



# MIA news

Miyakonojo International Association

Miyakonojo International Association  
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## New Years Greetings from the Chairman

Happy New Year.

To all of our members, I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your understanding and cooperation with regards to the association's activities.

Due to the effects of the Novel Coronavirus, our association has had to cancel the majority of its events, but we have managed to hold our regular Japanese Practice Sessions, the Vietnamese Cooking Class, the Community Safety Workshop, the Chinese Conversation Class, as well as participate in Bonchi Matsuri's Dance Line. While we must continue to assess the situation regarding infec-



MIA Chairman  
Hironori Kodama

tions, we have a number of events that we plan to hold this year as well. Miyakonojo is home to 1798 international residents hailing from 42 different countries as of December 2022, and we expect this number to continue to increase. I believe there are a large number people who now feel that they often interact with international residents on a day-to-day basis. We provide information on foreign countries and exchange opportunities, as well as useful information for international residents' daily lives; we hope that we have been able to assist in improving international understanding, so that we may continue to live together with people of other languages and cultures. We are also continuing to work towards incorporation as of the coming financial year. We humbly ask for everyone's continued support and cooperation into the future.

## That time I hiked Mt Fuji - Robyn Halstead (ALT)

Hello, I'm Robyn. Proud South African, ex evil corporate master mind and global pandemic survivor. I'll try anything once to see what sticks and so far that's been aikido and hiking. Before coming to Japan, I lived in Cape Town, and we have a big, flat mountain that I used to spend most weekends on. I've had many adventures climbing up the different routes of Table Mountain and its surrounding peaks; with exciting names like Skeleton gorge, Devil's peak and Lion's head, who wouldn't want to explore! I miss it, so with my adventurous best friend, we planned a trip to climb Japan's most famous mountain: Fuji-san.

We started at the 5th station like most other hikers and did the Yoshida trail. There's a great sense of comradery as people walk slowly, enjoying being outside, and the tinkling of bells placed on walking sticks. It was really refreshing to go slow. You can't race up the mountain because of the fear of altitude sickness and the queues of hikers. You take multiple stops to enjoy the view and see what's happening at the various rest stations, and maybe get a stamp burnt into your walking stick.

At one point we did have a small cloud burst, which meant that the rented rain gear was totally vindicated; if you have to carry up to 3 kilograms of rain gear, you want to use it at least once. This was followed by a beautiful rainbow. Most of the hike is a solid plod upwards (about 8 hours), then the gravel road from hell down is about 3.5 hours. My big toe nail has since fallen off in protest, I'm still awaiting its return.



Robyn (left) with her friend at the 5th Station Mt Fuji before starting her hike

Some top tips. Take those 100 Yen coins! Using the bathroom will cost you a 200 Yen donation every time, plus there is extreme vending machine inflation the further you go up (that hot coffee you'll want from the vending machine at the top will be 500 Yen).

Do go for the sunrise at the top, even though it's crowded walking up with the hundreds of others trying to make it before dawn; it feels like you're all on the same team.

Get some bells, adding to the jingling on the mountain is fun.

Go on a weekday, it's less crowded.

Lastly, don't overthink it, you'll be fine.

I'm so grateful to have experienced a truly bucket list worthy hike. As my souvenir sticker says 'You don't conquer the mountain, you conquer yourself.'



Photos from Robyn's trip up Mount Fuji. Top Left: Soaked after the rain! Top Right: 2 a.m. taking a break at the 8th Station. Bottom Right: Interesting rock formations on the way up Mt Fuji. Bottom Left: +/- 3776m up, just in time to catch the sunrise!



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## Aussie Bites! (The Indian Pacific, MIA Office Head Fujimoto Koichiro)

We took an Uber from Adelaide Station to our hotel in the city center, and took a walk around the city at night. After having walked a fair while, we found ourselves at Central Station, the entrance of which is, in fact, a casino. From younger adults to older married couples, everyone was enjoying themselves. I immediately bought in for a few games. While it was interesting, I didn't make any money; my son who came with me, however, managed to make a few hundred dollars.

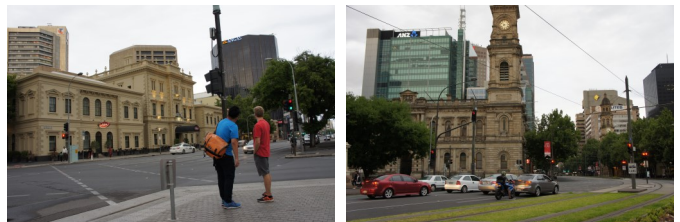
As the night drew close, we got into a car that gave us a tour of the city. Adelaide is a relatively new city structured akin to a board of Go (grid-like in nature), with straight and wide roads once used for F1 races. We drove around the city for about 30 minutes, before heading to a forest where Koalas could be found. We were told that 'There's a lot of Eucalyptus here, so expect a strong smell'; as we exited the car, that smell left us speechless.

The following day, we went to a German-style town called Hahndorf. With lots of people coming and going, innumerable shops, and guitar being played on the street side, we enjoyed our trip through the town.

In order to make our return to Sydney, we went to Adelaide Airport; while we intended to make our way further inside, we were informed that only passengers whose flights were departing soon were allowed in. Even so, there wasn't really anywhere to stop for a bite to eat outside. After negotiating with the staff, we were allowed inside. Following our meal, we decided we would wait by our departure gate. As our time to depart approached, we thought it strange that there had yet to be any announcements, and that our flight wasn't listed near the gate. After inquiring about our flight, the

nearby staff told us that our gate had been changed. In a bit of a panic, we made our way to the new gate where passengers were already boarding. Flustered, we boarded ourselves. Shortly after heading out to the runway, our plane came to a sudden stop, and a number of other planes passed us by. After around 30 minutes, we finally took off, whereupon the battering of rain made for a bumpy ride all the way to Sydney. After arriving, the pilot made an announcement, and I asked Dalin what they were saying. "When we were taking off, we were left waiting due to a power failure in the plane that caused a full reset, but it didn't make us that late", was apparently the gist of it. I'm glad I heard that after landing, and not before. With that, my three day trip from Sydney to Adelaide on the Indian Pacific came to a close. I think next time, I'd like to try the three day ride from Sydney all the way to Perth. I'd like to learn a little more English so that I could enjoy the trip even more, I don't think there's much that can be done at this stage.

~FIN~



Photos taken from Adelaide's street side, near the city center.

## Information & Notices

### ◇ Hatsu Haru - Connecting Our Dreams!

chance!

"Hatsu Haru - Connecting Our Dreams" (Hatsu Haru, Yume wo Tsunago) is being held in MJ Hall! MIA will be holding an exhibition on the same day, focusing on international relations and multiculturalism. Our CIRs will also be in attendance, so please stop by if you have the

**Date:** January 15th, 1PM - 4PM

**Location:** MJ Hall 1st Floor Lobby

\*Please take a look at the Hatsu Haru flyer sent with your MIA News for more information!



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

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



- Bosei (Japanese)
- One Piece Film - Red (Japanese)
- Avatar: Way of Water (Japanese Sub and Dub)
- Suzume (Japanese)
- The First Slam Dunk (Japanese)

- Black Adam (Japanese Sub and 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)