

**Rotary Club of Lismore West  
and  
Rotary Club of Yamatotakada, Japan**

*by PP Norm Robinson - Club Historian*

On 7<sup>th</sup> August, 1963, the Mayor of Lismore, Alderman Clyde Campbell (PP. Ian's father) and the Mayor of Yamatotakada, Japan, the Honourable Senzo Nakura, signed an Agreement for the establishment of a Sister City relationship between the two cities. The signing in Lismore was the culmination of many months of negotiation initiated by Rev. Fr Paul Glynn, a Lismore-born missionary who had been working for many years in Japan, particularly in Yamatotakada. In 1964 and 1974, Lismore City Council sent its Mayor and Mayoress, Alderman Clyde & Mrs. Campbell on an official visit to Yamatotakada.

In President Jack Riley's year 1963 – 1964, International Service Director, Ken Larsson, communicated with the Rotary Club of Yamatotakada in an endeavour to suggest the idea of the Rotary Club of Lismore West hosting a Rotary Exchange student sponsored by the Rotary Club of Yamatotakada. This was not successful. During an official visit to Lismore in August, 1963, the Mayor of Yamatotakada, the Honourable Senzo Nakura And Mrs. Aiko Nakura, attended a meeting of the Rotary Club of Lismore West.

In President Gordon Blair's year 1964 – 1965, International Service Director, Norm Rogers, maintained contact with the Rotary Club of Yamatotakada and initiated the pairing of Rotarians from each Club to write to each other. This was very successful and formed an important link in the chain of the Sister Rotary Club relationship.

New Year greeting cards were exchanged, recently illustrated books by children were received from the Yamatotakada Club, and a recorded message was sent from Lismore West, which was received in Japan with a great deal of interest, during President Ken Ramsay and International Service Director, Ron Somerville's year 1965 – 1966.

The exchange of letters from paired Rotarians and paintings by primary school children from each city continued during the following years: President Frank Lancaster and International Service Director, Frank Pollock's year 1966 – 1967; President Ron Somerville and International Service Director, George Muldoon's year 1967 – 1968; President Bernie Winterbon and International Service Director, Les Douglas's year 1968 – 1969; President Lindsay Stephens and International Service Director, Jack Selwood's year 1970 – 1971; President Bruce Young and International Service Director, Ron Hensley's year 1971 – 1972, and President Phil Stokes and International Service Director, Ray Seiffert's year 1972 – 1973.

During President Jack Newell and International Service Director, Harold Frith's year 1973 – 1974, and President Cec Johnson and International Service Director, Frank Lancaster's year 1974 – 1975, an attempt was made to re-open "dialogue" with the Rotary Club of Yamatotakada but was not successful.

In President Keith Ainsbury and International Service Director, Trevor Hopf's year 1981 – 1982, children's paintings were received from the Rotary Club of Yamatotakada, which were displayed at the Lismore Square, Wyrallah Road and South Lismore Public schools. Children's paintings from these two schools plus Dunoon Public School, were sent to the Yamatotakada Club.

In President Frank Whitebrook and International Service Director, Andy Stapleton's year 1992 – 1993, President Kenzo Matsui and 11 members of the Rotary Club of Yamatotakada, visited Lismore and Lismore West, on Thurs. 20<sup>th</sup> May, on their way home from the Rotary International Convention in Melbourne, to celebrate 30 years of the Sister City Agreement. Lismore West "home hosted" the visiting Japanese Rotarians.

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In President Ross Wilson and International Service Director, Graeme Hargreaves's year 1994 – 1995, planning commenced in August for a return visit to the Rotary Club of Yamatotakada, which took place during the first week of April, 1995 and was attended by: President Ross & President Patricia Wilson (Rotary Club of Lismore); Graeme Hargreaves (organiser); James & Elaine Gordon; Keith & Judy Parry; Norm Robinson; David & Ros Rutherford; Neville & Colleen Wheeler. For the two days of the week long visit, the Lismore West visitors were hosted by the Rotary Club of Yamatotakada, who treated them like royalty with no expense spared. On Tues. 4<sup>th</sup> April, the Lismore West Rotarians & wives were guests at the midday meeting of the Rotary Club of Yamatotakada, during which President Ross and President Hiroshi Nakai, signed and exchanged a *Sister Club Agreement*. The Lismore West visitors then spent the rest of the week sight-seeing in the Yamatotakada, Kobe, Kyoto, Nara and Osaka areas of Japan, including a trip on the Bullet Train.

In President Fred Rudwick and International Service Director, Keith Ainsbury's year 1995 – 1996, President Murashima Sei-ichiro and nine members of the Rotary Club of Yamatotakada, paid a return visit to Lismore, being "home hosted" by Club members. Lismore West provided the Japanese Rotarians with a Welcome Dinner at the "Frog & Peach" Restaurant, Wyrallah, on Fri. night 5<sup>th</sup> January and a picnic lunch on Sun. 7<sup>th</sup> January at Keith & Judy Parry's water front Unit at Lennox Head. During this visit, the Japanese Rotarians presented a Club with a Japanese doll dressed in a kimono, a model of a Shinto Temple and two Japanese masks.

In President Ian Mulligan and International Service Director, Trevor Hopf's year 1999 – 2000, a number of Rotarians & wives from the Rotary Club of Yamatotakada, visited Lismore on their way to the Rotary International Convention in Singapore, being "home hosted" by Lismore West and attending a Club Meeting on Tues. 8<sup>th</sup> June, which was transferred from Thurs. 10<sup>th</sup> June.

Note: The 38<sup>th</sup> Changeover of the Rotary Club of Lismore West was held early on Thurs. 3<sup>rd</sup> June because President Norm & Bernice Robinson were leaving on an overseas trip, including to the Rotary International Convention in Singapore.

In President Ian Mulligan (second term as President) and International Service Director, Ross Wilson's year 2000 – 2001, Club member, Graeme Hargreaves, who travels the world, including to Japan, to market macadamia nuts, organised a group of Lismore West Rotarians & wives to visit Japan from 25<sup>th</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2001 to attend the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Yamatotakada, with their Anniversary Dinner being on Wed. 28<sup>th</sup> March. Those attending from Lismore West were: Ian & Pam Campbell; Cec & Joan Denny; Rod & Vicki Fayle and Graeme & Helen Hargreaves (Organiser).

In President John Egglestone and International Service Director, Laurie Orchard's year 2009 – 2010, Graeme Hargreaves, who frequently visits the Rotary Club of Yamatotakada, organised the re-declaration and signing of the *Sister Club Agreement* by President John on 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 and President Hiroshi Sugita on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2010. This *Agreement* is current until 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2016, after which it may be re-negotiated. This *Sister Club Agreement* now appears on the web page of both Rotary Clubs. Graeme also hand-delivered an *Invitation* from President John to President Hiroshi and members of the Rotary Club of Yamatotakada, to attend the *50th Anniversary Dinner* of the Rotary Club of Lismore West, at the Lismore Workers' Club on Sat. 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2011.

In this *50th Anniversary* year of both Rotary Clubs, President Ross & Rhonda Hayes; International Service Director, Laurie & Penny Orchard; Rtn Doc & Christine Dorahy; PP Graeme Hargreaves and Community Service Director, Rtn Elio & Coralie Zambellii travelled to Japan and attended the *50th Anniversary* of the Rotary Club of Yamatotakada on Sun 13 March.

The following representatives of the Rotary Club of Yamato Takada attend the *50th Anniversary* of the Rotary Club of Lismore West at the Lismore Workers' Club on Sat 4 June 2011:

Mr Masahiko Sakamoto (President), Mr Sadayoshi Yoshimura (Secretary), Mr Seichiro Murashima (Rotary Club of Yamato Takada 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ceremony Committee Chairman), Mr Toshiaki & Mrs Ikuyo Hayashida (Vocational Service Director), Mr Yoshikiyo & Mrs Kayoko Wakimoto (Youth Service Director), Mr Akira & Mrs Tomoko Yoshida (International Service Director). President Masahiko Sakamoto extend congratulations to Lismore West on its *50th Anniversary* and the valuable Sister Club Agreement with our two Rotary Clubs. He then read out a message of *congratulations* from Mr Masakutu Yoshida, Mayor of Yamato Takada City Council. He then presented gifts to the Club which were accepted by President Ross. Mr Seichiro Murashima, President of Yamato Takada Lismore Sister City Association also read out a message of *congratulations*.

On Fri 3 June, these Japanese visitors were collected from the Sheraton Mirage Hotel on the Gold Coast in a mini bus driven by Rtn Russ Cassidy together with President Ross Hayes, President-Elect Laurie Orchard (International Service Director), and PP Graeme Hargreaves (Club's "envoy" to the Rotary Club of Yamato Takada). The Lighthouse at Byron Bay was visited on the way to Lennox Head for lunch at PP Keith & Judy Parry's beach – side Unit. After lunch they travelled to Lismore. Mr Akira & Mrs Tomoko Yoshida were home hosted by President-Elect Laurie & Penny Orchard; Mr Yoshikiyo & Mrs Kayoko Wakimoto were home hosted at Dunoon by non-Rotarians Ric & Colleen Virtue. Mr Masahiko Sakamoto, Mr Sadayoshi Yoshimura, Mr Seichiro Murashima, Mr Toshiaki & Mrs Ikuyo Hayashida were accommodated at Club expense at the Lismore Bounty Motel next door to the Lismore Workers' Club in Keen Street, the venue for the *50th Anniversary Dinner*, at Lismore West's expense. On Friday night, our Japanese visitors were taken as Club guests, to dinner at the Japanese Restaurant in Molesworth Street near the Police Station. A number of Club members & partners attended. On Saturday morning they were taken on a trip to Evans Head, with lunch at the Evans Head – Woodburn RSL Club. They then returned to Lismore to rest up for the *50th Anniversary Dinner* at night.

At the *50th Anniversary Dinner* at the Lismore Works' Club on Sat 4 June, the Rotary Club of Yamato Takada: President, Mr Masahiko Sakamoto extend congratulations to Lismore West on its *50th Anniversary* and the valuable Sister Club Agreement with our two Rotary Clubs. He then read out a message of *congratulations* from Mr Masakutu Yoshida, Mayor of Yamato Takada City Council. He then presented the following gifts to the Club which were accepted by President Ross: a Japanese Tea Ceremony hand spun wall hanging and a linen scroll. Mr Seichiro Murashima, President of Yamato Takada Lismore Sister City Association, also read out a message of *congratulations*.

Sunday morning, 5 June was a trip to Rocky Creek Dam at Dunoon for a Barbeque lunch after which our Japanese visitors were taken to the Lismore Airport for their flight to Sydney, departing at 2.00 pm.

*PP Norm Robinson  
Club Historian  
6<sup>th</sup> June, 2011*

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