



# MIA news

Miyakonojo International Association

Miyakonojo International Association  
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## Off the Beaten Path - (Miyakonojo ALT (Nogyo High School), Lewis Campbell)



A profile shot of  
Lewis

As I approach the end of my fifth and final year living in Miyakonojo, I feel like I am a seasoned veteran in exploring this beautiful, and somewhat remote town. There are tons of interesting and amazing things to do in and around the place I now call my second home, and today, I want to show some of these hidden gems located nearby in the surrounding areas. As the weather gets hotter, and the days longer, there are no excuses not to

get out and explore!

The first place to visit is Nagata Gorge (長田峡). This gorge is filled with lush green plants, pristine waters and a rejuvenating aura in the air. The site of the gorge itself is stunningly beautiful, but combined with the sound of birds, it's a great location to relax and enjoy nature. There are also statues of kappas located around the path itself and you can take lots of great photos from the bridge. There is a car park at the gorge and it is easy to access.



Photos of some of  
the Kappa around  
Nagata Gorge.

There's over ten in  
total to be found!

My second underrated location is a shrine called Tsuma Kirishima Shrine (東霧島神社). This is a spiritual spot with the feeling of gods surrounding the area. There is a giant camphor tree which is over 1,000 years old and a long, steep stone slab path leading to a shrine labeled the '999 demon rock stairs'. Before you walk the tiring path, there is an aka-oni at the foot. When climbing the stairs, you must not look back! If you do, you will be given bad luck, presumably from the oni you greet before you enter. When you reach the top, there is a cool shrine where you can buy candles and incense to offer to the spirits. When leaving the shrine, you can follow a winding path leading back to the start. Be sure to wear suitable footwear if you visit this wonderful shrine!

The third place I would like to introduce is my favorite place in Miyazaki prefecture to visit. This place is called Ishiyama Kannonji Temple (石山観音寺), and it is the best kept secret in Miyakonojo. The walk to the shrine is surreal; there is an elegant stream flowing down the middle with the path leading to a moss covered stair

case. There are even crabs, with some climbing the trees nearby!! When climbing the stairs you will find a stunning red temple. This is a great place to relax and immerse yourself in nature. If you want to visit this incredible temple, bring suitable footwear and watch your step on rainy days when climbing the mossy stairs. The road leading to the shrine is a long winding one, but at the top is a car park, next to the entrance of this beautiful scenic spot.



The mossy stairs  
leading to the  
temple. You might  
see some crabs on  
rainy days!

My fourth and final hidden gem is a waterfall, and I'm not talking about Sekinoo Waterfall! Everyone knows the beauty of Sekinoo, but another waterfall worth visiting is Kiriara Falls (桐原の滝). It takes just over 10 minutes from Sekinoo by car, and is just outside of Miyakonojo in Soo City, right near the border. It is a relaxing place to visit in the summer and you can even swim in the waters below the fall itself. As it is a secluded place, not many people visit, allowing you to get up and close to the drop of the falls. When driving to this location, there is a downhill path, but don't go all the way down. There is an opening where you can park your car on the left when driving down and then you can follow a staircase to the waterfall.



A picture of the beautiful Kiriara  
Falls taken with a drone!

These are only a handful of hidden gems in and around the Miyakonojo area. Every weekend for the last 5 years I've explored this beautiful prefecture and I am so happy I moved here. The experience of living among the Miyakonojo people has been the best time of my life, and being in a place so filled with magic and wonder has made me grow and become a better man. Please visit these extraordinary places, and thank you Miyakonojo for being my second home.



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## Aussie Bites! (Vegemite is Turning 100!, Australian CIR George Goonan)

This year, on October 25th, Vegemite is turning 100! On their home page, they have a whole variety of recipes that can use vegemite, but my favourite has to be Tiger Toast. Add some butter and Vegemite to toast, top with strips of cheese, then grill it until the cheese starts to melt... there's no better breakfast out there!



On the left is a photo from Vegemite's home page, and the right is my own home made tiger toast. Using the right kind of cheese is critical to good Tiger Toast!



## Information & Notices

### ◇ Kyiv Classic Ballet

A collection of famous scenes from Tchaikovsky's three premiere ballets, "The Nutcracker", "Swan lake" and "The Sleeping Beauty"!

As "Autumn, the season of culture" is just beginning, why not come and experience the awe-inspiring extravagance of the historically and artistically abundant Ukraine's ballet troupe?! A viewing of their rehearsal will also be made available to a limited number of ticket holders as a separate event! (Applications for the rehearsal viewing will open August 1st (Tue)).

**Date:** September 5th, 2023 (Tue)  
**Time:** Performance begins at 6:30PM  
(Doors will open at 6:00PM)

\*Restricted to patrons 4 years and older

**Tickets:** General Admission 5,000 Yen  
Students (up to high school) 2,500 Yen  
Pair admission price 8,500 Yen  
Parent & Child price 5,500 Yen

**Inquiries:** MJ Hall  
**TEL:** 0986-23-7140  
(Closed every Wednesday)

For further details, see MJ Hall's home page:  
<http://mj-hall.jp/performance/2023/09/kyiv.html>



### ◇ Papunya Tula: Making Dot Art!

Dot art is a painting style made famous by Australia's aboriginal inhabitants, the Aborigines. Simple yet complex, why not try your hand at making some yourself?!

**Date:** June 26th, 2023 (Monday)  
**Time:** 2PM - 4PM  
**Location:** Mirai Souzou Station  
Seminar Room 3 & Multipurpose Room  
**Capacity:** 20 Participants  
**Inquiries:** Miyakonojo City Hall

**E-mail:** [intl@city.miyakonojo.miyazaki.jp](mailto:intl@city.miyakonojo.miyazaki.jp)  
**TEL:** 0986-23-2295  
**FAX:** 0986-23-3223

### ◇ Japanese Course for Beginners

Miyakonojo City will be holding a Japanese course for beginners, including studying both Hiragana and Katakana. While the course is free, the textbook that will be used for this class costs 1,100 Yen. If you know of someone who wishes to start studying Japanese, please let them know about this course!

**Date:** July 10th - August 14th, 2023  
Lessons each Monday and Thursday  
(10 lessons total)

**Time:** 1:30PM - 3PM  
**Location:** Miyakonojo City Hall North Annex  
**Capacity:** 10 participants  
Applications due by June 30th.  
**Inquiries:** Miyakonojo City Hall

Internationalisation Promotion Office  
**E-mail:** [intl@city.miyakonojo.miyazaki.jp](mailto:intl@city.miyakonojo.miyazaki.jp)  
**TEL:** 0986-23-2295



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

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



- Tokyo Revengers 2: Bloody Halloween Part 1 (Japanese)
- Meitantei Conan: Kurogane no Submarine (Japanese)
- Fast X (Japanese Dub)
- The Super Mario Brothers Movie (Japanese Dub)
- Shin: Kamen Rider (Japanese)
- Doraemon: Nobita's Sky Utopia (Japanese)

- Suzume (Japanese)
- The First Slam Dunk (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)