



# MIA news

Miyakonojo International Association

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## Bonjour from Mauritius! (Former CIR Dalin Hamilton)

Dear MIA Members,  
Bonjour!

It's been a while. It's Dalin Hamilton. I was an Australia Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) in Miyakonojo from July 2014 to July 2016. I was called Hami-chan, which may bring back faint memories....

Since leaving Miyakonojo with tears, I've been working as a federal public servant in Australia's capital, Canberra. Following a stint with the Department of Home Affairs, I moved to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. My first posting as a diplomat is to Mauritius. I'm seconded to the Indian Ocean Rim Association, which is headquartered in Mauritius. The Japanese Embassy here treats me very well, for which I'm deeply grateful.

Mauritius is a small island developing state (SIDS) in the Indian Ocean. It lies off the eastern coast of Africa, with the nearest country – Madagascar – a two-hour flight away. This creates a strong sense of isolation. Recently, for example, a relatively strong typhoon came close to the island for the first time in a few years. During the storm, I couldn't help but feel there wouldn't be anyone to quickly help. Needless to say I was relieved when the damage was relatively minor.



Mauritius, located just to the east of Madagascar off the African coast.

Mauritius has the image as a resort tourist destination. This is absolutely accurate. The sandy beaches, coral and crystal-clear blue water is stunning. I had the great experience of swimming with dolphins, an experience I will never forget. Like most island countries, there is Mauritian time and everything moves at a leisurely pace.



Looking back at history, Mauritius was an uninhabited island, without an aboriginal people. The vast majority of the population descend from slaves or indentured servants, brought here from Africa or South Asia. Given this history, there is a public holiday celebrating the abolition of slavery each February. As I was here, I went to the International Slave Route Monument. There, I felt this should never be allowed to happen again and vowed to do what I could to fight modern slavery.

A recent event in the Mauritius-Japan relationship was the MV Wakashio oil spill in 2020, which covered the surrounding areas in oil. While the boat was sailing under a Panamanian flag, it is owned by and managed by Japanese firms, who vowed to restore the natural habitat. Thanks to Japan's amazing response, it has been restored. I swam in the clear ocean and viewed the coral recently.

At the end of April I will return to Australia. I've enjoyed my experience in Mauritius. Given Australia is closer to Japan than Mauritius, I hope to be able to return to Japan and Miyakonojo before the end of the year.

Adieu!



The International Slave Route Monument



## Aussie Bites! (Parma & Pot, by George Goonan)

While it's certainly more of an Italian dish, Australians have made the parma & pot a staple pub meal nationwide!

Consisting of a chicken parmigiana (parma), typically served with chips and salad, alongside a pot (standard 285ml half-pint glass) of beer, you'd be hard pressed to find a pub that can't do a parma and pot. There's even specialty stores popping up here and there that ONLY do parma and pot! As a fairly cheap meal, they're great to tuck in to after a hard day's work.



## General Information

### ◆ Articles For MIA News

Are you interested in writing a short article about international exchange or cooperation for MIA News? Some possible topics include travel journals, introductions to your home country, experiences staying with a host family, and activities with an international exchange or cooperation group. Articles should be about a page long and include a couple of relevant pictures. If you'd like to write more than that, please consult with MIA. If you'd like to write anonymously, that can be taken into consideration.

We are also looking for people interested in sharing their Australian experiences. Whether it's a rare location you found or some fascinating people you interacted with, we want to share your story with all of our MIA members!

Please contact us if you are interested!



### ◆ The Community Safety Workshop Has Been Delayed

In the February edition of the monthly Miyakonojo PR magazine, we listed a notice regarding our Community Safety Workshop, which was planned to be held on March 13th (Sunday) at the Okimizu Community Center, and would explore traffic rules and regulations, garbage disposal, and much more, all in a relaxed setting using easy Japanese. Unfortunately, due to the continued spread of the novel coronavirus, this workshop has been delayed until May or later, depending on the prevailing situation at the time. We apologise for any inconvenience caused to our prospective participants. We will provide further specifics once information is available.



### Movies info

C-Plaza Cine-port (Tel: 0986-24-2571)

17-9 Nakamachi, Miyakonojo, Miyazaki Map-Code (GPS): 117 488 540\*55



- Patriotic Girls — Red Samurai Road (Japanese)
- Usogui (Japanese)
- West Side Story (Japanese Sub)
- What To Do With The Dead Kaiju? (Japanese)
- Noise (Japanese)

- Jujutsu Kaisen 0: The Movie (Japanese)
- \*The 1st of every month is ¥1,100 for everyone.
- \*Every Wednesday is 'Ladies' Day', all ladies ¥1,100.
- \*The cinema is closed every Tuesday.
- \*For session times visit: <http://movie.walkerplus.com/th286/schedule.html> (Japanese)