

# THE TOMBO

OITA'S · ENGLISH · NEWSLETTER

January-February 2012

Issue 59

## Pure imagination

### ~How being creative can give you the perfect 'in' to enjoying the history of Oita~

In Tsurusaki, a modest suburb to the north east of Oita station, there lies an old school. The wooden, two-storey remains of an old Boarding School, to be exact.

Stumbling upon the place last year with my friend and the three elderly Japanese members of her English conversation circle, we marched straight to the museum, like proper tourists. It boasted many interesting relics such as writings, pottery, and photos of the formidable headmaster. But, missing from its collection, unfortunately for me, were any in-depth explanations in English beyond "Rice Bowl (1798)". Unperturbed by this however, and pestering our Japanese companions for extra details, we approached the school building.

On the lower floor (with a ceiling that even an averagely tall foreigner would have to duck to avoid) was a tatami room with a dual-purpose as dining room and bedroom. Drafty and candlelit, furnished with low tables for mealtimes, it was joined by a rickety ladder, up which these same tables would be hefted to serve as desks, which led to the second floor "classroom".

It was this striking notion, of the young charges, from the age of 8 years old, eating, sleeping and learning together in this monastic building that first captured my interest so strongly. Boarding schools, after all, have found their way into countless pieces of English Literature throughout history, just look at Harry Potter.

The interesting practical uses of the building aside, something was still not clear. Why devote a museum to it? What made it special, and why were the helpful guides leading us around with such gleeful trepidation and excitement?

So what did make it special? It was a school for the sons of samurai: the sword wielding, Camelot-esque, noble warriors of Japan's much romanticised preindustrial period.

Now my impression of samurai is as romantic as they come. But my impression on that day was also uninformed. I understood that the samurai defending Kyushu were more than just warriors: they were noblemen and loyal



Samurai 1866

servants to their local Lord. I also had the strong impressions that warring factions constantly overthrew each other, and that being a samurai was dangerous and violent work. And armed thus with my guesswork, I began to ponder. Perhaps this danger was the reason that samurai sent their sons to this safe haven, or perhaps they didn't trust their wives, or... or, perhaps I was letting my imagination run away with me...

But wait one second! What's was this? Upon entering the third on-site building, the schoolmaster's house, our guide told us to wait a moment and promptly scuttled away. A moment later, a near-imperceptible scuffing sound, and there he was, hanging out gargoyle-like from a previously invisible partition above our heads. 'I am ninja!' he exclaimed with glee, 'now I can jump and kill you, if you like?'

A window for ninjas! Quite the bold and surprising claim! But apparently the schoolmaster would regularly offer invitations to tea for those people who he thought were trying to assassinate him (happens to me all the time). These potential assassins would of course say yes, either because they were assassins, or because they just thought he was being neighbourly. Ultimately, as they entered the back door, the secret ninja would pounce and it would be curtains.



Ninja Window

But, perhaps there's as much truth in these stories as if I were to say that it was the ghosts of schoolboys who took me on the tour. Perhaps, for example, the boys *were* the sons of samurai, but not as I would have them. A little research has taught me that during the Edo Period, samurai increasingly became courtiers, bureaucrats, and administrators, rather than warriors.

Continued from p1.

So maybe the ninja window was just a laundry cupboard, and our Japanese guides were embellishing. But why shouldn't they? At every sight in every other city in the world, enthusiastic tour guides are boldly leaping and dancing down the streets in front of groups of visitors, spouting their glorious half-truths. This is exactly the style of marketing that Kyoto has made phenomenally good use of for years. The 'Philosopher's' Walk, 'Spectacles' Bridge, the

'pleasure' quarters of Gion all ignite an irresistible imagery which transports the tourist back in time. Few countries trade so strongly on the glamour and mystery of their past as Japan and my native England, and perhaps that's why I have never before been such an enthusiastic sight-seer. If you do get a chance, I urge you to visit all of the unlikeliest places in Oita, but please take my advice: ignore the official rubric, close your eyes, and get lost in your own story.

## FACTS

# The Mori Kusou Memorial Hall

Born in 1797 and active in both the Edo period and the later Meiji Era, Mori was a Confucian Scholar and educator. The school was home to between 481- 890 pupils during its lifespan. The present-day facility was established to commemorate the great achievements of this local hero.

Oita City, Tsurusaki.

Opening hours are 9:00~16:30

Free admission.

For more information, please contact the Memorial Hall

(Tel: 097-534-6111)

--Article by Megan Prosser



## A Film...Filmed in Oita Prefecture??



~Tanemaku Tabibito- Minori no cha~

The film "Tanemaku tabibito- Minori no cha" (for which the literal translation would be something along the lines of: 'the traveler who plants seeds- Minori's tea') will begin screening in cinemas across Japan from March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012. Based on a true story, this is a film which focuses heavily on the importance of living a fulfilling life. The main characters are Minori and Kinjiro. Minori: a 30 year old woman working as big-shot designer, quits her job upon finding out that she was only hired in the first place due to her father's business connections. Minori visits a friend in Oita and is asked by her mother to call on her grandfather in Usuki. At that time, Kinjiro is working in the Agricultural department at the Usuki City Office. The two come into contact when Minori is given the task of assisting with organic green tea farming. "Tanemaku tabibito" highlights a number of important issues regarding lifestyle, farming and food in Japan, including the topic of organic farming.

Whilst the movie is entirely in Japanese, I would recommend it to learners of Japanese of all levels living in Oita. The movie was filmed at a number of locations across Oita Prefecture including Usuki where the film is predominantly set, as well as Oita, Saiki, and Kunisaki. It goes without a doubt that you have visited some of the locations before, and if you haven't, then perhaps you should! That is the hope of Oita Prefecture: people from all across

Japan will see this film, be drawn in by the beautiful scenery, and be inspired to visit Oita to experience the wonderful landscape for themselves. Or at the very least, viewers will try to get their hands on some of the delicious organic green tea produced in Oita Prefecture.

--Nicole Flynn



tea field

## Can You Find It In Oita?

Hopefully everyone found some of the items for A, B and C listed in the last TOMBO. For those of you who weren't able to find the answers, here they are:

**A: Ayurvedic Healing** can be found at 'Hasu' Ayurvedic Salon, Oita City, Funai-cho 3-5-30 Funai Building 301 (Tel: 090-8228-6150)

**B: Borscht** (a hearty and homey Russian beet soup) can be found at 'Nakhodka' Russian Home Cooking Restaurant, Oita City, Chu-o Machi 1-1-13, Morimura...Building, 2nd Floor (Tel: 097-536-3523, Reservations: 090-2716-0189)

**Brazilian Waxing** (first in Oita) can be found at 'BW-Oita', Oita City, Funai-cho. For information or reservations: bw-oita@softbank.ne.jp

**Receive 1000yen OFF (in January 2012) with mention that you**

**saw this listing in Tombo's 'Can You Find it'**

**C: Campbell's Soup** can be found at Tokiwa Department Store, Oita City, Floor B1 (as well as other food shops around Oita)

This issue's letters are D, E and F. Let's see if you can find the following items:

**D: Donuts made with daizu paste (soy paste)**

**E: Eco-friendly bags** (this is an easy one! I have one store in mind that sells such bags, but I would love to hear lots of suggestions)

**F: Festive flavours of ice-cream**

If you know where you can get your hands on these items, please contact Joanne: [joannegyoshida@yahoo.com](mailto:joannegyoshida@yahoo.com), or Nicole: [in@emo.or.jp](mailto:in@emo.or.jp)



## New Year in Japan: A Fukubukuro of Poems for the New Year

2012 is the year of the Dragon. These poems are made in fun and in celebration of the New Year's traditions I have come to love in Japan, from watching the first sunrise (hatsu hi-no-de) to eating mochi, to playing ha-go-i-ta (a game like badminton, but with wood paddles, a colorful 'birdie', and no net). They were written for my daughter when she became a "toshi-onna" last year. If you were born in the year of the Dragon, then this year you are considered a toshi-onna (for girls and women) and toshi-otoko (for boys and men).

I mixed the Japanese words into the poems, as they are made to be read in a playful way, so please enjoy the sounds of the words even if you are not exactly clear of each custom. See if you can imagine what it might be by the short poem description.

It is also a custom in Japan at the New Year to write short poems and do calligraphy, so why not try to make some of your own as well.



Happy New Year!

### Ha-go-ita

Feathers fly at the first sound of hitting wood.  
I glance up to catch  
the crescent moon.

### Toshi-Onna

You've lived them all:  
Dragon, snake and horse,  
Sheep monkey, rooster,  
Dog, wild boar,  
Mouse  
Ox and  
Tiger.

One full cycle complete,  
Rabbit.

### Toshi-koshi-soba

A long life  
A healthy year  
Eat all your noodles!

### O-toshi-dama

Don't count your chickens before they hatch, I say.  
You say you'll count them anyway.  
And decide on your Fukubukuro  
Well in advance.

### Mochi

O-mochi  
Oh, mochi  
Ohh mochi  
You are  
New Year

---Joanne G. Yoshida

(Revised from an article originally appearing in JapanVisitor.com)

## Festivals &amp; Events

Date	Event Description	Location	Contact #
Dec. 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Yufuin Hot Spring Kagura-</b> Come see the traditional performing art of <i>kagura</i> here at the Yufuin Community Hall. This is a monthly event, where you can experience a different performance every time.	Yufu City Yufuin-chou	☎0977-85-4464
Dec. 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Charity Tea Ceremony-</b> This event will be run by volunteer Red Cross workers at the Lutheran Church in Oita (2-3-25 Otemachi). Starts at 3pm, organizers ask for a ¥500 donation for participation.	Oita City Otemachi	☎097-529-5105
Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>The 16<sup>th</sup> Innai-machi Fair-</b> There will be lots of local produce available at this market including fresh fish and vegetables and crafts.	Usa City Innai-machi	☎0978-42-6007
Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Open House Shake Your Soul Evening-</b> Come join in an 'all-you-can-yoga' dance and pot luck party. ¥1000 with advanced reservation, ¥1500 on the day.	Oita City Nakajima Chuou	☎090-1165-5567
Dec. 23 <sup>rd</sup> ~ Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Beppu Christmas Fireworks Fantasia-</b> Thousands of colourful fireworks will be shot into the sky in time to everyone's favourite Christmas carols at Spa Beach	Beppu City Spa Beach	☎0977-24-2828
Dec. 23 <sup>rd</sup> ~ Jan. 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>The Fourth Special Sword Exhibition-</b> Usa Jingu will hold a special Japanese sword exhibition in the shrine's treasure hall.	Usa City Usa Jingu Shrine	☎0978-37-0001
Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Christmas Event-</b> Michinoeki-yayoi will hold a Christmas event where children can come to meet Santa and his reindeer. There will be events held, and free candy for children.	Saiki City Michinoeki-yayoi	☎0972-46-5951
Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup> ~ Jan. 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Bungo Futamigaura Light up!-</b> Come see the huge rope of lights spread along the water at Bungo Futamigaura in Saiki City	Saiki City Azamui	☎0972-32-3111
Dec. 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Countdown Fireworks at Core Yamakuni-</b> See out the old year with a bang! There will be ice skating, fireworks, DJ request time, and a bingo competition. Starts at 10pm.	Nakatsu City Yamakuni-machi	☎0979-62-2140
Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>First Sunrise of the Year-</b> The 'firsts' of each year are often marked and celebrated in Japan, so why not make your first sunrise of the year a special one. Come to Tsurumidake and receive some complimentary sweet fermented rice liquor. The Beppu Ropeway will open from 4.00am.	Beppu City Tsurumidake	☎0977-22-2277
Jan. 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Poetry Reading at Hana-</b> This will be held at 'Life Gallery Hana' at the corner of Castle Park. It is open mike, so bring your own poems, ones you like, or just be inspired on the spot.	Oita City Joshi-koen	☎097-573-7711
Jan. 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Houran-Enya Boat Festival-</b> Vibrantly decorated boats float down Katsura River accompanied by traditional flute and drum music, dancing and more! This is a very colourful, lively event.	Bungo Takada City Ebisu Bridge	☎0978-22-3100
Jan. 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>The 30<sup>th</sup> Hiji New Year Health Marathon-</b> With several course lengths (1.5km, 3km, 5km, 10km) anyone can participate in this free event. Why not begin the new year with a bit of exercise?	Hiji-machi Oga Fishing Port	☎0977-72-8608
Jan. 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Housenji Fireworks-</b> Every year Kokonoe holds a fireworks festival in the middle of winter, where up to 2000 fireworks are fired up into the crisp night air.	Kokonoe-machi Housenji onsen	☎0973-73-5510
Jan. 21 <sup>st</sup> ~ Jan. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>The 21<sup>st</sup> Douwanosato Children's Film Festival-</b> Parents can take their children to see a number of child-friendly films during this festival. This town has no cinema, so this festival is a big treat!	Kusu-machi Merusan Hall	☎0973-72-7153
Jan. 28 <sup>th</sup> ~ Feb. 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Oita Fugu Festa-</b> During this period you can get discount prices on <i>fugu</i> (blowfish) at participating restaurants.	Participating	☎097-537-5764
Feb. 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>The 61<sup>st</sup> Beppu Oita Mainichi Marathon-</b> Starting in front of Takasaki-yama, Umitamago, and finishing at the Oita Athletic Stadium, come cheer on the competitors (if you are not already competing!)	Umitamago~Oita Athletic Stadium Oita City	☎097-558-1999
Feb. 12 <sup>th</sup> ~ Mar. 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Yoshino Japanese Plum Blossom Festival-</b> During this festival there will be events such as <i>kagura</i> performances and much more amongst the some 450 plum blossom trees.	Oita City Yoshinobai-en	☎097-597-1000
Feb. 14 <sup>th</sup> ~ Mar. 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Ajimu Suppon Walk-</b> From Valentine's day to White day, you can eat <i>suppon</i> cuisine (turtle meat) for just ¥2800 at participating restaurants in Ajimu.	Usa City Ajimu-machi	☎0978-34-4839
Feb. 15 <sup>th</sup> ~ Mar. 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Hita City Hina Doll Festival-</b> Families throughout historical Mameda and Kuma Towns in Hita City will display their <i>hina</i> dolls.	Hita City Mameda/ Kuma	☎0973-23-3111
Feb. 19 <sup>th</sup> ~ Mar. 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Hita Ōyama Japanese Plum Blossom Festival-</b> The Ōkubo and Furuya plum blossom parks will hold events such as outdoor tea ceremonies, poem-reading meetings and blossom viewing walks.	Hita City Ōyama-machi	☎0973-52-3101
Feb. 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Atago Shrine Festival-</b> Fire-walking will be performed at this festival, as well as the tradition of <i>goma</i> burning, where pieces of holy, scented wood are burned for spiritual purification.	Hiji-machi Atago Shrine	☎0977-72-4255
Feb. 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>The Kyushu Snowball Fight Championships-</b> Held at the Kokonoe Shinrin Koen Ski Resort, this is a fun, popular winter sport for all ages!	Kokonoe-machi Kokonoe Shinrin Koen Ski Resort	☎0973-79-2200

★     ★ Stage & Music Events ★     ★

Dec.	Time	Artist/Event	Venue	Cost	Contact #
19 <sup>th</sup>	18:00	<b>Christmas Gospel Night-</b> Charity concert by the Oita Grace Family Choir with special guest saxophonist Ron Brown	Compal Hall Culture Hall 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	¥2,000 (adults) ¥1,000 (students)	☎090-8910-6603
23 <sup>rd</sup>	18:00	<b>SKA'SH ONIONS-</b> Performance by Fukuoka group SKA'SH ONIONS	T.O.P.S BittsHall	¥2,000 w/drink	☎097-533-0467
31 <sup>st</sup>	18:00	<b>Rock'n New Years Eve Party-</b> With live music by E.M.O (Fukuoka)	Ongakukan	¥1,000 plus drink	☎080-1789-1234
Jan.	Time	Artist/Event	Venue	Cost	Contact #
3 <sup>rd</sup>	15:30 18:30	<b>Flamenco Live in Oita-</b> Solo Flamenco performance by Maki Ohta. Afternoon and evening sessions.	Ongakukan	¥4,000 w/drink	☎090-5558-4021
7 <sup>th</sup>	13:30	<b>"Bösendorfer no miryoku"</b> - Piano lecture concert, booking necessary.	iichiko Otonoizumi	¥1,000/1hour	☎097-533-4003
8 <sup>th</sup>	14:30	<b>Shunputei Ichinosuke's Dokuenkai-</b> One man show demonstrating the art of storytelling	iichiko Otonoizumi	¥2,000	☎097-533-4004
8 <sup>th</sup>	18:30	<b>Doku and Manjil-</b> A night featuring Doku and up and coming rock group Manjil	Cantaloop II	¥1,000 plus drink	☎097-548-5363
13 <sup>th</sup>	19:00	<b>Ryuun Nagai-</b> Performance by Fukuoka singer/songwriter Ryuun Nagai	Brick Block	¥5,000 plus drink	☎097-536-4852
18 <sup>th</sup>	17:30	<b>MARO Project 2011-</b> Chamber music concert including pianist, violinists and ensemble pieces	iichiko Otonoizumi	¥2,000 (adults) ¥500 (students)	☎097-533-4004
19 <sup>th</sup>	21:00	<b>Bluegrass Night-</b> With performers South Bound, Rose Garden and Log Cabin Boys	Cantaloop II	¥1,000 plus drink	☎097-548-5363
27 <sup>th</sup>	19:30	<b>Keiko Lee-</b> 'VOICES III' live release concert	Brick Block	¥7,500	☎097-536-4852
Feb.	Time	Artist/Event	Venue	Cost	Contact #
9 <sup>th</sup>	18:00	<b>"Yuta to fushigi na nakamatachi"</b> - (Yuta and his mysterious friends) Enjoy with the family	iichiko Grand Theater	¥2,000~4,000	☎097-533-4004
12 <sup>th</sup>	13:30	<b>Oita Prefecture Office Employees Orchestra-</b> A recurring event, this time with the theme of "hope"	iichiko Grand Theater	¥1,000 (adults)	☎090-9485-7379
19 <sup>th</sup>	18:00	<b>Live Led Zeppelin Covers-</b> The mother of all live Led Zeppelin covers	T.O.P.S BittsHall	¥4,000	☎097-533-0467

\*\*Ticket prices range from student to most expensive general admission. Prices shown otherwise indicate price for purchase on the day of the event, they may be cheaper if purchased in advance. "w/ drink" prices include drinks, "+drink" prices require the additional purchase of a drink. Times shown indicate start times, doors usually open 30 minutes beforehand.

## Venues

**Brick Block**= 5-7-5 Ikushi, Oita City

**Cantaloop II**= 3-2-30 Miyako-Machi

Nakayama Dai 5 Building 6F Oita City

**iichiko Grand Theater**= Oasis Tower 1F Oita City

**iichiko Otonoizumi**= Oasis Tower 4F Oita City

**Oita Culture Center**= Niage-Machi 4-1 Oita City

**Ongakukan**= 2-1-24 Miyako-Machi Oita City

**T.O.P.S BittsHall.**= Ikushi 5-783, Oita City



## Exhibitions & Screenings

Date	Description	Venue	Cost	Contact #
Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb. 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CREDO (Creator's Dome)-</b> In Galeria Takemachi (near the big boat when you enter the arcade) Oita Artists display creative words. Buy holiday gifts, something inspiring for yourself, or just meet some of Oita's creative artists.	Oita-shi Chuoumachi	FREE	mail@poomp.com
Jan. 6 <sup>th</sup> ~ Feb. 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Tanomura Chikuden Exhibition-</b> A yearly focus on culture	Oita Art Museum	¥600	☎097-554-5800

Oita Art Museum= Oita-Shi Bijutsukan 大分市美術館

Oita City History Museum= Oita-Shi Rekishi Shiryokan 大分市歴史資料館

\*\*\*Most Museums and Centers are closed on Monday, or Tuesday if Monday is a public holiday. Student admissions vary, highest cost shown.\*\*\*



## Japanese Lessons

**Himawari Japanese Volunteers**

Support for people learning Japanese in order to help them enjoy their lives in Oita, now at three different locations.

Wasada Public Hall Wed. 10:00~12:00

Meiji Akeno Public Hall Wed. 14:00~16:00

Tsurusaki Public Hall Sat. 10:00~12:00

For more information contact Fukata Miharu TEL: 097-527-2614

E-MAIL: [nihongo\\_himawari\\_oita@yahoo.co.jp](mailto:nihongo_himawari_oita@yahoo.co.jp)

**Asian Culture Exchange Center**

Free Japanese lessons near Oita River on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Yutaka Building in Yutaka-Machi, Oita City. Wednesday from 10:10~11:40. Asian Culture Exchange Center

TEL: 097-537-0122 CELL: 090-4580-9550 (Ms. Noda)

**Nihongo Rakuraku-talk**

Beppu City Hall offers free Japanese lessons every Tuesday from 14:00~15:30. For more information contact Beppu International Affairs Division TEL: 097-721-6133

E-MAIL: [int-ma@city.beppu.oita.jp](mailto:int-ma@city.beppu.oita.jp)

**Sakura Japanese Class**

Come study Japanese with friendly volunteers and teachers in a pleasant atmosphere. Sakura Japanese Class is held every Monday from 10:15~12:00 at the Oita University International House in Nishiki-Machi, Oita City. Classes are FREE. For more information call Ms. Ohashi CELL: 090-7866-2486

**AIUEO Japanese Lessons**

Volunteers offer free Japanese lessons on Tuesday and Friday from 10:20~11:50 at I-NESS near Oasis Tower as well as Thursday nights at Compal Hall from 18:30~20:00. Lessons are also offered in Beppu at the Oita International House on Tuesday mornings from 10:30~12:00. For more information contact:

Ms. Miyase 090-8353-2485 (day lessons)

Ms. Kato 097-532-5940 (night lessons)

## From the Plaza

**Japanese Chat @ OIP**

Come to the Oita International Plaza to exchange with locals and practice your Japanese conversation skills one-on-one in a relaxed atmosphere. 1pm ~ 2:30pm Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> Space is limited! Contact us to reserve your seat!

TEL: 097-533-4021 E-MAIL: [in@emo.or.jp](mailto:in@emo.or.jp)

**International Understanding Seminar:  
Foreign Culture Series**

This Seminar Series is an effort by the Oita International Plaza to promote international understanding. Natives from different countries lecture in Japanese about aspects of their culture and society.

Topic: KOREAN BOOM IN JAPAN

Date: Saturday January 21<sup>st</sup> 2:30-4pm

Topic: FRENCH FASHION

Date: Saturday February 25<sup>th</sup> 2:30-4pm

All lectures are held at the iichiko Culture Center B1F Screening Hall. Participation is free. No reservation required.

TEL: 097-533-4021 E-MAIL: [in@emo.or.jp](mailto:in@emo.or.jp)

**International Understanding Seminar  
Movie Series~ Australia**

This movie screening will be held at the iichiko Culture Center. The film 'Rabbit Proof Fence' will be shown, with an introduction given by Australian native Nicole Flynn. Afterward, there will be a discussion of the film, and its theme 'human rights' . (English with Japanese Subtitles).

No reservation necessary, admission is FREE.

Date: February 19<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm ~

Place: iichiko Culture Center

For more information: [in@emo.or.jp](mailto:in@emo.or.jp)

## What's Going On?

## From the Plaza

**Free Legal Consultations**

The Oita International Plaza is holding free legal consultations on **January 18<sup>th</sup> and February 15<sup>th</sup> from 13:00~16:00**. The Oita Emigration/Immigration Affairs Council also organizes free consultations where emigration/immigration specialists are available to offer advice on a variety of topics from Immigration Bureau paperwork and procedures, to daily life matters. The next consultations will be held on **February 5<sup>th</sup> and March 4<sup>th</sup> from 13:00~16:00**. English interpretation available, other languages may be available with reservation two days in advance. OIP 097-533-4021

**Free Tagalog Consultations**

Date: **Saturday Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Saturday Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>**

Time: 13:00~16:00

Place: Oita International Plaza

Consultant: Rhodora Yoshitake

**Free Chinese Consultations**

Date/Time: Every Thursday 10:00~13:00 and every Tuesday from 13:00~16:00. Place: Oita International Plaza. Consultant: Cui Wenyu (\*Dates and times are subject to change. Please contact the Oita International Plaza before coming.)

TEL: 097-533-4021

## Community

**Oita International Christian Fellowship**

You're welcome to join us for worship and fellowship! Check our website at: [www.oicf3712.webs.com](http://www.oicf3712.webs.com)

Place: Compal Hall

Time: Every Sunday 10:00am~12:00pm

Check the lobby board for the room number under "O.I.C.F."

**International Kempo (Self-Defence Classes)**

Ever thought about being able to defend yourself? Join us to keep in shape and to learn martial art-based self-defense techniques and *bo-jyutsu* (stick fighting).

Place: Souda Dojo (Near Oita University)

Time: Every Friday 19:00~21:00

For more information on times and places, please contact Katsunori Tsujita at 097-583-0959.

**"Tomare" Meditation**

~Stop and find your center~

Would you like to learn more about or participate in individual or group meditation sessions, classes, or the Japanese healing art of Reiki? Thursday Evening Monthly Meditation at Organic Cafe Hana: Explore meditation one Thursday a month from 7PM to 8:15PM. 1500yen includes tea and sweets. January 12<sup>th</sup>, February 9<sup>th</sup>. Meditation and English: Monday mornings, Nakajima Ko-minkan. For information, schedule or questions please contact Joanne at 097-573-8053 or [joanegyoshida@yahoo.com](mailto:joanegyoshida@yahoo.com)

**Lunch With Us?**

Japanese home cooking club for international families living in Beppu, takes place on **Friday January 27<sup>th</sup> and Friday February 24<sup>th</sup>** at Women's Center Fujin Kaikan "Nadeshiko" from 11am to 2pm. 500yen to participate. For more information contact Beppu International Affairs Division

TEL: 0977-21-6133 E-MAIL: [int-ma@city.beppu.oita.jp](mailto:int-ma@city.beppu.oita.jp)

**SHAKE YOUR SOUL/ Kripalu Yoga Dance**

This body-spirit fitness program incorporates elements of yoga, dance, movement therapy and 'qi kung' with rhythms of music from around the world. Held at the Nakajima Ko-minkan Friday mornings 10AM to 11AM (every week) and Thursday afternoons 1:30PM to 3PM (first and third Monday of the month). For more information or to make reservations contact:

Joanne TEL: 090-1165-5567

## LANGUAGE LEARNING PAGE



## Kanji of the Month



This section aims to teach new kanji characters to beginner-level Japanese learners, and to give intermediate and advanced learners deeper understanding of each character. This month's character set is:

## CLASSROOM「教室」

The first character in the set「教」, which is read <sup>KYOU</sup>キョウ or <sup>OSHI</sup>おし <sup>ERU</sup>える consists of three parts.「攴」meaning “stick”,「攴」meaning adult, and「子」meaning “child”. Combined, these components represent a person holding a stick and teaching a child.

## TO TEACH「教」

The second character in the set「室」, which is read <sup>SHITSU</sup>シツ or <sup>MURO</sup>ムロ combines arrow「彳」earth「土」, and roof「宀」. The arrow striking the earth represents ‘arrival’, which in combination with a roof comes to represent a place to come to, i.e., a room.

## ROOM「室」

Combining the characters for “teaching” and “room” gives us the character combination meaning:

## CLASSROOM「教室」

The following sentence uses the above characters to exemplify their different readings.

ランゲージの教室で先生が生徒にフランス語を教えました。

The teacher taught the students French in the Language classroom.

## Japanese Proverbs

聞くは一時の恥、聞かぬは一生の恥

「きくはいつときのはじ、きかぬはいつしょうのはじ」

“kiku no wa ichiji no haji, kikanu no wa isshou no haji”

“To ask is but a moment of shame, to not ask is a lifetime of shame”

## Japanese Onomatopoeia

Have you ever found yourself in a Japanese conversation surrounded by ‘sounds’? In Japanese, onomatopoeia (‘giongo’ or ‘gitaigo’) is used to describe tastes, textures, sensations, sounds, feelings and much more.

Imagine that you read somewhere about an apple that goes 「シャキッ」 “SHAKI” when you bite into it. Is that the sound of it exploding? Perhaps it is the noise an apple would make when it sings? In any case, it is better than it being 「ふにやふにや」 ”funya funya”, because that would just be disgusting. (For everybody’s reference, 「しゃきっ」 ”shaki” is used to imitate a crisp, crunch sound, and 「ふにやふにや」 ”funya funya” describes something that is soft, limp or flabby.)

With the change in season, and several windy days you may notice the different sounds that trees make as the wind blows through them:

「ざわざわ」 ”zawa zawa” as the wind blows gently through the trees, rustling the leaves

「メキメキ」 ”meki meki” as a branch or bough splits off and begins to fall

「バリッ」 “bari” the sound of a tree cracking and falling over.

## Foreign Movies Showing in Oita

Cinema	Movie	Showing Date
Cinema5	Remember Me	Dec. 17 <sup>th</sup> ~23 <sup>rd</sup>
Central Oita (on 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave) ☎097-536-4512	The Company Men	Jan. 2 <sup>nd</sup>
	The Mill and the Cross (English, Spanish)	Jan. 14 <sup>th</sup>
	Rabbit Hole	Jan. 14 <sup>th</sup>
	L'uomo che verrà (Italian, German)	Jan. 28 <sup>th</sup>
Toho Cinemas Wasada Town ☎097-548-7878	New Year's Eve	Dec. 23 <sup>rd</sup>
	Fright Night	Jan. 7 <sup>th</sup>
	The Yellow Sea (Chinese)	Jan. 7 <sup>th</sup>
	The Devil's double	Jan. 13 <sup>th</sup>
	Animal Kingdom	Jan. 21 <sup>st</sup>
T-Joy Cinemas Park Place	Johnny English Reborn	Jan. 21 <sup>st</sup>
	Scream 4	Jan. 7 <sup>th</sup>
	The Last Exorcism	Jan. 14 <sup>th</sup>
	The Ward	Jan. 21 <sup>st</sup>
	Extremely Loud, and Incredibly Close	Feb. 18 <sup>th</sup>

Unless otherwise noted films are shown in English, with Japanese subtitles.

Admission **Standard** ¥1,800 **Pre-release** ¥1,500 **Pair** ¥2,800

**Seniors** ¥1,000 **Students** ¥1,000~1,500

## Special Discounts

The first day of the month ¥1,000 Ladies' Day (Wednesdays) ¥1,000

Men's Day is ¥1,000 (Thursday at Toho Cinemas and Cinema5)

Late Night Show (Sun-Fri) ¥1,200 (Toho Cinemas)

## Making Submissions

THE TOMBO is always looking for articles and event information. Please send your submissions to the Oita International Plaza by E-mail ([in@emo.or.jp](mailto:in@emo.or.jp)) based on the submission deadline listed in the publication schedule below. The Oita Prefecture Cultural and Sports Foundation reserves all copyrights to articles printed in THE TOMBO.

Issue	Publication Date	Submission Deadline
July/August	July 1 <sup>st</sup>	June 1 <sup>st</sup>
September/October	September 1 <sup>st</sup>	August 1 <sup>st</sup>
November/December	November 1 <sup>st</sup>	October 1 <sup>st</sup>
January/February	January 1 <sup>st</sup>	December 1 <sup>st</sup>
March/April	March 1 <sup>st</sup>	February 1 <sup>st</sup>
May/June	May 1 <sup>st</sup>	April 1 <sup>st</sup>

## Receiving THE TOMBO

The Oita International Plaza mails THE TOMBO, free of charge, to all foreigners living in Oita prefecture. If you would like to start receiving THE TOMBO by mail, or you would like to cancel your subscription, or change your address, please send your name and address to the Oita International Plaza by mail, phone, fax, or E-mail ([in@emo.or.jp](mailto:in@emo.or.jp))

## Necessities of Life

### ~Delivery Services~

With Christmas, New Year, and holidays in general upon us, many of us will be sending cards, letters, parcels, presents and much more. For sending items inside of Japan, there are a number of delivery companies who offer door to door delivery, and cater to just about any need you can think of. Do you want to send some ice-cream to a loved one? Do you need to have your golf clubs/skiis delivered to the necessary golf course/ski field so that you don't have to carry them there yourself?

Delivery companies such as Yamato Transport Sagawa Express

(Sagawakyubin) have comprehensive English websites. You can also choose desired times and dates for delivery, and often have the option of express delivery for an extra surcharge.

For people needing to send items overseas, Yamato Transport offers an international delivery service called TA-Q-BIN, so now you have no excuse not to send Christmas/New Year presents home to friends and family. For more information:

Yamato Transport <http://www.kuronekoyamato.co.jp/english/>

Sagawa Express <http://www.sagawa-exp.co.jp/english/>

**国際交流プラザ**  
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### THANK YOU!!

A special thanks to all those who co-operated with us for this issue. Your help was very much appreciated.

THE TOMBO is produced by :

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Closed national holidays & Dec 29 - Jan 3

The International Plaza is located on the basement floor of OASIS Hiroba 21 (iichiko Culture Center) .

