



MIA news

Miyakonojo International Association

Miyakonojo International Association
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New Years in April - Neshan (Exchange Student at Minami Kyushu University)

Unlike Japan, Sri Lanka's New Year falls on April each year. It is said that the sun travels its way around the twelve constellations, and as it travels these constellations, will eventually leave Pisces to arrive at Aries; it is this point



Neshan in traditional New Year's clothing.

that marks the New Year for Sri Lanka. The exact date that this occurs varies from year to year, but is generally near to the middle of April. This year, in Sri Lankan time, our New Year begins Thursday April 14th, at 8:41:17AM. When it comes time to greet the New Year, it is customary to place a clay pot on the hearth, add milk to the pot, and boil the milk. It is said that it is good luck for the milk to overflow as you enter into the New Year.



Boiling milk over the hearth

The 13th of April marks the Old New Year (the period from which the transition to the New Year begins, while the previous year continues through to the

14th), and one of the major traditions at that stage is the cleaning of one's body. For this year's New Year's Eve, the leaves of the Indian Lilac are crushed in water, and the mixing of its fluids with water is said to herald a good year to come. The exact type of leaf used when washing one's body changes from year to year. Additionally, there is food that is cooked as tradition on the 14th of April at 9:05AM. Making Milk Rice is a part of Sri Lankan culture. Milk Rice is made by first cooking rice, then adding coconut milk & dairy milk, and allowing it all to stew for a short while.

At 10:17AM, we eat. This is the time I always look forward to. We always eat this milk rice in addition to a number of traditional snacks. All of these snacks take quite a while to make, so they are made well ahead of time. We make traditional snacks such as Kokis, Kaum, Aluwa, Aggala and Pani Walalu. When eating, we wear gold-coloured clothes, face east, and eat together as a family. Additionally, on the 18th of April at 6:51AM, it is customary to wear white clothes, face south, and leave the home for work. For each of the customs above, the time at which they take place, the colour of the clothes we wear, and the direction that we

face are decided by a soothsayer, and changes each year.

After this, we take the snacks that we made, and head to our friends' and relatives' homes. After heading to their home, it is customary to exchange the snacks that you made at your own home with the snacks that your friends and relatives made at their homes. Children will also receive a gift of money from their elder relatives, so there's no chance that I would ever miss out on this! Thanks to exchanging snacks with friends and relatives, you get the opportunity to try many flavours and varieties of snacks, so you will always get to eat your fill on New Year's Day.



Milk Rice



Kokis



Kaum



Aluwa



Pani Walalu



Aggala

This year marks my 6th year since coming to Japan as an exchange student, and hence New Year's Day has passed six times as well. All of these things feel very nostalgic.



A typical table spread after exchanging snacks



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Aussie Bites! (Comfortable Countryside by George Goonan, Australian CIR)



150 Year celebration for Colac Botanic Gardens



Colac Memorial Square, both when it was built, and now.



Having previously introduced the Great Ocean Road, it's only fitting I talk a little bit about my home just to the north, Colac! The epitome of comfy countryside living, Colac is now home to just over 20,000 people, and sits slightly inland from the Great Ocean Road. In fact, because of its semi-circular shape, Colac is rough-

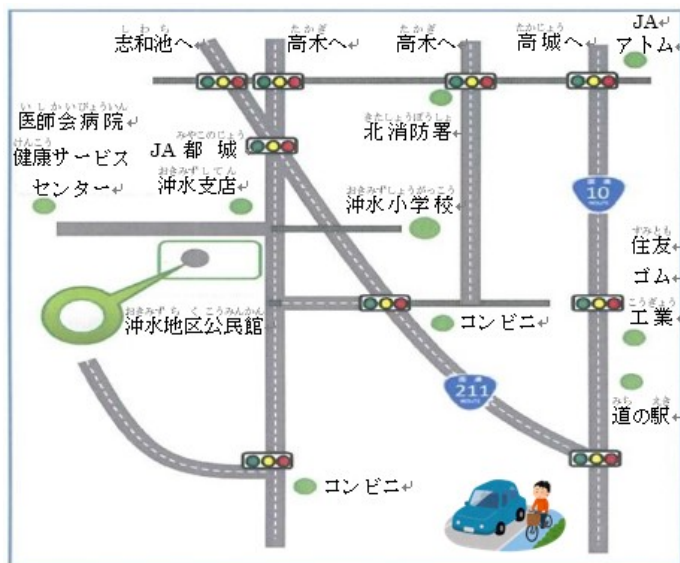
ly an hour away from every point along that route! Colac is also home to an art gallery, botanic gardens, fusion cuisine restaurants and more! If you're looking to get away from the hustle and bustle, especially during the summer holidays, Colac might just be the perfect spot for you!

Information & Notices

◇ Community Safety Workshop

Learn about Japan's road rules, garbage separation and other useful information for daily life in Miyakonojo City, all taught through easy Japanese. Please feel free to invite any international residents you know!

- Date: June 26th (Sun), 2022, 10AM - 12PM
- Location: Okimizu Community Center (Kominkan)
- Available to all International Residents
- Capacity: 15 Participants
- Cost: Free
- Apply by: June 17th (Fri) *First come, first served
- You can apply over the phone or by e-mail
- Inquiries: Miyakonojo International Association, (Located in Miyakonojo City Hall's Regional Promotion Division)
- Phone: 0986-23-2295, FAX: 0986-23-3223
- E-mail: mia@btvm.ne.jp



*The Okimizu Community Center (Kominkan) is located just across from the Okimizu Branch of JA Miyakonojo, and just down the road from Okimizu Elemen-

tary School. Attached is a map of the area surrounding the Okimizu Community Center (Kominkan), which is marked with the large green pin.

Movies info C-Plaza Cine-port (Tel: 0986-24-2571) 17-9 Nakamachi, Miyakonojo, Miyazaki Map-Code (GPS): 117 488 540*55

- Doctor Strange: Multiverse of Madness (Japanese Dub)
- Fullmetal Alchemist: The Final Chapter - Scar the Avenger (Japanese)
- Shin Ultraman (Japanese)
- Bubble (Japanese)
- Top Gun: Maverick (Japanese Sub)
- Meitantei Conan: Halloween Bride (Japanese)

- Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore (Japanese Dub)
- *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)