leader

They will learn the information, preparedness, and English conversation skills necessary for their visit in a five-session orientation. Through this process, they will deepen their awareness as representatives of Kashiwa City and build relationships of trust among themselves.

The members will depart on March 7 after a send-off meeting held at Palette Kashiwa on March 2. They will experience Australian family life through homestays and interact with the people of Camden in various programs including visits to schools and the town office. They will return to Japan on March 17. We hope that their visit to Australia will be very fruitful.

Announcement

Exchange Programs with
Sister & Friendship Cities of Kashiwa

A Send-off Meeting for the Kashiwa City Youth Delegation to Camden

- D** March 2, Sun, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. **P** Palette Kashiwa MTR AB
C A send-off event for the youth delegation to Camden, who are the representatives of Kashiwa city. They will introduce themselves in English and give a performance that they have practiced in preparation for the welcome party in Camden. We welcome everyone to join us.
A Come directly to the venue on the day of the event. **F** Free

The 14th English Speech Contest

An English speech contest with a free theme will be held for Kashiwa citizens whose native language is not English.

- D** February 9, Sun, 2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. **P** Amuser Kashiwa Crystal Hall
 Presenters: 10 people, middle school students and older **N** 70 **F** Free Come directly to the venue.
 There will be an Audience Award that spectators can vote for. Please visit the website for details.

The 9th Japanese Speech Contest in Kashiwa by Foreign Residents

- D** February 16, Sun, noon - 4:00 p.m.
P Palette Kashiwa Open Space
A In person at the KCC office or email at <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>.
N(1) Venue: 70 people (2) Live-streaming: 100 people
 For details, please see the website.



<Request> Make sure to include the event name, your name and phone number when you apply by email.

Personal information obtained by the Association will be handled strictly in accordance with the "Act on the Protection of Personal Information." (KCC)

DDate & Time **P**Place **F**Fee **N**Number of applicants **L**Lecturer **C**Contents **A**Application **R**Reservation.

Announcement

Donation Request for Los Angeles Wildfire Relief

A massive wildfire, which broke out in January in the Los Angeles area, endangered the lives of many people, plants and animals, and caused widespread damage. As a result, families who lost their homes, residents who were forced to evacuate, and our precious natural environment have been severely affected. The KCC office is raising funds to provide assistance to the victims and to support recovery efforts. No matter how small the amount, your cooperation will be a great help. We ask for your warm support for those affected by the disaster.

Disaster Prevention and Safety Class

Foreign residents, let's work together and think about what to do in case of an earthquake!

D February 6, Thu, 13:00 - 14:00

P Palette Kashiwa MTR D

F Free **N** 25 **A** In person at the KCC office, or email at <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>.



Online International Exchange Salon

"Make Your Life Happy with Good Manners and Morals!"

D February 20, Thu, 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

L Mr. Wako Tsuchiya, Lifelong Learning Instructor of Moralogy

Participation method: Online (Zoom)

F Free

A In person at the KCC office by February 19 Wed, or by email at <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>.

Applicants will be sent a URL to join on the event day.



Online International Exchange Salon

"Fun Recreation Ideas - Games for Building Good Relationships, and Games You Can Play on Zoom" (12/19)

In December, we learned four kinds of games we can enjoy online: Self-Introduction Game (2 Truths and 1 Lie), Spotlight Shiritori, 20 Questions, and Gesture Game. The child of lecturer Takanobu Kosai was also present, and the participants enjoyed the games as if they were children again.

The self-introduction game is a great introduction to Zoom meetings, allowing participants to get to know each other and easing the atmosphere. And the use of Zoom's unique spotlight and chat function was well received by the participants, who were able to learn how to use the features while enjoying them.

Participants also commented that they would like to try the games with their grandchildren who live far away, with their circle mates at online drinking parties, or at online Japanese language classes, as the games can be enjoyed without face-to-face meetings.

Taiwanese Cooking (12/22)

Ms. Huang Mei Jung from Taiwan was an instructor, teaching participants to cook stir-fried rice noodles, medicinal soup with oolong tea and chicken wings, and white jelly mushroom dessert. Seventeen people, including some from China and Taiwan, participated in the event. Participants said, "the instructor made us feel at home and we were able to cook in a friendly atmosphere," and "the medicinal soup was a great combination of oolong tea and chicken wings, and the melting collagen was the best."

The recipe is here:

<https://www.kira-kira.jp/cross.html>



Cooking instructor, Ms. Huang Mei Jung (second from the left)



From left, stir-fried rice noodles, dessert, and medicinal soup

International Exchange Tidbits

China Quiz

At Shanghai apartments, what are these? Garbage?
(The answer is on the bottom of page3.)





Living and Working in Camden

Yuuri Tamama, 2019 Camden Delegate

Hello, everyone. I am taking a leave of absence from university to work and live in Camden on a working holiday visa. Five years ago, as a second-year high school student, I visited Camden. Over the years, I decided to return to work there, and as expected, my experience in Camden has vibrantly changed my life. I would like to share my reflections with you as I approach nearly a year of living in Australia.

What Inspired Me to Apply as a Camden Delegate

Since I was in junior high school, I loved overseas dramas and longed to live abroad. One day, I happened to find a flyer for the Camden exchange program. Unlike language exchange programs, it emphasized interaction with the local community, which inspired me to apply.

My Experiences During the Camden Program

I vividly remember encountering a landscape where I saw nothing but grasslands and livestock, hearing Aussie English, which I had only known from YouTube, and being shocked by the unique taste of Vegemite, a famous Australian spread. Among these experiences, visiting the Camden Museum and seeing the different perspectives on World War I and II raised many questions in my mind. I found it fascinating how interpretations of historical events could vary greatly depending on one's viewpoint.

How the Camden Program Influenced My Life

Without a doubt, the program significantly changed my life. Experiencing the different lifestyles and cultures of a different country made me love my hometown, Kashiwa, even more and I chose my current university to study regional policies. I also resolved to study abroad again, which led me to participate in the Japan-America Student Conference for two years. Those two years were also stimulating, and filled with sweet and challenging moments. Inspired by that conference, I decided to go on this working holiday in Camden.

My Current Life in Camden

I now work as a barista, making coffee at a café in Camden. Working has allowed me to experience the local lifestyle and economy firsthand. I chose this job because I believed it would let me experience the lives of the residents the most. Unlike my stay as a visitor five years ago, I have encountered many difficulties in my daily life. For the first time, I experienced being a minority in society, the frustration of not being able to express myself well in English, and conflicts arising from different work styles. However, I met many kind colleagues, host families, and regular customers who supported and encouraged me.

The Appeal of the Camden Program

The two weeks in Camden were not just about language learning but were a valuable opportunity to experience the lives and perspectives of the people living in Australia. I discussed topics with peers my age ranging from future dreams and school life to romance, while also learning seriously about history from the elderly. I have kept in touch with my host family since that time, and they warmly welcomed me as a host again during my working holiday.

Camden is a town with few Japanese residents, so people often ask me why I chose to work here. When I tell them, "Actually, this town has a sister-city relationship with Kashiwa in Japan, and I was one of the exchange students five years ago," they are 100% surprised. This is because many people in Camden are unaware of the sister-city relationship, and they find it amazing that someone would return to the town after just a two-week exchange program.

I am delighted to contribute, even in a small way, to grassroots exchanges between Camden and Kashiwa. I hope that the Camden exchange program will continue to inspire people to take an interest in international issues, Australia, and their own hometowns.



My host family from five years ago welcomed me.



A museum I visited five years ago.

February Events

Japanese Shonan Classes		
Online Classes		
Sun	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary II; Chukyu kara Manabu Nihongo (Intermediate)</i>
Sun	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary II</i>
In-person Classes (Shonan Community Center)		
Thu	10:00 a.m. - noon	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary I (2 classes)</i>
Sun	10:00 a.m. - noon	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary I (3 classes)</i>
Japanese Kashiwa/Kashiwanoha Classes		
Online Classes		
Tue	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary I (Unit 30 -)</i>
Wed	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary
Wed	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary II (Unit 48 -)</i>
Thu	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Conversation Elementary
Fri	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary II (Unit 28 -)</i>
Sat	9:30 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.	Conversation Intermediate
In-person Classes (Palette Kashiwa)		
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Hiragana, Katakana; Minna no Nihongo, Primary I</i>
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary 1 (Unit 7, 18 -)</i>
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary II (Unit 26 -)</i>
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Hiragana, Katakana; Minna no Nihongo, Primary I</i>
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary I (Unit 4, 16 -)</i>
In-person Classes (Kashiwanoha Service Corner)		
Thu	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary (first half/second half)
Thu	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Hiragana, Katakana
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Intermediate

Free Legal Advice and Administrative Procedure Support for Foreign Residents

To foreign residents. Are you in need of help? Lawyers and administrative procedure specialists are available for consultation. You can ask for specialists' advice on issues such as family or partner violence, divorce, visa procedures, and problems at work. Reservation necessary

D February 26 (Wed), 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **P** Palette Kashiwa MTR A **R** the KCC Office

<Announcements from Other Organizations>

Indonesian Language Salon **D** Feb.8 12:00~1:00p.m. **P** Palette Kashiwa MTR D

French Language Salon **D** Feb.18 10:00~11:00a.m. **P** Palette Kashiwa MTR D

Eligibility: People who live, work or study in Kashiwa city. **F** Free

A Email us at <gaikokugo@kira-kira.jp> with following information: "Foreign Language Salon Application"

Information for Foreign Residents from Kashiwa City

Consultation for Foreign Residents

Available in English (Thu), Chinese (Wed and Fri), Spanish (Mon), and Korean (2nd and 4th Tue) from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Consultation Counter for Foreign Residents (City Hall Main Office Building, 3rd floor).

Tel: 04 - 7168 - 1033

No reservation required.

Email distribution service from Kashiwa City

Sign up to receive email announcement from the city, such as information on natural disasters, crimes, and fires of your area in the language of your choice. Scan the QR code and register!



Multilingual "Koho Kashiwa," monthly official city bulletin

Scan the QR code and select your language under "Foreign Language" to read the official city bulletin, "Koho Kashiwa," selected and translated for foreign residents.

NHK World-JAPAN's website has been renewed. Available in multiple languages.

https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/multilingual_links/



Questions?
Please contact the office of
Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center (KCC)

Tel: 04-7157-0281 Fax: 04-7165-7321
Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.
Closed on Sundays and national holidays