

THE TOMBO

OITA'S • ENGLISH • NEWSLETTER

January-February 2013

Issue 65

Southern Cross English class farewell performance

~25 years of unique English plays~

Have you ever seen any English plays in Japan that are performed by amateurs who are over the age of 50? There is an English class at Southern Cross in Beppu City where the students are aged from 50 to 80 years young. These amateurs have been performing English plays for the last 25 years.

“Katakana English” first flooded into Japanese newspapers and magazines approximately 25 years ago. “Katakana English” is where English words are written in Katakana the way they sound. As a result, most elderly people who read these newspapers and magazines didn’t understand what was being said even though it was written in Japanese.



23rd Happyoukai, “Songokuu”, 2011

This English class was created for this reason at Southern Cross in Beppu City. In our first year many people signed up for the class and it filled up immediately. As a result one more class was created the following year to accept the people who weren’t able to join the year before. The students’ enthusiasm to learn English was beyond our expectations.

At the end of the term, Southern Cross holds a “Happyoukai” (a presentation) to show what the students have learned during the year. Our class decided to present a play based on a number of different fairy tales.

Date of next *Happyoukai*: January 27, 2013 (Sun.)

Address: Southern Cross

1-8 Chiyomachi, Beppu City

TEL 097-725-3396

— Article by Haruko Nakamura

So why is this English class so unique? The reason is that every student in the class of 30 participates in the play. Different students will actually perform the same characters that appear in different acts. Year after year the lines gradually increased so it became difficult for the students to memorise them. At first they struggled to learn the lines but now they have no problem doing so, and they perform quite well in their roles and even add unique ad-lib in Japanese. Their ad-lib makes the audience members laugh and enjoy the performances.

All of the students have different backgrounds. Some are good at drawing, whilst others are good at dancing, or getting ideas for costumes, and making props and creating set scenes etc. The students get to know each other through preparing the stage props and performing the play together.

This year the students will be performing a revised Southern Cross version of Cinderella, which will be the last play performed by the students. We have been performing for the past 25 years so we have decided to do something different next year.

Thanks to this opportunity to study English at Southern Cross in Beppu City, the students have made new friends, and manage to keep themselves youthful and healthy.



Great advisor of 5 years, Mr. Paul Kolsanoff (left)
with Haruko Nakamura (right)

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Haruko Nakamura came to English teaching after many years and many different kinds of work experience. She first started working at a stock company and then at Suginoi Hotel in Beppu. When she was working at the hotel she had the opportunity to meet travellers from Portland Oregon, among them the mayor and a professor from Portland State University. Meeting these travellers led her to study English in an ESL program at Portland State University in the U.S. Two years later she returned to Japan, got a job in a travel agency and was then transferred to their San Francisco branch.



20th Happyoukai, "Urashima Taro" 2008

When Nakamura came back to Japan two years later, she returned to Suginoi Hotel and gained a position at the travel agency there. At that time, in 1987, she started teaching English once a week at the newly opened Southern Cross facility, where she continues to teach to this day.

Nakamura teaches with dedication and has always tried her best. As a result she saw that teaching is not only about pronunciation, but about communication and building a rapport with her students. The unique personalities of the group made teaching come alive for her and she says that her students' character is what helped her to make the plays possible. She shows enthusiasm for learning and brings life and youth to her class, who have in turn enchanted audiences all these years with their light-hearted humour (making adlib in Japanese they have had the audience laughing and smiling year after year!) and a passion for English which they share in a beautiful spirit of connection and camaraderie.

WHEN YOU WISH UPON A RICE PADDLE

Article by Casey Kasper

During my interview to enter the JET Programme, I was asked the question that I dreaded the most. "You haven't spent much time overseas, and now you choose to live and work in Japan. It looks like you live by 'go big or go home.' How would you deal with culture shock?" They had a great point. It was pretty rough when I first arrived in Japan due to my limited Japanese ability.

I started making name tents for my elementary students to learn names that were completely foreign to me. About halfway through the summer break, it starts to feel like I'm in kindergarten again. I spend most of my day coloring, a nap would be awesome, and I'm learning (or 'relearning') how to use the toilet. The JET Programme websites and guides gave very helpful information on culture shock, however with a challenge this big I felt that some divine assistance couldn't hurt.

Luckily, there was a Buddhist temple in my area.

Soon after we arrived in Oita prefecture, my supervisor, fellow Nakatsu newbie Mark Tran and I went into the mountains to visit *Ao no Doumon* and *Rakanji*. Both of these places were inspiring for different reasons.

Ao no Doumon is a hand-made tunnel made by a Buddhist monk in retribution for a murder he committed in his youth. It took 30 years to dig using only a hammer and chisel. It is no mere mole hole either: buses barrel through as we walk along the sidewalk. Due to recent flooding, the statue of the

monk was knocked over and both of his arms washed away. Although since he was Buddhist monk he didn't need any "armies." Bad puns aside, seeing one man's vision become a reality through such dedication was really motivational.

Our next stop was the nearly 650 year old temple *Rakanji*. Since the temple is halfway up the mountain, we hopped on



Mark (right) and I wondering what to write on our paddles

a lift. It was quite an adventure in itself with my legs dangling in the wind as I held on for dear life. After a harrowing ride, we reached our destination: *Rakanji*!

As we pass through the wooden gate we are greeted by many stone statues that welcome us silently. There are hundreds if not thousands of these quiet guardians spread throughout the complex. Legend has it that everyone has a statue that looks like them and if you find it

your family will have good luck.

Next we explore the narrow passages of the main hall. The wooden structure was destroyed by fire, so the current iteration is a reconstruction. Deep inside the cave structure is a little room with photographs of a dead 'oni' (Japanese demon) that was supposedly found in the temple (the shriveled gremlin did look quite scary). As we continue along the twisting passages, we somehow end up on the second floor balcony of the main hall and are treated to a beautiful view of Oita's green mountains and valleys!

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After being scared by an 'oni' and amazed by the breathtaking view, we continued to one of the bigger caves in *Rakanji* which is filled with wooden planks covered in rice paddles. On these rice paddles are the hopes, dreams, and wishes of fellow travelers. Every available space is covered in rice paddles! The air is filled with incense and in the center of the cave is an altar where the rice paddles are blessed before being displayed. The cushion in the center of the altar stage has deep indentions from many years of prayers.

We bought our rice paddles and sat down to write, but thinking of a wish on the spot was challenging. The outer portion of this cave is also filled with stone statues that watch quietly as I struggle to think of something to write. When our rice paddles are finished they are placed in a basket in front of the



A few weeks later I return to find my rice paddle



The ride up to *Rakanji* temple

central altar to be blessed and nailed onto the wooden planks that are in front of the statues at a later date.

A few weeks after my initial trip to *Rakanji*, I returned to find my rice paddle. In the sea of Japanese paddles with the occasional Korean, Chinese, and even Russian script, I found my paddle written in English almost instantly. It was good to know that in these temple grounds that are over twice as old as my country, the United States, I will have the blessing of divine spirits. As this is my first big experience overseas, I will need all the help I can get!

— Casey Kasper is a first year JET Programme participant based in Nakatsu

CAN YOU FIND IT IN OITA PREFECTURE?

Here are some suggestions for S, T and U from the last issue:

S: Sri Lankan cuisine can be enjoyed at Nelum Mala, a restaurant that opened just this year in Centaporta of Oita City.

T: Tinsel and Trimmings: impressive decorations that made you turn your head. Have you seen any? The lights and decorations in Beppu Park are a yearly spectacular that never fail to impress!

U: Unusual flavours unique to Oita. Albeit not a typical winter food, Oita Prefecture boats an unusually large variety of unique soft cream flavours. Aside from authentic flavours such as chocolate, strawberry and vanilla, you can get your hands on *miso*, *kabosu*, soy sauce, brown rice and spiny

lobster flavor (depending on the region).

The letters for January and February are V, W and X:

V: Valentine's Day goodies

W: Your favourite *wagashi* (traditional Japanese sweet) treats

X: X marks the spot-what is the most memorable landmark or statue you've seen in Oita Prefecture?

If you think that you might know where to find these things please contact Joanne: joannegyoshida@yahoo.com, or Nicole: nicole@emo.or.jp.

Oita Japanese Association of Language Teachers (JALT) Event Electronic Portfolios in Study Abroad

On January 19th, Oita JALT will host Miki Cutting from APU. Miki will be giving a presentation on the topic of "Electronic Portfolios in Study Abroad" in the Noguchi Fureai Koryu Center.

Time: 16:00 – 17:00

Address: Moto machi 12-43, Beppu City

For more information contact Brendan Tynan of the JALT Oita Chapter.

Email: bretynan@apu.ac.jp

Festivals and Events

Date	Event Description	Location	Contact #
Jan. 1 st	First sunrise of the new year- the Beppu ropeway to Tsurumi-dake will open at 4:00AM giving visitors the chance to make their first sunrise of the year a memorable one. Come along and enjoy the beautiful view.	Beppu City Tsurumi-dake	☎ 097-722-2277
Jan 1 st	Sunrise walk- a yearly event where visitors walk along the 4km Bungo Kuroshio Line. Paper balloons are released simultaneously into the sky at sunrise.	Saiki City Yonouzu Bungo Kuroshio Line	☎ 097-235-6111
Jan. 1 st	Usa Shrine New Year visit- every year around half a million people visit Usa Shrine on this day to pray for good fortune and thing such as the health of their family, business prosperity, road safety and success in their studies.	Usa City Usa Shrine	☎ 097-837-0001
Jan. 2 nd	New Year Shonai Kagura- this will be the first Shonai Kagura performance of the New Year.	Yufu City Shonai-Machi	☎ 097-582-1111
Jan. 12 th	Housenji Fireworks- a fireworks festival where around 2000 fireworks are released into the clear winter sky. There will also be a burning of New Years decorations.	Kokonoe-Machi Housenji Onsen	☎ 097-373-5510
Jan. 14 th	The Hiji New Year Health Marathon- features 1.5km, 3km, 5km, 10km courses and participation is free. A great opportunity to start the year with exercise.	Hiji-Machi Oga Fishing Port	☎ 097-773-3156
Jan 19 th	Winter bird watching- observe birds in the wild right in front of your eyes from 10:00 onward (cost is ¥500, bring warm clothing)	Kokonoe-Machi Kuju Furusato Shizen Gakkou	☎ 097-373-0001
Jan. 26 th ~ Feb. 2 nd	Oita Fugu Festa- selected famous <i>fugu</i> (blowfish) restaurants throughout Oita City will be offering discounts on <i>fugu</i> cuisine so that everyone can taste the deliciousness of <i>fugu</i> .	Oita City Participating restaurants	☎ 097-537-5764
Feb. 3 rd	Oita Fugu Festa- in connection with the Beppu Oita Mainichi Marathon, there will be discounted lunch sets available at the Oita Athletics Stadium from 13:00.	Oita City Oita Athletic Stadium	☎ 097-537-5764
Feb. 3 rd	The 62nd Beppu Oita Mainichi Marathon- well known as a stepping stone for marathon newcomers. Held alongside the Beppu coast, come along to cheer on the runners (if you're not already competing!).	Oita City Umitamago Aquarium ~ Oita Athletic Stadium	☎ 097-558-1999
Feb. 3 rd	Setsubun Onie- held at the <i>Hibarusan shouheiji</i> temple, this tradition is around 340 years old.	Nakatsu City Yabakei-Machi	☎ 097-954-3111
Feb. 10 th ~ Mar. 10 th	Yoshino Japanese Plum Blossom Festival- during this festival there will be events such as <i>kagura</i> and <i>taiko</i> performances amongst the some 450 plum blossom trees.	Oita City Yoshinobai-en	☎ 097-597-1000
Feb. 16 th	Sekiaji, sekisaba fish festival- an event where visitors can enjoy a <i>sekiaji sekisaba</i> fish set (including sashimi etc) for discounted prices. Saganoseki produce such as fruit and vegetables will also be available for purchase.	Oita City Saganoseki Shimin Center	☎ 097-575-2000

Hina Doll Exhibitions

The *Hina* doll festival is a yearly tradition beginning in mid-February and continuing until mid-March. Families display *Hina* dolls to celebrate Girl's Day on March 3rd. Displays feature a number of tiers, and each doll represents a different figure from the Emperor and Empress, to court ladies and samurai.

Date	Event Description	Location	Contact #
Feb. 9 th ~ Mar. 17 th	Usuki Hina-meguri- <i>hina</i> dolls will be displayed at various locations throughout the city.	Usuki City Various locations	☎ 097-264-7130
Feb. 15 th ~ Mar. 31 st	Hita Hina Doll festival- families in Mameda-Machi and Kuma-Machi will display their <i>hina</i> dolls to the public.	Hita City Mameda, Kuma	☎ 097-323-3111
mid-Feb.~ mid-Mar.	Nakatsu Hina Doll festival- various events will be held to coincide with the local <i>hina</i> doll displays.	Nakatsu City Various locations	☎ 097-922-3060
mid-Feb.~ mid-Mar.	Taketa Hina Doll festival- featuring displays of both traditional and Taketa City original <i>hina</i> dolls.	Taketa City Jyouka-Machi	☎ 097-463-2638



Hina matsuri dolls 2012 (Photos by Christina Walters)



STAGE & MUSIC EVENTS

Jan	Time	Artist/Event	Venue	Cost	Contact #
11 th	23:00	Giannight Animal Party- live DJs	T.O.P.S BittsHall	¥2,500	☎ 097-533-7592
12 th	16:30	Kazufumi Miyazawa- the beauties of nature	T.O.P.S BittsHall	¥4,500 + drink	☎ 097-533-7592
14 th	16:00	Denk-pause- New Year concert	iichiko Otonoizumi	S: ¥4,000 A: ¥3,500	☎ 097-547-8360
16 th	19:00	Fighting Guitar Man tour 2012	Brick Block	¥6,500	☎ 097-536-4852
16 th	20:00	Okamoto Island- 'You are my sunshine' tour, live in Oita	Cantaloop II	¥4,000 + drink	☎ 097-548-5363
17 th	18:00	MARO Project 2012- chamber music concert	iichiko Otonoizumi	¥2,000	☎ 097-533-4004
19 th	15:00	OBS Music Festival	iichiko Grand Theater	¥7,000	☎ 097-553-2509
19 th	20:30	Onsen Kagura performance- by Shounaibaru <i>kagura</i> troupe	Yufuin Kouminkan	¥500	☎ 097-785-4464
20 th	12:30	Special Kagura and wadaiko (Japanese drum) performance- by local Oita group Hoyukai	Kagura Kaikan	¥1,000	☎ 097-435-2372
25 th	19:30	Keiko Lee- new album live performance	Brick Block	¥7,500	☎ 097-536-4852
26 th	21:00	HAZE- DJ event ¥1,000 for entry (with 1 drink), ¥2,500 (for males) or ¥2,000 (for females) for all you can drink until 1AM	P.E.I Pub	¥1,000 ~ ¥2,500	☎ 090-9409-0393
27 th	14:00	Patria Music Festa (PamuFe) vol. 6- featuring various bands	Patria Hita	¥500	☎ 097-325-5000
27 th	19:00	Tarjeeling, Bingo and others- live solo performances from various rock musicians	Cantaloop II	¥1,200 + drink	☎ 097-548-5363
Feb	Time	Artist/Event	Venue	Cost	Contact #
3 rd	18:30	F.I.B "Fire Cracker" & Meaning "Shine our journey"- double record release tour	Club SPOT	¥2,300	☎ 097-532-0111
16 th	19:00	Hikari Sato- 2 nd full album 'Labyrinth that you' performance	Cantaloop II	¥1,000 + drink	☎ 097-548-5363
16 th	14:00	Tomoyuki Okada- percussion ensemble performance	iichiko Otonoizumi	S: ¥4,000 A: ¥3,000	☎ 097-533-4004
16 th	20:30	Onsen Kagura performance- by the Hiraishi <i>kagura</i> troupe	Yufuin Kouminkan	¥500	☎ 097-785-4464
17 th	13:00	Asakusaryu Taiboku Kagura performance	Kagura Kaikan	¥1,000	☎ 097-435-2372
21 st	19:00	Buck-Tick- 2013 Cosmic Dreamer tour	T.O.P.S BittsHall	¥6,500	☎ 097-533-7592
23 rd	21:00	HAZE- DJ event ¥1,000 for entry (with 1 drink), ¥2,500 (for males) or ¥2,000 (for females) for all you can drink until 1AM	P.E.I Pub	¥1,000 ~ ¥2,500	☎ 090-9409-0393

**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 a drink, "+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

Club SPOT= 3-3-18 Funai-Machi, Oita City

iichiko Grand Theater= Oasis Tower 1F Oita City

iichiko Otonoizumi= Oasis Tower 4F Oita City

Kagura Kaikan= 810 Kiyokawa, Bungo Ono City

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

Patria Hita= 1-8-11 Sanbonmatsu, Hita City

P.E.I= Miyako-Machi 2-5-3 Shirogane Bld2F

Yufuin Kouminkan= 3758 Kawakami,

Yufuin-Machi, Yufu City

EXHIBITIONS & SCREENINGS

Date	Description	Place	Admission	Contact #
Dec. 20 th ~ Feb. 3 rd	Tatsuo Takayama 100 year Anniversary Exhibition- a feature of the artist's works from 1934 to 1968.	Oita Art Museum	¥800	☎ 097-554-5800
Dec. 20 th ~ Feb. 3 rd	Tatsuo Takayama 100 year Anniversary Exhibition (in collaboration with the Oita Art Museum)- a display of paintings from the Oita born artist.	Oita Prefectural Art Center	¥1,000	☎ 097-552-0077
Jan. 5 th ~ Feb. 14 th	120th Anniversary special exhibition- featuring works by Heihachirou Fukuda, Yayoi Kusama and others.	Oita Art Museum	¥300	☎ 097-554-5800

Oita Art Museum= Oita-Shi Bijutsukan 大分市美術館 Oita Prefecture Art Center ~Museum and Hall~ 大分県立芸術会館

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

What's Going On?

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 Miharū
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)

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? In February there will be a special Valentine's Day Meditation: 'fall in love with yourself'. The cost is 2000yen and includes tea and macrobiotic sweets.

Date: Thursday Feb. 14th

Time: 19:00 ~ 21:00

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 Jan. 17th & Feb. 21st at the Health Center, Yuno-machi Kenko-park, Beppu City 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

From the Plaza

"Nihongo de Talk" Japanese Chat

Come to the Oita International Plaza to meet and chat with Japanese locals and practice your Japanese conversation skills. Conversations held in small groups in a friendly, relaxed environment.

Date: Jan. 26th, Feb. 23rd Time: 13:00~14:30

Place: Oita International Plaza

Space is limited, please contact to reserve a spot. TEL: 097-533-4021

Email: hiramoto@emo.or.jp

Free Legal Consultations

The Oita International Plaza is holding free legal consultations on Jan. 16th and Feb. 20th 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 consultation will be held on Feb. 3rd 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. 12th & Tuesday Jan. 15th

Saturday Feb. 2nd & Tuesday Feb. 19th

Time: 13:00~16:00

Place: Oita International Plaza

Consultant: Rhodora Yoshitake

Free Chinese Consultations

Date/Time: Every Thursday 10:00~13:00 and the second and fourth Tuesday each month 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

Free Health Consultations

The Saiseikai Hita Hospital is offering free health consultations and medical examinations at the Oita International Plaza to foreign nationals living in Oita Prefecture. For people who are concerned about their state of health but are not sure who to turn to, these free consultations are a good place to start. Staff will include a doctor, two nurses, a clerk and a medical treatment consultant.

Date: Jan. 16th & Feb. 20th

Time: 14:30~15:30

Oita International Plaza (iichiko Culture Center, floor B1)

For more information contact: Saiseikai Hita Hospital TEL: 0973-24-1100

(*Dates and times subject to change. Please call to confirm before coming.)

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 a deeper understanding of each character. This month's character set is:

TRAFFIC/ TRANSPORT 「交通」

The first character in the compound 「交」, is read as コウ, まじる and かわす. The character combines the image of a hand holding a brush 「一」, and a simplified form of 'thing' 「者」 to illustrate a person writing something with a brush.

ASSOCIATE WITH/ EXCHANGE 「交」

The second character 「通」, is read as ツウ, とおる and かよう is a compound of go 「去」 and head or 'main' 「首」. Together they give us the image of going along a main path or road.

GO THROUGH/ COMMUTE 「通」

If we combine the characters for "associate with/ exchange" and "go through/ commute" we get the compound:

TRAFFIC/ TRANSPORT 「交通」

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

交通渋滞を避けるため、毎日裏道を通して大学に通っています。

To avoid traffic jams, I take the back roads to commute to university every day.

Japanese Proverbs

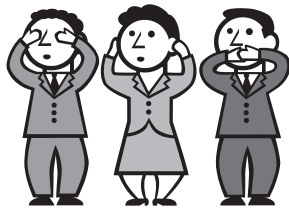
石の上にも三年

「いしのうえにもさんねん」

"ishi no ue ni mo san nen"

"Three years on a stone"

Perseverance prevails



Japanese Onomatopoeia

Cold winter weather has set in, and I find myself rummaging through the closet for blankets and warmer clothes. They haven't been disturbed for some time, and the dust makes me sneeze with a loud achoo (ハクシヨン hakushon).

The first sweater I find is my absolute favourite. It is a little too big (だぶだぶ dabu dabu), but it's warm and soft (ふわふわ fuwa fuwa). As I pull out the next sweater I am aghast (ぽかんと pokanto) to see a moth hole in it. I throw it straight into the wash to worry about later. Right at the very back of the closet is the jackpot: my kotatsu blanket.

I hang my kotatsu blanket outside to air, and sit back to watch as it flaps (ひらひらと hira hirato) in the wind. Tomorrow I will be snug (ぬくぬくと nuku nukuto) underneath my kotatsu and its freshly aired blanket.

Foreign Movies Showing in Oita

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

Cinema	Movie	Showing Date
Cinema5	Les Miserables	Dec. 21 st ~
Central Oita (on 5 th Ave)	Argo (English, Peruvian)	Dec. 28 th ~Jan. 18 th
☎ 097-536-4512	Salmon Fishing in the Yemen (English, Arabic)	Jan. 19 th ~
	Farewell, My Queen (French, English, German, Italian)	Feb. 2 nd ~
Toho Cinemas	Taken 2	Jan. 11 th ~
Wasada Town	Flying Swords of Dragon Gate	Jan. 11 th ~
☎ 097-548-7878	Looper	Jan. 12 th ~
	Ted	Jan. 18 th ~
	Life of Pi	Jan. 25 th
	Ghost Rider 2	Feb. 8 th ~
	Zero Dark Thirty	Feb. 15 th ~
	Red Lights	Feb. 15 th ~
T-Joy Cinemas	Looper	Jan. 12 th ~
Park Place	Life of Pi	Jan. 25 th ~

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) 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

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Japan Healthcare Info

~Necessities of life~

Not sure where to find an English speaking doctor? Japan Healthcare Info (JHI) is a service that locates English-speaking doctors and provides medical information to English speakers living in Japan. Consultation is free, but JHI representatives can make appointments for you for a fee. Their website is entirely in English, and is frequently updated with useful health and medical information relevant to international travellers and foreign nationals living in Japan. For general information, the FAQ section offers comprehensive explanations on a wide variety of topics.

Japan Healthcare Info <http://japanhealthinfo.com/>



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THANK YOU !!

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(closed weekends and the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. We are open on the Saturdays before these Mondays)

Closed national holidays & Dec 29th - Jan 3rd

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

