

THE TOMBO

OITA'S · ENGLISH · NEWSLETTER

March-April 2012

Issue 60



Cherry Blossom Viewing



With spring on its way, so is the impending cherry blossom (*sakura*) season. One need only watch the Japanese news to get a feel for just how serious the business of cherry blossoms really is. Maps of Japan are shown daily, with indications of where *sakura* have begun to bloom. As each day creeps by, we see the *sakura* stamps snake their way up the islands of Japan.

The blossoms are commonly used in traditional Japanese sweets (*wagashi*) and cherry blossom tea (*sakuracha*). They can be pickled in salt and ume vinegar, and rehydrated with boiling water as required. In addition, pickled cherry blossom leaves are used to wrap up *sakuramochi*: a slightly more rustic type of *mochi* that is dyed cherry blossom pink and traditionally filled with sweet red bean paste. Before you get excited and decide to eat copious amounts of these foods, it is probably best to point out that the leaves of a *sakura* tree can be toxic if eaten in large quantities.



Cherry blossoms in Tochigi Prefecture 2007

These days you can find yourself a great number of *sakura*-flavoured snacks, sweets and drinks; from Kit Kats to premixed canned alcoholic drinks. Also, if you have ever looked closely at a Japanese one hundred yen coin, you will have noticed that they feature three overlapping cherry blossoms.

The most common variety of cherry blossom is '*somei yoshino*', of which the blossoms each have five petals and are of a pinkish white hue. However there are many more varieties, albeit less common, ranging in colour from snow white to bright pink to yellow. The bark of a particular variety of wild cherry blossom tree is also used in the traditional Japanese craft of '*kabazaiku*'. In *kabazaiku*, the cherry tree bark is cleaned, treated, and smoothed over a long period of time before it is ready to be used. At present, this technique is most commonly used to craft tea storage canisters, trays and other everyday items. The bark of these cherry trees will continue to grow back after it has been removed, making it a renewable eco-friendly material.

Sakura tree plantations can be found overseas in a number of countries such as China, South Korea, America, Canada, Australia and Brazil, many of which hold their own annual cherry blossom

festivals. These trees have most commonly been introduced by immigrants or given as gifts by the Japanese government.

Oita Prefecture has a number of prime cherry blossom viewing spots, some of which have up to several thousand trees. For those of you who are thinking of going to '*hanami*' (cherry blossom viewing) this year, there is no question on the most important item to take with you: a lined water-proof mat or tarp. These can be purchased from hundred yen shops, but be sure to check the size when you buy it so that you don't end up with a single child-size Hello Kitty mat on which you can barely fit! Next of course would be the necessary food and drinks to keep you going throughout the day, and what better time to get into the spirit of things by getting something *sakura* flavoured!

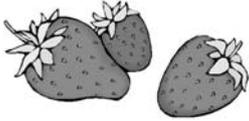
One vital point to keep in mind is that *hanami* sites will be crowded, even on weekdays. Be prepared to wait patiently in parking lots, queues for restrooms and any places selling food in the area.

*Depending on the trees' situation and level of exposure to sun, the flowering times will differ. Please refer to the Festivals and Events page for a detailed list of major cherry blossom viewing locations, and when they are expected to begin flowering.

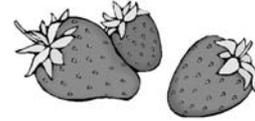
--Nicole



Hanami with my host family 2007



Seasonal Produce and Strawberry Picking



Oita Prefecture is well known throughout the country for its award winning dried *shiitake* mushrooms, as well as *kabosu* fruit, *nashi* (Japanese pears), onions, beef and more types of fish than you know what to do with. In order to best promote this fresh produce, "The Oita" brand was started. The concept behind "The Oita" brand is to 'turn ideas into shapes', and ideally create close links between producers, distributors and consumers.

"The Oita" is an organisation that promotes prefectural produce, and is essentially a brand in itself. The website offers detailed updates on what is in season, and recipes for said seasonal produce. For anyone who has ever wondered when the season for *shiro-negi* (white onions) is in Oita, and how best to cook them, here is your answer!

The Oita- <http://theoita.com/index.html>

All-You-Can-Strawberry!

It is official: we have entered *ichigo* (strawberry) season here in Oita Prefecture. In fact March and April mark roughly the middle of the strawberry season, so *ichigo* are potentially right at their peak.

Whilst Oita strawberries are available in most supermarkets across the prefecture, why not add a bit of adventure to your strawberry consumption, and go pick the strawberries for yourself! There are many strawberry farms across Oita Prefecture where you can experience *ichigo-gari* (strawberry picking) for yourself: some of which also produce fruit to sell commercially. In the true 'all-you-can-eat' (or drink or sing, just insert your verb of choice) spirit of Japan, many locations offer all-the-strawberries-you-can-eat deals that include farm entry, and if you are lucky, a little tub of condensed milk to carry around with you for strawberry dipping. There is generally a time limit of approximately thirty to forty minutes, but speaking from experience and as someone who



Strawberry picking



Eating strawberries with my host mother 2009

generally views anything with the suffix of *houdai* (as much as you like) as a personal challenge, this is more than adequate to get your fill of delicious strawberries.

The following is a list of just a few strawberry picking locations in Oita Prefecture, and approximate prices.

Hama Ichigo-en

Bungo-Takada City

¥ 1200 (No all-you-can-eat plan. Take-home only)

Accessible by car or train+bus

Tel: 0978-63-9117

Yasai Yume Koujyou

Taketa City Kuju-machi

¥ 1200 (40minutes all-you-can-eat plan available)

Accessible by car or train+bus

Tel: 0974-77-2941

ACT Ichigo Farm

Usa City

¥ 1400 (all-you-can-eat plan and take-home options available)

Accessible by car or bus

Tel: 0978-38-5701

Mizunokuni Wakuwaku Orchard 'Ichigo House'

Taketa City

¥ 1200 (40minutes all-you-can-eat plan available)

Accessible by car or train+bus

Tel: 0974-66-3003

(Adult prices listed, student discounts may be available. Prices vary throughout the season, March prices are listed. Reservations not required, but calling is recommended as farms may close subject to weather etc.)

--Nicole

Can You Find It In Oita?

Did anyone find any of the items for D, E or F? For your reference, here is what I had in mind:

D: Donuts made with daizu paste (soy paste) can be found at 'Nico Donuts' Oita Branch, Oita City, Funai-machi 1-6-2, Ashikari Building 1F <http://bonne.jp/nico-donut/>

E: Eco-friendly bags are everywhere in Oita, but one store that I had in mind actually sells eco-bags that are made entirely from leftover pieces of material from flags and *happi*. Check out 'Ecoota' in Oita City, Funai-machi 1-4-20, Kamata Building 1F <http://ecoota.com>

F: Festive flavours of ice-cream must not be as popular as I thought! I had not been able to find any myself so I included this one in the hopes that Oita residents would be able to make some

suggestions. Alas, no luck. Maybe next year!

This issue's letters are G, H and I. Let's see if you can find the following items:

G: Gorilla statue made of stone (unfortunately not available for purchase or consumption)

H: Horse riding

I: Ichigo-gari (strawberry picking) is an easy one, but we want to hear where YOU went, and what you thought of it

If you think you may have seen these things around Oita, please contact Joanne: joannegyoshida@yahoo.com, or Nicole: in@emo.or.jp

Welcome to The Inaka'

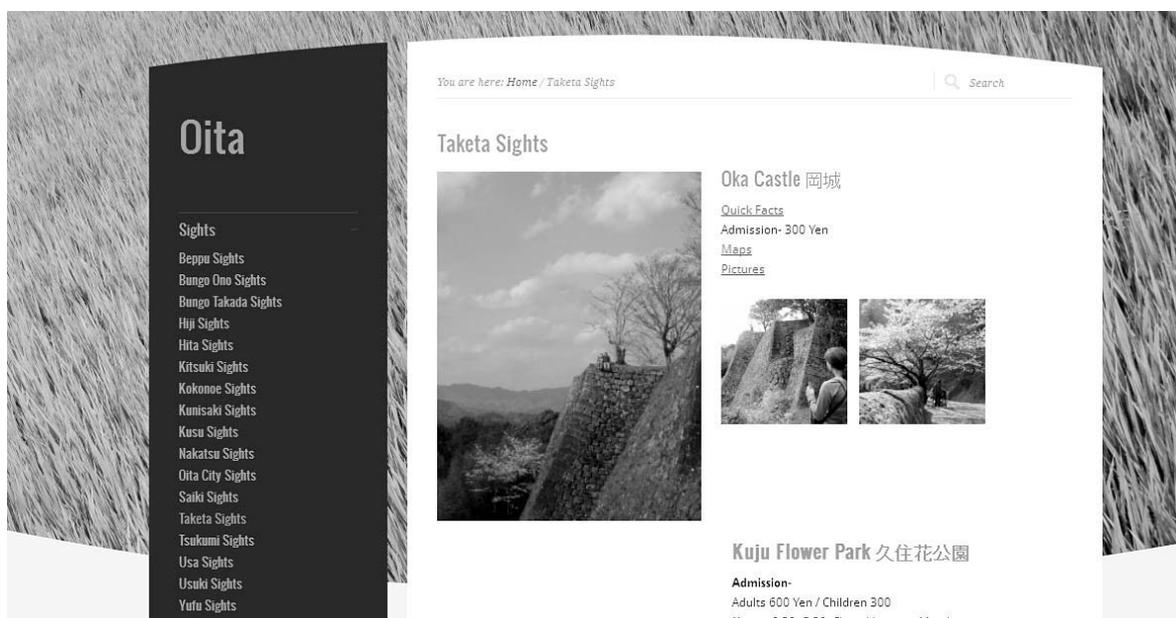
Have you ever found yourself with a free weekend but nothing to do? This is a perfect opportunity to go sightseeing in Oita Prefecture, but it can be hard to know where to begin. One great resource for sightseeing spots across the prefecture is the website "Oita The Inaka".

Chris Allison, a resident of Oita Prefecture started the website out of need for more local information for foreigners living in Oita. Whilst the website was initially aimed at JET Programme participants, it definitely has the potential to be a fantastic resource for all English speakers living in, or visiting the prefecture. At present the site is up and running, with a number of fantastic photos and article on places to visit and food to eat. However it still has a

little while to go before there is detailed information on all regions across Oita.

So who better to provide such information but locals of those regions! Chris is looking for YOU to help him create a place that people can turn to for sightseeing recommendations, reviews, photos, travel tips and much more. Chris is currently uploading information and making alterations to the website himself, and would appreciate it if you could send any submissions to him at inakajapan@gmail.com

Please check out the site for yourself at: <http://oita.theinaka.com/>



Festivals & Events

| Date | Event Description | Location | Contact # |
|--|---|--|-----------------|
| Feb. 19 th ~ Mar. 18 th | Ōyama Japanese Plum Blossom Festival- Hita City holds its annual <i>ume</i> (plum blossom) festival at two orchards. For the duration of the festival there will be instrumental, <i>taiko</i> and marching band performances and bingo tournaments. | Okubodai Baien + Furuyadai Baien Hita City | ☎0973-52-3101 |
| Mar. 1 st ~ Apr. 3 rd | Hot water steam illumination- during this period you will be able to see the magical steam let off by the hot springs actually glowing. | Beppu City Eight major hot springs | ☎0977-22-0401 |
| Mar. 1 st | Tsujibasha Horse drawn carriage-riding- Held every year in front of Yufuin station, this event marks the beginning of Spring. Displays, <i>mochi</i> -making, <i>mochi</i> -eating and more! | Yufuin City Yufuin JR Station | ☎0977-85-4464 |
| Mar. 3 rd & 4 th | Oita Heat Devils Basketball game- Oita Heat Devils vs. the Sendai 89ers. March 3 rd 18:00 start time. March 4 th 13:00 start time. | Oita City Oita Sougou Taiiku-kan | ☎097-551-1511 |
| Mar. 4 th | Creative Society Experience- this lively event will be held on Tanoura beach, with activities such as fish-catching and fruit bottling. | Oita City Tanoura beach T-WAVE area | ☎097-537-5975 |
| Mar. 5 th | Eco-bag-making- held on the first Monday of each month, come along to Oita Art Gallery and join the volunteer group making unique 'art eco-bags' from old exhibition. Participation is free! | Oita City Oita Art Museum | ☎097-554-5800 |
| Mar. 11 th | Charity Concert- The Oita Lutheran Church is holding a marathon charity concert. Tea ceremony from 13:30, concert from 14:30~18:30. Admission is free, but any donations collected will go to tsunami relief efforts. | Compal Hall, Culture Hall Oita City | ☎0903-256-0426 |
| Mar. 25 th | Uki uki flea market- a monthly event where you can come get lots of great bargains. 11:30~15:00 | Oita City Oasis Tower 1F | ☎097-538-7411 |
| Mar. 30 th ~ Apr. 3 rd | Beppu Hot Springs Festival- for the duration of the festival there will be performances, parades, free entry to approximately 100 hot springs locations across the city. | City-wide Beppu City | ☎0977-24-2828 |
| Apr. 1 st | Beppu Coast Walk- Feel like a leisurely stroll along the seaside? Come take a walk in a group, starting at You Me Town (reservations necessary, reserve by telephone) | Beppu City You Me Town | ☎090-8832-5608 |
| Apr. 8 th | Shidakako Cherry Blossom Festival- come enjoy the beautiful cherry blossoms whilst sampling some cherry blossom tea and sweets. | Shidakako Beppu City | ☎0977-24-2828 |
| Apr. 8 th | Tsurumi Mountain Hiking Competition- 3 different hiking courses, all with an average time of 5 hours. The courses start on Spa Beach and finish at Mt. Tsurumi (1,375m high!). Applications for walking courses close March 9 th . | Beppu City Spa Beach to Mt. Tsurumi peak | ☎0977-24-2828 |
| Apr. 22 nd | Earth Day Event- come celebrate Earth Day in Beppu Park! | Beppu City Beppu park | ☎0977- 21- 1128 |



Cherry Blossom Viewing ~Prime Locations~



As mentioned on page one, late March and Early April is the beginning of the cherry blossom season in Japan. Below is a short list of some well-known viewing spots around the prefecture that are ideal for enjoying your own little party under the cherry blossom trees.

| Blossom Period | City | Location | Address/Directions | Number of Trees | Contact # |
|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Late March ~ Early April | Usuki City | Usuki Castle 白杵城跡 | 10 minutes on foot from JR Usuki station | ¥1,000 | ☎0972-64-7130 |
| Late March ~ Early April | Beppu City | Beppu Park 別府公園 | 15 minutes by car from Oita IC 5 minutes by bus from JR Beppu station | ¥100 | ☎0977- 21-1111 |
| Late March ~ Mid April | Oita City | Heiwa-shimin Park 平和市民公園 | 15 minutes by bus from JR Oita station (to 'Hanazuru' bus stop) 20 minutes by car from Oita IC | ¥650 | ☎097-558-8135 |
| Early ~ Mid April | Kunisaki City | Aki Dam Park 安岐ダム公園 | 30 minutes by car from JR Kitsuki station 20 minutes by car from Oita Kukodouro Aki IC | ¥3,000 | ☎0978-72-5168 |
| Early April | Usa City | Usa Shrine 宇佐神宮 | 10 minutes by bus from JR Usa station | ¥1,200 | ☎0978-37-0001 |
| Early April | Taketa City | Oka Castle Ruins 岡城跡 | 20 minutes on foot from JR Bungo Taketa station | ¥1,500 | ☎0974-63-0585 |
| Early April | Beppu City | Mt. Ogi Sakura Garden 扇山さくらの園 | 5 minutes by car from Beppu IC 20minutes by bus from JR Beppu station | ¥6,000 | ☎0977-21-1111 |

★     ★ Stage & Music Events ★     ★

| Mar. | Time | Artist/Event | Venue | Cost | Contact # |
|--|--|---|--------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 3 rd | 15:00 | Tokyo NHK Symphony Orchestra- performance of Rachmaninov | iichiko Grand Theater | ¥4,000~6,000 | ☎097-533-4006 |
| 4 th | 18:30 | Love in City Oita 2012- Performance by pop musician Toru Suzuki | Cantaloop II | ¥4,500 plus drink | ☎097-548-5363 |
| 9 th | 19:30 | Akira Inaba- Live acoustic performance by Akita singer songwriter | Brick Block | ¥6,000 w/drink | ☎097-536-4852 |
| 10 th | 19:00 | 'Waking Up' Tour 2012- Bassist Mitsuru Suto with accompaniment | Cantaloop II | ¥4,500 plus drink | ☎097-548-5363 |
| 11 th | 18:00 | 'Never Give Up!'- charity event featuring bands CHAOS, GIGIGAGA, Revolt, PLEDGE, DOUBLE STEAL | T.O.P.S Bittshall | ¥2,500 plus drink | ☎097-533-0467 |
| 18 th | 19:00 | Hawaiian6- 'Spotty Wolf' tour | T.O.P.S Bittshall | ¥2,800 | ☎097-533-0467 |
| 21 st | 18:30 | GLAY 'High Communications' Tour- rock/pop band from Hokkaido | iichiko Grand Theater | ¥7,350 | ☎092-714-0159 |
| 23 rd | 19:30 | Marimba Night Live- Featuring marimba, piano and other percussion | Brick Block | ¥2,000 w/drink | ☎097-536-4852 |
| 25 th | 19:00 | Sano Masaru & Smiley Bones | Cantaloop II | ¥1,800 plus drink | ☎097-548-5363 |
| 26 th ~ 28 th | 13:30~ (Children) 18:30~ (Adults) | Musical Experience Workshop- experience singing and dancing along to a famous Broadway musical (divided into children and adults classes, bookings essential) | iichiko Space B Rehearsal Hall | ¥3,000 | ☎097-533-4004 |
| 30 th | 19:00 | Isobe Masafumi Band- 'Deliver' tour | T.O.P.S Bittshall | ¥3,000 | ☎097-533-0467 |
| Apr. | Time | Artist/Event | Venue | Cost | Contact # |
| 7 th | 18:00 | Motoyoshi Hosotsubo- Live 'Towards the Rainbow' performance | Brick Block | ¥5,500 | ☎097-536-4852 |
| 7 th | 16:00 | Piano Trio Performance- featuring Martin Helmchen, Veronika Eberle and Danjurou Ishizaka | iichiko Grand Theater | ¥2,000~4,000 | ☎097-547-8360 |
| 15 th | 18:00 | GIGIGAGA presents KERA! Fashion show- featuring live acts and fashion brands such as PEACE NOW, HELCATPUNKS, SUPERLOVERS and more | T.O.P.S Bittshall | ¥2,500 plus drink | ☎097-533-0467 |
| 22 nd | 13:30 | Charity Event- Oita Funai Lions Club | iichiko Grand Theater | ¥3,500 | ☎097-544-0244 |

**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 Otonozumi= 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 # |
|--|---|--------------------------------|------|---------------|
| Mar. 11 th ~ 30 th | Film installation exhibition - by Mayumi Iwasa- one year on from the earthquake, this visual installation looks at "what is important", not only on the outside, but also on the inside. | Life Gallery Hana Oita City | FREE | ☎097-573-7711 |
| Mar. 2 nd ~ 25 th | The 46th Oita City Art Exhibition - exhibition includes Western paintings, Japanese paintings, calligraphy, photographs, sculptures, woodwork crafts and more | Oita City Oita Art Museum | FREE | ☎097-554-5800 |
| Jan. 11 th ~ Apr. 15 th | The colours in Japanese Paintings - these artworks displays the array of colours used in Japanese paintings, traditionally made from natural minerals and earth, and affixes onto paper or silk. | Oita City Oita Art Museum | ¥300 | ☎097-554-5800 |
| Jan. | The various shapes of bamboo crafts - an exhibition of bamboo crafts that demonstrates the beauty, strength and flexibility of this material. | Oita City Oita Art Museum | ¥300 | ☎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

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

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 March 10th, April 7th

Space is limited! Contact us to reserve your seat!

TEL: 097-533-4021

E-MAIL: in@emo.or.jp

FREE BOOK GIVEAWAY

Did you know that the Oita International Plaza has a multi-lingual library? We have a great selection of English fiction and non-fiction, children's books, travel guides, and even a small section of other languages including Korean, Chinese, French, Italian and German. We did some Spring cleaning of the library and are offering a selection of books and magazines for free to people who would like them! It is a great chance to expand your collection, or even just to come visit and check out the International Plaza! First come first served. Please remember to bring a bag in which to carry your books home (Limit of 10 books per person).

March 5th (Monday) ~ March 10th (Saturday)

9:30AM ~ 7:00PM

Oita International Plaza

iichiko Cultural Center

OASIS Tower B1 Oita City

What's Going On?

From the Plaza

Free Legal Consultations

The Oita International Plaza is holding free legal consultations on **March 21st and April 18th 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 **March 4th and April 1st 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 Mar. 3rd & Wednesday Mar. 21st
Saturday Apr. 7th & Tuesday Apr. 17th**

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

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.

March 8th, April 5th

Meditation and English: Monday mornings, Nakajima Ko-minkan. For information, schedule or questions please contact Joanne at 097-573-8053 or joannegyoshida@yahoo.com

Lunch With Us?

Japanese home cooking club for international families living in Beppu, takes place on **Friday March 23th** 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

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:

NEWSPAPER 「新聞」

The first character in the compound 「新」, which is read シン, あたらしい or あらた, can be described as a saw 「斤」 being used to cut a standing 「立」 tree 「木」 to make something 'new' such as a new building.

NEW 「新」



The second character in the compound 「聞」, which is read ブン, きく or きこえる, combines the characters for gate 「門」 and ear 「耳」. This quite literally gives us an image of a gate through which to listen.

TO LISTEN 「聞」



Combining the characters for "new" and "to listen" gives us the character combination meaning:

NEWSPAPER 「新聞」

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

来週から新しい英字新聞が始まると聞きました。



I heard that a new English language newspaper will launch from next week.

Foreign Movies Showing in Oita

Only foreign films are listed. Changes may occur without notice.

| Cinema | Movie | Showing Date |
|---|--|--|
| Cinema5 | Melancholia | Mar. 10 th ~ |
| Central Oita (on 5 th Ave) ☎097-536-4512 | Gomorra (Italian, Mandarin, French) | Mar. 10 th ~16 th |
| | Another Year | Mar. 17 th ~30 th |
| | Days of Heaven (Italian, English) | Mar. 24 th ~30 th |
| | Sarah's Key | Mar. 31 st ~Apr. 13 th |
| | On Tour (French, English) | Mar. 31 st ~Apr. 6 th |
| | The Strawberry Scent | Apr. 7 th ~20 th |
| Toho Cinemas Wasada Town ☎097-548-7878 | Death in Venice | Apr. 14 th ~27 th |
| | War Horse | Mar. 2 nd |
| | Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows | Mar. 10 th |
| | Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace 3D | Mar. 16 th |
| | The Iron Lady | Mar. 16 th |
| | Puss in Boots | Mar. 17 th |
| | Troll Hunter | Mar. 24 th |
| | Drive | Mar. 31 st |
| | The Help | Mar. 31 st |
| | Battleship | Apr. 13 th |
| John Carter | Apr. 13 th | |
| T-Joy Cinemas Park Place | This Means War | Apr. 20 th |
| | Hugo | Mar. 1 st |
| | War Horse | Mar. 2 nd |
| | Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows | Mar. 10 th |
| | The Iron Lady | Mar. 16 th |
| Puss in Boots | Mar. 17 th | |
| Battleship | Apr. 13 th | |

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)

Japanese Proverbs

明日は明日の風が吹く

「あしたはあしたのかぜがふく」

“ashita wa ashita no kaze ga fuku”

“On the morrow, the winds of tomorrow will blow”

Tomorrow is a new day

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.

I like to think of Japanese onomatopoeia as a sort of 'sixth sense'. Whilst I will never naturally have this sense, I can still attempt to learn it. In theory, there should be patterns: similarities and differences. This sounds reasonable, right? For example, the words 「がっかり」 'gakkari' and 「がっくり」 'gakkuri' both sound alike, and have very similar meanings. The former used to mean 'disappointed' or 'let down', and the latter used to mean 'heartbroken' or 'shattered'. So do other examples of other similar-sounding onomatopoeia share similar meaning? No. Not generally. Never assume that they do.

「きらきら」 'kira kira' describes the sparkling of light on water and the twinkling of stars in the sky and all things sparkly and pretty. 「きりきり」 'kiri kiri' describes something acute and intense, such as the stinging pain of a toothache, or a bowstring pulled to its limit.

「ぱりぱり」 'baribari' can be the crack of thunder, or the revving of an engine.

「ぱりぱり」 'paripari' is the sound of something crunching and munching, or the feel of a crisp new suit or kimono.

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) 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 st | June 1 st |
| September/October | September 1 st | August 1 st |
| November/December | November 1 st | October 1 st |
| January/February | January 1 st | December 1 st |
| March/April | March 1 st | February 1 st |
| May/June | May 1 st | April 1 st |

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)

Necessities of Life

~Oita information through your digital TV~

Did you know that you can access information on events and happenings in Oita City through your digital TV? The service was launched in January this year, and is currently available to those living in Oita City. The information is updated twice each month, and it is hoped that soon it will be broadcast outside Oita city as well, so that all regions in the prefecture can access this information. Most importantly, up to date evacuation information and recommendations will be broadcast in the event of a disaster.

This information can be accessed from the main data broadcasting screen by selecting the 'Oita-shi kouhou' option.



国際交流プラザ
財団法人 大分県文化スポーツ振興財団

Oita International Plaza
Oita Prefecture Cultural & Sports
Promotion Foundation

大分市高砂町2-33 OASISひろば21 (B1F)
☎097-533-4021 FAX:097-533-4052

OASIS Hiroba21 (B1F) 2-33 Takasago-Machi, Oita-Shi 870-0029

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 :

Oita International Plaza Oita Prefecture Cultural & Sports Promotion Foundation

2-33 Takasago-Machi
Oita-Shi Oita-Ken 〒 870-0029
☎ 097 (533) 4021
Fax 097 (533) 4052
E-MAIL : in@emo.or.jp
<http://www.oitaplaza.jp/english/>

HOURS: Monday-Friday 9:30am-7:00pm
(closed weekends and the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. We are open on the Saturdays before these Mondays)
Closed national holidays & Dec 29 - Jan 3

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

