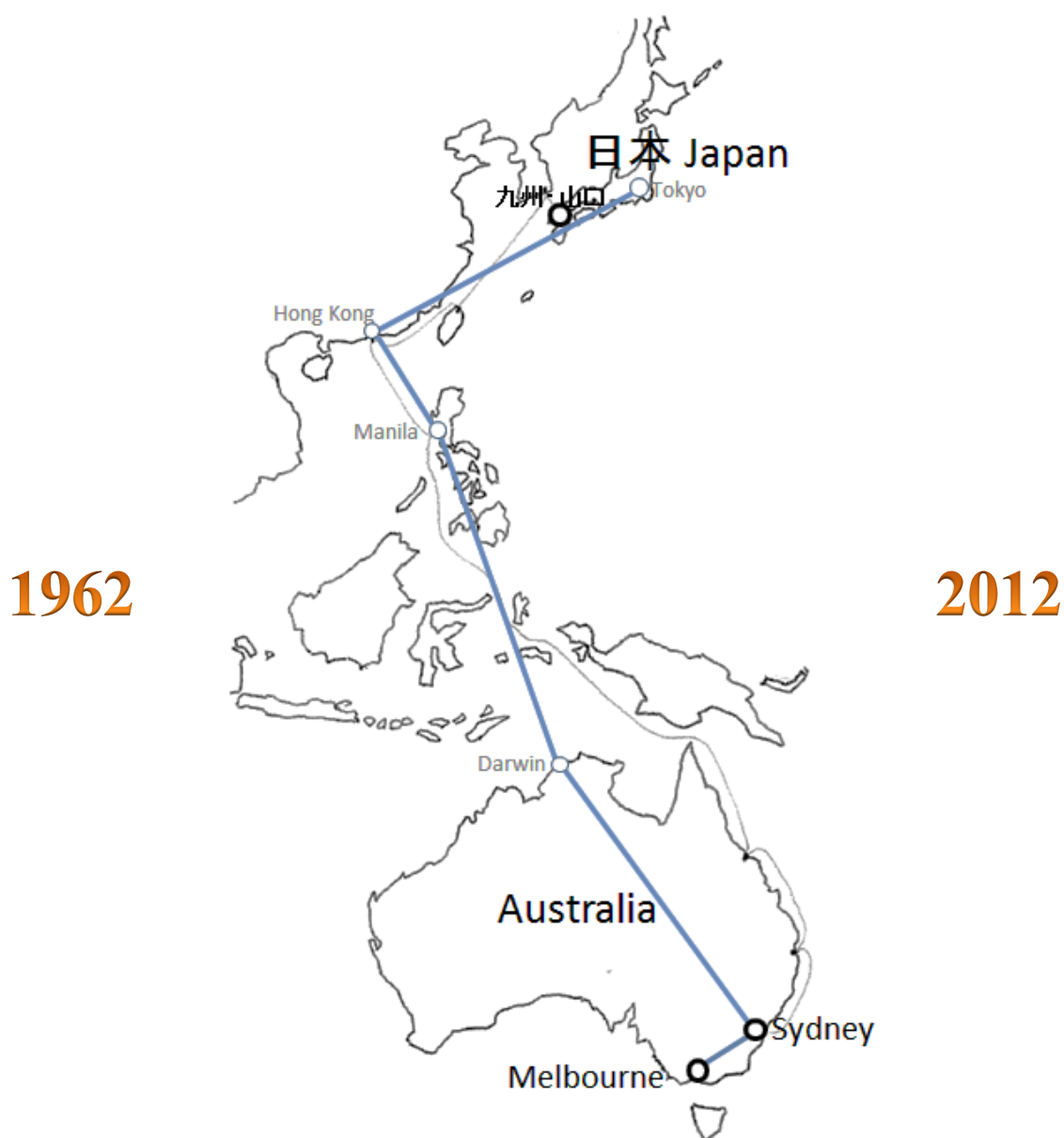


Half a Century after our Stay in Australia



Memorial Book commemorating the 50th Anniversary
of the first Rotary Youth Exchange for Japan



Produced by the First Exchange Students / Compiled by Keisuke Hama

English Version 2022

Introduction

(For the initial Edition 2012)

Fifty years have passed since we went to Australia in 1962 as the first Rotary Exchange students from Japan. Our lives in Australia for one year still remain in our hearts as unforgettable memories. Our memories and the facts, however, cannot escape from weathering and vanishing along with the flow of time.

Grasping the occasion of half a century after our stay there, we decided to compile the main part of our memories, photos, and the relevant materials to form a printed product before they fade away or get scattered. Some of the past exchange students had discussed this project and the output was to be a memorial book commemorating 50 years' anniversary of our stay in Australia as the first Rotary Exchange Students from Japan. This is an act to cherish our happy memories of the olden times but also, I believe, a work to hand down to the future the realities of the first stage of the Rotary Youth Exchange for Japan.

The very beginning of the Youth Exchange Program for Japan began in the World Congress of the Rotary International (Tokyo) in May 1961 held for the first time in Japan. A blind Australian Rotarian, Donald Farquhar was among the participants. It is recorded that Don, blinded in military actions against Japan, proposed to invite Japanese youth to his country for the reconciliation and the promotion of friendship. Mr. Kanejiro Matsumoto, governor nominee of District.370 (all the prefectures of Kyushu and Yamaguchi prefecture in those days), willingly accepted his proposal.

It was Yoko Miyazaki who was hosted by Mr. Farquhar himself in his Club located south of Melbourne. Then by the invitation of Mr. Sleath Lowrey, Governor of District 275, the Rotary Clubs around Sydney were to host eight students; Masako Tachibana, Yoshimi Takeshita, Kikuo Miyamoto, Kazuyo Nakamura, Yuko Maeda, Naoko Matura, Toshiko Kojima and Keisuke Hama.

The conditions of acceptance and the responding behaviours of each student were very diverse. These students were 16 or 17 years old when invited. What did they experience, how did they feel and what kind of contributions could they make for international friendship? Having renewed our memories, we wrote them down, including rereading our diaries and our letters addressed to our parents. The descriptions may contain a sort of purification because they are reminiscences after having led long lives. Please forgive also the expressions of personal emotions.

On the other hand, we have had contributions from former host family members and school teachers. They are precious testimony for the sentiments of those days held towards Japan and how we were perceived. We had the honour of receiving the prefatory messages from Mr. Naomi Saito, chairman of Rotary International Japan Youth Exchange Committee (RIJYEC), and from Mr. Mitsuhsa Harada, past governor of district 2700, Fukuoka prefecture, which has the deepest relationship with the first Rotary Youth Exchange. The articles on the Rotary Youth Exchange Program were received from Mr. Ken Kanda and Mr. Stuart MacDonald who had, for a long time, worked with great efforts to develop the Program. I sincerely express my thanks for all these contributions.

Rereading the articles and the related materials, I reconsider the significance of the precious experiences that resulted from this exchange. At the same time, I acknowledge that this project was materialised by the noble ambitions of many people and their great efforts. Today the Rotary Youth Exchange Program is being carried out in an incomparable scale. Acknowledging the honour which we still enjoy having been the first students of the Program, we sincerely express our gratitude to Rotarians, parents, host families, teachers and other relevant persons to whom all we owe so much.

It would be more than our pleasure that this book will be read by many of those who are interested in international goodwill and that this book is to become a suggestive source of material for the Rotary Youth Exchange Program in the future.

May 2012

On behalf of the first dispatched students

Keisuke Hama

For the English Version

It is already ten years since we produced our memorial book “Half a Century after our Stay in Australia”. Since the majority of the contents are written in Japanese, they are not comprehensible for most of the Australian readers. This has been a great regret to me.

In the meantime, several persons who appeared in this book have passed away. This has pushed forward my idea that the English Version should be prepared, even though it is quite tardy. After collaborative works for 5 months, here we have the English Version of our memorial book in a form of electronic file. Let me express my thanks to my old colleagues who verified their English texts, some having translated their own essays, and especially to Wyverne Smith, Toshiko’s first host sister and great friend, and her husband Keith for their minute proofreading.

I hope this edition will be read by many Australians, Rotarians in particular, to recall and appreciate the efforts of the Rotarians of the early 1960s in both countries who made the Youth Exchange between Japan and Australia a reality. I believe that it is the responsibility of the first exchange students, as living witnesses, to tell today’s Rotarians how the program began and how it was implemented.

Seventy-seven years have passed since the end of the World War II. During this period, roughly corresponding to the life span of the first Youth Exchange students, the world has not always been peaceful. Now, another tragedy of war is underway in Ukraine. As for the relationship between Japan and Australia, I am so glad to find now that good and strong ties have been established. It took many years and the efforts of so many people to achieve this favourable relationship. I am confident that the Rotary Youth Exchange Program played a significant role in promoting the friendship and goodwill between the two countries.

Wishing Japan and Australia be good friends forever, and wishing for world peace.

October 2022

On behalf of working group

Keisuke Hama

Half a Century after our Stay in Australia

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Prefatory message 1

On publishing the Memorial Book for the 50th Anniversary of the first Dispatch of Exchange Students

Naomi Saito

Fifty years ago, nine Japanese senior high school students were warmly accepted by Australian Rotarians. From then on, Japanese senior high school students flew all over the world. They conveyed the history and culture of Japan and played the role of various types of peace envoy.

This program grew with results much greater than the expectations which Japanese Rotarians and students themselves had. The Exchange students, once welcomed by the sincere host Rotarians of each District and after becoming society members, told young followers the stories of their experiences. The host Rotarians and spouses are happy and proud to go abroad to attend the weddings of the former Exchange students they looked after.

Such was the joyful nature of the Program, that the number of candidates increased to an extent which exceeded the capacity of individuals in each District. Consequently, the Youth Exchange Committee of each District needed the assistance of a national level committee. Possibly because of the characteristics of Japanese people, the preparation procedure became more homogeneous, eliminating differences among Districts. It was inevitable that the enormous amount of work had to be handed to the upper-level committee from the individual heroes of Youth Exchange Program inherited in each District.

The Youth Exchange Committee, established within the Governor's Meeting and having achieved its role for 10 years, finally took the shape of non-profit organization named Rotary International Japan Youth Exchange Committee (RIJYEC).

The tragedy of the 11th March 2011 (the Great East Japan Earthquake) highlighted the core spirit of the RIJYEC. I saw the ties uniting Youth Exchange Programs around Japan, across Districts, and the ties with overseas. Just after the Great Earthquake, we had invitations from Australian Rotarians for high school students to come to Australia for summer holidays. It was the former Rotary Exchange students (Rotex) who worked hard to accept the kind offers and make holidays happen. The young Rotex members would have been unaware of the story of 50 years ago, but it seems the same warm thoughts have been passed down. This project was supported by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of both countries.

Let me express my deepest gratitude to you, the first Exchange students, for having had occasional roles of storyteller, although these words are not enough. I hope that the associations of alumni every 10 years will be created following you. We Rotarians, no matter how old we may have got, still have power to support it. Please make the best use of us.

Congratulations on the publication of this Memorial Book for the 50th anniversary.

President, NPO Rotary International Japan Youth Exchange Committee, Inc.
Past Governor 2006-07 D2760, Toyota Rotary Club

Prefatory message 2

My Thoughts on Rotary Youth Exchange

Mitsuhisa Harada

It was probably in early summer of the year before last. I was looking at the list of speakers in the program for the Conference for Youth Exchange in Osaka, and I noticed a name, “Hama” - I thought, “possibly of the family I know?” Then, last year on a very cold day, I met Mr. Keisuke Hama who was invited to speak at the 4th Group Intercity Meeting of D.2700 held in Fukuoka. My question was finally resolved.

When I was a senior high school student, following my father’s business trip, I went to an iron factory of Hitachi in Kobayashi, Miyazaki prefecture. We were welcomed by the family of Mr. Kenji Hama, the manager of the factory and Keisuke’s father. My father Genzaburo and Kenji were alumni of the department of metallurgy in Kyushu University and they seemed to have kept good friendship. A few days after the Intercity Meeting, I received a copy of the photo taken on that occasion, including the staff and 2 families. The youngest one was Keisuke, first year of primary school, who looked very charming. To my surprise, my younger brother was also in the photo, which I had totally forgotten. Meeting the adult Keisuke in Fukuoka was a miraculous reunion and rediscovery.

It was in 1962 that the first Youth Exchange students including Keisuke went to Australia. The person who brought this project to fruition was Mr. Kanejiro Matsumoto, the governor of D.370, which included all the prefectures of Kyushu and Yamaguchi prefecture. He was the president of Kurosaki Ceramics. He later became the director of board of Rotary International and he is also known as the translator of “Rotary Mosaic” by Harold Thomas. As for family background, he is a son of Mr. Kenjiro Matsumoto who is the second son of Mr. Keiichiro Yasukawa, the founder of Yasukawa Electric Company.

Through what procedures did Mr. Kanejiro Matsumoto tackle the Youth Exchange with Australia, ahead of the rest of Japan? Judging from the Governor’s Monthlies left to this day, the notice letter (hand copied by Kenji Hama), and others, it seems that they were as follows. Mr. Matsumoto, elected to be the next Governor, participated in the training workshop for Governors elect held in the U.S. and got acquainted with Mr. Sleath Lowrey, the next Governor of D.275, Australia. On the way back home, they were on board the same ship from San Francisco to Yokohama and they deepened their friendship. In the Rotary World Congress held in Tokyo, which they both attended, they listened to Mr. Don Farquhar’s proposal to invite a youth to his Club and Mr. Matsumoto decided to take the initiatives. First, he selected a girl student to be dispatched to Mr. Farquhar’s Club in a closed method of recruitment. Next, when Mr. Lowrey’s proposal arrived to invite several students to his District, Mr. Matsumoto sent this information to all the Clubs within the District and transferred the application documents to the counterpart. This became the very beginning of the Rotary Youth Exchange for Japan.

I felt very grateful for the request by Mr. Keisuke Hama to contribute a message to

the memorial book to be posted for celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first Youth Exchange. My thoughts on the beginning of the Youth Exchange are related to my having served Rotary as the governor of D.2700 last year, the core District of the former D.370, and having met Mr. Hama again after 60 years.

The relationships between individuals are complicated. The relationships between countries, which are large groups of individuals, become naturally much more complicated. For making the complicated relationships more peaceful and cordial, it is important to have persons who can understand their counterparts and can let themselves be understood. For understanding different cultures, therefore, it is a good way for young people with comprehension of their own culture to have contacts with other cultures. This is the reason why the Youth Exchange is important.

To look back and trace one's own route, over a long period of 50 years, helps to highlight what we need to reconsider for continuing the similar efforts from now. This, I appreciate very much. (February 2012)

Past Governor of D.2700 (2010-11), Kokura Rotary Club

In Search of History

Beginning of Rotary Youth Exchange, its Time and Consequence to this Day

Keisuke Hama

How did the Rotary Youth Exchange begin in Japan? On the occasion of this publication, thanks to the considerable efforts of Mr. Mitsuhsa Harada, Past Governor of District 2700, and the relevant officers, various records have been rediscovered. The related materials were also found in the letters and documents kept by the former exchange students. Arranging all these together, we have managed to have a general view of the actual process of the first Rotary Youth Exchange. We have also described the social situation of those days in Japan and a brief note on the consequences to this day.

Thoughts of Donald Farquhar

In Rosebud, located about 60km south of Melbourne, lived a blind Rotarian Donald (Don) Farquhar, who had lost his eyesight in the action against Japan in the Pacific War. Bitterly feeling the stupidity of the war, he tried to convince the people around him of the importance of world peace. Above all, he considered the most important thing was to establish a friendly relationship with Japan, the former enemy country. He then consulted with Joseph (Joe) Bradbury, the past governor of District 280, who had promoted Youth Exchange and succeeded in inviting some students from the USA. Joe decided to dispatch Don to the RI Congress to be held in Tokyo in May 1961 as an Australian-Japanese friendship delegate. Joe raised the funds for covering his trip.

On an occasion of a Q/A session of the World Congress, Don expressed his ideas and proposed that he would like to invite a Japanese high school student to his club, where he would be a host himself. In addition, Don became a great pro-Japanese, having been moved by the kindness of Japanese people.

(Reference material No.9, Newsletter of Moji RC February. 1962, RM No.24 Rotary-no-tomo, 1989)

Acquaintance of Kanejiro Matsumoto and Sleath Lowrey

In May 1961, Kanejiro Matsumoto of Yawata RC, the governor nominee 1961-62 of District 370, had an opportunity to participate in the governors' training workshop held in Lake Placid, USA. Mr. Matsumoto met Mr. Sleath Lowrey*, the governor nominee for the same period of District 275, Australia. They belonged to the same discussion group and took the same ocean liner from San Francisco to Yokohama which further deepened their friendship. This became the background for responding to Mr. Farquhar's proposal and the invitation from District 275.

(Reference material No.1: Post script of Letter from D.370 Governor sent to all the Clubs to invite applicants, November 1961)

*North Sydney RC. He leaves his name in "Sleath Lowrey Rotary Scholarship" in the field of vocal music.

RI World Congress Tokyo in 1961

The reason for Mr. Lowrey's visit to Japan on his way back home was no other than to

participate in the RI World Congress in Tokyo Harumi, held from 28 May for the first time in Japan. Mr. Matsumoto, having attended together with him, heard of Mr. Farquhar's proposal for youth exchange. He decided to take the lead in accepting it and several months later he was ready to respond to the proposal of Mr. Lowrey.

(Reference Material No.4: Governor's monthly letter Jan.1962, No.7 articles of newspapers, No.9 Newsletter of Moji RC, Feb. 1962)

Selection of Exchange Students and one-way Dispatch

First of all, Mr. Matsumoto searched for a suitable student to be sent to Mr. Farquhar's Club in Rosebud near Melbourne and finally selected Miss Yoko Miyazaki, sponsored by Kurume RC. Secondly, responding to Mr. Lowrey's the invitation to District 275 (in and around Sydney), Mr. Matsumoto announced this to all the Rotary Clubs in his District for sponsoring the candidates. He transferred all the applications to Mr. Alan Mackay (Cronulla RC), who had the responsibility for the Youth Exchange Project in District 275. Although the number of invitations was initially three, the following eight students were finally accepted by this District: Miss Masako Tachibana, Miss Yoshimi Takeshita, Mr. Kikuo Miyamoto, Miss Kazuyo Nakamura, Miss Yuko Maeda, Miss Naoko Matura, Miss Toshiko Kojima and Mr. Keisuke Hama (in order of accepting applications). It was from January to February, 1962 that these students went to Australia. In the same year, D.275 was divided to produce D.268 and subsequently eight exchange students were divided into four in each District.

(Reference Material no.8: Governor's Monthly Letter Feb.1962, RM no.14: Extract of material for the District 275 Conference, March 1962)

The dispatch of students was only from Japan to Australia. It was "one-way exchange", that year because there was not yet a condition to invite Australian students to Japan. The proper "mutual exchange" was materialised in the following year (1963) when Kenneth Angel was hosted by Kumamoto RC, Japan.

Japan and Japanese Life in Those Days

Recalling the situation of Japan around 1961 and 62 (Showa years 36-37), it was about 5 years after it was officially said "We are no longer post war". These years correspond to the period where "rapid economic growth" got into full swing. In 1958, the Tokyo Tower was completed, in 1962 the world largest oil tanker Nissho-maru was launched and YS-11, the Japanese first passenger airplane, made its maiden flight. Tokyo was in an urban development boom preparing for the Tokyo Olympic Games in 1964 and the construction of the Tokaido-Shinkansen (bullet train) was under way. In northern Kyushu, the first long-span bridge in Japan the "Wakato-Ohashi" was being built. The housing shortage was an acute issue because of the rapid population move to the big cities along with economic growth. Large scale housing projects started to meet the demand.

On the other hand, the living standard of common people was, when viewed from today, a humble one. While such electrical goods as TVs, washing machines and refrigerators were rapidly getting popular, car ownership was still scarce. As home environment, flush toilets were limited to some parts of the large cities and the western style toilet was rare. In Kyoshu,

the main fuel for heating bath water was coal or wood.

Those who could travel abroad were limited to such specially authorised purposes as official business, trades or studies. It was in 1964 that, by “the liberation of travelling abroad”, the Japanese passports became accessible to everyone who wished to go abroad for tourism. In addition, as there was a strict limitation of purchasing foreign currency, travelling abroad was a dream, an aspiration. It was the time where one US dollar was equivalent to 360 yen and one Australian pound 800 yen.

Difficulties of Procedures for Travelling Abroad

In such a time and situation, despite kind invitations from the Australian side, the financial burden was very heavy and the procedures were very difficult for going abroad.

Although all the expenses for living and study during our stay were born by the Host Clubs or host families, the travelling fares were extremely expensive for the Japanese families. The amount exceeding 160,000 yen for a one-way ticket corresponded to a young worker’s annual income. The parents bearing such an expense must have been so ardent for the education and human development of their children that they wished to allow them to go abroad and let them have precious experiences.

The followings were some examples of the difficulties. An invited student had, in principle, an obligation to pass the “Examination for studying abroad” (English conversation oral test) held by the Science and Technology Agency, Ministry of Education, in Tokyo. This was to justify purchasing foreign currency to pay for the flight and other purposes. Every student had also to pass the medical examination to be carried out in the Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital, designated by the Australian Embassy. Another condition to apply for the Australian visa was that one must present a “no-record certificate” produced by the police.

(Reference material no.5: Letter from Australian Vice Consul, January. 1962)

Precious Experiences and Cultural Acceptance

Under the circumstances mentioned above, since the first dispatch of exchange students was very difficult and with no previous examples, all the experiences we had during our stay were fresh and our memories became precious. We had an understanding of the difficulty coupled with this opportunity or luck, and consequently we were determined we could never go back home midway even if we were to become very home sick. As the communication method home was in reality limited to the post and there were only rare occasions to have contact with other Japanese, we had no choice but to adapt ourselves to the Australian way of life. As a result, it seems we obediently made the language, the culture and the customs our own. The experiences of each student will be described in Chapter 1 and Chapter 3.

Rediscovery of the First Exchange Students

After their return home, the first Exchange students did not necessarily have a continuous relationship with the Rotary Youth Exchange officers. While separate contacts had been maintained between friendly individuals, there was neither a communication network nor any activity as a group.

The key persons who “rediscovered” them and formed a kind of group were Mr. Ken Kanda** and Mr. Stuart MacDonald*** of Australia. In 2006 after a long search, Mr. Macdonald, residing in Victoria, finally found Yoko Miyazaki who was invited to Melbourne area as the first exchange student. Yoko had been married and her family name had become Sekimoto. She told him that there were a number of exchange students in Sydney at the same period. This information was transferred to Mr. Kanda. He made contact with Ms. Masako Harada (née Tachibana) from Yanagawa and then she made contact with all the other members.

In May 2008 all the first Exchange students were invited to the 13th Symposium on Rotary Japan Youth Exchange and the 5th ROTEX National Conference held in Tokyo, which Harada, Takeshita, Shinozaki (née Maeda), Fukusho (née Matura) and Hama attended. In a special session, they were invited to the stage for a talk.

Two years later, Hama was invited to the 15th Symposium on Rotary Japan Youth Exchange held in Osaka in May, 2010. Again, he was a guest speaker to an Intercity Meeting on International Exchange held by District 2700 in Fukuoka in January 2011. On each occasion, he reported on the first Rotary Youth Exchange with his memories of those days and his thoughts on Youth Exchange. Preparing a resumé for each conference, Hama strongly felt the necessity for producing the relevant records. On the occasion of his visit to Fukuoka, he discussed the ideas of producing a memorial book with his colleagues Takeshita and Tsuji (née Nakamura). Harada and Yoshida (née Kojima) joined the meeting on the telephone.

Through these stages and events mentioned above, the Rotary Exchange students of half a century ago reappeared on the stage of today’s Youth Exchange and this process resulted in producing this memorial book.

** NPO Rotary International Japan Youth Exchange Committee (RIJYEC)

***Rotary International Youth Exchange Committee (2005—08)

* * * * *

This book includes the stories of experiences and reports of the circumstances of those days. What kind of benefits could these experiences and stories give to the Youth Exchange Program in the future? I believe that this book has at least the significance in changing each one’s experience into “history” by recording how the first Rotary Youth Exchange for Japan was conducted. Please start reading the essays of the former exchange students to share their feelings and extract useful suggestions from the contents.

Chapter 1

Memories and Thoughts of the Past Exchange Students



In Japanese alphabetical order of family names in 1962
and ladies first

My Family in Corrimal and our Friendship for 50 years

Toshiko Yoshida (née Kojima)

Materialisation of Studying Abroad and my Thanks

To recall my memories for this book, I read all the letters I sent home in 1962 and the material I kept in a box. I now have a better appreciation of what I was told before I left Japan, that the Exchange Program was a part of the Rotary effort for World Peace. I am still amazed that they could do such a thing and I will always have the greatest respect for those Rotarians. It was a courageous idea to welcome a student to their home from the country which was once an enemy, at a time when the good relationship between Australia and Japan was not yet fully established after the war. Japan still severely limited the number of people allowed to go out of the country, so I feel I was very lucky to be chosen even though I was just a high school student without any special skills. Although I am not confident that I played this role as expected, I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all Rotarians who endeavoured to make this program a reality.

I also have to thank my parents, who permitted me to go in spite of their difficult financial situation. My father was running a business as a coal wholesaler. He bought coal from coal mines, transported it on cargo trains, and sold it to the retailers in the city or loaded it into the big steamships at Moji Harbour. Coal was our main energy source during and after the war but the coal business gradually waned with the transition to oil fuel. I had to choose between a college education and the airfare to Australia.

On February 9th, 1962 with the other five exchange students, I flew by QANTAS to Sydney via Hong Kong, Manila and Darwin. I had 100 US dollars in my bag. (The Japanese Government set a limit of 300 dollars anyone could take out of the country at that time. \$1=¥360) The return air fare ¥320,000 was nearly equal to three years wages for me when I got a job in 1964.

At Sydney Airport the next morning, Mr. Tipper and Mr. Jarratt were there with their families to meet me. On the way to Corrimal we stopped at a beautiful forest in a national park to have a picnic lunch. This was a very Australian way to welcome me into my happy homestay life.



Governor Matsumoto giving a lecture at Moji RC on 18 January, 1962. I attended this meeting with my father and the school principal.

The transcript of this lecture is included in the Reference Material no.9.

My Host Club and the Town Lived in

My host Club and the town Corrimal are located 70 km south of Sydney along the coast. The town's name originated from Kurimul, the aboriginal word for "a place between the mountain and the sea". Corrimal is one of a number of towns that make up a long horizontal strip between the mountains and the sea. From the beach to the skirt of the mountain, there were red roofs, with green trees and grass in between, not like the dull grey and black of the residential areas in Japan where I lived. It is still a beautiful place with picturesque beaches of white sand, which I remember made a nice squeaking sound at every step.

Corrimal is one of the suburbs of Wollongong (160,000 total population in the 1960s), which had a port to export coal from nearby mines. It also had as its major industry, big steelworks, like Kitakyushu where I was from. Corrimal Rotary Club had been established in 1959 and the members seemed to be young and dedicated. Most of my host parents were in their 30's. My hosts were shop owners (electrical appliance shop, food retailer, chemist, dress shop), a taxi company owner, a bank branch manager, an insurance agent, and a director of

Newspaper article reporting a party held at the Jarratt's shortly after my arrival

Girl from Japan flies in with a home-made tartan



Miss Toshiko Kojima arrived in Corrimal from Moji Port, Japan, on Saturday in a spotless white blouse, which she had worn for the seventeen-hour journey from Tokyo, and a Black Watch tartan skirt, made in Japan. She brought a kimono, her mother makes them, but she wears them only sometimes in summer.

Toshiko's smile and giggle, both lovely and frequent, must be evidence of a most equable temperament, since she had only an hour's sleep on the entire journey and before she left home it was snowing.

She is one of the five girls in a party of six High School students brought to Australia by Rotary.

The others will stay around Sydney, while Toshiko will attend Corrimal High School and spend two months each with local Rotarians.

.... AND SHE'S REALLY CUTE

Her first hosts, Mr. and Mrs. L. Jarratt, of Powell Avenue, Corrimal, have two daughters, Wyvern, aged seventeen, and Robyn, aged fifteen, and Toshiko's brand new Japanese-English dictionary passed rapidly between the three.

Toshiko wants to become an English language teacher and she feels "very lucky" to be chosen to come to this country and improve her English.

She likes to play tennis, to sing and to play the ukulele but, she giggles, "not good".

She can also do one Japanese dance and she loves to paint, in oils, she says, and "not Japanese style". Her eldest brother, an art teacher, helps her with this.

She had time only for rapid impressions of Australia, but the vast expanses of red earth under the plane from Darwin amazed her. In Japan, she says, "all green".

Rotary are holding a meeting next Wednesday night to which members have been invited to bring their teenage children to meet Toshiko.

PICTURE: Toshiko enjoys a song with two new friends, Wyvern Jarratt, at the piano, and Jill Fenfold.

the mine rescue station. Their regular meeting was held on Wednesday night, and wives, families and I were invited to the meeting once every three months.

Life with my Host Families

My first hosts were Mr. and Mrs. Jarratt who had two daughters (Wyverne 17, Robyn 15) and a son (Philip 11). For the first two months I shared a room with Wyverne, who showed me how to handle things at home. I still clearly remember the scene when she demonstrated for me how to take a western bath. Much later, I had a fun time demonstrating for her how to



Just after my arrival, with the families of Tipper and Jarratt

soak in the spa in Japan in return. Every family member had a duty at home. It didn't matter how small they were they had something to do depending on their age – such as helping with the cooking, washing dishes, taking the washed things in and folding them, getting the newspaper and the milk from outside, etc. I don't remember what Philip had to do but my first job at Jarratt's was to wash up dishes with Wyverne and Robyn. During our work we talked, sang in two parts, and listened to the records. It is one of the many good memories I have.

After Jarratt's, I stayed with six other families from Corrimal Rotary Club, and one from Bulli Club (five kilometres north of Corrimal). I stayed six weeks with each. I was told that it was better for the exchange students to stay with many families to get a wider view of Australia. Many families in Corrimal wanted to have an exchange student at their home.

[Family Life in General]

Since 1973, when they repealed the White Australia policy, the country has become a multi-cultural society. Before that, life in Australia was greatly influenced by Britain and where most of the immigrants had come from. Morning tea was at ten and afternoon tea at 3. They took time every day to be together having cups of tea at home, but also at school and the work place, hence the saying "Let's have a cuppa". When I visited Australia in 2010, I hardly saw the custom of pouring tea into each cup from a tea pot, and I thought it was the influence of the more recent coffee culture. I chose a tea bag from the many kinds in the box and placed it in my cup. Then hot water was served. I somehow missed the old style.

[Home Discipline / Upbringing]

We say that small Japanese children are spoiled at home and it is common for us to see small children fussing around in the train. But in Australia I hardly saw children being ill-mannered in public. Parents' policy was to train children while they were very young and

the bigger they grew, a more moderate discipline was applied to them. When children did something wrong, parents talked to them first about it. Then sometimes children were smacked on their bottoms, were not allowed to sit at the meal table, or they were sent to their room for punishment. Adult life and children's life were separated; children under ten had to go to bed at nine o'clock. I saw a baby sleeping by himself in his own room and I understood how people's independence began in their childhood.



At family function of Corrimal RC, left with the President Tipper, right dressed in *yukata*.



At Corrimal RC, Dinner and chat

[Table Manners]

The most severe training of children at home was in table manners. They were not allowed to leave the table without their parent's permission. They had to ask someone to pass things to them and not lean over to get it themselves. They would say "Please pass me the butter". They weren't allowed to make a noise when having their soup. They could not put their elbows on the table. They had to sit up straight on the chair. They should say "thank you" whenever they were served. I heard so often "should" and "should not" at the table. It was very important to teach table manners to be accepted in society when they grew up. In Japan, too, my parents had trained me in table manners, with chopsticks, which wasn't much use while I was battling with a knife and fork and other western table manners for a while.

[Discipline for Boys]

I often saw boys, even very young ones, being taught to treat girls kindly. I understood it came from the western custom of chivalry. One day, one of my host fathers said to his five years old son “Mind Toshiko while I am away”. The boy answered, “O.K., father”. Then he kept talking to me and tried to take good care of me, who was 18 years old. It didn’t take me long to learn ‘Ladies first’ etiquette in Australia, but it took me a long time to get back to Japanese manners. I still cannot choose which manners I should follow among the mixture of Western and Japanese! (Some older Japanese men are still happy to go first. Men with Western ideas give way to girls.)

[Food]

As a major Australian industry is dairy farming, the milk, cheese and butter were rich and tasted very good. The upper part of the one-pint milk bottle, which was delivered every morning, became cream because the milk was so rich. The powdered milk which came from America to lessen child malnutrition and served at elementary schools in Japan was very different from Australian milk. I loved the milk in Australia and I cannot forget the beautiful taste of my first milkshake at a milk bar.

I loved the meat and I liked most of the dishes and food, even Vegemite. Afterwards I had big trouble when all my clothes became tight. Japan’s post-war food situation was poor and people had the idea that a big fat body showed his/her wealth. I failed completely to keep my figure slim.

[Hug and Kiss]

An Australian custom that was very different from Japan’s was the hug and kiss. Once we become adult, we hardly touch other family members in Japan. When I saw family or friends kissing, I was embarrassed, and blushed, because I had only seen people kissing on the screen. After spending one year in a kissing world (in Australia) I felt that shaking hands and kissing were wonderful ways to communicate, as well as by words.

[Things I Felt Unfamiliar with]

There were two things I felt unfamiliar with. One was to wear shoes or slippers in the house. Bare foot in the house is the Japanese style but barefoot in the house in Australia was unusual. On my last visit to Australia, however, I found that there were some Australians who took their shoes off before going into their house, which kept it clean from outside dirt. The second thing was washing myself. Showering was O.K. but sometimes I missed a Japanese style bath.

[Exchange Program]

The best part of this Rotary Exchange Program was the homestay. Students stayed with families for one year. I thought sharing daily life with a family was the best way to learn customs, language and culture, and also the best way to form a tight friendship with them. When I had a problem, I could ask my Australian “parents” and get help from the host children. It may not seem that living together would have an important result, but it did. Living together brought people closer and we students could keep our friendships with host

families for a long time afterwards.

School Life, Study and Events

I was admitted to 4th year in Corrimal High School, a co-ed public school in Corrimal. It had five years; first to third year (equivalent to three years in junior high school in Japan) and the senior years, fourth and fifth. Education was compulsory but students could leave school when they turned fifteen. At the end of fifth year, they had the final examination, the Leaving Certificate, which gave a student a way to higher education in college and university if they wanted it.

[Subjects to Learn]

I had to choose six subjects. It was a very different system from Japan's, where I had no choice and was learning thirteen subjects. English was compulsory and I also chose History, Art, Biology, "Maths 3" and Home Economics. Exams, twice a year, were difficult but I tried them, except for the English one which was far too difficult. In Art we were examined in theory and practice. The examination style in Australia was again very different from Japan's. I had to write whatever I knew about the subject asked by the examiner, but in Japan it was more like a quiz. Students filled in the right word or right number in parenthesis or chose right or wrong for the given sentences.

[School Uniform]

In winter, I wore a brown blazer, a brown skirt, a pale-blue shirt and brown-blue striped tie. I carried a box-shaped hard leather bag. In summer, I wore a brown linen skirt and a pale blue short-sleeved shirt.

[Way of Commuting]

I rode a bicycle to school when my host family lived close to the school, and when it was too far, somebody in the family drove me there and picked me up at the end of the day.

[Timetable]

In the morning we had four periods, but in the middle, we had a break called 'recess', when we could have biscuits, fruits or whatever we'd brought from home. At lunch time we had sandwiches and drink brought from home or we could buy lunch at the tuckshop at the school. In the afternoon we had two periods. On Wednesday afternoons, the whole school had Sport and we could play whatever sport we registered for, for the year. I thought it was unique to have a religion period when some ministers came from neighbouring churches.



In school uniforms with Jarratt siblings, from left: Philip, me, Robyn and Wyverne

Students went to the classes of their own religion. I was invited to visit them one at a time. After school, professional cleaners came and cleaned the school, whereas in Japan cleaning was, and still is, the duty of the students.



With classmates, left: after Social Night (dance party), right: a newspaper article on the Speech Night

[School Events]

Various events were held at school for parents at night, such as a gym night, a play night and a concert. Two of the Japanese exchange students who were hosted by Sydney families, came to the school concert, and together we sang Japanese songs as an item. At speech night held at the end of the year I gave a thank-you and farewell speech to my teachers and friends at school.

In Japan, too, we had similar school events, but Japanese schools didn't, and still do not have social nights. At these events at Corrimal High School, boys wore suits and girls wore a dress and high heel shoes with make-up on. Although recently it has become fairly common to see young Japanese girls wearing make-up, it was something that we could never do in my high school days. I heard that the reason Australian schools held social activities for students was to teach social skills such as dancing and etiquette which would help them to have a good social life when they grew up. I thought it was good that Australian schools gave students a chance to learn not only academic subjects but also social skills.

Communication Tools to Japan

[Telephone]

International telephone calls were far too expensive, so I never thought of talking to my family on the phone. A telegram was sent from my host club to my parents to inform them of my safe arrival to Australia.

Domestic telephone calls were also expensive for a long distance. Sometimes my host parents gave me a present, to call other exchange students in Sydney. I forgot how many minutes I could talk but it was "two shillings worth". I was thrilled to talk Japanese on the phone.

[The Post]

The post was the only means of correspondence with Japan. I was writing to my parents more than once a week and responding to my friends' letters. I often used an aerogram which was cheaper but most of my pocket money (10 shillings a week) was nearly gone with the postage. I was surprised recently to read my letters sent to parents at that time because they were filled with very small writing. I am sure I wanted to tell all my experience and happenings and squeezed them all into the aerogram.

Feelings and Thoughts

[Differences]

The standard of living was much, much higher in Australia. Though hardly anyone had a car in Japan then, some Australian families already had a second car. I thought cars were necessary for them to live in such a vast area. Everything was a big size and luxurious; a big house, a big refrigerator which I imagined I could walk into, the washing machine in the laundry, a flush toilet, sometimes a toilet in a main bedroom and a big lawn yard. I heard the immigrants' dream was to live in a house with lawn and garden in Australia. Not only was there lawn in the yard of each house but even the pathway on the street was covered with lawn except for the paved part. The school ground too, had a grassed area. They all looked beautiful.

[Missing Japanese Language]

While I was in Corrimal I only met two Japanese. One was a woman who married an Australian military officer just after the war. The other was a sailor who needed an interpreter while he was hospitalised in Wollongong, having treatment for a bone fracture. I had known that I might not be able to talk Japanese for a year, but I sometimes found myself missing it. One of the reasons was that I was the only Japanese exchange student living outside of Sydney. And also, my English was not good enough at the beginning and I must have felt stressed trying to express myself smoothly. Some other exchange students in Sydney and their families sometimes invited me and I enjoyed talking to them in Japanese.

[Sadness]

When ANZAC day (April 25th) was drawing near, Mrs. Jarratt advised me not to go out on the day. From her explanation, I understood it was the day to commemorate and pay their respects to the Australian and New Zealander soldiers who fought in the First and the Second World War. She didn't think anyone would hurt me in the town but it was best to be safe. I was sad to hear that there were ex-soldiers who had been treated badly during the war. Or there were people who lost their family members in the war and still had hatred towards Japan. Nothing happened on that day. It was as peaceful as the other days, for Corrimal was a small town and people knew me well and were friendly. I was often asked "How are you, Toshiko?" even from the people I didn't know. In my Japanese school history class, the Second World War was not yet taught and I was sorry that I didn't know anything about the relationship of Australia and Japan in war time, except that Australia was one of the members of the Allies.

One day Mr. Hamment, my fifth host, told me about some Japanese prisoners who

had tried a mass breakout from the Cowra Prisoner of War Camp. A huge number of prisoners had been shot. They had been taught to die rather than to be caught by the enemy in war time training, which was completely different from the western idea. I was sad to know the tragedy and sad for the Japanese soldiers who had chosen a suicidal escape after the war was over for them. I was ashamed that I didn't know anything about it but it was good for me to tell Mr. Hamment that Japan now had a constitution declaring the renunciation of war. Not long after that, a Japanese Self-Defence Force ship visited Sydney Harbour, and on the newspaper, it referred to the Self-Defence Force as the 'Japanese Navy'. I remember that I wondered what they needed a navy for.

[Embarrassment]

People in Australia had a more religious life than people in Japan. Everyone told me about their religion. I was often asked what my religion was and it was hard to answer. They believed a person with no religion was imprudent. I was an irresponsible Buddhist like almost anybody in Japan. There were no Sunday schools at the temples and I knew no teachings. Buddhism in Japan had a big influence on Shintoism, the historic native religion, and at the time I didn't have enough knowledge or the English skills to make people understood. I think I only puzzled them.

[Surprise]

It was a big surprise for me to see that host parents seemed to be equal partners. My father was born in 1903 and my mother in 1912. They had a traditional partnership as everyone else did at that time. He was treated like the head of the family. The newspaper was taken to him first to read and no one had a bath before him in the evening. One day Mr. and Mrs. Carr were sitting on the chairs and drinking tea. She said to him, 'Could you go and get a book for me from the next room?' He said, 'O.K.' and went out to get it. At my house my father possibly would have told my mother to do so, but my mother would never tell him to do so. The old family system in the old constitution had been annulled but my family still kept it as a custom. I had the old idea that a married couple's relationship was hierarchical.

[Happiness]

It was a wonderful year, full of new experiences. Whoever I met, whatever I ate, and whatever I saw, everything was so interesting and full of stimulation.

As far as my English was concerned, I was an absolute beginner. Every one tried to talk very slowly. I often had to take out my dictionary to pick up the word. When my friends were talking to each other they sounded like birds' singing to me. I couldn't catch even a word at the beginning because they talked so fast. In three months gradually I started to follow them little by little. I found recently that my Japanese writing in my old letters changed to sound like the direct translation from English. How funny!

One year in Australia gave me a good knowledge of English. It helped me to work at the Australian National Line in Tokyo Liaison Office for two years, at Kitakyushu International Association for ten years, and to teach English at community centres and at home for a long time.

Individuals who Represent their Country and its Culture

Each family was a descendant of immigrants and they each had their own family background. I heard a lot of interesting stories and I learned the world history and religion from them directly. Mr. and Mrs. Reed were Jewish who, with their German friends' help, had a narrow escape from the Nazis, and managed to immigrate to Australia. Their story sounded like a story in a movie. In their house, three languages were spoken, English, German and Hebrew. I could learn about their religion, Judaism, from them. Whenever I hear the word "Jewish" or "Jew", then the Reed family pops up in my mind.

I hope that there are some friends in Corrimal who still think about me whenever they hear about Japan. I found that personal communication with individual people was the first step to build a good relationship between our countries. Goodwill was the most important thing for the exchange students.

When I left Japan for Australia, my parents advised me that I had to behave myself as I was representing all Japanese. It kept me behaving better. Another piece of advice was not to ask Australians about their ancestors. Now, they are so proud of tracing back to their first immigrant ancestor, who might have been a convict, and it does not matter at all now.



Above: Farewell party held by Corrimal RC, with the President Jarratt

Right: Newspaper article reporting my departure back home, January 1963

Corrimal Rotarians on Wednesday night said "sayonara" to Japanese pupil Toshika Kojima, 18, at a Rotary dinner at Corrimal Surf Lifesaving Club.

Toshika, a pupil at Corrimal High School since February last year, arrived in Australia under Rotary District 275 scheme to sponsor an Asiatic student's visit to Australia.

She was given an official "goodbye" before she returns home next Wednesday after having lived with various Corrimal Rotary families.

The president of the club, Mr. Lew Jarratt, said on Wednesday night that the exchange scheme had been "extremely successful".

He said Toshika had made many firm friends with teenagers her own age.

She had been so popular that many of her friends had wanted to attend the dinner.

Mr Jarratt said the exchange scheme had done "a magnificent job of goodwill."

People's views about

• **"SAYONARA"**

Toshika is going home

Japanese people had been greatly changed by Toshika's behavior and friendliness.

Attractive Toshika, wearing an all-white dress, white high-heeled shoes and a single string of pearls, commenting on her stay in Australia, said: "I enjoyed every moment of my stay in your country very much."

"I am glad to go back to Japan, but also very sorry."

"I have made so many wonderful friends."

Toshika, hardly able to speak Australian when she arrived, spoke with a slight hesitancy, but with a distinct Australian accent.

After the dinner, Mr Jarratt presented Toshika with a typically Australian gift to take back to Japan.

Sixty-four people were at the dinner.

A committee-member of the international committee of the club, Mr Warner Reed, said a Japanese schoolgirl who stayed at his house, Yasuki Hijikata, had recently written and announced the birth of a baby, Tadaaki.

He had corresponded with her regularly since her one-night stop at his home with his family.

Mr Reed's daughter, Vivian, was also at the dinner.

In the picture, the president of Corrimal Rotary Club, Mr Lew Jarratt, presents Toshika with a gift on behalf of the club.

Friendship Continued till Today

I lost both of my parents with sickness and cancer on April 2 & 9 in 1990. I had letters from my first host parents, the Jarratts, who told me they could be my parents. My heart was filled with warm feelings and I really wanted to see them again. In August, the same year, I visited Australia again, for the first time. Let me post a newspaper scrap on the next page to show my joy to have met my Australian parents again.

One month after I came back to Japan, I had a call telling me about Mr. Jarratt's heart attack. I had been very lucky to see him and for us to spend time together just before he passed away.

None of my host fathers are alive now, but two host mothers are still living. My husband and I visited two mothers, Mrs. Jarratt and Mrs. Hamment, in 2010. Both of them had very independent lives living in a house by themselves in a retirement village. They both have a very independent mind and are still doing whatever they can do. If they need help, they can ask for it at any time. They have been, and always will be, a role model for my life, being so independent.

My trip in 2010 was also to visit other host children who were scattered from Brisbane to Albury. At Brisbane Paul Tipper and his wife Margot picked us up at the airport. We stayed at their house in Bellingen for ten days and enjoyed surfing on the beach and canoeing in the river. Paul was only ten years old in 1962. He brought Margot to Japan for their honeymoon in 2002 and stayed at our house for a week.

Previously in 2005, Wyverne (Jarratt) and her husband Keith Smith visited us and spent three weeks in our house up in the mountains of Kyushu. In 2010, they picked me up at Bellingen and drove us to their home in Albury, Victoria. On the way, we met Dianne Tipper (8 years old in 1962), Janice Hall (19 in 1962), Anne Findlay (8 in 1962), Robyn Jarratt (15 in 1962), Beverly Hamment (8 in 1962), Douglas Hamment (10 in 1962) and we had a happy reunion. As Corrimal Rotary Club was a small club in a small town, the host families knew each other well, and so it was a reunion for the children (now grown up) of these Rotarians of 1962. We all enjoyed reminiscing about my year at Corrimal, and the Australians also enjoyed talking about their childhood in their home town.

The Home stay program gave me the opportunity to have strong friendships with my host families for fifty years. This program provides young students with new experiences, but also those young students are like little seeds sown in a family in another country. Then, while they grow, those little seeds bring people together and bring peace among people. I hope this wonderful Exchange Program will be carried on in the future to promote world peace.

Memories of a warm welcome bring ex-student back

Toshiko still calls Australia 'home'

By

JULIE BEUN-CHOWN

For Toshiko Yoshida, home is where the heart is.

And for the 46-year-old Japanese woman, her heart is in Corrimal.

Originally one of the first Japanese exchange students brought to Australia in 1962 by the Rotary Club, Toshiko began her Australian love affair as a frightened 17-year-old with a sketchy command of English.

She spent a year at Corrimal High School, learning about the "lucky country", the English language and Aussie tucker.

Although she returned to Japan to start her adult life, the demure Japanese woman never forgot the friendly Australian people or her "parents" in the Illawarra.

Now, 29 years later, Toshiko has fulfilled her heart's desire and returned



● Home is where the heart is for 46-year-old Toshiko Yoshida. The former Japanese exchange student this week returned to Corrimal after 29 years to visit her Aussie "parents", Margaret and Lou Garrett.

"home".

"I have come just to see my parents here. I don't care if I don't see anyone else or anything else. I haven't seen them for almost 30 years — it's a long time but it seems so short," she said.

The 46-year-old architect, housewife and mother

says she feels time has stood still in her beloved Corrimal, but not in Japan.

"Corrimal hasn't changed very much — there are more houses, but the people haven't changed. They're still warm and friendly and I feel at home.

"But the big change has been between Japan and

Australia. Australia was a rich country compared to Japan at the time. There was lots of space and money. But Japan has changed too, now."

Lou Garrett, Toshiko's foster father, said the petite girl he first saw in 1962 made a big impact on his life and community.

"She was the first student we had and it was a wonderful start. She came here at a time after the war when there was still a lot of enmity in people about the war. But she did a lot to change people's attitudes," he said.

Mr Garrett, now 74, and his wife Margaret, 67, have

taken in more than a dozen students from around the world since the early 1960s.

Although Toshiko plans to return to Japan in two weeks, she first wants to convince Lord Mayor Alderman Frank Arkell to twin Wollongong with her southern Japanese city of Kitakyushu.

Newspaper article:

Joyful reunion with Mr. and Mrs Jarratt when I returned to Australia for the first time in 1990.

Memories of my Stay in Australia and Now

Yoshimi Takeshita

1. Motives to Apply and Decision

It was probably near the end of 1961 that I received a call from Masako (Tachibana, now Harada), a close friend of mine since primary school. She gave me the first information saying “The Rotary Club is recruiting exchange students.”. I had little idea of the country called Australia and asked her immediately “What language do they speak there?”. My knowledge about this country was at that level.

I was a 3rd year student of senior high and I had a wish to study English abroad rather than going to university in Japan. Having this information, I thought “This is a big chance.”. I felt more secure when I heard that Masako would apply for it too.

When I recall the situation, it seems now I made a reckless decision as we did not have enough information from overseas at that time. The procedure to make the travel real was very complicated. I remember well that we finally obtained Australian visas only a few hours before the departure.



Boarding QANTAS plane in Tokyo-Haneda Airport for Sydney (9th February 1962)

Left row from top: Kojima, Tachibana, Takeshita, Maeda, and Matura. Right top: Hama

2. Host Clubs, Life with Host Families

I was hosted by Botany Rotary Club in Botany which was located just south of the Sydney central area. The Club was in an industrial zone and only two families were to host me because it was difficult to go to school from other Rotarians' homes. On school holidays, however, other families invited me to their homes and I had a good time. The Rotarians' families enjoyed a very high level of living compared with the Australian average. As I was from a local town in Japan, it gave me a big culture shock.

Among the events of Rotary, the most memorable one was the Rotary Annual Ball of the District held in May. The Rotarians were all in formal dress and we, exchange students, were in kimonos for girls and in tuxedo or in dark suit with bow ties for boys. I

recall we were all nervous.

I wrote letters to my family, practically once a week. At that time, international telephoning was very expensive and I remember a host presented me, only once, with a gift of a telephone call to Japan.



Barbeque: Mr. and Mrs. Mills, my hosts

3. School Life and Studies

I recall it was very hard to keep up with the class because of my insufficient command of English. As I was in girls' high school in Japan, I did not feel uncomfortable under the strict rules of the Australian girls' school. Compared to Japan, I felt we were rather freer outside school.

At school, my classmates in school uniform looked like high school students but on weekends, they were nicely dressed with makeup and, to my surprise, looked quite senior to me although I was older.



Classmates at school (front row left is me)



With school mates

4. Leisure and Holidays

During school holidays, I was invited to 2 weeks holidays on the Gold Coast. I leisurely passed the day under the sun doing nothing special, while children enjoyed swimming in pools or playing on the beach. As we had no custom of taking long holidays and making a trip with family in Japan those days, I was amazed at their way of spending holidays, leisure time and weekends.

Masako's host families were kind to often invite me to small trips on weekends. The destinations were, for example, the Blue Mountains and near Palm Beach where they

had a villa to stay in. As for my host families, I remember one of them took me to a trip to a farm which was managed by their relatives. This family owned this vast farm outside a small town about 5 hours' drive to the north of Sydney. There, I watched the milking of cows early in the morning and experienced horse riding for the first time in my life, around a vast plain.

5. Joys, Surprises and Worries

There were a lot of joys and surprises. I learned that Australian people valued the time to share with family very much and those with ample resources were active in participating in voluntary activities to help less fortunate people. For many years, one of my host mothers Judy continued the practice of delivering "warm meals" to the less fortunate. Her activities made a deep impact on my mind as I was not yet aware of social activities with individual participation in Japan.

Looking back now, I can only thank Australian people for accepting my ignorant self and for sharing the magnitude of their hearts. The "hospitality" I was afforded that time became a treasure for me.

On the other hand, there was not yet a good understanding between Japan and Australia. As we were in Australia only 17 years after the end of World War II, there were many of those who had experienced real battles with Japanese military forces or being prisoners of war. Although I experienced unpleasant things related to these, I tend to recall only the happy memories. Many years later, having learned more about the war fought between Japan and Australia, I had more interest in the histories of the two countries.

6. Life after Coming Back Home

On my departure for home, I recall I cried because I didn't want to go back home.

My stay in Australia for one year had an immense influence on the direction of my life. Some years after my return home, there was a recruitment of employees at the opening of Fukuoka branch office of the QANTAS Airline. Wanting to work, I applied for it and got a job. My stay in Australia must have been an advantage. Later, I went to Australia again to work for 2 years with the local airline company TAA. After having returned to Japan, my experience in Australia enabled me to take a job in another foreign airline company. Meanwhile, I occasionally visited Australia for holidays.

As I continued studying English, I have no difficulty with everyday conversation or to exchange emails with foreign friends, all because of on the experiences of my stay as an Exchange Student. It was a precious experience. Without that, I think my life would have become a totally different one.

I have always kept in mind that, on possible occasions, I would like to pay back the favour given during my stay in Australia. Because I retired from regular work when I still had power and skills to share, I started voluntary activities. For example, I joined an organisation of international exchange for children to collaborate with a programme in which 11-years-old children (2 boys and 2 girls representing each country) live together with leaders 21 years old or more and 5 or 6 staff of the host country. They learn mutually

about their countries, and make friends with others. My task as staff was hard but I had new experiences.

Another programme was between 2 countries with home stays to have experiences of each culture. I participated in it as a leader and stayed in Thailand for 17 days and experienced what I would never have had in a tourist visit.

In addition to the above, I continue volunteer activities within retirement facilities to the extent of my capacity. When I think how to use my time and how to acquire new friends, I find important influences from my stay in Australia. Without it, I would never have been involved in these activities.

7. Friendly Relationship that Continues up to Now

I exchange Christmas cards with several people I was acquainted with 50 years ago. I also exchange emails with some people. On my last visit to Australia, although several years have passed since, I had an impression that Australia had become quite a multi-ethnic country. Over the past half century, exchanges between Japan and Australia have become familiar, and travel easier.

My stay in Australia for one year, already half a century ago, was very precious and it has become a treasure of my life. I would like to express again my thanks from all my heart to the Rotarians of both countries who made great efforts for the Youth Exchange. To my parents also, who pushed me out into a new world, I am always grateful.

Truly, I thank them very much.



With Masako (right), her host's daughter Mrs. Wendy Southwell and her husband Graham

One Year in my Youth

Masako Harada (née Tachibana)

It was today last year that the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred. Immediately after the Earthquake, I received warm messages of support from many friends around the world. I found, among them, some host family members who looked after me when I was with them 50 years ago as one of the first Rotary Youth Exchange students. The news and scenes of this totally unexpected national disaster spread across the world at a speed unimaginable 50 years ago, and many of my friends from that time shared their concerns with me as if the matter was their own.

50 years since then! I passed one year of my youth, the most vigorous and shining in my life, in Sydney, Australia, which was bright and healthy. All that I experienced during this stay became my treasure, irreplaceable by anything else, and it has always let me feel a pride and a sort of responsibility in my life.

When I was a 3rd year student in Denshukan Senior High School in my home town, having been recommended by my father, I decided to go to Australia with other exchange students. We went to Australia, being fearless because of our young age, and were welcomed very warmly by Australian Rotarians. They must have had a lot of difficulty in accepting Japanese students who could not speak English well, I guess now. In my case, the number of host families being 9, I was busy moving almost every month. Every time I moved, they were amazed to see how my luggage gradually increased.

The first host Mr. Thomson was a dental practitioner. As there was an expression of “Australian husband” at that time, Australia was historically a “lady-first” country. Australian men worked hard for their wives, and the host family was a typical case of this. Early in the morning, Mr. Thomson carried morning coffee to bed for his wife, washed dishes after dinner of course and did a lot of other house-work. I had culture shock to see these scenes compared to the cases in Japan where husbands were more dominant. Another surprise was that their 3-year-old grandson, who came to their house often, spoke English so well. I envied him very much.

The second host Mr. Dando was the owner/manager of a bakery shop. He had a wonderful family including a daughter and a son whose ages were close to mine. Our relationships have continued over 3 generations, after my return home. Several years ago, my host brother whom I played with, died of cancer. I felt so sad and nostalgic when I learned that he had been talking to his family towards the end of his life about me. He remembered our conversation on the telephone about 10 years ago; we talked about the time when we were young and fully enjoyed our youth. This will never leave my heart.

The next host Mr. Moon, a certified accountant, had a wonderful family too. He was a very ardent Rotarian and later served on the Rotary International board of directors and interacted with Rotarians around the world. In August last year, one of my grandsons Ryo enjoyed his stayed with a family in Sydney whose daughter Sherry had been in Japan some 15 years ago as a Rotary Exchange student. On that occasion, I also went to Sydney and visited Mr. Moon and other host families with Ryo. I was very much moved by the passage of time, having had visits with my grandson to my old host families who looked

after me 50 years ago. Half a century ago, while Australian sentiments toward Japan were not necessarily good, the host Clubs as well as host families were always fair and kind.

I attended Hunters Hill High School, public and coeducational, which had been established a short time before. The head master, Mr. Jim Ray, was a Rotarian and he took very good care of me. As the club activity, I participated in the school orchestra and, thanks to this, I could form a close friendship with Lucille Piper. She was very religious since that time and, at present, she is remarkably active as a woman missionary in Papua New Guinea. According to her very recent letter, she was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM). I am so grateful to my stay in Australia for having had such a wonderful friend for 50 years.

At school, a memory of mine is that, while I could not follow the English class, I gained good marks in the selected subjects (Mathematics, Arts and Japanese) and finally passed the exams for the Leaving Certificate.

Here is another related story. My husband Yoshiyasu was the chair of the Youth Exchange Committee of D.2580 from 1985 to 1986 and looked after about 13 inbound students and 13 outbound students before they left Japan. One of the exchange students went to Australia in 1985. She had an occasion to visit her host family's friends' house. When her host family introduced her to their friends, an old couple, they said "We also had a Japanese exchange student to look after and still continue our correspondence.". They showed her a photo and, to her surprise, it was a photo of my family and myself whom the exchange student knew very well. The old couple was the former head master of Hunters Hill High School, Mr. Jim Ray, and his wife. What a small world! I was really surprised at such a coincidence.

Half a century ago, one US dollar was equivalent to 360 Japanese yen. Unlike today, it was unimaginable to make a telephone call from Australia to Japan, so far away and too expensive. My biggest pleasure was to receive letters from Japan. I used to look into the mailbox every day, wondering if I might have letters from parents, sisters or friends. The season being opposite, I remember that I was very surprised to receive a letter, in August, a cold season in Sydney, which started with a greeting "I would like to express my sympathy in the heat.". I often wrote letters from my side too. It seemed my parents were very interested in every aspect of Australia, a very remote country. On my return home, my letters to them were neatly filed.

Did I get homesick? There was a period, about 3 months after arrival, where I only thought of and longed for Japan. Fortunately, I had a close friend Yoshimi in Sydney, whom I could meet when I felt lonely. It was often the case that I called her to talk so easily in Japanese on the telephone, almost every day, to relieve stress. As a result, my host family learned "*moshi-moshi*", meaning "hello?" on the phone. Being away from Japan for one year, I had great joy noticing good parts of my home country and recognising the importance of familial ties.

Now, together with my husband, a member of Tokyo Ikebukuro Rotary Club, I have hosted many Rotary Exchange students in RI D.2580, through which, in some way, I am paying back the favours given to me during my stay in Australia. Every year in the Christmas season, I send messages to my former host families, reporting how we have been,

for 50 years without interruption. On this New Year, a granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Moon came to Japan with her husband for a skiing tour and they spent the New Year Day together with my family. Our stay in Australia 50 years ago did not end after just one year but has continued till today. My late father, Kazuo Tachibana, used to say proudly “This Rotary Youth Exchange Program is absolutely a wonderful Rotary program for realising world peace and friendship.”. I wish to again express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who made the efforts of dispatching us to Australia as the first Exchange Students of this Program.

11th March 2012



At Haneda Airport,
with my family to see me off
9th February 1962



Myself and Yoshimi



At the conference yesterday, Rotarians were introduced to nine exchange students Rotary has sponsored.

Eight of the students are from Japan and the other is from India.

All wore national costumes.

A Rotary official, Mr L. Becker, said that they had been in Australia only about two months.

All are being billeted by members of Rotary.

An Indian student and six Japanese students drink tea during a break at the Rotary conference at Randwick racecourse yesterday. The students were brought to Australia as exchange students for a year by District 275 of Rotary International.

Newspaper scrap, 7th March 1962

District 275 Conference, tea time, girl exchange students in "national costumes"
(from left) Bhandari, Takeshita, Maeda, Nakamura, Tachibana, Matsura and Kojima



At Luna Park (an amusement park in North Sydney)
We had a fun.



Myself, in school uniform

Connections and Expanding Friendship

Kazuyo Tsuji (née Nakamura)

Foreword

At the time around 1962 in Japan, people in general lived simple and humble lives. The information on foreign countries was much less than we have today. Even after I was chosen as one of the first Rotary Exchange students sent to Australia, there was very little information on Australia, especially for a girl in a provincial, small and conservative city. I had very few images of Western countries at that time. I pictured lovely, brown brick houses with white curtains swinging at the windows. Actually, the first things I saw on the way from the Sydney Airport to my first host family were brick houses shining in the bright sun, which was exactly the scene I had in my mind. This first impression gave me more hope and excitement than unease at the idea of living one year in an unknown country.

It is already 50 years since then. Japan has made rapid and big changes. Now our life seems to be abundant in ways which we never had before. Not only I but we, the first students sent to Australia in 1962, were more transformed through one year than today's exchange students are. I'm sure that our year in Australia has been influential throughout our lives. Australia was a remote country at that time but today, Australia to me, is a place where many of my friends live, and that brings back rich memories. This change comes from the experience of sharing one year with Australian families at home and friends at school.

Preparation and Expected Attitude

My hometown, Hagi, is a small and old castle town in Yamaguchi Prefecture. It was impossible to have any specific information there about studying abroad. Neither the Rotary Club nor my school teachers had any suitable advice. There was no travel agency in Hagi. I contacted an agency in Tokyo to collect the information I needed. All the information I had from the travel agency was very complicated and they informed me about all the troublesome procedures before going abroad to study.

A 17-year-old shy girl who had never been outside of the city alone had to take a night train to Tokyo to have an interview examination at the Ministry of Education. On another day I had to take a bus and train to go to the Red Cross Hospital in Hiroshima for a medical examination. There are many hospitals in Hagi or in a larger city near Hagi, but at that time Japan was not trusted by overseas countries, and the Red Cross Hospital was the only designated hospital. My guess is that Hiroshima was near Kure City where the Australian Navy had stationed after World War II.

Just before I left Hagi, I received a long letter from our high school principal. He wrote that I should not forget that I was the student representing the school and Japan and must do my best in Australia. I also received a message from the Japanese consulate General in Sydney telling to behave myself well enough to be a good representative of Japan. It was accepted very seriously, without any doubt by a naive 17-year-old girl, but I did not realise how much load that put on my shoulders. I was grateful for their advice and encouragement, but they put me under much pressure, which made me confused and very anxious. However, I encouraged myself to do my best.

The Time with Host Families

Every day in Australia seemed to be a new day of challenges in the different culture. I came to realise that the ideas, with which I was brought up, did not seem to be understood by people around me. I often wrote letters telling my father about my new experiences. I have many clear memories of a different culture which embarrassed and confused me a lot.

On the first day to go to school, my first host mother showed me a pair of new school shoes. I was excited to wear them to the high school. My host mother looked very happy to show me the shoes and put the new pair of shoes on the table where I was having breakfast. The shoes were put very close to my dish on the table. I was so surprised to see shoes on the table.

At a tea party held a couple of weeks after my arrival, a host brought me a plate with many pieces of cakes and asked me to have one. I loved sweets, but I thought I should show hesitation, which I understood to be the correct manners. However, it did not take too much time before I found I had done something wrong. I soon regretted saying “No thank you.” with hesitation. They never again asked me if I’d like to have any piece of cake because they thought I did not like sweets. After behaving in the Japanese way with hesitation, I was not understood by Australian people. After that my hosts shared the information that I did not like sweets. Through this experience I learned to express how I feel clearly and without hesitation.

My second host family had a son who was a university student. When I first met him, he was making a pancake in the kitchen. Today in Japan it is not a rare scene. But before 1962, I had never seen men working in the kitchen in Japan. It was a big surprise for me to see a young man cooking in the kitchen.

One day after school, I was on a bus with my host sister. One neighbour who happened to be on the same bus, gave her some compliments about her brother. My host sister said proudly “Everyone says so.” without any hesitation, which was an unexpected response to me. We will hesitate and never say “Everyone says so.” I learned about a cultural difference through this event.

When I was with another host family, I was involved in the couple’s quarrel. The reason for the quarrel was that I was with my host father at his company during the day. He was very busy and could not come home by dinner time. My host mother had cleared the dinner table before we got home. We had no dinner that evening. Even after many years passed, my host mother apologised to me for not giving me any meal that night. It was another big surprise and source of confusion for me because I was accustomed to seeing my mother comforting my father when he came home late after a hard-working day.

At School

My first school day was one week after arriving in Australia. My first host mother took me to the school principal, Miss Dear, to greet her. Miss Dear welcomed me with a smile. She was a thoughtful lady and suggested to me that I enter the 4th year instead of the 5th year because of the language difficulty I had. As a further help, I also had occasional visits of a staff member from the Board of Education who asked me if I had any problems. She had some conversation with the school principal as well. This was the first time for the

school to have an exchange student. I think there was much consideration given for this Exchange Program.

From the first day at the school, I was treated entirely as one of their students. I attended classes and sat for examinations just as other students did. It was hard at the beginning without knowing their school system. Fortunately, I had already studied many of the subjects in the 4th year in Japan. That was very helpful and I did not have many difficulties understanding in the classes, even in Mathematics which I'm not fond of. Having language difficulty, I took Mathematics, English, Home Economics, Chemistry and Art.

While I was with the first host family, a friend of mine stopped by every morning and we walked up to school together. I have one unforgettable memory which makes me still feel sorry for my friend, Viya. Viya knocked at the front door as usual, but I took too much time before we started walking to school. As a result, we were both late for school. Our Chemistry teacher, Miss Look, whom I liked very much was on duty to watch students who were late. When she saw us coming late to school, she looked somewhat confused. But she said "Oh, well, this is going to be an experience." and she gave us a penalty order. After school we students who had been late for school were gathered in one room and told to stay in the room for one hour. However, none of the students in the class looked upset at all, which confused me. I am still very sorry for Viya who had always been very kind to me.

My Home Economics class participated in a cooking contest held by the local government. It was a competition with other schools. My Home Economics teacher, Miss Fisher, told me to cook something Japanese. I could not cook any traditional Japanese meal at that time. But I tried what I could cook, which was Tempura and omelette even though omelette was not Japanese dish. I did my best, and our group won the prize, which was an

JAPANESE GIRL FOR COOKING CONTEST

Fairfield Girls' High School student, Kazuyo Nakamura, of Japan, will be a member of the school's cooking team which will compete in a cooking contest to be conducted by Prospect County Council.

Kazuyo's home science teacher, Miss J. Fisher, said yesterday that Kazuyo would prepare a Japanese meal.

Prospect County Council's culinary adviser, Miss Lorna Nash, said yesterday that girls' high schools in Fairfield Municipality would visit the council's cooking demonstration rooms in Ware Street, Fairfield, to compete in the contest.

The first team would visit the rooms on August 7.

The contest, she said, would be part of the Education Week programme.

Prize for the winning team would be electrical equipment for the home science section at the team's school.

Teams competing would be from Fairfield Girls' High School, Merrylands Girls' High School, Bonnyrigg Girls' High School, and Liverpool High School.

On the Friday, August 10, Miss Nash said a home science student from Liverpool Girls' High School would give a public demonstration of cooking at the showrooms.

The schedule for the contest is:—

Tuesday, August 7: Fairfield Girls' High School.

Thursday, August 9: Merrylands and Bonnyrigg Girls' High Schools.

Friday, August 10: Liverpool Girls' High School.

The trophy donated by council will be awarded for the best cooking display.

All sessions will be open to the public.

● Pictured on the right above are members of Fairfield Girls' High School's team. They are (left to right) Kazuyo Nakamura, Marie Chesson, Lesia Bezkorowajnyj, Pam Campbell, Dale Foord, Roslyn Ludgate, Klara Kulik and Mrs. J. Fisher (home science teacher).

They are their school's best cooking students



Newspaper article reporting cooking contest, Kazuyo far left

unbelievable result. At that time Japanese dishes were not known, except a few dishes like Sukiyaki. The dish I cooked may have been accepted as something unique. As a prize the Fairfield High School received a new set of ovens in the cooking room. We had rarely seen Miss Fisher's smile, but that day, it was lovely to see her beautiful smile. I was very happy that I could do something for Miss Fisher and the school.

On the last day at school, Miss Dear, the school principal, prepared an event for me to plant a tree as a commemoration of my stay at Fairfield High School. She chose a Japanese maple tree as an image of Japan. I planted the tree wishing its "smooth growth" and hoping it would be beautiful with coloured maple leaves in autumn.

Holidays

During one year in Australia, I was hosted by 7 families and one couple. Mr. and Mrs. Baker took me for a long trip up to Queensland and to some events held around Sydney such as the Easter Show during each school holiday. During the long school holiday at Christmas, I spent the time with the sixth family, the Goodchild family, at Currarong in the South Coast. It was the first time I had experienced a summer Christmas. We young ones, passed the whole day in swimming suits with my host brothers, a sister and their friends and relatives. It was a fun to swim in a pool called a "Rock Pool", which was made by nature and it was quite a safe place without any danger of sharks. We enjoyed fishing, taking bush walks, eating oysters on the rocks, playing table tennis, and making sand figures at the beach, etc. Before Christmas day, the whole family decorated a gum tree and put gifts under it. On Christmas morning we were excited to exchange presents. The doll I made for my little sister as a present is still precious kept by Louise.

Unforgettable Experiences

The Rotary Club of District 275 held the Annual Ball with the presence of the former Governor of the State, who was appointed by the Queen Elizabeth II. We Exchange Students were invited to the Ball. All the gentlemen and ladies were dressed up formally, which made a special atmosphere. The ball seemed to be a place where Rotarians' sons and daughters made their formal entrance into society. Each of the exchange students was introduced to the former Governor. We girls did a curtsy, bending one knee and bowing, which was taught to us beforehand. It was a very moving moment and the former Governor always had a gentle smile on his face to accept each of us. I remember that exciting evening as a rare experience.



At the D.275 Rotary Annual Ball, from left to right: me, David, Phyl and John Pollard, my host family.

During the year in Australia, the only local Japanese people I met were a couple of Japanese women who had married Australian soldiers in Japan. Australia had a policy called “White Australia” until 1973, which restricted the immigration of non-Caucasian people. The Japanese women I met were called “war brides”, who moved to Australia when Australian Forces withdrew from Japan. The Japanese women I met seemed to have happy and peaceful lives.

On the other hand, one of them came to meet me since she had heard about Japanese students invited to Australia. She seemed to live happily with her family, but she had had no occasion to meet any Japanese people since she had left Japan. She looked very happy to meet me and talk in Japanese. I could tell that she missed Japan very much without any connection with Japanese people. She told me that she had sometimes been to Sydney Harbour to watch any Japanese ship in the distance.

The 67 years after World War II have made a big change between Japan and Australia. Today both countries have a good relationship as neighbours and many people are freely visiting each country, which I think is a wonderful change because of better mutual understanding.

Conclusion

It is now a half century since I had one year in Australia. I recall that a 17-year-old sensitive, naive and impressionable high school student absorbed so many things through sharing one year with Australian families and friends. It was as if a dry sponge soaked up water.

My happy connections, however, did not cease with my first year there. In 1976, I visited Australia again, 13 years after I had returned to Japan. All the host families welcomed me back warmly just as before. My first host mother, Mrs. Everingham, introduced me to her friends with a big smile, saying, “My Japanese daughter finally has come back.” She took me to the Women’s Gala held in Parramatta, which invited me as a guest. She also took me to the high school I attended in Fairfield. The new school principal welcomed me and showed me around the school. It brought back a lot of memories of the time at school. I was also invited to the Rotary’s family night. After 13 years,

A 'daughter' comes home

There were tears of joy at Sydney Airport last week when a former Japanese exchange student came back to see her Australian friends.

Thirteen years ago Mrs. Kazuyo Tsuji spent 12 months in Australia as a student at Fairfield High School.

Now she is back to see her "family", school chums and teachers.

Last week she stayed with her Australian "mother", Mrs. I. Everingham, of Dundas.

"When she was here 13 years ago she was a teenager of 17," Mrs. Everingham said.

"Now she is a married woman with responsibilities. After all those years she still remembered us."

Mrs. Tsuji was one of the first group of six Japanese students to come to Australia.

She spent two months with each of six Australian families.

She found the Australian way of teaching very different to that of Japan. "But I did quite well, although I had difficulty at first with the language."

"I could read and write, but when it came to conversation I was a bit lost."

Mrs. Tsuji said she had to sit for exams just like the other girls.

"Sometimes that was a bit hard," she said.

"Now I feel happy to be back in Australia and I feel I have never been away."

"I have seen so many of my friends and have many more to see."

She has been to lunch with some old school friends, visited her school, old teachers and the families she stayed with.

Former Japanese exchange student Mrs. Tsuji with her Australian "mother", Mrs. Everingham.

Mrs. Tsuji now teaches English in Japan.

Mrs. Everingham said Mrs. Tsuji's appointment book was full while she was here.

"Everyone is delighted to have her back," she said.

"She is my adopted daughter."

"When she went back to Japan after a holiday at the beach she was a typical Australian teenager."

VISIT AFTER 13 YEARS

Newspaper article “Visit after 13years”,

Mrs. Everingham and me (left).

there were new members, as well as old members, all of whom gave me a warm welcome. It was an enjoyable and exciting time with old friends. Other host families were also waiting for me at the party, and we had a lovely family reunion.

As a result of my stay in Australia as a student, I became more involved in other international activities. I organized a non-profit organization in Fukuoka to build better international understanding. In this program, persons from other countries came to Japan and lived with Japanese families for one week. Additionally Japanese persons went to other countries to participate in week-long home stays in those countries. In this way, I believe that many people developed a much better understanding of the lives of people in other cultures and nations.

In addition, as a result of those activities and thanks to many friends I have overseas, I was able to hold the exhibitions of my “*bokusaiga*”, black-ink paintings with colours, in Germany, Russia and, returning once again to Sydney, Australia. The first exhibition held in Sydney in 2009 was visited by many host families, friends from high school and my favourite Chemistry teacher, Miss Rooke, who congratulated me on my painting exhibition. It was like a family and school reunion. My host brother offered to make a speech on behalf of the host families. Furthermore, this first exhibition in Sydney brought me to meet a former Australian exchange student sent to Japan under the Rotary Exchange Program. Having happened to see my exhibition poster in Sydney, she visited it to meet me and talked about her experiences in Japan. We, both could share the unique experiences and happy memories. I am now excited about my second exhibition in Sydney which is scheduled to start in June, 2012.

During the year of my stay in Australia 50 years ago, I made precious relationships with my friends and host families. All the experiences I had at that time are still vivid in my mind and they will be treasured throughout my life.

These valuable experiences have not been limited within myself, but they have considerably influenced my children. My international relationships, begun long ago, are still continuing including our children’s generation. I realise, from my experiences, that the Exchange Program is not only for the individual students, but it contributes to long-lasting friendship and mutual understanding over generations.

My International Exchange, Continued until Now

Yuko Shinozaki (née Maeda)

It is surprising to realise that 50 years have passed since then. At the end of 1961, my father read an article recruiting exchange students to Australia which was projected by the Rotary Club. He recommended that I apply for it, so I agreed with him and decided to send in my application.

At that time, there were many Americans in Sasebo and my father had many relationships with Americans connected to his work. In such an atmosphere, my parents and I had little concern about my going abroad for study, probably because of our optimistic personalities. Later, having received an invitation letter from Australia, I jumped up with joy - I still remember.

In Sasebo, I attended Seiwa Joshi Gakuin High School which was managed by the sisters of the Good Samaritan Monastery of Australia and therefore it had close relationships with Australia from the beginning.

Since Miss Naoko Matura (now Fukusho, one year junior to me) and I went abroad for study, the school began to implement a student exchange project every year by its own initiative. It seems that the "chorus circle" goes to Australia every summer vacation and this project continues even today. Without intension, the first Rotary Youth Exchange we participated in was to become the forerunner of international exchange for our school.

On our arrival in Sydney, I was very surprised at the excessive ways of welcome. When I saw newspaper reporters and TV staff, I could not understand what was going on. Here let me show you the newspaper article (left is Naoko).

I enjoyed school life very much and had many friends. Because of my lack of ability in English, however, it was hard for me to follow the lessons. Every student was polite to the teachers and I never saw such manners - students treat teachers like friends as in Japan. In most cases of exams, the answers had to be presented by writing essays, which was different from the class at home.



NAOKO MATSURA, 17 today, and **YUKO MAEDA**, 18—two of six Japanese teenagers who arrived in Sydney yesterday to spend a year in the homes of Rotary International club members.

Yuko settles down to our T-bones and tennis

Students at MacArthur Girls' High School have opened their hearts to an 18-year-old Japanese girl, Yuko Maeda.

Yuko, from Sasebo Nagasaki Prefecture, has been sponsored on a study visit to Australia by Rotary International.

The school sports day last week gave Yuko an excellent opportunity to

practice her English (she speaks little) and to get better acquainted with her new schoolfriends (she understands them perfectly).

She is pictured below relaxing after a game of tennis with Dianne Lean (14), of Wentworthville (at right), and Dorothy Miller (14), of Rydalmere.

The first week at school was a full and exciting one for Yuko.

She was a keen participant (before an interested audience) at the school sports day.

Yuko has been "adopted" for her stay in Australia by North Parramatta Rotarian, Mr. Charles Robinson, and family.

The Robinson's three children, Janette (17), Judith (16) and Marsh (9), were enthralled by Yuko's display of traditional Japanese costumes and dances.

Although she brought her chopsticks with her, Yuko said she was keen to try as many western style meals as possible — including Australia's traditional T-bone steaks!



Relaxing scene with classmates, accustomed with school life (on newspaper)

As for my home stay, I was accepted with kindness and treated well in every host family. After meals, I enjoyed dish washing together with all family members. I thought the relationships between parents and children or among family members are almost the same as in Japan, despite the difference of countries and cultures. A big difference I found was that the household wallet was held by the husband. I thought that home stay was the best way to understand the culture of each country.

Since 1978, when I went back for the first time, I have been to Australia to see my host families and friends every 3 or 4 years. I have maintained close relationships up till now particularly with the Robinson family, now host sisters of the same generation as me. I participated in the weddings of their children, the grand-children of my host parents, even twice. For their part also, they have visited Japan and stayed at my "rabbit hutch?" house. Every time I went to Australia, I always stayed with Judy, the second daughter of the Robinsons. Last year in 2011, I had a plan to visit them but cancelled it because of the Great East Japan

Earthquake. It was also last year that I made tours with Anna, a friend since my stay in Sydney, to Asakusa, Nikko, Akihabara and Tokyo Tower and passed lovely days as if we had been back in our school days. Speaking in English every day, I thought my English skills had returned to a certain extent.

I have taught English to children these 30 years. I go to the morning classes of kindergartens and nursery schools to sing English songs with the piano, teach the alphabet and so forth. In the afternoon, together with a British teacher, I teach English to primary school children. I believe that I can continue these sorts of activities thanks to my stay abroad as a Rotary Exchange student 50 years ago.

After the Great Earthquake, I felt so grateful for having received many telephone calls of concerns from Australian friends. I would like to convey my gratitude to all my friends in Australia through this essay as well.

I would like to continue to go back and forth with my friends in Australia and do my best to continue international goodwill with them.

Recent scenes of friendly relationship



Beyond the Door of Luck, Just as I Look Back

Naoko Fukusho (née Matsura)

From Applying to Departing

The door of luck was opened by a newspaper article “Recruitment for international students to Australia” shown to me by a friend of mine. I was at that time a second-year student of Seiwa Jogakuin Senior High School. This school was established by the Good Samaritan Missionary of Australia for the purpose of leading the reestablishment of women’s education through Catholic teachings. I was interested in the mother country of the sisters. They came to Japan, a long way by boat, despite a lot of difficulties and with a sense of mission, to help many young Japanese, including us. I had in mind a firm thought “If there is a chance, I want to go to Australia one day.”.

Thanks to the collaboration of Sasebo Rotary Club and the Seiwa sisters, things went smoothly until I submitted the application. Once I was invited to Australia, however, I was to face several difficult conditions necessary for going abroad. Different from today, a visa was required as well as passport. The very expensive travel fare was another problem, but this was solved by the offer of my grandmother. I made a 2-day overnight trip to Hiroshima, to pass medical examinations at the designated Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital. I was in company with Yuko Maeda, who was also to go to Australia, and her mother.

The procedure took time and it was impossible to meet the request to arrive before the end of January where the new school year starts. Finally, I obtained my visa at the Australian Embassy in Tokyo, just before the departure. It was the 9th February that I left Haneda Airport together with the other 5 first dispatched students.

The aeroplane headed for Sydney took about 16 hours, calling on the way Hong Kong, Manila and Darwin for fuelling. During the flight, I was sick. I heard the voice of Yuko, my senior, “Nao, why don’t eat? It tastes good.” I was almost overwhelmed with anxiety thinking “Shall I be all right starting like this?”.

Beginning of Homestay

I left Japan in mid-winter to arrive in Australia in mid-summer. On the next morning, I put my first footprint at the Sydney Airport to begin my stay for study abroad. What did the host family members think when they welcomed me? I came out of the plane in a dark thick overcoat and had a pale face. What sort of image did they have of Japan? On our arrival, we were suddenly greeted by TV interviewers. I had little confidence in my English but, as they were kind to speak to me slowly and with easy words, I could understand their questions well enough and was a bit relieved.

The Exchange students were separately taken by each host family in each area. I went to Cronulla which was located at a distance of about half an hour’s drive to the south of Sydney Airport. It was a small town with sandy beaches, located on the southern side of Botany Bay, where the Captain Cook landed in 1770 for the first time. It was a compact town where the main streets ran north south direction and on both sides were various shops in line selling daily goods. Houses stood behind the shopping streets. I recall such charming sceneries of the town.

The house of the first host family, the Mackays, stood on a shopping street, and

was a combination of their clothing shop on the ground floor and living section upstairs. On the evening of my arrival, the family and several Rotarians gathered at his house and held a welcome party for me. I learned first on this occasion that I was going to stay with 3 other families for 3 months each. I was a little surprised because I was sure that I would always stay with one family. As a result, it was better for me because I had more experiences to have lived with diverse families, all friendly.

The Mackay family consisted of 5 people: Mr. and Mrs. Mackay, first son Gary (17), daughter Sue (14), and second son Ross (8). I did not know that they had moved Sue's bed to her parents' room to evacuate her room for me. This could have been a cause of annoyance to her. In addition, Sue seemed to have been frustrated because she could not be indulged by her mother who prioritised taking care of me.

Sue was sometimes in her tantrums. As for myself at that time, having centred attention to my own affairs, I was not thoughtful enough to understand her feelings. I was sorry our relationship had been strained until I finally noticed her sentiments.



The Rotary Ball, with Mr. and Mrs. Mackay

School Life, Encounters

I started attending school the next day after my arrival. The school uniform included a light green jumper skirt (pinfore dress), white blouse, straw hat, brown socks and shoes. I carried a box-shaped school case. I thought I looked quite fashionable in my uniform. Cronulla High School, which I was to attend, was a public school located at a distance of 20 minutes' walk.



In school uniform

The subjects were selective and I chose English, Biology, Geography, Economics, Ancient History, arts and Physical Education. Having no idea about this system, I totally entrusted school to the selection. It was a new experience for me that the students were to select the subjects like in university. It was also interesting that we were to move from one class room to another. English was of course compulsory. As it included Shakespeare, I understood so little till the end of school year. I do not remember even whether the work was Macbeth or King Lear. I probably managed to figure out the classes of Biology

and Geography as we made sketches of plants and maps. I remember the classes of Economics and Ancient History were like the ones in university, where you just listen to the lectures and take notes of the teachers' words.

At the beginning, my classmates, including Irene, helped me by showing the notes they took, to which I was grateful. Irene lived in the same area as my hosts. She accompanied me to school, invited me to play cricket with them and looked after me in various way. On holidays, I was often taken by her and her friends to amusement parks and sea bathing and, in such moments, I found myself well blended with them forgetting I was a foreigner.

I was only embarrassed with the school dance. My home high school was not coeducational and I had no experiences of talking with boys. Irene and other classmates were kind to show their compassion to me, to which I was very much obliged. Many years later, when I told the story to my daughters, they said with laugh "Unbelievable, you could have made a boyfriend, mum.". That is a sweet memory, now.

My friends were ardent in getting each one's favourite boyfriend. It was a pleasant experience to see their passion and fighting spirit. I was also a bit envious of them. They all enjoyed their school lives. Regardless of the marks at school, I was impressed by their attitude to smartly select their life courses. There were many of those who took jobs immediately after finishing the first 3 years of high school. I was surprised at their independent mind.

About 3 months after my starting school, I was called to the principal's room. Having arrived wondering "What is the matter?", I found a girl much shorter than I was there sobbing. To my surprise, she was Japanese and her name was Keiko Matsubara. His father was a professor in physics of Kyoto University who had been invited by Sydney University and his family lived in Cronulla. Keiko played the piano well. It seemed that she thought she was scolded, not understanding she was being requested by her classmates to play the piano. Mr. and Mrs. Matsubara were on their 40s and their daughters were about 1st year of high school and the 1st year of primary school. Their first experiences at local schools must have been hard for them.

Since that incident, I was to look after her and consequently was invited to the Matsubara family's house. They served me such Japanese food as *sushi*, *misoshiru* and others, to which I am still very thankful. Indeed, what a coincidence there was a Japanese family who lived nearby! Today such a case may be common but, at that time, it was a rare one. Thanks to this relationship, I believe I did not get homesick and enjoyed lively days. After returning to Japan, we maintained our old friendship but, about 10 years ago, Mrs. Matsubara passed away and Mr. Matsubara moved to Keiko's place in Tokyo to live with her.

Ms. MacMullan, teacher of Physical Education, and Mr. Lynch, of Ancient History, kindly looked after me. There was a class of religion. Although I was not a Christian, I chose Catholic, in keeping with my home school, and Mr. Lynch was in the centre of the class. He had a big body and a husky voice, and seemed to be yelling but, in reality calling me "Naoko, Naoko", he was a very gentle person and he kindly took care of me. I had kept correspondence with him till several years ago but, to my regret, he passed away.

I was allowed to use my dictionaries in the exams and I felt like I was a bit cheating in English exams, searching for meanings. I got accustomed to daily conversations in three months because people around me were kind to speak slowly. It took another three months to follow the conversations among my friends.

Homestays after the Second

The second host family was the Bradleys; Mr. and Mrs. Bradley, first daughter Janis, second daughter Lyn, and son John. Mr. Bradley managed a piping business. The two daughters already went to work. Janis had married and left home, but she came back often, and Lyn was engaged. John was studying law aiming to become a lawyer. He had a charming girlfriend, Barbara. The family were all adults and I was like Mr. and Mrs. Bradley's third daughter. I was told that they were enjoying another parenting experience.

I was taken to their second house in a deep mountain as well as to Canberra. When they invited friends and introduced me, I was asked to show the guests my miniature set for Japanese calligraphy and to sing *Kimigayo*, the Japanese national anthem. Among the invited friends, there was a lady who had migrated from Israel and her husband was a veterinarian. Every time she came to the house, she said to me "Tell me Naoko." asking me many things. Mrs. Bradley and I used to secretly call her "Mrs. Tell-me". Mrs. Bradley, having learnt I liked Knorr chicken soup, served it every morning. It is a nostalgic memory that I was bored with it and at long last I cordially asked her to stop it.



With Mr. Bradley

The third host was the Hand family living in Sutherland. Mr. and Mrs. Hand had a daughter Jenefa with the same age as mine. Sutherland is located in a distance of 20 minutes' drive from Cronulla, but I no longer remember its landscape. I commuted to school basically by train but, sometimes only in the morning, I was taken to school in the car of their son, who lived next door and was a teacher of another high school in Cronulla. I was very careful not to be late for departure. On the way, he picked up Miss Carkward, my Biology teacher, to go together. They might possibly have got married later and I could have been an element to disturb them.

Mr. and Mrs. Hand were genuine English people who had immigrated to Australia and managed a lumber business. Their lifestyle was probably very English. They said grace before dinner and were strict about table manners or other rules. The family kept the principles of "simple and sturdy". Mrs. Hand was gentle, always smiling, good at cooking and ardent in educating Jenefa. Jenefa was attending a private Christian high school and played the piano very well. I was once invited by her school and given an opportunity to talk about the lifestyle of Japan. They asked me many questions but could not give good answers. I realised, not only on that occasion, I was so ignorant of my own country. The Hand family went back to the UK 30 years ago and Jenefa, being married, lives in France.

The fourth host was the Breakspear family. I was, back in Cronulla, looked after

by this family who managed a printing business. When I first heard their name, I mistook it for “Shakespeare”. I thought they were relatives of the great playwright. The family were Mr. and Mrs. Breakspear, first daughter Irene, second daughter Helen, third daughter Margaret and son Alan. Irene soon left home to work in Germany as a ski instructor. I thought it was a strange choice of job as Australia had not much snow. Helen, the same age as me, was slim and tall and worked as a typist. She had a fiancé called John who worked with the QANTAS Airlines. They later got married and had 2 boys. Margaret also worked and had a boyfriend, Bill. They also got married in a later year and seems to live happily. Alan, still 12 years old, went to the beach every day to enjoy surfing. Each one of the family was enjoying her / his lives and the family was full of independent spirits.

Since we lived close to a beach, I also went there almost every day. When I returned to Japan, my mother lamented my sun-tanned dark skin. I had plenty of joy playing on the sea. I was invited to be on board a cruiser (big sailing boat) and on a dingy, small one for single person, many times. I was once taken on a motor boat to do fishing in the Pacific Ocean. In addition, although I could not swim, I tried water skiing. On that occasion, I got injured by the boat ladder. The scar, about 10cm long, still remains on my left thigh. It is a medal awarded for my having played bravely.

I recall many other pleasures. In an amusement park, I was once suspended upside down in a Ferris wheel and even fainted. When we went to a place called Taloumbi in a camping car, I experienced milking cows, shearing the wool of sheep and horse riding. The highlight was a show of hunting kangaroos. I was excited by the scene of several kangaroos, big and small illuminated by big lights, jumping around and I felt the grandiosity of nature.

Travels and Leisure Time

When we were on a long vacation, I was taken to Yamba, about 600 km north of Sydney, and stayed in a sort of seaside house for 5 days or so. We enjoyed just fishing during this stay. One time just off shore, I could not pull up my fishing rod and I thought the hook was caught by a rock. Having been told “Pull stronger!”, I lifted my rod with all my power and, to my surprise, it rose bit by bit. What I thought was a rock was a huge crab! I heard a voice yelling “Be careful of crab scissors! They could cut your fingers off.”. I was really surprised by my catching such a thing. We held down the raging crab, tied the scissors with a rope and brought it home. It was put in a big pan and boiled under a lid pressed by a brick. A sautéed black bream and the crab were served for dinner. I must add, however, that the menu during the holidays was always the same.



Myself, enjoying fishing in Yamba

As I had a pen-friend in Melbourne since I was in Japan, I went there to meet her by courtesy of Rotary. My sudden visit, with my unilateral wish, could have been an embarrassment to her.

There was only one cinema theatre in Cronulla. I was surprised to hear the national anthem “God Save the Queen” sung by the audience before the film projection started. In a film I saw by chance, Japanese soldiers appeared and played villains. There were yet

post-war negative sentiments toward Japan among Australians and the word “Jap” was seen on newspapers. Personally, however, I never received any malicious words or actions, for which I am very thankful.

Another memory of mine about theatre is the film *West Side Story*. I was very happy to be taken together with Keiko. In the opera “*Mikado*”, the dresses were strange and looked like Chinese ones, not Japanese. For both films and operas, when popular, it was normal to have a long run of three years or more.

In my Memorable Dress

There were eight exchange students staying around Sydney, each hosted separately by different Rotary Clubs. We had several occasions to get together. The last one was a party held by Mr. Futamata, the Japanese consul general, in the Consulate General of Sydney. The time seemed to be close to my departure, as I was present with Mr. and Mrs. Breakspear.



Christmas Party in Sydney Consulate General: (from left) Hama, Kojima, Maeda, Nakamura, Takeshita, Tachibana, Matura and Miyamoto

I went to the party wearing the dark blue two-piece dress made by Mrs. Breakspear, who was very talented in sewing and made the same one for Helen too. I remember I was in this dress when I left for home.

After Christmas, I was finally to go back home. I was invited by Cronulla Rotary Club to a regular meeting and given an opal ring for a token (photo, newspaper scrap on the next page). On a day in the New Year together with Yuko, I left Australia full of reminiscences and was very sad to separate from Australian friends.

Conclusion

Although I easily accepted writing my memories for the memorial book for the 50th anniversary of the first Rotary Youth Exchange, I am not confident of my memories with the details partly vanished after passing a long period of 50 years. There may be some misunderstandings but I wrote things just as I recall. The contents may look like I only merrily played around but, in actuality, I believe I learnt so much from these experiences.



Farewell to Cronulla Rotary Club, with Mr. Mackay and Mr. Adair

In Japan, I did not have a good appetite, but I became healthier during my stay in Australia. I was a prone to car sickness and, on my departure in the car from my uncle's house to Haneda Airport, I was very sick. In the plane also, I was almost a patient and felt very anxious, which was my only memory of the flight. After my arrival in Sydney, however, I quickly got better and never had car sickness since then. During my stay for one year, I was always healthy, not having been sick even once, and passed my days happily. For all of this, I owe so much to my host families, other Rotarians, people in Cronulla and school friends. I have renewed my sentiments of gratitude to them.

On the other hand, I have some regrets. If had a clearer sense of purpose for that precious opportunity to spend a year in Australia, I would have led my life more positively. I am remorseful about my own immaturity at that time. I realise now, after 50 years, that I have not done anything to pay back all the given favours.

In closing, again, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Rotarians as well as my past parents and grandmother, who all let me pass one year full of happiness in Australia.

Recalling the Days as an Exchange Student

Yoko Sekimoto (née Miyazaki)

It was in 1962, exactly 50 years ago, that I went to Australia as the first Rotary Exchange student from Japan. During the several months before departure, there were a lot of difficulties which are unimaginable today. I remember that I went to Hiroshima from Kurume, where I lived, with my mother for medical examinations in the Red Cross Hospital, designated by the Australian Embassy. The train was so crowded and we had no seat to sit on and were utterly exhausted on arrival. Finally, I passed the medical examinations and also obtained a non-record certificate from the police.

The day of departure was approaching. To obtain the visa which is to be described on passport, I went from Fukuoka to Tokyo by “Moonlight”, the cheapest flight departing at midnight. The aircraft was a YS-11, a small propeller type airplane, which shook badly and I had my first experience of flying, which was my worst.

The next travel to Tokyo, just before departure, was by the express-limited train called “Blue train” and it took 16 hours. In Tokyo, my visa was not ready yet! My father and I, being in a very difficult situation, rushed in to a regular meeting of Nihonbashi Rotary Club to ask them to help us. Mr. Moriwaki, a member of the Club, made efforts to solve the problem and I finally obtained the visa. We had a friendly relationship with Mr. Moriwaki for a long time since then.

It was a time when there were many restrictions for travelling abroad. Things were difficult even for an adult person and for a girl student aged 16 years to go abroad alone was unimaginable, even as the Rotary Exchange. On the attempt to buy the flight ticket, the travel agent in Kurume could not handle the business smoothly. Through all the process of preparing the travel, things went tortuously. I believe my father also had a lot of troubles he had never experienced before.

The airfare from Japan to Australia at that time was so expensive as it is unimaginable today. The sponsoring Kurume Rotary Club raised the funds to cover it, for which I am still very grateful.

The international terminal of Tokyo Haneda Airport at that time coexisted with the domestic one. Today, while we have direct flights from Tokyo Narita to Sydney, the flight route then was from Tokyo via Hong Kong, Manila, Darwin and finally to Sydney and it took about 16 hours. Having had only the experience being on board a plane “Moonlight” using propellered YS-11, I finally embarked on a jet airplane Boeing 707 for Sydney, for the first time in my life. Inside the plane, it was an entirely different world, incomparable with my daily



On my arrival at Melbourne Airport, front from left: Pippa and Sally Parkinson, myself, Mr. D. Farquhar and behind me, Mr. F. Jarman

living environment so far. It was the time only 16 years after World War II ended. Before takeoff, a smart stewardesses served me a hot towel and a glass of orange juice, at which I was so surprised as if I were on a different planet.

On my arrival at Sydney airport, Mr. Farquhar, my first host, was there to meet me. It took 2 or more hours to arrive at Melbourne. At Melbourne Essendon, I was welcomed by all the host families. They took me by car to Rosebud, the destination. Although it was already after sunset and dark, the elder son Ian (17) and the second son Alan (15) let me play ping pong together joyfully. I recall it fondly.

In World War II, Mr. Don Farquhar was navigating a fighter plane above Rabaul, near Bougainville Island and Papua New Guinea. He was hit by Japanese anti-aircraft guns and blinded in both eyes. Despite this tragedy, he attended the Rotary World Convention Tokyo in 1961 and proposed the importance of friendship and goodwill between the former enemy countries, which would bring peace to both countries. He made great efforts to promote goodwill between Japan and Australia including inviting exchange students from Japan.

I was always carrying an English-Japanese dictionary with me to help my understanding of English. After having enjoyed the Christmas holidays with the Farquhar family, I started attending Rosebud High School, which was co-educational. Before the first trimester began, I was guided throughout the school by Mr. Hudson, principal, and Ms. Pat Waller, vice-principal. As I understood so little of what they were talking about, they and I probably felt unsure of each other. After school began, however, I was fortunate to have good friends and enjoyed a happy school life.



Home economics class at school

I stayed with 4 families for 3 months each. In every family, I was looked after warmly. Australian food, which I had never tasted before, was very good and I loved it. When I arrived, I was thin but I quickly became plump. Unlike today, international telephone was not used because it was too expensive, and of course there were no mobile phones nor computers. The only method to communicate with Japan was by writing letters. But, being surrounded by friendly host families, I was free from homesickness and every day passed in emotions and excitements.

After coming back to Japan, I wished strongly to return to Australia. I joined the QANTAS Airlines to work as a cabin attendant. Later, as I wanted also to see European countries, other than Asian and Oceanian countries, I changed my job to the Scandinavian Airlines (SAS) and had various experiences including the Scandinavian countries. I am confident that my stay in Australia that year was the most important turning point in my life.

After having got married, I recovered the relationships with the past host families, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Shohei Kurata of Kurume Rotary Club and Mr. Stewart MacDonald



Sally, Mr. Parkinson, myself, Pippa (2007)

of Healsville Rotary Club. I finally met again my third host, Mr. Parkinson and his family who were living in Queensland near Cairns. It was a touching reunion.

Further, in December 2011, I was invited by Rosebud Rotary Club to attend the ceremony for celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first Youth Exchange with Japan. There, I delivered a speech as the first Exchange student. After 50 years' absence, I visited Rosebud, my second home town, again and I made dramatic reunions with the first and the second host

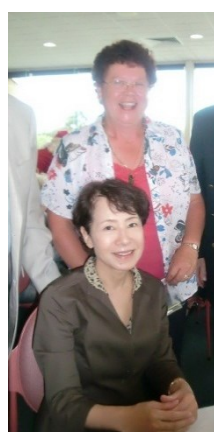
families, as well as my best class mate, and passed several days full of emotion. Except the fourth host family, which had moved to the UK, I met all the host families again and restarted our relationships. Now my joy has reached high at peak.



Alan Farquhar, myself, David Jarman



With Mr. and Mrs. Alan Farquhar



Roberta Mose, best friend
at Rosebud High



Mr. & Mrs. David Jarman, their daughter
Cay Kellaway & her husband

Innocent schoolgirl stepped across the bitterness of war

By DENISE RYAN

YOKO Miyazaki didn't realise that some people opposed her visit to Australia — and that was probably a blessing.

As a 16-year-old in 1962, she applied to be Australia's first Japanese Rotary exchange student, at a time when many older Australians remained deeply upset about the events of World War II.

When Ms Miyazaki returned recently to visit her former host families and friends at Rosebud Rotary, she marvelled that she had felt so welcome as a teenager that she had not realised the extent of the furore surrounding her visit.

Her host brother, Alan Farquhar, was more aware of how unusual saw the exchange. "It was very controversial," he says.

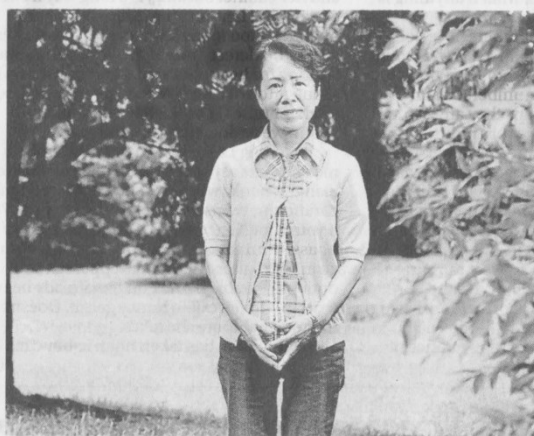
The exchange came about through the dogged efforts of an unlikely advocate. Mr Farquhar's father, Don, was blinded during the war by a Japanese attack on the RAAF plane he was navigating.

Alan Farquhar recalls: "In 1961 he decided to go to one of the first international Rotary conferences held in Tokyo after the war. Many of his close friends in the RSL tried to talk him out of going."

At that event, Don Farquhar proposed a youth exchange program between the two countries. That this was proposed by a veteran with such a serious shrapnel injury inflicted by the Japanese confounded many.

Few could understand why Mr Farquhar wasn't bitter. His son recalls how his father's determination to forge links between the nations inspired others to support the program. "For the Rotarians to decide this needed to happen only 15 years out from such a hell of an event was extraordinary," Alan Farquhar says.

"And don't forget there was still a White Australia policy. Not everyone wanted it but from the moment Yoko arrived any negativity was swept away by her personality."



Don Farquhar died in 1984 but his generosity of spirit was remembered in the 1988 book *Unsung Heroes & Heroines of Australia*, edited by Suzy Baldwin.

Looking back, Ms Miyazaki is surprised her parents were not worried about her travelling to Australia. "It was

unusual at that time. They were very open-minded."

Ms Miyazaki made many friends and the experience helped her gain work as a flight attendant for Qantas and other airlines. She later lived in Egypt before returning to Japan.

"My life became exciting and broader," she says. "My



Yoko Miyazaki today and meeting her host families, including Don Farquhar (above right), in 1962.

host families treated me like a daughter or sister, and I met so many people from different countries that I became more open. My father was taken aback when I came home and threw my arms around him and kissed him."

Staff and students at the then Rosebud High School were also ahead of the times in 1962, with *The Mikado* performed by the school in honour of their visiting exchange student. Ms Miyazaki was in the chorus.

Rosebud Secondary's focus

on Japan has endured, with language learning from years 7 to 12, a sister school in Japan and regular exchanges.

Principal John Miller says students and parents were visibly moved when Rotarian David Jarman explained Don Farquhar's link to the school's Japanese language program at last year's awards ceremony. "They sat up and their jaws dropped."

Ms Miyazaki spoke to the students and presented a new Rotary scholarship to support year 10 students to study Japanese.

Rotarian Stuart McDonald, who is co-ordinating coming exchange programs, says Ms Miyazaki's experience demonstrates the power of — and the bonds formed — during international exchanges.

Applications close on March 31 for exchanges to Japan, France, Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, Brazil, Taiwan and other countries this year.

LINK

► rotariayouthexchange.org.au

Newspaper article, Dec. 2011, on the occasion where I attended the ceremony of the 50th anniversary of Youth Exchange, held in Rosebud

Let me express my sincerest gratitude for having been given a precious opportunity and wonderful experiences through the Rotary Youth Exchange Programme. I wish that all those who go abroad as Exchange Youth will accept the different cultures of each country, have interest in everything, enjoy the significant days and make the best of their precious experiences for life.

* * * * *

In 1988, a book titled "UNSUNG HEROES & HEROINES of Australia" was published in Australia. 200 people were selected across the country.

Mr. Don Farquhar, my first host, is listed among them. I would like to introduce to you an excerpt from the publication.

UNSUNG HEROES & HEROINES of Australia

Edited by Suzy Baldwin

Preface

Late in 1986 the Australian Bicentennial Authority invited us to form an assessment panel for the 200 Unsung Heroes and heroines programme. This became better known as the *200 Greatest Stories Never told*, a title coined by John Singleton.

A national advertising campaign was set up to involve Australians in all walks of life, getting them talking, comparing notes, and submitting stories of heroic people they knew or knew about. The 4020 stories submitted by the people of Australia demonstrate the success of that campaign.

The assessment panel's task, when first explained, seemed challenging but straightforward enough. We were to read all the stories and select the best two hundred for publication in a commemorative book. Some aspects of the assessment, however, proved tantalizing and at Times frustrating.

What was heroism, and how would we identify its presence in an Individual or an action? What was meant by unsung? Was someone whose deeds were well known in one state, but not elsewhere, an unsung hero or heroine? Did a military decoration or a civilian award mean that the recipient could still be called unsung?

The panel was concerned about these issues. From the outset, we agreed not to be too rigid on the definition of heroism, or on the notion of being Unsung. Such an exercise had not been attempted before, either in Australia or elsewhere, so we had to develop our own criteria through regular discussion.

We recognized that stories of outstanding people would often have improved in the telling. So part of the challenge was to identify those stories which were not only impressive and inspiring, but also factual. In this we were assisted by the dedicated and professional work of a small team of researchers. Some six hundred of the four thousand and twenty stories were progressively identified as a long short list and handed to the research team. With the benefit of the researchers' reports, the panel was then able to reduce the list to the two hundred reproduced in this book.

We accepted that, even after careful research, some of the chosen Stories might retain an element of myth or embellishment. Nevertheless we believe that all the stories finally selected fulfill the spirit of concept.

We did not attempt to select the stories according to occupation, gender, geographical distribution or state of origin. The final selection reflects the pattern of groups and eras in the stories submitted.

The most exciting and inspiring aspect of this whole exercise has been that we have been able to participate in the gathering and recording of a unique set of documents of Australian social history. The stories in this book, and the others which have not been reproduced here, are truly a people's history of Australia.

The panel is pleased that the 3820 stories not included in this book will not be lost to the future. The national Library of Australia has accepted them for permanent preservation in the Library's Australian Collections. There they will be available for researchers to read about that great band of people whose lives have been shown to us.

The stories in this book reveal the soul of Australia. We are grateful for the opportunity the project has given us to help Australian speak to one another about outstanding men and women who have done noble deeds and endured great hardship with fortitude and often with great humour. We believe that their stories will inspire and encourage Australians to face courageously the challenges of our time.

Donald Norman Farquhar

1913-1984

Triumph over prejudice

Written by Katie Lawley

Nominated by Alan Farquhar

‘My father was a fiercely determined man, intent on encouraging Greater international harmony,’ says Donald Farquhar’s son. ‘Although blinded in World War II by a Japanese attack on the plane that he was navigating, he did not become bitter. In fact it seemed to make him more determined to pursue his belief in the necessity of building up goodwill between nations.’

In the late 1950’s Donald Farquhar joined Rotary. To demonstrate his internationalist convictions, he turned first to Japan the country at whose hands he had suffered the most. In 1961 his efforts were rewarded by an anonymous contribution enabling him to attend an international Rotary convention in Japan. The outstanding conclusion to this trip was his successful sponsorship of the first Japanese student to attend school in Australia --- a young girl called Yoko Miyazaki who arrived in 1963*. Given the post war climate of prejudice and hostility towards the Japanese, this was a major triumph.

Complementing this singular achievement, Farquhar was a dedicated Worker in community services, providing a courageous example to The blind and giving counsel and assistance to many in his retirement years. He died having achieved a lifetime goal. His contribution to the Australia-Japan Student Exchange Programme helped it to blossom into a remarkable example of international cooperation.

Editor’s note: 1963* ought to be 1962.

The Thirteen Months that Formed the Basis of my Life

Keisuke Hama

Unforgettable memories of my stay in Australia as a youth, how fabulous they are! When I recall my life for 50 years thereafter, it is evident that I have been strongly influenced by the experiences I had during my stay in Australia for 11 months, as well as through its preparations for 6 weeks and my voyage back home for 1 month. It is no exaggeration to say the basis of my life was formed by these 13 months.

I would like to describe, in as much detail as possible, my memories of my stay in Australia as a Rotary Exchange student and about their influences on my life afterwards in the following sections: 1) Uproar to travel abroad, 2) Life with host families, 3) School life, 4) Rotary related events, 5) Daily leisure time, 6) Travels on holidays, 7) Hard separation and new departure, and 8) Influences on my course of life. I apology for far exceeding the planned volume to be written.

1. Uproar to travel abroad

In the early 1960s, to travel abroad was something like a privilege given to the very few whose purpose was business or study. Therefore, I had an aspiration or rather a dream to go one day to foreign countries, especially to the developed countries in Europe and north America. As I grew up in a small country town, Kobayashi in Miyazaki prefecture, it is probable that I had a stronger interest in the outside world.

One day in early December 1961, when I was in 2nd year of senior high school, I had an inquiry from Mr. Kaoru Yokoyama, English teacher as well as the advisor for the English Speaking Club. He asked me “We have an information of recruiting students to study abroad. Do you wish to go?”. I answered him without hesitation “Yes, I wish I could go, Sir.” I must have been pushed forward because, in summer that year, I happened to listen to a radio programme of NHK where 2 senior high students, a boy and a girl, spoke of their experiences in the United States and I envied them. I heard that this recruitment was for a project called Youth Exchange by Rotary Club and the country to go to was Australia.

The reasons why the teacher asked my will first must have been the facts that I was the school captain and also an active member of the English Speaking Club. The detailed procedure is no longer clear but, in formality, I was nominated a candidate by the recommendation of the principal.

Returning home, I told my father the story and my strong wish to go. He seemed surprised saying “What, you are recommended? It’s extraordinary!”. As he was a member of Kobayashi Rotary Club, founded only one year before, he knew about the recruitment of international students, but he seemed to think that it was the business of someone else.

In any case, I was required to prepare and submit the application as soon as possible. As the document was naturally to be written in English, Mr. Yokoyama helped me to complete it but no one knew in which part of Australia was “Cronulla, N.S.W.”, the address of the responsible person Mr. Alan Mackay. My application must have been mailed to the Governors’ office through Kobayashi Rotary Club.

The recruitment announcement was delivered to all the Rotary Clubs within the District 370, all prefectures in Kyushu Island and that of Yamaguchi. I did not know how many students had applied and whether the selection would take place only by documents or through examinations. Frankly, I thought the feasibility was low. In the New Year, however, I suddenly received an invitation letter from the Australian part.

Needless to say, I was very surprised, so happy, and almost ecstatic. I learned later that 8 students were accepted in this recruitment and all would be hosted separately in the Clubs in New South Wales, mainly around Sydney. From this moment on to the day of departure, for about 6 weeks, I involved my family in uproar for tackling the difficult procedures and preparations for going abroad.

The first thing was to obtain a passport but, in my local town, nobody had ever travelled abroad and we had no idea how to go about it. My elder brother, working with Yawata Steel and Iron Company, found out the Kokura Branch of Nippon Express Co. would take care of travel arrangements including obtaining passports and airline tickets. We had them apply for my passport at the Fukuoka prefectural government office. That was not enough. We learned for the first time the necessity of a “visa” issued by the Australian Embassy to attest admission to enter the country.

I had not much confidence in the language, either. Although I belonged to the English Speaking Club, I had not reached a level to say “I can speak English.”. Every morning before the class, I visited pastor Paul Boschmann, a Canadian, at his house for 1 hour’s English tutoring. His family were the only Westerners living in my town. This was to assure the minimum capacity for communication over there, but also to prepare for an examination, an interview in English, set by the Ministry of Education. Passing this exam was a condition to buy foreign currency to afford the travel. The Exchange scheme was under the “part guarantee” system where the host side guaranteed all cost of the stay but the travel expenses were our own.

At that time, it took a long time to go to Tokyo from my town Kobayashi. The usual course was to take the semi-express “Ebino”, diesel cars, to Hakata (Fukuoka) for 5 hours and, after staying overnight at my relative’s house, to take the express “Tsukushi” for 21 hours. The Nippo line, where the direct express to Tokyo ran, and a good part of the Sanyo line were not yet electrified. Along these lines, trains were towed by steam or diesel locomotives.

Before going to Tokyo for exams for international students, I was also to go to Hiroshima, because the Australian Embassy strangely directed the Exchange students to pass medical examinations in Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital. Leaving home on 19th January in the morning, after visiting the Kokura Branch of Nippon Express, I took the express train “Aso”. This train was very delayed and it was already midnight when I arrived alone at Hiroshima railway station. Fortunately, the information office for accommodation was still open and I was shown a cheap inn near the station and I could sleep there. Next morning, taking a bus for Ujina, I went to the Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital. There I happened to meet Kikuo Miyamoto, another Exchange student from Hagi, who was there for the same purpose. I was to be saved by this occasional encounter. The cost of direct chest X-rays was unexpectedly high and I no longer had enough money for

buying my train ticket to go back home. I borrowed 1000 yen from his aunt who accompanied him. While I was having stressful experiences, the introductory chapter of my self-discipline of studying abroad was already underway.

Another matter was to submit the police no-record certificate for applying for visa (Reference Material no.5: notice from Australian vice consul). This document was issued by the local police. My fingerprints of all 10 fingers were taken, turning each finger 180° to include the sides. My unpleasant memory of the sticky black ink is still vivid today.

The cost of travel was the biggest problem. In addition to the expenses for preparation, the airfare alone was 163,000 yen. As the starting salary of university graduates was about 15,000 yen, it must have been a burden of some 2 million yen in the current monetary value. That money was only to go and the cost of return is still beyond the reach of our imagination. I heard the story later that my father, who was in debt through his business, covered it by borrowing money from bank. I am so grateful for his courageous decision.

In those days, there was no direct flight between Japan and Australia. The QANTAS Airline had flights between Tokyo and Sydney stopping over Hong Kong, Manila, and Darwin, taking more than 16 hours. The service was only 3 times a week. The school year in Australia starting in January, the Australian Rotary requested the students to arrive by the end of January.

While the procedure was not simple like this and as we had their request of arriving as soon as possible, the day of departure was set on the 9th of February, where the visa would be just ready. I left Kobayashi with my mother on the 6th and received my passport in Fukuoka prefectural government. That passport is still with me. The cover is blue-black genuine leather with gold engraved letters, the main Japanese text is written vertically, and the inserted descriptions of both Japanese and English were handwritten and rubber stamped.



My passport: Binding in genuine leather and gold letters, handwritten descriptions, rubber stamps, the name of Minister for Foreign Affairs and official seal

There is a small piece of yellowed newspaper clipping left in this passport, Miyazaki Edition of the Mainichi Newspaper. I feel a bit shy when I reread but I will include it in the Reference Materials.

On the 7th, my mother and I boarded a night express limited train from Hakata

station with a big suitcase. Most carriages were sleeping cars but that was too extravagant for me. Even in the reclining seat it seemed to me like a luxurious trip as it was the second time to be in express limited train. On our arrival in Tokyo after 17 hours travel, an express mail from my father was waiting for me. The contents were to congratulate my departure, to encourage me and to remind me to be "self-aware as a representative of all Japanese nation". The telegram of welcome from the host family was also included. We went to the Bank of Tokyo's head office in Nihonbashi and bought 150 US dollars as the foreign currency in hand.

It was in the morning of the 9th, the very day of departure, that the visa was issued at the Consular Division of Australian Embassy in Mita, Tokyo. All the travel formalities were completed at the last minute. I went back to the place I stayed at to pick up my luggage, and departed from Haneda on the flight (QF275) departing in the evening at 5 p.m. Besides Mother, my 2 elder sisters living in Tokyo came to see me off. I was in school uniform with a stand-up collar and wearing a school cap with 2 white lines.

The Exchange students who went together with me were Miss Kojima from Moji, Miss Tachibana and Miss Takeshita from Yanagawa, and Miss Maeda and Miss Matsura from Sasebo. I met them for the first time except Miss Kojima whom I had met in the Ministry of Education. The departure of Mr. Miyamoto and Miss Nakamura from Hagi was a bit delayed. It was my first experience to get on a plane, not to mention to go to a foreign country. Beside my family's anxiety, I was in a full excitement.

Finishing boarding and migration procedures, I boarded the plane by a gangway attached to the rear of the aircraft. I searched for my family on the farewell deck but could not find them because of the darkness. As soon as I entered inside, the people I saw were all "foreigners" and the spoken language was English. I was already in a foreign country. I remember the Japanese passengers were only 6 of us and several men on their business trips.

Jetliners had already entered service and the aircraft was a Boeing 707, with 3 seats on each side of the aisle. Now the moment of take-off, I heard the engine sound rise and I was surprised to feel the strong acceleration pressed my body against the back of my seat. Every time I take a plane, so many times since then, the sense of that moment comes back even now. I was curious in everything; various services given by stewardess, disposable plastic cups for drinks and so on. Even though I was nervous, I honestly enjoyed my first experiences.

***Memoranda* Ten Surprises and Thoughts on my Arrival in Sydney**

- 1) So many people at the airport to welcome us: Rotarians, host families, and reporters for newspaper and television
- 2) On the way from the airport, a big car I got in with the first host family ran smoothly on beautifully paved roads. I found it so lovely. My home town had mostly gravel roads except the main street.
- 3) Car drivers gave hand signals to the following drivers when they wanted to stop or turn, while cars were all equipped with brake lamps and turn signals. For stopping, the driver stretches the right arm out the window, standing it up from the elbow, and show the back of hand to rear. For turning left, the arm position is the same but the palm is inside while, for turning right, the arm is kept horizontal with the palm down.
- 4) Blue clear sky, red roofed brick houses spaciouly standing in residential areas with ample greenery, and wide streets everywhere with footpaths paved with concrete only in the centre, leaving the rest to be lawn.
- 5) I was overwhelmed with the gorgeous luncheon on my arrival at the first host family Andreassen. It must have been a special one which my host mother carefully prepared. Different from the Japanese style, it was not a combination of rice and side dishes but only “cuisines”, served in quantity and accompanied with dessert.
- 6) Next morning, my host mother Beryl brought me a glass of fruit juice to my bed on my waking. It was like a dream.
- 7) My first experience with the western-style toilet, as well as the bathroom where a bathtub, a washbasin and a toilet bowl were put together in one room.
- 8) The mid-day sun was shining from the northern side, which I had never thought of. I imagined also the people of my home town, located at 32° north latitude, were standing in a different angle, or laterally.
- 9) The currency was Australian pound, equivalent to 800 Japanese yen. 20 shillings make 1 pound, 12 pence make 1 shilling. Coins consisted of 2 shillings, 1 shilling, 6 pence, 3 pence, 1 penny and halfpenny (pronounced *hayp'ni*). While the first 4 were in silver color, the rest were copper. On obverse of coins, I saw not only the profile of young Queen Elizabeth II but also of King George VI and sometimes of King George V on those minted in 1920s and 30s. I was happy with my good pocket money, 1 pound a week.
- 10) Opposite seasons, trees, grasses, soil, the language of course, birdsongs and people's look as well, they were all different from those in Japan. I thought “I have come to an alien country, so far away from home.”.

2. Life with Host Families

During my stay in Sydney, I was hosted by Hurstville Rotary Club and lived with 5 host families. They were as follows (with vocation of each Rotarian); 1) the Andreasen family (a nursery man), 2) the Hayes family (a butcher), 3) the Hancock family (a solicitor), 4) Mr. and Mrs. Everitt (an electrical engineer), 5) the Scott family (a printer). Mr. Wal Scott became the Club President in July. Each family was characteristic and unforgettable but here I would like to describe my memories of the Hancock family, which was most impressive for me.

The family members were 6 in total; Ted (Edward) my host father, Betty (Elizabeth) my host mother, Ken their first son, Pat (Patricia) first daughter, John second son and Glen (Glenis) second daughter. By age, I was just in the middle of 4 children. I called my host parents “Mr. Hancock and Mrs. Hancock”.

The house was located on steep land facing the water front in a prestigious residential area with beautiful landscapes. On the top floor were the entrance hall, the living room, the dining room, the bedrooms for the parents and the girls. On the middle floor were the party room, the boys’ bedroom and the study. Then going down further, on the bottom floor, they had the guest room, i.e., my bedroom, and laundry.

There were two entrances, one for formal occasions and the other near the kitchen for daily use. The house had 2 separate spaces for eating; a dining corner in the kitchen and a dining room. The family ate practically every meal in the kitchen while the dining room was used only for the formal meals like Sunday dinners and the Christmas dinner.



With the Hancock family: (back row from left) Glen, Ted, John, myself and Ken, (front row from left) Pat and Betty

In the garage, I was amazed to find three cars; one for the family and Mr. Hancock’s going to the office, another, a smaller one, for Mrs. Hancock and the third Ken’s sport car. The garden was on the bottom level which was connected to the party room by a large staircase. Beyond the slightly sloping lawn, there was a cliff-like area towards the water front. Following the steep steps, I could reach a swimming pool and a boat shed containing a sailing boat and a motor boat. The water surface ahead was Georges River but the water was salty mixed with sea water and the landscape was like a bay.

I felt an enormous richness, incomparable to Japanese standard of those days, in an ideal residential environment, a gorgeous house, a level of car ownership and so on. Although it must have been a case which far exceeds the Australian average, I was strongly impressed by the affluence and possibilities of the dwelling. The experiences I had living in this house were to give a considerable influence to my professional activities many

years later.

In April, while I was still with the Hayes, I visited this house for the first time. It was the occasion of my 18th birthday party held in the party room. All the Japanese Exchange students around Sydney together with their host parents were invited. As a matter of nature, many of the young family members of my host club came as well. The total number of guests must have been almost 60 according to what I wrote in my letter to parents. I still remember such scenes as inserting a knife into a special fruit cake apparently bigger than a foot square, various presents, and a joyful atmosphere of dancing. Although dancing was new and not familiar to me, I enjoyed it very much thanks to a very charming partner. It was absolutely my grandest birthday party ever including my life afterward.

The most different aspect in daily life from the Japanese custom was that children, including myself, were to clear the table and wash dishes after meals. Washing clothes was the host mother's work but cleaning up the rooms seemed to be done by housekeepers because the house was so spacious. The housework for the host father was gardening on the weekend.

Practically at every meal, including breakfast, meat was served. At Hayes' place (Mr. Hayes was a butcher.) pork chops were common for breakfast as well as sausages, and bacon and eggs. They must have been Australian ways based on British cooking. A bowl of cornflakes, which I had in the plane for the first time, was a regular food for breakfast. Weekday lunch was always sandwiches prepared at home and brought to school. For evening meals, beef steak or roasted meat was common as a main dish. As I had had beef only occasionally in Japan, the meals with meat were luxurious for a young one's appetite. The way of cooking, however, was rather simple, to bake or roast and serve with gravy sauce, to be judged from today's sense. In Japan, every meal was a combination of rice (main dish) and "side-dishes" or cuisine. The meal consisting of only cuisine, without rice, was extraordinary for me until I was accustomed to it. The typical garnish vegetables were mashed potato, green peas (white haricot beans in case of pork) and so on. Bread was usually served sliced from a long cubic loaf. I loved most of Australian food but sometimes I missed the Japanese food my mother prepared.

There was no custom of saying something like "*Itadaki masu*" (Japanese meaning "let us have food with thanks.") before starting every meal. On Sunday dinner only, however, a nominated one of the family was to say grace; "Thanks Lord for what we are about to receive, Amen." I still find it strange that the ordinary evening meal was called "Tea".

My host father Ted was a man of cheerful character with a great sense of humour. On the other hand, probably because of his profession, he carefully chose his words and spoke clearly and slowly. This helped me understand various things. I still feel grateful to his English tuition given to me after every evening meal. The material was the newspaper of the day. I was to choose an article and to read it aloud, whatever the theme was. As far as I understood the content I would continue. When I reached any word or expression I did not understand, reading was suspended. He kindly explained pronunciation and the meaning. Even though the duration was only about half an hour, this was a wonderful

lesson of English. I believe it was not only at school that I considerably improved my English but also at home through such practices.

The host mother Betty was a very kind person of both methodical and worrying character. She was a wonderful substitute for my mother. She not only took care of me in such daily life as cooking and washing clothes but, when I had a problem with my eyes, she took me to an optometrist and, when she made a trip to Canberra with her mother, I was invited to join them.

It was only once that I was bitterly scolded by Betty, because I was very late coming back home. As the season was winter and the sun set early, it was already dark when I returned home. On that day, I was to attend the afterschool English tuition given by Mr. Reidy, which I failed to tell her beforehand. I apologised to her just by words saying “I am sorry.” but she knew I did not really mean it and she said in her turn “You are not sorry.” I understood much better when I became parent myself, that it is very natural that host parents are anxious about the safety of anyone they looked after. How much she must have worried about me because I was so late coming home! Pat, first daughter and like my elder sister, made some excuses to protect me. I was thankful to her kindness.

It was Mr. Hancock who arranged my trip back home by boat when I still had almost 6 months before my departure. Thanks to his appropriate judgments and instructions, including the way of money transfer, the booking for my sea voyage back home was successfully done. The story about my sea voyage is written in another section.

Mr. and Mrs. Hancock in later years visited Japan together twice and I had a great pleasure in showing them Tokyo and accompanying them to Nikko and Kyoto. Again, I met them in France some years later, just after I married Asako. We lived in Strasbourg, eastern France, for my additional studies. They visited us on the way of their tour in Europe. Having changed a part of their itinerary, they took the train to Strasbourg from Basel instead of a cruise boat down the Rhine. We showed them some beautiful scenes of Strasbourg and Alsace. After having dinner at our home, they embarked on their cruise boat moored at a canal close to our apartment house.



Ted and Betty Hancock at Nijo Castle in Kyoto, 1966

In 1976, 3 years after our return from France to Japan, I visited Australia for the first time since my stay there. I brought Asako, our 2-year-old daughter and my mother. Mr. and Mrs. Hancock kindly let us stay at their house, full of reminiscences, for more than a week.

Both have already passed away but I still have contact with Ken Hancock, their first son, and Pat, the first daughter. In 2007 Ken and his daughter stayed at our house in Nara and, in the following year, I stayed at Ken's house in Sydney. It was on this occasion that I took part in an international conference held in Melbourne on sustainable building.

Pat came to Sydney to join a very pleasant dinner (photo), having arranged her schedule to synchronise with my visit.

It is so wonderful to have had such friendly relationships over 50 years to this day, which had started from our living together just like a family, but only for 2 months at that time.



Dinner at Ken and Rachael's house in Sydney 2008

Ken & Rachael Hancock: (right back, middle) ,

Pat Ellis (left front): the first daughter of the Hancock, Gay (left back): their niece and Dr. Barry Pearson (right front): the only remaining member of my host Rotary Club since 1962

3. School Life, difficult but I tried hard

I attended Hurstville Boys' High School. It seemed the reason was that the Head Master Mr. Ross Thomas was a member of Hurstville Rotary Club. The high school had 5 years system and I was enrolled in the 4th year. The reason was that the 5th year class was mainly to prepare for leaving certificate and they judged it would not suit me. Most classmates were 2 years younger and I had a feeling "Oh, together with such childish ones". The roll teacher was Mr. Bede Goodman, who was my English teacher as well.

My memories of school have become vague as anyone wants to forget hard experiences. When I reread my letters and diary, however, the painful feelings of the early stage my school life came back. I did not know how to behave myself, being unaware of the routines and how to communicate, and of course I could not understand the English spoken by the teachers in class. It seemed I was in a daze. In my letters to parents, I often wrote "hard and painful". I was happy, however, that there was always no class on Saturday.

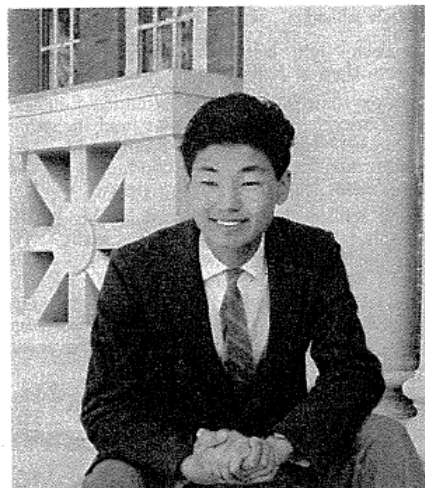


The easiness and difficulty of the class depended on subjects. I had few problems in science and mathematics as soon as I was accustomed to English explanations but the biggest problem was English as I had expected. I suffered especially from the classics. I could hardly follow the lessons of dramas of Shakespeare and poems in old styles. In the English exams of the first trimester, despite the favourable permission of English-Japanese and Japanese-English dictionaries to use, the result was a miserable one.

While I was at the top of my home high school, I suddenly felt like I had become a poor grade student, which worried me a lot. I believe I somehow managed to overcome that frustration making it as a leverage. I could only compete with my colleagues in the spelling test. Since a printed matter was delivered beforehand, with enough preparations, I could do it well enough.

There was once a very pleasant happening in English class. Mr. Goodman asked the class what was the specific word to mean “a method to give death without pain” but nobody knew it. I recalled the equivalent in Japanese and quickly looked for “*anrakushi*” in my Japanese-English dictionary. The teacher, having noticed it and after waiting for a while, asked me “Hama, have you found it?”. I answered with unreliable pronunciation, “*euthanasia*?”. Then, he said “Right!” with a big smile. The whole class roared. It was a rare case where a foreigner had an advantage in English.

Among the subjects I took, I most enjoyed technical drawing. This subject had the background that this high school was established as a technical school. All the students were to choose one of the 4 subjects related to vocation; economics, wood work, metal work and technical drawing. At the beginning, they judged these practical subjects would be too difficult and I was obliged to take economics but I had little interest in it. I asked to change it claiming “I am not gifted to economics but more interested in technical drawing.”. While the classmates had taken this subject since 1st year, the practice was not difficult for me despite having started half way. I tackled many drawing exercises, one after another including the ones of precedent years, not only in the school drawing room but also at home. As I submitted my drawing works to the drawing teachers, they scored each one. I often got the mark of 95 which was practically the highest. In the final examination, I got the highest score in the 4th year, which was to discover my talent or latent capacity in this field. When I was about to leave school, I was given a set of German-made drawing instruments I had borrowed from school “as a token” from Mr. Cross, my tech drawing teacher. It must have been a special award for me.



Keisuke Hama — Visitor from Japan

MY SIX MONTHS IN AUSTRALIA

One very fine day of the New Year I was presented with the most magnificent message that I was ever given. That is, I received an overseas air-mail letter which invited me to come to Australia as an exchange student. I was really beside myself with happiness.

Five weeks later, I left Japan full of hope. Arriving at Sydney, I was rather bewildered by so many people who welcomed me in a strange and completely different language.

For the first few weeks I was quite excited at the different way of life, which I experienced by staying with a Rotarian and his family, who showed me many exotic sights.

Soon I started school, where I also found things rather strange. For instance, it was hard for me to understand that we could not be in our classroom at playtime, lunch-time and even before school; also we must enter a room in lines led by a teacher.

Another thing which surprised me was borrowing all the text books from the school, for, in my country, we have to buy them ourselves.

One custom which may make me lazy, was that there was no school on Saturdays. This was unusual, as in Japan, we go to school six days a week. In one respect I am lucky compared to my Japanese friends, as in Australia, pupils are not duty-bound to clean up the rooms after school.

The real reason that I came to this country was not only to study in a foreign country, but to make friends with you, that is, to promote goodwill and understanding between Australia and Japan and finally to bring peace to all the world. This is very important. I realise my duty and have been trying to achieve this purpose. I believe this exchange project will fulfill something helpful to world peace.

—KEISUKE HAMA, 4B.

HURSTVILLE BOYS' HIGH

Contribution to School Magazine

Australia is a sporting country. Besides the class of physical education, every Wednesday afternoon was allocated to sports. Instead, there is no sport as “school club activities”. The students are to select a sport, one for summer and another for winter, of their preference and grouped according to skill levels. I chose basketball in summer trimester. We had matches with other high schools. My team mates were far more enthusiastic when we went to coeducational schools. For winter I chose tennis. I first experienced the authentic tennis in Australia and, after having played it in university and in companies, I have continued it to this day.

“School Cadet” means a kind of military training given to those who wished to join or the participating students. It was probably once a month that they came to school in khaki military uniforms, with wide-brimmed hats and military boots. The day coincided with the morning assembly held in the courtyard. They marched with rifles on shoulders and held a flag-raising ceremony. All the students around me turned to the hoisted national flag, placing right hands on their chests, and matching the order, said together “I honour my God, I salute my Flag, I serve my Queen.”. I had never experienced this kind of ceremony and it seemed to be a part of education that fosters loyalty to the Commonwealth. Since I have no reason to pledge allegiance to Australia or the Queen, I simply faced the flag, for not being rude, and I neither placed my hand to the chest nor said anything together. I stayed, how to say, uncomfortable with the possible accusing glances.

I also experienced supplementary lessons. Mr. Roy Reidy was the English Master who looked after me in various aspects, considering my English improvement. He invited me to his supplementary lessons of English which were meant for the 5th year students preparing for their Leaving Certificates. Once a week after normal class, we moved to the newly built library and there we worked on English exercises with the materials he offered. I no longer remember their contents but his lessons must have worked as a good training for my English.

I sat for my final examinations of English without my dictionary. I got the mark of 29 as the result of my great efforts. Yet, my place was not really the bottom. In the exam of world history, submitted as a thesis-style attempt, I was successful obtaining 61 points. In all subjects combined, I got the best mark of the 4th year and some of my classmates rumoured “Kei will be the Dux.”. As the result, however, I missed this honourable title because, I was told, I was a visitor and not a permanent student. I accepted it rather because I failed in English. (Reference Material No.20)

The followings are other memories of mine to be described.

- 1) School Uniform: Light blue blazer and grey trousers, sky blue shirts and blue-yellow striped tie. No school hat. On the chest pocket of blazer, was a sewn school emblem with the school motto “Thought Courage Success” in yellow thread.
- 2) Lending of teaching materials: The textbooks were not to be bought, but lent. At the end of the year, they were returned to school. With paper covers on, they were treated carefully because they are reused by the following year students. It was not allowed to write anything on the book but this system saved resources and money. Most of the materials for technical drawing were lent out too: drawing boards, T squares, compasses and so on. I have no memory of having bought my basketball uniforms

either.

- 3) Physical Punishments: As punishment, caning (whiplash) took place on those who violated the school rules. Encountering the incident, I was a bit scared to look. The student receiving punishment stretches one of his arm and hand horizontally and the teacher swings down a cane, a thin rod made of rattan, to whip the fingertips. As the cane was light and thin, this could give no wound but a sharp pain would run for a moment
- 4) Cleaning class rooms: While we took turns to clean the class room in Japan, there were no such duties in the school I attended. I remember I was at ease being freed from it.
- 5) Lunch at school: I brought sandwiches and a fruit prepared by my host mothers. Sometimes I bought sandwiches or a meat pie at a stand called “tuck shop”. As for drinks, according to my letters, I bought a paper packed milk or others.
- 6) School Dance: There was a dance party for the 4th and 5th year students. I did not participate because, as it happened, the date coincided with a Rotary event. What would have happened if I was supposed to participate without a girlfriend? On the contrary, being asked by two girls of the Japanese Exchange students to be the partner, I went to their school dances twice.
- 7) Visiting other schools: On the topic of visiting other schools, I participated a class besides sport matches. My role was not a student but like a guest to the class. In Fort Street High School, Japanese was taught, which was a rare case at that time. I was invited by Mr. Derek Dalgleish, the teacher in charge, to help his Japanese class. This school is proud and famous to have the oldest history in Sydney, established in 1849. I heard that, after the War, Mr. Dalgleish stationed in Kure, Hiroshima prefecture, as a member of the occupying forces and learned Japanese. The total number of students who chose Japanese was about 30. The boys who tried hard to talk to me in Japanese were cute. The lesson was not only language but also included *Shodo*, Japanese calligraphy. They practiced, using brushes, writing *Kanji* and *Kana* with black ink rubbed out from a piece of *Sumi*. I was a little embarrassed to find myself in a position to show a model of calligraphy that I was not so good at. On a later day, responding to the teacher’s request, I brought to the class a certain number of Japanese textbooks used in primary school which I asked my friends to collect and send.

The correspondence with Mr. Dalgleish continued for a long time after my return to Japan. In 1976, when I went back to Australia with my family, he invited us to his house. On my second return to Sydney with my first daughter, he showed me around new spots in the city. On the third in 2004, he was already in a nursing home. We talked on the phone but could no longer meet.

Now, with my 10 months attendance at school having finished, the time of farewell finally approached. Strangely, the ceremony of school year end was called “Speech Night”. It was held on the 10th December and during the ceremony, greetings and speeches were delivered and award presentation took place. While most of the classmates were dressed in suits for the occasion, I, being unaware of the custom, was in school

uniform. To the students who got the best scores in year and in each subject were given prizes of books which each one had chosen beforehand. As the time approached, a wagon like a mobile library came to the school, and the prize winners were free to choose the books they wanted.

During the ceremony, I was specially introduced to the audience as a Rotary Exchange student and given an opportunity to give a speech. I talked of the reasons why I came to Australia, the importance of peace and international goodwill and so forth without manuscript. By that time, I had become quite fluent in English. Having concluded my speech with some words of thanks and farewell, there arose an enormous applause and I was moved myself. I cannot forget the words of praise “Marvellous, marvellous!” said by Mr. Everrit, my 4th host who accompanied me to the ceremony. I was glad Carol, my host sister, was also there.

Less than a year of my school life left me with some valuable assets. These included practical English proficiency, skills in technical drawing, a remarkably increased social responsiveness, and others.

Mr. Roy Reidy, English Master, since my return home until recent years, continued to send me letters with beautiful hand writing. Every time I went back to Australia, for 4 times in total, I paid him visits either at his school or his house.

In 1989, when I made my second return to Australia with my first daughter, I visited Hurstville Boys’ High with her to meet Mr. Bede Goodman, my old roll teacher, who had been back to the school as the Head Master. This information was given to me by Mr. Reidy. Our communication restarted by this meeting and has continued till today. The classmate with whom I still have contact is only Ron Langley, who attended school from the same area, Blakehurst.



Having met Mr. Goodman after 27 years
at Hurstville Boys’ High in 1989

Mr. Reidy, now 99 years old, has been in a nursing home due to his physical decline. I have learned he still remembers me and asks his son “How is Kei going?”. With the deterioration of his eyesight, I can no longer receive his artistic hand-written letters, but his son Trevor kindly helps our communication through emails and we can tell each other how we are, to which I am very grateful.

The contributions from Mr. Reidy and Mr. Goodman are included in Chapter 2.

4. Rotary related Events

The Rotary Club which accepted me was that of Hurstville in District 275. Mr. John Crawford was the President. He was a dentist and, I thought, quite young for the position.

The first Rotary meeting I attended was 9 days after my arrival. I was worried about how to dress myself because I was to wear a suit and a tie but I had no suit for summer and it was mid-summer. I must have made a brief speech in unfamiliar English but I no longer remember what I said. I was presented with a magnificent book introducing Australia as a souvenir. It contained a lot of colour photographs and in the middle of the front page was marked an inscription "Presented to Keisuke Hama from the Rotary Club of Hurstville" with decorative letters surrounded by all the members' signatures. (I still have this book.) A tennis racket was also given to me. The photo on the right was taken with Alan



Davidson, famous cricketer, who was the speaker of that meeting. The suit I wore had been borrowed from my elder brother.

The first big event of the Rotary was the District Conference. We were invited to the session where all the exchange students were introduced. We were requested to wear "National costumes" if available and the Japanese girls wore Kimonos. As I had none of this kind, I was dressed in my Japanese school uniform. The only exchange student who was not Japanese was Rita Bhandari from India. In the evening, I changed my uniform to a suit and we moved to a theatre to enjoy a musical "Oliver" It was my first experience to watch a musical. There I was introduced to a Rotarian who had only a thumb and little finger on his right hand and I shook hands with him. I was so upset and I was not courageous enough to ask why. He could have lost his three fingers during the war. I still feel worried about it.



From left, Hama, Tachibana, Takeshita and Mivamoto at the Rotary Ball

The Annual Rotary Ball was a very big event in the year. All the Rotary exchange students except Miss Kojima met there again. This ball was the social debut for the boys

and girls at proper age of the Rotarians. I had absolutely no experience with social dance. I was given special dancing lessons at home from my host mother Rita Hayes. I somehow managed to dance with Rotary ladies at the Ball. The men's costume was supposed to be a tuxedo coat but I had no other choice but wore the dark suit I had and a bow tie borrowed from Ron, my host father.

In the middle of the Ball, there was a ceremony where all the exchange students were received, one by one, by the former Governor of New South Wales who was a guest at the Ball. The Governor is a special officer like a nominal ruler appointed by the British Queen to govern the state as her representative.

Accompanied with drumming sounds, each of us proceeded on a strip of red carpet up to the former Governor standing at the end. Then each one was introduced and shook hands with him. I recall this scene with a great interest because it was somewhat like a ceremony where an ancient king granted an audience with ministers who came from remote countries.

After coming back home at almost midnight, I was surprised to see my figure in a large mirror. I was, just a few months before, in a black school uniform with crew-cut hair and now I am well dressed in a dark suit and a snow-white shirt with a bow tie and my hair smartly arranged. Looking at myself I was moved by these features which made me look like a perfect gentleman.

Another memory of the Rotary events was an outdoor barbecue party. It was probably held by Hurstville Rotary alone but Rita Bhandari, the exchange student from India, was also invited. The way was typically Australian but she did not take any meat at all. I felt sorry for her although the difference of cultures should be respected. They held a car racing game in the same event. Some poles were planted on a sloped land to form gates and each participant ran his car zigzag between the poles, just like a ski slalom, to compete for the shortest time. This kind of dangerous game was unthinkable in Japan but this could have been also an Australian way of having fun.

There was an invitation from another Club. South Sydney Rotary Club invited Yoshimi Takeshita and me. I made a short speech about myself, the objectives of Youth Exchange Project, and my role as a Youth Exchange Student. We were presented with a half-dozen set of glasses with the Rotary emblem and the Club's name. When I have beer with one of these, it reminds me of this occasion.

I visited regular Rotary meetings several times to report how I was doing. The last big event was the Christmas party but I have only an awkward memory about it. The day happened to be the same as the speech night of my high school and so I practically could not join the party. I arrived very late at the place but I was not allowed to go inside to the party room. Judging from the circumstances and the excuses, any non-adult was deemed inappropriate to participate. (I should not have been in school uniform!) I could neither join nor go home and was miserably obliged to wait in a different room until the party was over. Mr. Scott, my host father and the President, and Mrs. Scott apologized me saying "It was our fault for such a sequence of events." but my heart was never consoled and it left me with an unpleasant feeling.

The last meeting of the year was an occasion for Gary Andreasen to report on his

stay in India and for me to express my thanks and to say good bye.

I have visited my host Club twice after my departure. In 1976, on my first return to Australia, I attended a meeting as a speaker accompanied by my wife. The theme of my speech was the comparison of women's social status in both countries. I am not proud of the content because it was prepared without much time and knowledge. There were still a lot of old acquaintances and I really enjoyed seeing them again being full of pleasant nostalgia.

In 2004, on my third return, I attended again a meeting of the Club with Mayumi, my second daughter. I was given an opportunity to briefly report my career since my stay there. This arrangement was done by Dr Barry Pearson who was the only remaining member of the Club since 1962. He was a medical doctor who gave me preventive injections necessary to travel through South East Asian countries on my way back home. In the course of the same trip, I visited Newcastle on the way to Sydney to see Dr John Crawford, the president of Hurstville RC in 1961-62. We shared our joy of meeting again since 1976 and enjoyed a dinner together with his wife Jean and Mayumi. Despite his advanced age, he remembered things of those days very well and I was grateful for it.

5. Daily Leisure Time

Here I describe, just as I recall, how I passed my leisure time on weekends or holidays where there was no school.

- 1) Drive: For about 2 weeks after my arrival, I was taken to many places in a pickup truck driven by Allan Andreasen, the first son of the host family and a university student. The destinations were Sydney central area and Palm Beach up north, and as far as Wollongong down south. As there was no car in my house in Japan, I was happy with just to go out in car and I enjoyed very much the pleasure of a "drive" which showed me various views of a country, yet unknown to me.
- 2) Outing, Shopping: After I got accustomed to the new life, I sometimes went to the City for shopping and other purposes. The City of Sydney designates, equally in case of London, a very small zone in the central Sydney and the other areas around it do not officially use Sydney as their names of location. For going to the City, I took a bus to Hurstville railway station and caught a train from there for half an hour. Approaching the City, trains went underground and ran along a circular line and again took the track back to suburban areas.



Sydney views in 1962: (from left) Harbour with Opera House under construction and only one skyscraper, George Street, and Kings Cross, today's red-light district, with traces of the 19th century

Sydney was the European style city I saw for the first time. There were a lot of buildings with heavy façades standing on orderly plots, a park in the middle of city, the clock tower of the Town Hall, and the Cathedral. The landscape of the harbour was also impressive. Sydney Harbour Bridge, the symbol of Sydney, not only connected the north and the south, but stood like a gateway across a deep bay. I sometimes saw an ocean liner moored to the quay. Sydney Opera House was under construction and only the bottom part was observed.

If I ever did shopping, it was mostly for buying books at Angus and Robertson, a big library shop. The main purpose of going to the City was town watching. Walking around various places in the City, I was interested in everything in my vision. It seems that this walking around became a part of the background for my majoring town planning in a later year. I sometimes bought such street food as sandwiches or fish and chips for lunch.

- 3) Writing letters: As the only way to communicate with friends and family was writing letters, I wrote a letter practically every day. A letter in envelope costed 1 shilling 6 pence (60 yen) and an aerogramme 10 pence. Postage was one of the main uses of my pocket money. Thinking back today, writing letters often gave me a great benefit. Regardless of the contents, it was a good training for me to acquire a capacity to express the facts and thoughts in sentences. Writing letters meant also good occasions to recall *kanji* (Chinese characters). As I did not bring a Japanese dictionary, Japanese English dictionary was useful to look for *kanji*. I wrote to my parents more than 70 letters and they are now in my hand.

Receiving mail was one of the biggest pleasures in my daily life. The days of delivery were almost fixed according to the flight, 3 times a week. If I were in Japan, I would never write or receive so many letters. It seemed a privilege for me, an international student, to receive letters from girls with whom I had scarcely talked.

- 4) Photography: I first began in Australia to take pictures carrying a camera. My elder brother lent me his camera and I took pictures mainly in black and white. By his recommendation, I took also a considerable number of colour slide photos. After I finished the roll film for colour slides, called Kodachrome, I rolled it back and sent it to the development laboratory in a small aluminium can with return tag. One week or two later, a set of mounted slides in a box was sent back to me. The cost of colour slides was very expensive, about 100yen for one slide, and it accounted for a good portion of the use of my pocket money.



- 5) Concert: Taken by Ken and Pat, elder son and daughter of the Hancock, I went to a concert held in the Sydney Town Hall. Having only heard symphonies on record or the radio, I was thrilled to hear it live by the orchestra for the first time. It was an unusual experience to take a seat behind the stage.

6. Travels on Holidays

- I made one two-night trip on a weekend and, 4 trips for a week or so on vacations.
- 1) **Orange:** On Easter holidays, I was invited by the next host, the Hancock family, for a trip to Orange which was located about 200km toward inland from Sydney. Outside this local town, Mr. Hancock had an apple orchard and entrusted the management to his sister and her husband, Mrs. Hancock's real brother. Late April, in just apple harvest season, I helped to pick apples. I stayed in a cottage-like house standing on a place looking down the orchard. Their first and second sons introduced me to rabbit hunting. I had my first experience at firing a rifle. Although I was not successful in shooting rabbits, the prey of the hunt, shot by these brothers, was served for dinner. As it was not in the city, there was no flush toilet. The toilet was in a cabin outside the house. In the cabin, there was a wooden seat with a hole for excretion and a steel bucket underneath. The filth must have been carried away somewhere. It was a precious experience learning how to live in the countryside.
 - 2) **Tuross Lake:** On a certain Friday afternoon, just after school, Mrs. Hays came to the school rear gate to pick me up. This meant to leave for a 2-night weekend trip as early as possible. The destination was their cottage on the Tuross Lake, about 250km south of Sydney. It was very late at night to arrive there. On the next day, we passed the time on the bay-like lake. A small sail boat ran smoothly on the calm water surface. I was amazed to see a boat run so fast only with wind power. Drawing a net in shallow water, we got a lot of shrimps. Boiled in a pot, they tasted salty and very good. We also brought a lot of them home.
 - 3) **Grafton:** This trip was an invitation by a Rotarian Mr. John Gilroy, with whom I had met, with my father, in a golf club in Miyazaki before my departure. Mr. Gilroy, having been in Sydney on business, came to the place where I stayed to pick me up and we headed for Grafton, 500km away, in his car along the East Coast. Having enjoyed the beautiful landscapes of the coast, we stayed a night in a motel, in separate rooms. On arrival in Grafton, I thought I would stay at his house but I was allocated a room of the small hotel he managed. It was well possible that the hotel was also his house. There was no introduction of his family and I ate alone in the hotel restaurant. The conversation was only with an artist staying in the same hotel and I was almost left alone. There was a young man who looked after me. Who was he? He took me around in his car and, in a stock farm, I enjoyed horse riding. For returning, I was put on an airplane and quickly came back to Sydney. It was a strange trip.
 - 4) **Canberra:** Late August, when Mrs. Hancock was to bring her mother for a trip to Canberra, I was invited to come with them in their car. Canberra is of course the capital of Australia, an artificially created city. The city looked vacant, with open spaces everywhere, and the parliament house was still the provisional one. The most memorable thing during my stay in Canberra was my visit to the War Museum. In the middle of front yard, a submarine was displayed. In the last war, the Japanese navy infiltrated it deep into Sydney Harbour but, being unsuccessful to attack enemy ships, it was sunk by suicide. Inside the building, I saw many relics of war displayed, probably collected in tropical jungles; Japanese flags, iron helmets, aluminium water bottles, and many others that evoked battles. I could read on a Japanese flag the

letters of *Buun-chokyu*, meaning “military luck for long and ever” and many manuscripts of names. According to my letter mentioning the impression of that time, I read “Congratulations for going to war, teacher Shimizu, from all students of the school” written on the flag. Wondering whether Mr. Shimizu safely went back home or died in desperate, this thought moved me to tears.

Before going to Australia, I had little recognition that Australia was one of the enemy countries in the Pacific War. Since Japan fought against the Allies, there must have been Australian troops within the British Commonwealth Forces, I had only the idea the enemy country was the United States of America. I knew well of Pearl Harbour but had no knowledge at all about the fact that the Japanese navy tried to attack the Australian battleships in Sydney Harbour.

- 5) **Melbourne:** My trip to Canberra continued to another one to Melbourne. Mrs. Hancock drove me to Yass from where I took a train to go to Melbourne alone. There was a quarantine station between the states of New South Wales and Victoria and I was informed oranges and pork meat were not allowed to cross the border for disease prevention. In fact, I saw several people put something in a box placed on the platform for disposal. My neighbour in the train advised me “You can eat up oranges.”. The landscapes from window were gentle and continental, for examples, bushes of gumtrees, stock fields, sheep, winding rivers and so on. They were, however, very monotonous. I fell asleep for an hour or two, but on awaking I was disappointed to see the same landscape as before.

I arrived in Melbourne in the late evening. Mr. Jim Reid, a relative of the Hancocks, came to the terminal, Spencer Street Station, to meet me. He took me to his house in Moreland, one of the northern suburbs. I was looked after by his wife Rita who offered food and others services during my stay. The house was single story and equipped with a fireplace where wood was being burnt, for a colder climate than that of Sydney. Probably because Melbourne was developed earlier than Sydney or the climate was similar, I felt there more British atmosphere than in Sydney. I thought the use of fireplace was a typical example. Mr. Reid was a Rotarian too and the president of Coburg Rotary Club of the area, to which he took me to attend a regular meeting.

I took trams to go to the central area. I walked around alone visiting many places; the former Parliament house and Collins Street for instance. I found Melbourne a beautiful city with history and dignity. Some people in Sydney, however, often say “In Melbourne, water and mud flow upside down.”, mocking the constant turbidity of Melbourne's Yarra River. In return, Melbourne people say “They have a nice little coat hanger.” to disgrace the Harbour Bridge. This seemed a way of expressing rivalry between two large cities representing Australia.

The way of return to Sydney was a long-distance bus “Pioneer” which ran along the coast line. It stopped at restaurants for meals. It did not run during the night and stopped at Eden for the driver and passengers to sleep. The accommodation was a shabby inn and I felt loneliness of journey in my room. Next day the bus continued the way up north. Since the bus route, “Princes Highway”, passed near my host's

house, I asked the driver to let me get off at a convenient spot nearby and my travel for 11 days, including that of Canberra, came to the end.

While I paid the costs for public transport (trains, trams and the high-way bus), everything else, including lodging, meals, and car travel, was courtesy of my host family and their relatives. I feel now again very grateful for their generosity.

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In 2008, after 46 years, I had a chance to visit Melbourne again. I participated in an International Conference on Sustainable Building (SB2008) for collecting information and making a presentation of my research. Utilising some spare time, I tried to visit the house where Mr. and Mrs. Reid lived, holding their old address for the clue and with a glimmer of hope that “Someone of their acquaintance might be living.” I finally found the place, I knew “I was there for sure.” The resident, replying to my inquiry however, said “Sorry, I don’t know the Reid family.” Too long a time had passed.

7. Hard Separation and New Departure

The 6th January 1963, it was the day of my departure for Japan, ending my stay for 11 months. In other words, this was the day when the ship I was to take for home was to leave Sydney Darling Harbour. The sea voyage for 4 weeks onward concluded my stay in Australia and it was full of fresh experiences worthy of opening a new door to my coming life.

The preparations were under way from 6 months before. The alternatives to go back home by ship, which I had in mind earlier, were screened out by the timing and the cost. The final choice, matched with the conditions, was a cargo and passenger ship, 7,500 tons, called Changsha of the China Navigation Company in Hong Kong. The route was to call Brisbane, Townsville, Manila, Hong Kong, Keelung (Taiwan) and Pusan (South Korea) on the way and to arrive at Kobe and Yokohama. The travel fare was 168 Australian pounds or 134 thousand Japanese yen. As I made this choice having asked my parents, I was fortunate that it was cheaper than flying.

My last host family, Wal and Olga Scott and Carol, their niece who lived with them, as well as Mr. and Mrs. England and Kikuo Miyamoto came to see me off to the ship moored to wharf. The departing time was initially in the early evening but the work of loading cargo was very delayed and it was postponed to midnight. As they could not



Navigation Chart (solid line) from the Leaflet

wait till then, we made cordial farewells and hugs on the wharf. With uncontrollable emotion, feeling so hard to be separate possibly forever, I miserably shed tears.

The departure took place round 12 o'clock at night. I was totally alone. A Chinese gong resounded and the hull left the quayside. I stood on deck and watched the departure. There was no one I knew around me. The ship passed slowly under the Harbour Bridge. The ship was covered by the huge steel structure overhead and the city lights were slowly passing away. Again, tears and tears. I had in mind a determination "I want to come back to see again the persons I loved. I will soon become a full-fledged man to earn enough money to do so."

The sea voyage was comfortable except for temporary seasickness. My cabin had 2 double-decker beds, to take 4 people, because this type was the cheapest choice in the first-class. By chance, as there was no other passenger to share, I could use it for myself without concern to others (the ship taking about 40 passengers or only half capacity). It was located on the left side near the stern and the pitching, movements in lengthwise direction, was felt like vertical movements. There were only 2 windows, small and round. When the sea became rough, a crew came in to close and fix them tight with metal fittings.

There was a wash basin in the cabin but the toilets and bathrooms with shower were for common use, equipped in individual booths. I was surprised to find the hot water for bathtub was salty, i.e., sea water. In a port I could not use it because the water was dirty. As for the shower, fresh water poured out, but it was very thin and only in a small quantity. I guessed each measure was for a strict saving of fresh water.

The first-class passengers were mostly Australians. I was the only Japanese and I did not see any other Asian passenger on board, excepting the case where a businessman like Chinese passenger embarked from Hong Kong. In fact, there was a third-class quarter in the hold, and it seemed that only Chinese were able to use it. As the third-class passengers were not allowed to go out on deck, there was no occasion to see them.

The captain and the senior officers were all Europeans, seemingly British, and the others, lower officers and crew members in charge of physical works, were all Chinese. I felt a similar schema, where the European powers once ruled Asian countries, strongly remained on board. I got familiar with a Chinese crewman, Lee Ting Wing. He said to me firmly "Chinese and Japanese have the same eye colour and face looks. War is no good. We are friends." I was ashamed of myself to be so ignorant of Japan-China war.

Every meal was served in the dining room located in the centre 3 times a day; breakfast, lunch and dinner. In addition, a pot or tea or a glass of fruit juice was delivered to cabin every morning. While we were allowed to be in the restaurant in casual wears for breakfast and lunch, the dress rule for dinner was for men to wear jacket and tie, which I followed. Fortunately, the restaurant was air-conditioned and so there was no inconvenience. On the contrary, I felt like I was treated as an adult. For lunch and dinner, a printed menu was placed at each seat. The cover was decorated with a Japanese wood cut print, different every time. Some menu cards are still in my hand and I can make sure that a course meal, with French descriptions mixed, was served every time. I never had wine nor beer, having no wish to do. I was a serious high school student. Coffee was served in the lounge as well.

It was comfortable to be on the ship and I had plenty of time. I was free to use the lounge with many easy chairs and the “writing room” which was like a study. Equipped with a heavy wooden counter desk, it was my favourite and ideal place to write letters and do studies. It was also there that I opened some Japanese textbooks and exercises, preparing for my return home.

Every time the ship called at a port, I landed to observe the things of each place. In this case, the ship was like a hotel which provided the guests with bedrooms and meals. In Brisbane, I walked around with a feeling like it was yet a continuation of homestay, but in Manila and Hong Kong, I had a thought that I had entered another world of totally different dimensions.

In Manila, I went for city sightseeing in a taxi together with an Australian missionary family who were on the way to South Korea. On the way of visiting touristic places, I saw slums for the first time in my life; with shabby hut-like houses and poor people. Comparing with beautiful urban landscapes and ample livings in Australia, I was shocked to know such an extreme divide existed. In the late evening, I was taken by another passenger to a dubious place where people enjoyed betting on a ball game called "Jai-alai" (pronounced *high-ally*). I had a glimpse into the adult world, watching the people play and drink alcohol in a smoky air of cigarettes.

Even in Hong Kong, it showed a totally different look from today. While I saw many multi-story buildings along the main streets and flourishing atmosphere, the hills behind were covered with huts in disorder built with poor materials, which looked like scabs on skin. I heard these were illegal settlements of the refugees who escaped from the communist domination over the mainland China.

These intense impressions that I had in Manila and Hong Kong seems to have become a background for joining the technical cooperation in Indonesia 25 years later.

While I was accumulating unusual visits and experiences, the ship gradually approached Japan. The port of call in Taiwan was Keelung, the external port for Taipei. On the hills across the bay, I saw many houses in Japanese style. I heard these were the houses where Japanese people lived in pre-war time. Here also, the missionary family took me in taxi to go to Taipei for sightseeing. The young man who guided us spoke fluent Japanese. This was a land that Japan ruled till the end of the Pacific War.

Having departed from Australia in mid-summer and gone across the equator, the climate became quite winter by the time the ship sailed up north across the East China Sea. I sent a telegram, radio telegraph in English, from the ship to my home for informing my arrival date and time at Kobe. For minimising the cost, I limited the content within 10 words including the address.



On board M.S. Changsha, at anchor in Hong Kong, North Point

At Pusan, the last port of call, the ship anchored off shore and we landed by a small boat. Although our stay on land was a short one, I felt I was approaching my home land as the townscapes and trams resembled to those of Japan. However, many Japanese fishing boats moored in the port symbolised the severe relationship between Japan and South Korea. Diplomatic relations were not yet restored and Korea had unilaterally set the so called “I Sung-Man Line”, a military and fishing boundary. These ships were captured by Korea for, they said, having violated this line for fishing and the Japanese fishermen were arrested and retained. I was aware beforehand of these incidents by radio and newspapers but, having observed the actual scenes, my feeling of resentment welled up.

After an overnight stay, the ship departed the next morning. Across the *Genkai-nada* or the Strait of Tsushima, it was soon Japan. I saw a land which seemed the western end of Honshu. The mountains covered with snow looked beautiful. I finally came back! A pilot came on board. I talked to him in Japanese, with a sentiment of nostalgia, but he was an abrupt man. There was no reason for him to understand my emotions. Approaching the *Kanmon* Strait, I could see well the scenes of towns. Trains were running. I heard also the horn sound. As soon as the ship passed through the straight and sailed into the *Suo-nada*, the dark sky became clear and the sunset was beautiful. If I could disembark at Moji port, my house would have been much closer but there was no such choice. The ship continued her navigation overnight through the Inland Sea. She finally anchored off shore the Port of Kobe in the morning of the 3rd February.

Now, my disembarking. Finishing immigration and custom procedures on board, and making farewells to the acquainted passengers and crews, I embarked on an open small boat with 3 suitcases and landed on the *Meriken* wharf. There, my mother, big brother and big sister were to welcome me. I hugged my mother with joy. Having heard my talk in Japanese, they said it sounded like translation from English and the accent was also strange. In fact, I had never hugged my mother before leaving for Australia. Mother and siblings were all surprised to see me, with my face very tanned and my behaviours and mood a lot changed.

After my passing in a foreign country for one year, almost without speaking Japanese, and finishing 4 weeks’ sea voyage across a quarter of the hemisphere, the cultural gap on my return home was a strange sentiment and an object of laughter as well, although they were only temporary.

Then, having passed 2 nights in Osaka and one night in Fukuoka at our relatives, mother and I returned Kobayashi on the 6th of February. There had passed exactly one year after my departure from my town full of expectations, and one month after my departure from the Darling Harbour in tears. There were so many people on the station platform, including my father and Rotarians, to welcome us. I felt like I made a triumphant return to my home town. I no longer remember what I talked with my father but I spoke in English with Mr. Boschmann, my tutor before going, to show how I had improved my English.

Thus, my long journey from my stay in Australia to home came to the end. These memories, however, were to remain for life as the objects to be recalled repeatedly and as a part of the resources to give influences to my life course.

8. Influences on my Course of Life

1) Course decided during my stay in Australia

Immediately after my coming back home in February 1963, I returned to my home senior high school. There was a possibility of graduating with evaluation of my school records in Australia but I chose to do another year in the lower class. If not, I would have little chance to be admitted to the university I wished to enter. Very soon, I became a 3rd year student and, during the year afterwards, I concentrated on the preparation for the entrance examinations to universities. As my parents sold their small company and went back to their hometown Fukuoka, I again was to live with another family, this time that of a good friend of my mother's.

I soon got accustomed to my situation with the former lower-class students. It seemed that I was considered as a special being but I could concentrate on study without having any harassing or unpleasant experiences. Today I am invited to the reunions of the younger class while friendly relationships continue on other occasions with my former classmates.

The university entrance examination means a provisional decision on vocational choice. While I was in Australia, I was often asked of my wish for the work to do in future. I made it a rule to answer "I would like to become a civil engineer." I saw the construction site of the Wakato-Ohashi (grand bridge of Wakato) when I was preparing for going to Australia. I was deeply inspired by the scene and I thought "This is really a men's work." While I was staying in Sydney, however, my idea gradually changed. The main cause was the Sydney Harbour Bridge which was a steel frame bridge with an enormous scale and the beauty at once. It had 8 lanes for motor vehicles and a double track of railways. As the Wakato-Ohashi had only 2 lanes at the beginning, I felt ashamed of it and wondered who would decide the number of lanes. As a result, I noticed the important role of "planning" to be done before infrastructure construction. Another experience of mine in Sydney was to observe the beautiful urban scenes, particularly the landscape of residential areas. I learned from these that the design of each building is important but the planning of total unity, including environmental, is even more important.

Then I had the information from Japan that a new department called "Urban Engineering" specialised in town planning would be created in the Faculty of Technology in Tokyo University 2 years later, in 1964. If I chose urban engineering, I would be able to study architecture, civil engineering and of course the general aspects of a whole city. Under such circumstances, my way forward was decided.

2) From Urban Engineering to Residential Area Planning and Housing Design

One year later I was successful to pass the examinations and fortunate to become a proud Tokyo University student. A professor of graphics and drawing asked the class members in the Faculty of Liberal Arts whether they had an experience of technical drawing in high school. I was proud to be the only one student who had it. There were many brilliant students in the class and I sometimes became unsure of my ability. I was, however, confident in English and technical drawing thanks to my experiences in Australia. As other foreign languages, I chose German and French. I probably wanted to have plural

windows to European cultures on the basis of English.

A year and a half later, I advanced to the Urban Engineering Department and took the city planning course as I wished. Traffic engineering was interesting but I found a greater interest in urban design which is related to the beauty of town-scape with more architectural elements. After graduation, I got a job in Japan Housing Corporation, a government owned company for public housing. My interest in housing was not as important as my expectation for the possibility to “design a city”. In the oral examination for employment, I was asked why I would be one year late to graduate with no delay in entering the university. I answered that, in my high school age, I spent a year in Australia as a Rotary Exchange student. Then, the rest of conversation continued to the end only on this topic.

The first task I tackled was to design housing estates, in other words, to draw out whole site plans for each housing project. On the land as large as 20 hectares I would layout the standardised housing blocks, roads, schools, parks, commercial facilities and so forth.

Three years after joining the company, I materialised my plan to go to France for the purpose of doing studies on the design principles of creating beautiful and comfortable urban spaces. Having continued preparation since I started to work, I passed the examination of that year for a scholarship of the French Government. I was to live in Strasbourg, on the German border, to study abroad again from the following year 1971 for 2 years. This time it gave me a chance to directly get in touch with the cultures of continental Europe.

After my return from France, I was more or less engaged with the task on the concept making and design of residential architecture and consequently my interest in housing deepened. The number of dwellings constructed with my license of the “1st Class Architect” amounts to several thousands. When the housing shortage was resolved and the living standard sufficiently increased in Japan, my ambition tended to a social contribution or a challenge in international cooperation in the third world countries. In my forties, from 1987 to 90, I was to be engaged voluntarily with the technical cooperation in the field of human settlement in Indonesia.

3) Overseas Technical Cooperation and Awareness to Environmental Problems

My living abroad for the third time had the objectives to teach something instead of studying, different from my former cases. My position was a long-term Expert of Japan International Cooperation Agency, JICA. The office was the Ministry of Public Works, Republic of Indonesia, to be precise the Directorate of Housing, Directorate General for Human Settlement. The location was in Jakarta, the capital, and the term of service was 2 years and a half. The main objectives were to transfer technical know-hows for improving residential condition, housing oriented urban redevelopment and multi-story housing construction technologies. The more essential objectives were to develop the human capacity of the relevant officers in these fields.

Here again the language was an important element as a communication tool. Many of the experts to be dispatched spent a lot of their time in preparatory training for special lessons of English but I could concentrate on Indonesian, the official language.

My English capacity made it possible thanks to what I gained during my stay in Australia. As a result, I was already capable to speak daily Indonesian upon my arrival.

Without doubt, the original reason for me to have jumped into this field is found in my experience that I was shocked to see the slums in Manila and Hong Kong on the way back home from Australia. On the other hand, while I was in Indonesia, a developing country located geographically in the middle of Japan and Australia, I had an image of standing under a splendid bridge spanned across connecting the two countries and enviously looking up at it. Their relationships had more and more developed and various exchanges continued deeper.

I would like to write here an episode that I was taught and awakened although I was sent to teach. Apart from the old times, the most of the used materials from demolished buildings are treated as wastes and it is rare to reuse them in Japan. I was amazed at the existence of markets for used building materials where they take out useful parts from neatly dismantled building, clean, sort and sell them at considerably cheaper prices. It is an efficient utilisation of resources and reducing wastes to reuse usable items instead of throwing them away. Without exaggeration, I was awakened to environmental problems by seeing the used material markets in Jakarta.

My interest in environmental problems started from resources and then I was to have deep worries about the issues of energy and global warming. Eight years after return from Indonesia, I took my third job at the Research Institute for Culture, Energy and Life of Osaka Gas Company, where I was engaged in practical researches on the harmony and coexistence of living and natural environment.

It is now recognised that the affluent Australian way of life I learned a long time ago is never ideal because it is supported by extravagant use of energy and resources. The cities, houses and way of living which I experienced in those days may be valuable as the negative examples opposed to sustainability. They include sprawled shape of cities, mobility depending on motor cars, large houses, meals based on meat and the utility system for hot water, cooking and space heating which are all run by electricity.

4) Asset in myself

Having retired now from my full-time work and recalling my professional career, I strongly feel the importance of the asset which was left to me by my stay in Australia for one year. It includes choice of academic and professional courses, discovery of my talent, English capability and acquiring sociability. The matter of language was not limited to English but I improved my Japanese capacity through writing so many letters in Australia and, in later years, resulted in learning other European languages based on English.

It is not only vocational but my attitude for living has been influenced. The concept “to enjoy one’s life” is apparently learnt by the Australian way of living.

“The international view point” is another aspect of my asset including other overseas experiences of mine. In other words, I acquired the capacity or custom to see one’s own country from outside, to approve the diversity of the world and to judge things from a wider field of vision. In general, they became the important elements for my view of life.

And above all, beautiful unforgettable memories were left in me for life. The friendships which have long lasted or renewed after a certain period are also my precious treasures.

5) Feedback to Society and my Gratitude

The favours given to me in Australia during my stay are immeasurable but I have not necessarily rendered them directly back to those who gave. Instead, I have thought that it is a true repayment to work for a better society through my vocational or social activities.

I believe my basic concept is to contribute towards “building a sustainable society”. My last work is to pursue the harmony of our living environment with nature and to leave them in a good shape. We should not let our future generations fall into difficulties while we enjoy our daily living. I would like to continue my own practices and researches and to share the findings with others.

Recalling the various experiences which I had in Australia and my way of life thereafter, I acknowledge once again the importance of the influence on me given from the Youth Exchange which took place 50 years ago. I owe so much as I could never sufficiently express my gratitude to the existence of this Program, the efforts of the relevant Rotarians, the kindness of my host families and the supports of my teachers, my parents and family.

I thank them sincerely from all my heart.

Chapter 2

Contributions from Old Australian Friends and RI Youth Exchange Officers



Our cross-nation friendship since Rotary Exchange 1962

Wyverne Smith (née Jarratt)

I have Japanese friends whom I love very much. I visit Japan quite often and although there are times when I don't quite know what to do, I feel at home in the Japanese culture. I even have a beginner's knowledge of the Japanese language (on a par with a five-year old, I am told). For these gifts I am grateful to the Rotary Exchange Programme, and in particular the 1962 exchange with Japanese students.

In 1962, I was the seventeen-year-old daughter of an Australian Rotarian (Lew Jarratt). I had very little knowledge or understanding of the Japanese people. Probably, foremost in my mind was the Second World War. My father had fought in the war and John, the cousin of my mother (Margaret Jarratt), died in Borneo, sadly after the end of the war, when Japanese soldiers in the jungle did not know the war had finished. Every Anzac Day, I would march in the parade and put flowers on the war memorial. My parents bore no grudges against the Japanese people, and my father was prominent in the Rotary endeavour to work for world peace through this exchange programme for the youth of both countries. My family waited eagerly for our student to arrive. Toshiko Kojima was to stay with our family first, so we met her at Sydney Airport.

It was all such a novelty for us. Toshiko spoke limited English and found many of our customs strange. We spoke no Japanese at all. Of course, she was extremely polite and anxious to please us and we were keen to make her welcome. I remember demonstrating how to have a bath in a western style. Toshiko and I shared a bedroom and gradually we became close friends. What I feel guilty about now is my ignorance at the time. We were keen to show her Aussie ways and to teach her how to speak English our way. I don't remember giving much thought to learning about Japan. I think I learnt how to say "hello" in Japanese, but that was all. I learnt two other foreign languages at school, so I am amazed that I didn't try to learn Japanese as well. In the year 2000, I went to Japan for the first time and found it all so different that I felt as though I was in another world. I wondered why I hadn't asked more questions of Toshiko, when I had the chance in 1962.

Toshiko did her best to share Japanese culture with us. She told us about her family and her country and she had brought photos and gifts. One day, she cooked us a Japanese meal, but I remember that we didn't really like the food. At that time, Australians ate English food – the post-war migrants had not had much effect on our diet yet. I know now that it would have been extremely difficult for Toshiko to make a Japanese meal – in those days it would have been impossible to buy the ingredients and we had no Japanese utensils. Of course, we could not use chopsticks. I think in 1962, the learning was mostly one way. We expected Toshiko to do all the learning and for that I feel ashamed. It was not until much later when going to Japan for the

first time, that I was the one in a strange culture and doing all the learning. Toshiko taught me how to have a bath Japanese style and how to behave correctly at an onsen (hot spring). Toshiko is still teaching me Japanese manners and is guiding my learning of the Japanese language (日本語) .

However, in spite of my lack of such learning in 1962, what I see as the most important aspect of the student exchange has happened. The most amazing friendships have been formed. What we found was that our nationality and race made no difference. Under the surface differences, we were the same. Toshiko and I are truly sisters. We understand and accept each other. When in Japan, I feel utterly accepted, loved and safe. As an adult I am excited to learn Japanese history and culture. We bow together at the temples. We cried together at the Nagasaki War Museum and Memorial. We have a mutual understanding of the history of our countries. I enjoy my times in the remote mountain village, Nakatsue, where Toshiko lives with her husband, Kiyoshi. We also had two opportunities to include our husbands in holidays together – once in Japan and once in Australia.

In 1962, We had some contact with the other students who lived in Sydney (a 2-hour drive away). My family took Toshiko to Sydney several times. My best memory is that of Keisuke Hama's eighteenth birthday party. All of the Japanese students were there, but Keisuke and I particularly enjoyed each other's company, and today we have a strong friendship. I should include a little story here.

I had no contact with Keisuke from the time he left Australia until 1997, when my daughter Alison toured Japan with the Queensland Youth Orchestra. He attended the Fukuoka concert with Toshiko. Keisuke met Alison and gave her a letter to give to me, and so we renewed our friendship. I have visited him and his family in Nara a number of times. Keisuke has been a wonderful tour guide to me, and also to my husband and another Australian friend. Keisuke is a great friend - we also share a deep concern for the global environment.

As far as Japanese-Australian relationships are concerned, I think the purpose of the Rotary International Youth Exchange Programme to promote peace has been achieved. I cannot think of any better way to keep countries at peace than through the promotion of life-long, individual cross-nation friendships amongst people. Toshiko and I are grateful for our friendship and as we grow older, through the medium of email, we remind each other of our blessings.

Kazuyo at Bossley Park with the Pollard Family

David Pollard

As background to a few recollections of Kazuyo's stay with our family during her visit to Australia way back in 1962, I would first like to set the scene regarding the various members of our family and the place in which we lived during that time.

My mother Phyllis, or Phyl as she was usually known, was of pioneering New Zealand country stock, her great grandfather having arrived there from England with his family around 1840. She was raised on a sheep and dairy farm on the north island of New Zealand, and after training and working as a nurse had travelled to England in the 1930s, where she again worked as a nurse and later at hotels in London and elsewhere in the UK, before returning to Australia where she met and married my father.



My father John, or Jack as he was usually known, was born in Melbourne, where his parents' families had settled from England and Ireland in the 1830s. He left school relatively early and became a businessman, and during the 1940s was the managing director of an import and export company in Sydney. He travelled extensively around various parts of the world on business from around the mid 1940s, until the family settled down at Bossley Park in Sydney's semi-rural outer fringe in the early 1950s.

In 1962 my two younger sisters, Jann and Toni, were at that time respectively a nurse (-following in my mother's footsteps) and a student studying for an Arts degree at the University of Sydney. And I was in my final Honours year of a Science degree at the same university, studying biology.

Having lived throughout the 1940s in the south-eastern suburbs of Sydney, by the early 1950s our parents had decided to get us all a bit closer to nature and a healthier semi-rural lifestyle, so they bought a produce and general/grocery store at Bossley Park in Sydney's outer western "Green Belt" area in 1953. It was in the capacity of manager of this business that my father became a member of the local branch of Rotary International.

Out here in Sydney's "Green Belt", the minimum size of a block of land was usually two hectares, and most of our customers and neighbours were small-scale chicken farmers or market gardeners – mostly post-war migrants from Italy and other parts of southern and central Europe. Although our block was only one hectare in extent, at one time or another during the 1950s we kept chickens, ducks, a few turkeys, several sheep, a goat, a cow, dogs and cats, and a couple of horses. While we were still at school, us kids had the daily job of feeding and watering all of these farm animals, collecting the eggs, and milking the cow and the goat. The horses were mainly ridden by our Dad (who had been an army reserve cavalry officer between the wars in the then equivalent of the "Light

Horse” regiment in Victoria) and also our Mum (who, as a farm girl, had ridden her own horse to and from school); and the sheep were shorn once a year by a visiting itinerant shearer. The eggs and milk we produced were mainly used by the family, but also sometimes traded for vegetables and fruit from some of our market gardening neighbours. Some of the milk was churned into butter by our Mum; and it was my job to chop the heads off and clean the no-longer laying chickens and ducks for food, and also the annual Christmas turkey. These headless birds were then plunged into boiling water in our Mum’s wood-fired laundry copper to soften the feathers before being plucked, and their down was saved for stuffing pillows. So, we weren’t exactly full-time farmers, but we did learn quite a lot about the realities of rural life out there on Sydney’s semi-rural fringe.

By the early 1960s, however, the three of us kids were either working (in the case of Jann), or studying (in the case of Toni and myself), and our parents were fully occupied with running the business at our “Bossley Park Stores”. The half hectare back paddock of our block was by this time leased to an Italian market gardener neighbour as a farm field to grow tomatoes and beans.

As a schoolgirl, Jann had already spent some time overseas with our New Zealand relatives, and Toni was in the United States at the time Kazuyo stayed with us, on an AFS student exchange scholarship, staying with a family in Omaha, Nebraska, from mid 1962 to mid 1963. So our parents decided to invite an exchange student from Japan to stay with the family for three months on a Rotary scholarship in 1962. It was thus that, when Kazuyo came to visit Australia that year, she stayed with us at our home in Bossley Park.

No doubt Kazuyo will describe her own experiences and adventures during her time here in Australia, including her stay with us at Bossley Park, in more detail in her own account in this volume. However, as far as we could ascertain at the time, she greatly enjoyed her first stay here in this country together with our family, and we have kept in regular contact ever since. I would imagine that the semi-rural family lifestyle there at Bossley Park, and no doubt also the food, was probably quite different from what she had been used to back in Japan, and although she was learning English at high school back home, the rather broad Australian accent of many of the people here at that time may have been a problem for her. But nonetheless we all got on very well, and after a while I don’t think that conversation was at all a problem to her. She attended the local high school in the nearby suburb of Fairfield, where the three of us had been students, and her main interactions at our home during the week were mostly with our parents, but also with Jann and myself on the weekends (-I had a small flat in the city near the university where I mainly stayed during the week, and Jann spent most of her week in the nurses’ quarters at the hospital where she worked). By the time Toni returned from the USA, Kazuyo was then staying with another family nearby, but we still caught up with her for various social and family occasions and outings.

My two sisters remember several occasions when Kazuyo demonstrated various Japanese cultural arts and skills to them, such as how to dress up in the traditional formal Japanese women’s kimono and obi, and how to make paper origami birds, etc. She already showed herself to be very artistic while here in Australia, and later perfected the art of watercolour painting back in Japan, which she still continues. I too remember attending various social events, including some associated with Rotary, together with her and other members of the family, and also once taking her to a formal ball

- I think it was at the Trocadero ballroom in the city, from which she still has a very nice photo of the two of us smiling there together.

Kazuyo has kept up her English language and has since gone on to become involved with various international friendship organisations, in relation to which she has travelled widely throughout the world, including several trips back to Australia. On one of her trips back here she came with her sister and three of their children, and they all stayed with us at our home here in Balmain, an inner western suburb of Sydney. On another trip she visited with her husband Kenji, and on her most recent trip she had an exhibition of her Bokusaiga paintings at a prominent art gallery in the city of Sydney.

And of course we hope that we will see her back here for further exhibitions of her art works in the future (-her Christmas cards to us each year are always of one of her beautiful watercolour paintings, usually of something from nature). And maybe one day I will also get the opportunity to visit her over there in Japan at her home in Fukuoka.

David Pollard Sydney, Australia

The First International Exchange Student to Hurstville Boys' High School

Dear Readers,

It was on an occasional day in February 1962, when a Sydney school, Hurstville Boys' High School, had its first visit from Keisuke Hama. He was one of the first students in the Rotary Youth Exchange Scheme between Japan and Australia. His stay lasted just 10 months but left an indelible impact to this day.

Being one of the few schools chosen to host a Japanese Rotary exchange student, Hurstville Boys' High School's status in the community increased, but more importantly, prompted the school to change its attitude, from an insular one to that of a school with a broader international outlook. This also led the school to become a centre for teaching foreign languages.

The arrival of a foreign student to a Sydney school 50 years ago, was of great importance in overcoming prejudice, bias and racial vilification and discrimination, that lingered on from previous historical events.

Unfortunately, Kei had to endure some anti-Japanese sentiment in the early days. This must have been a daunting and frightening experience for a young man in a strange new country. Fortunately, Kei's character and personality soon overcame these attitudes.

Similarly, Kei made several visits to other Sydney schools, mostly Fort Street High, where the Japanese language was taught. This further enhanced Kei's acceptance, and that of Japan and its culture.

Please forgive my fading memory, but at 99 years old I still remember several items of importance to me and Kei. On some mornings, in order to protect him from insensitive derogatory anti-Japanese comments, from some of the students, I remember walking with Kei from the train station to school. Although only a small thing, it was worthwhile in my view, in that it formed the foundation of an enduring friendship.

Another memory of mine is that of his extraordinary skill in technical drawing. His work was so brilliant that his teachers were awe struck as they surveyed his work.

I also remember the Friday afternoon sessions. I encouraged 4th and 5th year students (students in the last two years of high school) to stay behind on Friday afternoon for additional English tuition. I provided all the resources at my own expense, but these classes not only increased the general tone of the school, but increased the students' diligence, and work ethic. Kei was a regular participant.

But perhaps my most important memory is the enduring friendship that has transcended the passing years. I remember following his remarkable career, our regular correspondence, and of course his visits to my home. I remember a special person, who I am privileged to know.

And all this would not have been possible without the Rotary Youth Exchange Programme.

Roy B. Reidy
OAM BEM BA Dip Ed MACE

Rotary Youth Exchange - from Japan in 1962 and what I think of the program today

From - **Bede Goodman**

As a teacher in his 5th year of teaching in 1962, I was told that I would be having a Japanese student in my English Class. The Principal of Hurstville Boys High was Mr. Ross Thomas, and the English Master was Mr. Roy Reidy. Mr. Reidy had decided that I would be the teacher within his department to teach this new student. As well as being his English teacher, I was also what was known as the ROLL TEACHER for the Class 4B. The Roll Teacher was responsible for checking the class roll: - for attendance, leave, and notes explaining any absences or sickness.

What would this Japanese student be like? I had no previous contact with any Japanese, and had no idea how well I would be able to communicate with **Keisuke HAMA**.

Keisuke proved to be a hard-working, interested - and interesting - member of the class. I cannot recall any major difficulties in communication and his enthusiastic participation in most school activities, including sports, made him an asset to the School.

His presence in the class posed no problems, as I recall - and this must be so, as contact has been maintained over the years between Keisuke and members of the School Staff of the time, and several of his classmates. Keisuke's memories of his time at Hurstville Boys' High must be pleasant, for, on one of his visits to Australia he arranged to visit the School and bring his daughter Megumi to see the Australian High School where he had attended for a year. It was with great pleasure that the School welcomed Keisuke and Megumi in 1989. This visit was a great personal pleasure to me, as I had returned to HBHS as Principal in 1988, after several years teaching in other schools within New South Wales.

In Australia at the time (1962) there was still a residual dislike of Japan and Japanese among certain people- (including some of the School Staff)- but I do not recall such feelings influencing their attitude towards Keisuke, nor such feelings being evident in the pupils of Hurstville Boys' High.

In 1962 I had no real knowledge of Rotary - I knew such an organization existed, but not its aims and objectives. The School Head Master (Principal) Mr. Ross Thomas was a member of the Rotary Club of Hurstville, and the presence of a Rotary Exchange Student in my class was my first contact with Rotary.

Since becoming a Rotarian myself in 1976, I can say that the 1962 Japanese Youth Exchange Program was a marvellous example, 16 years after the end of the War in the Pacific, of Rotary at work - in keeping with Rotary's 4 Way Test, the program was in TRUTH aimed at, and I think achieved, a step towards Peace between our two nations.

The Exchange DID "build goodwill and better friendships": evidenced above through the mutual contacts between Keisuke and members of the School, Hurstville Rotary, AND his Host families.

WAS “beneficial to all concerned” - the Australian students learnt of Japan and its culture from Keisuke; as he learnt from contact with the Australian School system, and people

And WAS “Fair to all concerned”

As a teacher, and now a Rotarian, it is very inspiring to know that Keisuke has achieved so highly in his profession.

Since 1976, my experience of Rotary Exchange Students has increased - and I now feel that the earlier years - say the 1960s and 1970s, - were the years when the Program met its objectives, of encouraging greater understanding and friendship between the Youth of various countries. The most receptive and all round beneficial Exchanges have been, in my experience, from Japan. The Exchanges with which I have been associated, notably from the Americas, have been no more than “sponsored holidays” for the participants. The students have already had experience of overseas countries, because of the increasing ease of travel, and their families’ ability to provide such experiences. Several have provided CVs that do not stand up to scrutiny as to accuracy of the candidates’ interests, activities and community involvements. Further, they have not a true understanding of THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES to the Exchange program and to their Host Parents.

The success of the Exchange Program relies on a THOROUGH BRIEFING of participants BEFORE they embark on their exchange - a briefing in ALL aspects of the program: - and on the supervision provided by the Host Club’s Counsellor. All in all, my opinion - at variance with many other Rotarians, - is that the Youth Exchange Program, today, is accessing the wrong students, and has probably outlived its worth.

It is my privilege to have had Keisuke Hama as a student in my 1962 English Class at Hurstville Boys’ High. Congratulations to Keisuke on his achievements in the subsequent years.

Bede Goodman.

19th June, 2012.

Congratulations on the Memorial Book

from John Moon, Rotary Club of Hunters Hill

Dear Masako and her friends,

Congratulations on your efforts at recording the first stage of our Rotary Youth Exchange Programme between Australia and Japan.

Looking back to the 1960's our Records show just how popular the Exchange Programme had proved to be and we find the on-going result over the years has been the forging of lifetime Friendships.

In 1966, I was the District Chairman and had the pleasure of welcoming Japanese students. In 1968 - 69, as District Governor the programme was enlarged, the World President of Rotary International was Kiyoshi Togasaki.

In the 1970 -71 Rotary year, my wife and I were involved in the hosting programme and this alone has led us, together with our own family members, to have a constant contact with those who came here some 50 years ago.

We in turn have visited Japan and enjoyed your remarkable hospitality. Our dear "Rotary daughter" has been Masako Harada née Tachibana. Her late father Kazuo Tachibana had joined Rotary before his daughter's visit to Australia. He was the president of Yanagawa Rotary Club when she was hosted by our Club of Hunters Hill as one of the first Rotary Exchange Students.

In all my years I am sure there is no other programme which has drawn together so many people, from divergent backgrounds so successfully.

June and I send our warmest good wishes and the hope for a successful Memorial Book.

JOHN MOON, A.M., Past District Governor
Sydney, Australia.

Acknowledging Fifty Years of Rotary Youth Exchange

Stuart McDonald

Rotary youth exchange promotes world peace and cultural understanding. In 1961, an Australian Rotarian Don Farquhar expressed very similar words as he addressed the 1961 Convention of Rotary International held in Tokyo. His topic was Building Bridges of Friendship to Japan.

This is just part of Don's amazing story and that of another special person in his life, Yoko Miyazaki.

Don was a person of both immense courage and foresight. In 1942, during World War II, Don was blinded in action against the Japanese. However he maintained a desire and a mission in life to promote peace and goodwill and not the opposite.

In his address to the conference in Tokyo he spoke of the need for reconciliation, of a need to build both friendships and cultural understanding with Japan and the world. He saw that the best means of meeting these goals would be to embrace Rotary's relatively new concept of student exchange. The challenge was to initiate an exchange of students with Japan.

Subsequently, a Japanese district governor, Kanejiro Matsumoto, proposed Don that he would arrange that first exchange. After some initial apprehension and planning, an exchange was arranged. This was between the Rotary club of Rosebud, Australia and the Rotary club of Kurume, Japan.

In January 1962 Yoko arrived in Melbourne, Australia and, with her, the first bridge of friendship with Japan through the world of Rotary youth exchange was opened. Her arrival was considered historically so significant it is permanently recorded with photographs in the National Archives of Australia.

Within a few weeks another group of Japanese students arrived in Sydney, Australia and in the following year an Australian student, Kenneth Angel, went to Kumamoto, Japan. The exchange program had commenced.

Yoko was very popular. She had a very good year of exchange and visited and spoke to many Rotary clubs, community groups and individuals. No doubt the many questions asked would not have all been easy, especially for a very young Japanese girl.

After her year in Australia, Yoko returned home and completed her high school and college. She then gained a job as a flight stewardess with Qantas so as to further her new interest of being an ambassador of goodwill. It was not until more than forty years later that she was reconnected with Rotary after having lived for many years in Egypt.

In the latter half of 2006, a challenge was made to contact Yoko. It soon became obvious that nobody had had any contact with her since well before 1981, when she went to live in Egypt. After some enquires an amazing thing happened. Because she was still in contact with a school friend, the sister of a Rotarian from Kurume, she was located living in Tokyo.

The following few months make you appreciate the depth of Rotary youth exchange. When Yoko was contacted, she was in disbelief that someone from Rotary should be in contact with her after so many years. She was able to list her four host families by name, provide their addresses, as they were in 1962. Then with some searching, her only remaining family in Australia was located living in north Queensland. Thanks to an email address, she was contacted and within two days, Sally, one of her host sisters was able to reunite with her in Tokyo airport, for the first time in over forty years. Since then there has been a full-scale family reunion.

This is just one great story of youth exchange. Fifty years later thousands and thousands of memories and friendships have been formed between people and cultures of every corner of the world with Japan. The challenge for us all is to renew those memories and rekindle those friendships.

Rotary Youth Exchange continuing to promote peace and cultural understanding to The World.

Stuart McDonald
Program Development Officer
Rotary Youth Exchange Australia

Wonderful RI Youth Exchange Program

Ken Kanda

The International Youth Exchange Program voted by the Council on Legislation in 1972 is one of the most valuable activities among many international service activities.

It is a program through which senior high school students are to promote international understanding and goodwill through being hosted by Rotarian families in foreign counterpart Districts. They spend their time as family members, attending local schools, experiencing the life as it is, and learning the culture and customs of each country.

Dear old first Exchange Students, in 1962, you were senior high school students and you departed for Australia. You were the very first dispatched students of the Youth Exchange Program of Japan. This was 2 years before the Tokyo Olympic Games, and before the liberalisation of overseas travel (April 1964). It was also a time when not much information was available from overseas.

Belonging to the same generation as you, I would expect that you will talk in Rotary Clubs around Japan as Rotex* about your wonderful and precious experiences and hand them down to the young people who will shoulder our future.

(*ex-students of the Rotary Youth Exchange Program)

As for myself, I participated in the International Rotary Youth Exchange Program in my Club from 1985, in my District from 1990 and in Rotary International from 2000. From now on also, I will make efforts to dispatch and receive as many students as possible in this wonderful Exchange Program in collaboration with Youth Exchange Committee members in 34 Districts of Japan and Youth Exchange Officers across the world.

Director of Board, Rotary International Japan Youth Exchange Committee

Former member, RI Youth Exchange Committee

Former Zone Coordinator, RI Youth Exchange Service Supporting Group

Former President of Nagoya Osu Rotary Club, D2760

Chapter 3

Discussions

Recalling that Wonderful Year and our Lives since Then



Discussions: Recalling that Wonderful Year and our Lives since Then

Date: 26th May 2012, from 14:30 to 17:30

Place: at “O-Hana”, hotel-restaurant in Yanagawa-city, Fukuoka-ken, Japan

Participants: Ms. Yoshimi Takeshita, Ms. Kazuyo Tsuji (née Nakamura),

Mr. Keisuke Hama, Ms. Masako Harada (née Tachibana),

Ms. Naoko Fukusho (née Matura) and Ms. Toshiko Yoshida (née Kojima)

Today, 6 members out of the 9 first Rotary Exchange students have gathered here. It seems some of us have met again for the first time in 50 years. It is wonderful to see all of us go well.

This place “O-Hana” is a heritage of the Tachibana Family, whose ancestors were feudal lords of Yanagawa, and is Masako Harada’s parents’ home as well. We are grateful to Mr. Tomoshige Tachibana, a member of Yanagawa Rotary Club and the Youth Exchange Committee Councillor for the D.2700, for offering the place and services. We share a really great joy to have this discussion meeting at this historical place for commemorating the 50th anniversary of our stay in Australia. In addition, we can probably consider it almost a miracle that we have kept, in any form, our communication with each other over a span of 50 years.

Let us provisionally set the main theme of discussion as “recalling that wonderful year and our lives since then”. I believe it is meaningful to discuss our experiences in Australia and their influences on our lives for so many years thereafter. It may be difficult to recall the things that happened half a century ago but they say “People do not forget the memories of youth.”. When you listen to the others’ old stories, your memories could be reawakened. I am afraid that the topics could disperse endlessly with the enthusiastic chats on our nostalgic memories. To prevent that situation, please try to speak, as much as possible, along with the topics to be proposed. (K. Hama, in the role of facilitator)

Motivations for Applying

Facilitator: To begin with, I would like to request each of you to tell what kind of motives you had to apply for the Rotary Youth Exchange.

Yoshida: I had a wish to go to the United State of America for study but I knew also that my English was not good enough to do so. I had told my English teacher about my wish, so when Rotary sent the information to my school about the Australian Rotary Youth Exchange, he probably suggested that I apply.

Fukusho: The clue was that a friend of mine told me about the newspaper article which announced the recruitment of the Rotary Youth Exchange students. I was interested in Australia because my high school was managed by an Australian Catholic organisation. I thought “This could be a good chance.” and talked to my parents. They said “Why don’t you apply for it?”.

Yoshida: When I applied for it, I simply thought “I shall be screened out through the exams, anyway.”. We didn’t imagine our application would be accepted, did we?

Tsuji: I had no concrete wish to study abroad but, in the pre-war time, my parents lived outside mainland Japan, in Taiwan, and after the war, my father occasionally went abroad for technical cooperation related to post-war reparations. Foreign people, including students, often came to my house. My mother studied in a mission school and could understand English. In such an

atmosphere, and having little resistance against going abroad, I think that I was just interested in going overseas.

Takeshita: I was familiar with and interested in foreign countries because my high school was run by a missionary and most of the sisters were Italians. I think my strongest motivation was an



aspiration for the ability to speak English. I had only the simple idea “In America they speak English.” When I was asked by Masako, “How about going to Australia together?”, I had no idea at all and asked her back “What language do they speak there?”. In those days, there were only limited programs on the TV showing foreign countries. A good example was “Kaoru Kanetaka’s World Travel” which I watched regularly. This programme started in 1959 and, as the sponsor was Pan American Airlines, the main target countries were in America and in

Europe where they had their itineraries, Australia was probably not yet included. Anyway, as I had applied for the Rotary Youth Exchange with very little knowledge about Australia, I met so many embarrassing situations after arriving there.

Facilitator: In the case of Masako, equally from Yanagawa, were you influenced by your father, Mr. Kazuo Tachibana, who was the president of Yanagawa Rotary Club?

Harada: Yes, my father was informed that Mr. Kanejiro Matsumoto, the District Governor, had been moved by Mr. Farquhar’s proposal at the Rotary World Congress in Tokyo. When the inquiry for Youth Exchange candidates came to his Club, my father considered the persons around him and said to me “How about you?”. However, I had a more realistic motive. I was in the third year of senior high school and the second semester was half gone. I had not yet decided the university to apply for and was afraid of shameful failure in my entrance examinations which were to come very soon. The inquiry arrived in such situation. As there was an international feeling in my family, I thought that, to go to Tokyo or to go abroad, there would be little difference and that, if I go abroad for study, I could postpone the entrance exams for one year and would be able to improve my English. I mean, I decided on the application to escape from the entrance exams! While I had no confidence, I had neither fear nor worry.

Hama: Frankly speaking, I had also a reason to be considered an escape from the reality. In the second year of senior high, I was involuntarily elected to be school captain. The inquiry from Rotary came to the school after the Culture Festival I materialised. I was to manage the General Assembly, the Sports Carnival and other events which put a heavy pressure on me. As I wrote in my essay, “my aspiration for foreign countries” was the main motive but I also had an ulterior one “If I go abroad for study, I can escape from these duties of school captain.”. As a result, I was liberated from the depressed feeling. I entrusted the captaincy to the vice-captain, later a professional vocalist, now Professor Emeritus of Miyazaki University. He still tells me “You enforced the school captain on me.”.

Facilitator: It seems everyone had their own thoughts and reasons. I think it is quite natural that no one spoke of such a noble motive as “I wished to contribute to peace and friendship.”, which meets the fundamental objective of Rotary Youth Exchange.

Japan-Australia Relationship, our Recognition and Determination

Facilitator: I propose another topic. On your application and travel preparation, were you well aware that Australia was one of the opponent countries to Japan in World War II, in other words “a former enemy country”?

Fukusho: No, I had no such knowledge. My high school was established by an Australian monastery but I had not yet been taught about the war between the two countries. After arriving, I learnt the facts by visiting museums and by watching films.

Takeshita: I had no idea of “a former enemy country” either. I had heard many stories about the war time from my parents but the enemy was America. I was shocked to watch the battle scenes of the Australian army against the Japanese army on the TV of a host family. Of course, the program showed only the scenes where Australia defeated Japan which was nothing but a villain.

Hama: Similarly, I had had little recognition of the war with Australia until I visited the War Museum in Canberra and saw a submarine of the Japanese Navy displayed in the front yard. I think that the regret for our ignorance should be taught to the young ones who go to the foreign countries from now on.

Harada: I also knew little. There was an elderly teacher at school who treated me in a cold manner. It was a bit strange for me comparing his manner with the other teachers who were very kind. Perhaps the headmaster, who happened to be a Rotarian, had influenced these teachers. One of his family members of this cold teacher might have been a victim in the war. Later, however, this teacher individually taught me “Julius Caesar” very well, for which I was very grateful.



I was once taken to a party to celebrate the New Year. Possibly according to their custom, they showed a film which featured Japan-Australia battles. When the lights were turned on and the hall became light again, I felt so embarrassed and could not hide my feelings. The Rotarian who took me to the party, having noticed it, kindly told me “Don’t you worry about it.” I deeply felt for the first time that Japan was still an enemy country for the elderly Australians. At the same time, I felt protected by the generous minds of Rotarians who knew that the young ones were not to blame.

Yoshida: I was very sad to learn that Japan and Australia once fought each other, partly because I did not know the facts precisely. The history attested that Japan had largely caused the war in the Pacific and I thought that no war should ever happen. The history lectures at school end around Meiji era and most of us stay ignorant of the contemporary history, don’t you think so?

Harada: In reality, we went to Australia knowing so little. On the other hand, this situation might have been more favourable for us because we were free from pressure.

Facilitator: I hear there are recently some exchange students who have come back home after giving up their stay abroad. How were you determined at that time?

Fukusho: It was unimaginable for me to abandon such a precious opportunity. On my return home, I even wished I could have stayed longer in Australia. However, it was probably thanks to a Japanese family, living in the neighbourhood, that I kept myself free from homesickness.

Harada: Recently I learned a case where an exchange student was sent back. A girl student missed her boyfriend in the home country so much that she tended to call him every day. Finally, she was told “You should go home.”.

Yoshida: The international telephone was too expensive and it was impossible for me to make a call.

Takeshita: I was given a “present” to make a call to Japan, only once and only for 3 minutes.

Hama: It was normal that we could meet no one of Japanese acquaintance until we got back. I could not imagine anyone of my family visiting me. I wonder whether you had boyfriends at home or not.

Tsuji: I was so shy and had never talked with boys so I had no such worry.

Harada: On our departure, my parents were in tears. They seemed so anxious about their child going to an unknown foreign country.

Hama: On our arrival in Australia, the only notice to our parents was a telegram saying “Arrived safely, he/she is fine.”.

Procedures for Going Abroad

Facilitator: All of us wrote that the procedures for going abroad were very complicated with a lot of restrictions in those days.

Takeshita: It was in 1964, the year of Tokyo Olympic Games, when travelling abroad became free. Till then, the only people who could go abroad were government officers or those with special permissions. We needed the approval of the Ministry of Finance to buy foreign currency, didn't we?

Yoshida: We had to pass the examination for studying abroad which was held by the Ministry of Education. That was a pressure on me. The travel to Tokyo was a big burden too.

Hama: In a system called part-guarantee, all the expenses during the stay were to be borne by the host side but the travel fare had to be paid by the individuals in US dollars. As foreign currency was precious in those days, the Bank of Japan, so as not to waste it, stipulated that the candidates had a minimum capacity of English. Four of us, Kojima, Nakamura, Miyamoto, and I, myself obediently sat for this exam but some people did not. Were there other special methods?

Harada: What? Was there such an exam? I knew nothing about it.

Fukusho: In the cases of Yuko and myself, as the school was managed by an Australian organisation, I recall they exchanged yen and dollars through this route in the name of “offset” or something. I thought this deal was nothing special, though.

Takeshita: In my case, as my father had a friend in Okinawa, still under American occupation, he could utilise this route to buy US dollars.

Harada: Was that so? My father must have enjoyed a great favour from your father.

Tsuji: The exam content was only an interview in English. There were 3 exam officers including a foreigner. We had the exam in the Ministry of Education, but I understand now it was the Bank of Japan that set up this system to control precious foreign currency.

Hama: I remember, as a mood at that time, that I felt a psychological gap between the group which did sit for the exam and the other which smartly avoided it. It's already a statute of limitations, anyway.

First Impressions of Australia and their Sentiments toward Japan

Facilitator: We went to Australia without enough prior knowledge because it was a time where we had much less information. At what were you surprised most? Please mention them including what you wrote in your essays.

Takeshita: After leaving Darwin and before arriving in Sydney, the natural scene was so impressive. With no cloud, the land was clearly visible. Endless, reddish desert earth! I thought "Oh, this is Australia.". That scene is unforgettable.

Hama: The scene of a residential area I saw just before landing was impressive too. Red-roofed houses, spaciouly standing in the green. I was moved, feeling "What a beautiful town!".

Harada: I thought "It's like a fairy land!" too. Then, in the first host family, I found their 3 years old grand-son so charming and I was surprised that he spoke English fluently, which I envied.

Yoshida: The horizon I saw at Darwin airport, stepping out of the airplane, and the sea horizon and the vast endless sky I saw in Corrimall when I arrived, these were the landscapes I had never seen before. I was overwhelmed by every grand view.

Fukusho: As soon as we arrived in Sydney, I was surprised at the interviews and photography by the TV stations and newspaper companies. The living standard was incomparably higher than that in Japan. I thought the monthly salary in Japan was about the same as their weekly one in Australia. The town landscapes were charming. Cronulla, where I lived, seems to have become a sort of resort town now, but it was a quiet place at that time.

Tsuji: Today, we can obtain any kind of information from the world without moving around, can't we? It seems to me that people are now less inspired by something and have less desire to absorb something the way we did 50 years ago.

Harada: As we had little prior knowledge, we were inspired by everything and we obediently accepted everything. I suppose Australian people felt proud of and were happy with this attitude.

Hama: I know an opposite case. It is a story I heard a few years ago from my Australian teacher who had become a Rotarian later. He took care of a Rotary Exchange student from the U.S. This student had little interest in Australia. When taken out on a holiday, he was reading a book in the car without watching the landscape. My old teacher was angry about this, saying "It isn't worth inviting an exchange student with this kind of attitude.".

Facilitator: What did you think of the memories of the past war and the sentiments toward Japan at that time. Yes, some have already mentioned it.

Fukusho: Around me, there must have been some people who experienced the War, but there was no unpleasantness about it. As I lived in a small town, when I was walking along a street, people often talked to me and I felt that I was being watched over and I felt secure.

Hama: I personally did not come upon embarrassing situations but, I heard in later years, there were still negative sentiments toward Japan. In every aspect, Australia had always strong relationships with the UK, but it was also the time when Australia was deepening its recognition as a member of Asian countries. There was a slogan meaning "Japan as our

neighbour on 135 degrees east longitude”. I felt the momentum that the trade with Japan should be more enhanced.

Tsuji: Although Japan was not the main target of exclusion, it was the time when the “White Australia Policy” was still officially effective. Not many young people today seem to know this policy.

Harada: I recognise now the year 1962 was not far from the end of the War, or shortly after, for the adults. I feel sorry that I stayed there without knowing much about the war with Australia. At the very beginning, Rotary Youth Exchange was proposed by an Australian Rotarian who had been injured and blinded in the War. I think it’s amazing. Australians are broad minded, aren’t they?

Hama: It is Ms. Sekimoto (Yoko Miyazaki), not here today, who was hosted by Mr. Farquhar himself. She writes in the end of her essay that Mr. Farquhar was chosen as one of the 200 “Unsung Heroes and Heroines of Australia”.

Yoshida: My first host, Mr. Jarratt was in Darwin as a radio operator during the War, I heard. Darwin was bombed by the Japanese planes, as you know. This person earnestly took action to accept a Japanese exchange student. Isn’t that inspiring?

Takeshita: I got a job at QANTAS Airlines in 1967. In those days, there were organised tours for collecting the remains of war victims. In a certain year, I remember I made reservations for the mothers of the submarine crews, who had died in the attack at Sydney Harbour. The mothers had been invited to Australia for a ceremony. When I travelled around many years later, I learned there had been battles and tragedies in many places. For example, at Kanchanaburi in Thailand, which is considered the model location of the film “The Bridge on The River Kwai”, I saw many graves of Australian soldiers. Young men of 18, 19 years old perished not in battles but of hunger or malnutrition accompanied by forced labour. I wonder whether the young students to be dispatched know this kind of history.

Tsuji: I cannot forget Mr. Gordon Baker, one of my hosts, among my memories that are related to the War. He took very gentle care of me, while he had a leg problem and no child. At a party, one Rotarian told me “Gordon was a POW and damaged his legs in the Philippines during the “death march” and he cannot dance. He is hiding his scar with moustache.”. I was shocked with this story. Some days later, I told him with tears “I am sorry” and he consoled me gently saying “You don’t have to apologize, dear.” He said also “It was a war.”. Then I recalled what my father always told me “We absolutely must not start a war.”. I guess Mr. Farquhar and Mr. Baker had similar thoughts.



Life and Customs in Australia

Facilitator: What sort of impressions did you have about Australian people and their lifestyles?

Harada: I think the largest difference from Japan was the way Australians valued women. At the Millard home, when Mr. Millard came home from work, he attended his wife gently saying “Darling, you must have been busy and are tired. Come, sit here. What do you want to drink?” I thought the husband had been a lot busier.

Compared to this, Japanese men were not good. Their inner mind may have been gentle but they lacked expressiveness. I felt miserable especially when I compared them with Australian husbands. There lived a Japanese family, a young couple with 3-year-old child, in my neighbourhood in Australia. The husband must be bright in his trading company but his attitude to his wife was not gentle at all. Since there was no Japanese society there at that time and she could not speak English well, she was isolated without knowing where to buy things. She was very pleased with my visits because she could talk in Japanese. She was eagerly waiting for her return to Japan to give birth and didn't seem to be enjoying her life in Sydney at all. After my own marriage, however, I recognised that this Japanese husband was just one of the ordinary “teishu-kampaku” (dominant husbands).

Takeshita: Being back home, accustomed to “lady first”, I was embarrassed by men’s lack of consideration of women. A door was shut with a bang in front of me, for example.

Harada: On a certain occasion, when I sat on a chair which I thought was drawn for me, I was told by my elder brother “I drew up the chair for myself but Masako sat on it.”

Yoshida: It is difficult to know how to behave ourselves when Japanese and Europeans are mixed.

Hama: I guess it depends on which culture rules the space or the human relationships.

Takeshita: I was surprised to see fathers washed the dishes in Australia. This was unthinkable in Japan in those days.

Fukusho: Children, including myself, not only washed dishes, but helped with the housekeeping, didn’t they?

Takeshita: Regarding washing dishes with detergent, I didn’t like wiping them up without rinsing.

Yoshida: I asked why people did not rinse dishes with clean water. The reply was “There is no problem because the detergent is harmless when taken in.”

Harada: Another aspect so different from Japan, was that they praised their family exceedingly. We never say in Japan “Our son is very clever.”, do we? It may be an expression of love to their family or simply a difference of culture.

Tsuji: As I wrote in my essay, I felt uncomfortable to hear someone praise another family member. I was embarrassed to see a husband overpraised his wife’s cooking, though I became accustomed to it later.

Yoshida: A positive character of Australians is foremost friendliness. Although I cannot find a suitable translation for friendly in Japanese, I found it strange why they could behave in such a friendly manner from the first meeting. After becoming accustomed to this, I feel it strange again that the relationships between Japanese people seem rather cold.

Takeshita: I believe that the way of dealing with the complex human relationship has been formed through a long historical process. It seems to me now that Australian people can live without unnecessary concern for human relationships because their history is not so long.

Hama: The most important thing I learnt from their lifestyle must be “To enjoy one’s life”. Till then, I had thought that life was hard but had to be endured, so this different thought had a strong influence on my life from then on.

Takeshita: They worked to enjoy themselves, didn’t they? In Japan at that time, it was common to take holidays only in the New Year and in “O-bon festival”, for a few days each time.

Fukusho: On weekends, they took me out in a camping car and we had a barbecue. I envied their way of enjoying their lives.

Yoshida: It seems to me the children of these days have entirely different senses about life. They have enough money and can get anything they want. The standard of happiness could have changed. From another point of view, they might be less happy having little emotion.

Tsuji: When we go to a community where there is little infrastructure, we realise how much we have and will learn how fortunate our life is. People could feel happy to have meal together with family under a kerosine lamp, even without electricity nor piped water. As we are now accustomed to excessive convenience, we have less sense of gratitude and more lament for small inconveniences, I guess.

Fukusho: I thought Australian children had independent minds while they enjoyed abundant living. I saw many of those who quickly took jobs as soon as they finished compulsory education.

Facilitator: What about troubles and embarrassing things, if any?

Takeshita: You can laugh now but I didn't know on which layer of bed I should sleep. There were double sheets! Finally, I slept between the upper sheet and the blanket under a bed cover. On the next day, observing other rooms, I understood I should sleep between 2 sheets.

Yoshida: As I shared a bedroom with my host sister, she taught me everything.

Takeshita: Another story. Every morning, my host mother brought me a cup of milk tea with sugar. Being asked "Do you like it?", I answered "Yes" and then that continued every morning. I got bored and I sometimes threw it away out of a window. Didn't she understand people might want to drink something different?

Harada: When I once answered "I like it.", it became embarrassing to be served always with the same thing. Before starting an evening meal, I was advised a mixed drink of sweet sherry and dry sherry. As I said it was good, I fell into a situation where I drank a sweet and dry sherry every evening.

Facilitator: That's no good. Wasn't it illegal for minors to take alcoholic drinks?

Fukusho: In my case, I recall I was embarrassed with Knorr chicken soup repeatedly served. To stop it, I finally said "It is good but I have become tired of it."

Yoshida: My largest problem was, after all, language. It took me too much time to start speaking in English about what I thought. When I was ready to speak, the topic had already shifted to another and I often lost the chance to speak. I heard later that I was considered a quiet girl. I must have been quiet while I was translating the English I heard into Japanese.

Takeshita: Same for me. Although I understood there would be an event on the coming weekend, I was worried about what kind of dress I should wear, casual or formal. When we went to church, we should be dressed properly and wear a hat. This was what I did. displayed my dresses, of only a few kinds, and asked "Which one will go well?"

Another thing about English; when I went to Australia some 10 years ago, I was told "We Australians have improved our English, haven't we?". I thought it very interesting.

Hama: Indeed, we have less chance to hear Australian English with strong accents. I miss them a bit. It may be the result of internationalisation that weakened authentic Aussie English.

Yoshida: It could be the result of education. Didn't any of you have a problem with the English we had learned the Australian way?

Takeshita: I mixed up "kite" with "Kate", for instance.

Yoshida: English education in Japan was generally done in the American way. The right spelling for “neighbour” or “mum” was “neighbor” or “mom”. After returning home to high school, I was very careful about the spelling in English exams.

Hama: I didn’t have any problem. Basically, the Australian way of pronunciation is close to that of the U.K. and, by shifting it according to a certain rule, it becomes British. The spelling was totally British. In my home high school, I recall it was not the case that only American spelling was the right answer.

Takeshita: After QANTAS and TAA, I finally joined Cathay Airlines where British English was exclusively spoken. But, as I was familiar with Australian English, I got accustomed to it quickly. If it were from American English, it would have been difficult, I guess.

Facilitator: Did you accept the food and meals without difficulty?

Yoshida: I was pleased to have meat every day. The barbecue was also a joyful meal.

Hama: In Japan, the daily meal was a combination of the main dish (rice) and the side dishes (fish, meat, vegetable, soup etc.). I thought it was gorgeous that their meals consisted of only “side dishes”.

Takeshita: The typical meal was roasted meat with mashed potatoes or beans and there was not much variety. That must have been a common British style meal. When I visited Australia some decades later, I was surprised to see a greater variety of food and cooking. Thanks to the immigrants from various countries, the Australian food also seems to have been internationalised.

Fukusho: I did not like mutton steak, particularly its smell. I managed to eat it later when I asked them to cook it well till the meat became really hard. I was a bit bored with meat, when repeated, and I sometimes bought fried scallops with chips, occasionally sold in the shopping street. That was a fun. They wrapped them with newspaper.

Harada: They served a quantity of dessert. At the beginning, I thought I couldn’t eat it all but later, I became very fond of it and, having taken all kinds, I got embarrassingly fat. Their scale of weighing was stones or pounds. I did not pay attention to my weight because I was not aware of the rate of conversion. When I learned my real weight in kilogrammes, I was so surprised.

Yoshida: I gradually became fat too. In every host family, I took food just as I was recommended by the hosts/hostesses saying “You shouldn’t become thinner at our place.”

Takeshita: I know a person who hosted an American girl student. The host mother complained that this student was not willing to eat any of her cooking. It became evident that the student usually bought food and ate outside, because it was not a custom for her to have proper meals at home.

Facilitator: The forms of family life seem to have changed a lot in the last 50 years. What do you think now about family life at that time?

Harada: The Rotarian homes we stayed with at that time were on a high level in Australia and all the families were truly wonderful, weren’t they? They served three meals a day properly, and their familial bonds were as strong as an ideal home drama. On the other hand, I learned also all the Australians were not necessarily as rich as those people. One day, I visited the house where my school friend from Malaysia lived as a tenant at private expense. The kitchen where she cooked for herself was not dirty but the appearance of the house was not as decent as the ones in which I lived.

Takeshita: Because Malaysia was a member of the British Commonwealth, there were a lot of Malaysians of Chinese origin in Australia. I thought that perhaps the only way for them to have a successful life was to leave their country.

Yoshida: Every morning, I was given sandwiches and a piece of fruit prepared for lunch at school. There was also a snack time and I brought some cakes or biscuits from home too.

Harada: Sandwiches in my memory were rather simple ones. They were put in a paper bag but an apple was not wrapped so it rolled around in the school case.

Fukusho: At one snack time, I was surprised when I was asked “Let me have a bite of your apple.”. But we became friends from this kind of conversation. While it was usual that sandwiches were prepared to take, I was sometimes given money to buy food at school. I was happy to buy a sausage roll or a meat pie at the tuckshop.

Tsuji: In my case, I was given some money every morning for buying sandwiches. Sometimes, they forgot to do so and I felt very sad but I hesitated to say “You forgot to give me money for lunch.”.

Harada: On the occasion when I was invited by Toshiko to come to Wollongong for an overnight stay, I recall there was a sad atmosphere. I thought this was not only because she was lonely to be the only exchange student staying far away from Sydney.

Yoshida: One reason could be the difference in the living standard compared with Sydney. It is true that the Rotarians in Corrimal were not as rich as those in Sydney. There were houses without flush toilet because no sewage was available. On the other hand, thanks to the small size of town, all the people knew me and were very friendly. I had no harassment and I appeared occasionally on the local newspapers and television.

Hama: All of you were invited to my birthday party, weren't you? Do you remember the Hancock's house where the party was held? The gathered people counted from 50 to 60 that evening. There was a big hall or a party room where all the people could enjoy dancing. Although you could not see, because of the darkness at night, at the foot of a cliff, they had also a swimming pool and a boat shed to house a sail boat and a motor boat. Though it was a case of a particularly rich family, they were enjoying an extremely abundant life, even seen from the today's Japan.

Yoshida: On that occasion, I thought with surprise “What a gorgeous house you live in!”.

Takeshita: Many of Masako's Rotary hosts were managing private businesses and I was surprised to know that one of them, a bakery owner, drove a Rolls Royce car.

Tsuji: Many years later, I met a host family at Kobe. They were on board a cruise ship which was on its way around the world. I met the family and was surprised to know that they took 6 weeks' holiday every year. I thought it was unbelievable in Japan that people could enjoy such long holidays whatever their profession is.

At School, English Study and Episodes

Facilitator: How was your school life? You all must have struggled with English.

Takeshita: While I had difficulty in ordinary English, it was impossible to follow Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. I totally gave up. But, with help of host families, I sometimes got good marks in other subjects which I could prepare beforehand.

Hama: The English class was a hell at the beginning. It was no good that I had felt hopeless. Later, I regretted I had not started making an effort sooner. Fortunately, I was allowed to attend extra English lessons after school and, at the Hancock's, I had special private lessons of English regularly. Every evening after the meal, Mr. Hancock let me read aloud any newspaper article of the day. As far as I understood, I just continued reading until I encountered a sentence I could not understand. Then, I stopped reading the article and he kindly taught me the pronunciation and the meaning of words or sentences. It helped me a lot to improve my capacity in practical English. I am still very grateful for this.



Tsuji: That is wonderful. What was his profession? Oh yes, a solicitor could do this kind of teaching.

Takeshita: I had an English tutor at home. The host club paid the fee.

Harada: In examinations, I was allowed to use my English Japanese dictionary. I wrote down some memos for geography on it, which was cheating, apparently.

Fukusho: English classes were very hard for me; not only contemporary English but classics. In exams, we had to write essays. Occasionally, I asked the eldest daughter of the 4th host family to teach me, but she could have been despairing of my English.

Takeshita: Many people think, by staying abroad for a year or so, they will naturally become English speakers, but it is not so. In a case of working holidays, the people around you are usually from foreign countries, or are Japanese people. If the working place is a Japanese restaurant, they could pass days speaking only in Japanese. After all, they must get proper language training.

Tsuji: One day, I was told a mean thing about my English. I said to my friend in my class “Yesterday, I met a certain person.”. A girl classmate said to me “You didn’t ‘meet’ him, but just ‘saw’ him.”. I was so embarrassed because I felt like a liar but this mistake was caused by my poor English. A good friend comforted me, which was a relief. The girl who blamed me was my host sister. Many years later we met again and she apologized me and confessed that she was jealous because her mother took more care of me, with much warmth.

Fukusho: In my case too, my host mother took a lot more care of me than of her daughter. She, my host sister, became jealous of me. I still feel sorry for her that I didn’t notice it for a long time.

Yoshida: When I told a classmate “I went to Sydney on the weekend.”, she said to me “You go to Sydney so often! Toshiko, you are spoiled.”. I don’t know yet in which meaning she used “spoiled”, to “indulge” or to “damage”. Now-a-days, people can commute to Sydney, but at that time, it was not the place to frequently go. She could have envied me.

Facilitator: Do you have other happy memories or episodes you wish to leave on record?

Harada: Among the limited number of relationships between Japan and Australia, there was an occasion where a battleship of the Japanese Naval Self-Defence Force entered the Sydney Harbour for the first time after the War. Toshiko, Yoshimi and I went together to visit it. This had nothing to do with our host homilies but a schoolmate of mine, Collin, told me about it and she came with us. When we greeted a guiding young sailor in Japanese, he was so surprised and glad. Then, he asked me to make an announcement in English “Now we have

a lunch break and the visiting tour will restart at 1 o'clock.”. As I was not confident of my English, I asked Collin to do the task. She gladly accepted it and did her job well with such an enthusiasm that her voice would echo throughout the ship.

Takeshita: We were invited to a lunch of curry and rice, weren't we? We went down to the restaurant by passing a steep and narrow staircase. Was it “Navy Curry” we had?

Yoshida: In newspapers, they wrote “Japanese Navy”. I had a perplexing thought this visit would be accepted as the “restoration of the Japanese Navy”.

Harada: I am not sure whether we were cute or not but those young sailors must have been happy to meet young Japanese girls of 17 or 18 years old in a foreign country.

Takeshita: We went to “Sukiyaki House” at King's Cross, having saved our pocket money bit by bit.

Harada: Oh yes, there were yet only a few Japanese restaurants and it must have looked unusual and conspicuous that young girls alone had a Japanese meal. Some Japanese businessmen talked to us and they offered us various dishes.

Hama: We were sensitive at anything coming from Japan. One day, the rugby team of Yawata Iron and Steel company came to Australia for friendly matches. As one of the main ruggers was a friend of my elder brother, Mr. Hancock took me to the field to meet him and to watch the match. In the ceremony before the match, the national anthem “Kimigayo” was played. I was so moved as I had tears in my eyes, a sweet memory.

Ways of Living after Returning Home, Visiting Australia again

Facilitator: Could you talk about your life courses or how you lived after returning home, as a result of your first experiences in Australia, and also about the things happened when you went back to Australia?

Yoshida: After passing one extra year in senior high, I got a job in a trading company. The reason I renounced my university course was that I had spent the money reserved for further study in my trip to Australia. My starting salary was 9,000yen a month. I understood the travel fare was equivalent to my income for 3 years. I kept, however, my wish to study in university. In my forties, I graduated from a university with distance learning and got a master's degree too.

Fukusho: After returning home, I entered university and majored in English literature. As I got married soon and my husband had little interest in international affairs, unfortunately, I have never taken part in activities related with international exchange. Yet, since I settled down, I taught English to children of primary and secondary school for 20 years. To be frank, I have never been back to Australia since that year, while I have met some people from Australia. In August this year, I plan to travel to Queensland with my daughters and grandchildren 7 and 9 years of age. To be in Australia after 50 years' absence! I am so much looking forward to going back that my heart is pounding.



Takeshita: I started working with QANTAS as a ground staff and then went to Australia, having obtained a working visa, and worked with TAA. After that, I moved into Cathay Airlines. This

would be an unthinkable course without my experiences in Australia. I retired while I was still healthy and devoted myself to volunteer activities.

Harada: My marriage partner* was a Rotarian and, together with him, I have participated in Youth Exchange for quite a long time. Up to now, I have probably taken care of tens of Exchange students as a host family. It is a wonderful thing that I can think we have taken care of so many people from around the world. In the position of host family too, I believe I could have deepened mutual understanding, thanks to my experiences as an exchange student.

(*Mr. Yoshiyasu Harada, Ikebukuro Rotary Club, D2580)

Yoshida: Having experienced two different cultures, I gained a lot but also had more worries. Back in Japanese society, I found myself caught between my parents' expectation and my will. I wanted to work to be independent but things did not go as I wanted because I was a woman. I was treated again like a child while having become half adult.

Tsuji: I had a similar thought. Without knowing different cultures, we can be at peace. There are both aspects. In my case, I had a new mother when I came back home, as I had lost my mother the year before my stay abroad. Then, it seemed to me a new "homestay" had started. She did not agree with my idea to have higher education because I was a girl. I made a decision to live independently, which I learned in Australia. I chose a business school to learn practical skills instead of going to university. This gave me a chance to work for the American Cultural Center and the American Consulate. Later, I set up a non-profit organisation for international exchange, which is for international mutual understanding and friendship. There were over 600 people who participated in that exchange programme through homestay. Since it was my dream to study at university and I heard from Ms. Yoshida what she did, I decided to restart studying and finally got a diploma on my 60s. I was so happy to have achieved what I had left incomplete. My next project is to hold my painting exhibition in Sydney from the end of June, this year. I am looking forward to seeing my teachers from the Fairfield High Schools, friends and host families again.

Takeshita: I was inspired by the lifestyles of my hosts and hostesses after they had grown old. There was an occasion where Masako and I visited Mrs. Millard, who had lost her husband and moved into a retirement village. I was impressed by the facts that she had disposed of most of her belongings before moving, that her room was very neat and that, on our departure, she greeted us after reapplying lipstick.

Yoshida: It was in 1990 that I went back to Australia for the first time. When I successively lost my parents by illness and felt stunned, my first host parents gave me a heartfelt letter saying "You can think us now as your real parents." I suddenly realised that our lives were limited and I felt eager to meet them again before it was too late. I was very happy to have met them again and felt as if we became real parents and child.

The Benefits We Got and the Roles We Played

Facilitator: Now, it is time to enter a phase where we talk about the core theme to conclude our discussions. We went to Australia as an envoy for peace and goodwill, attended high school and lived with hosts families for one year. During our stay there, did we fulfil the expected roles well? And, during our lives afterwards, did we maintain the consciousness for

international exchange and goodwill? Please mention also the benefits you were given and the heritages left to you.

Harada: We were fortunate because it was an appropriate time. There was a strong atmosphere of seeking peace and Japanese young ones were scarce - we were, so to say, valued for our rarity. Therefore, we were very much welcome. Without having much sense of mission or purpose, I cannot say what I achieved but it is true I received a lot of benefits. One of these was that I became able to talk equally with adult people. Another was, I think, that I had cultivated the ability to make decisions on my own. It seems to me the university students who returned from abroad with harder experiences are somewhat different, when compared with others.

Yoshida: Indeed, we were very warmly accepted and I was grateful for it. I am not confident that I fulfilled something or helped international goodwill but I was always conscious of what my parents and school teachers told me “Behave properly as the representative of the Japanese nation.”.

Tsuji: I recall now that I was always smiling without any complaint even when I did not understand the situation. Probably thanks to my frankness and this kind of attitude, everybody treated me kindly. Students today, having more knowledge, might not be as obedient as we were. At that time, Japan was poorer and the people had a strong will to work hard and in a humble way.

Hama: Isn't that just wonderful? All of us were serious and honest. We did not annoy our host parents. They must have gained an impression such as “The young ones from Japan are so nice.” and “They are entirely different from the savage images of Japanese soldiers on the battle field.”. It is true that I also tried to behave myself to make a good impression.

Fukusho: The largest result was, I believe, that we let them know Japan and the Japanese through living together with host families, like a real family, and passing pleasant days with many friends.

Harada: I am confident that we never start wars with any country where someone we took care of lives.

Fukusho: I wanted my 2 daughters to study abroad, but both had little interest in it and my wish did not materialise. Instead, I am hoping my grandchildren will have precious experiences like me. I realise that my life today owes a lot to my experiences I had 50 years ago. Yet, if I had had a more positive sense of purpose, my life would have been a more fruitful one.

Takeshita: I cannot imagine my life till today without my first stay in Australia. To have worked with airline companies is one thing and the most important benefit to me is that I learned the concept of volunteers. I owe to my experiences abroad that I could continue the voluntary international exchange for a long time and I did it as a pioneer.

Harada: In addition to my service to the Youth Exchange, I am engaged in bridging my Club with its sister Club, Epping Rotary. When I have the opportunity to translate between Japanese and English, or to guide the guests, my own experience of Youth Exchange in Australia has helped bridge the gap. Sometimes, things are settled because I understand the situations and the backgrounds of both sides. It is not just the translation of languages – it is also the “translation of hearts” for mutual understanding. Now, my sociability seems to be involving the people around me.

Yoshida: Many years later, I worked with the Kitakyushu International Association. I was in charge of providing information at the counter and publishing information magazines. I had in mind at that time that I wanted to give back the kindness and warmth I received in Australia, to people coming from overseas. Living in a different culture is interesting but difficult. Since I had experienced the anxiety of being unable to understand the language, I tried to help them integrate into Japanese life. By conveying the warm feelings that I had received from others, I think I was successful in giving them back.



Hama: After I took a job in a company, as there were few English speakers, my knowledge of English was considered useful and I had many opportunities to interact with foreign guests. I had also such opportunities as to study in France, to participate in international conferences and other events, public and private, and I had many foreign friends. I lived also in Indonesia for several years. Through participating in technical cooperation there, I believe I better understood the situations of developing countries as well as the responsibility of developed countries. Now, I live in Nara where I help the cultural exchange activities between Japan and France.

Tsuji: The biggest thing I gained from studying abroad was that I learned to “think and act on my own and be independent.”. Let me talk about the fruits of Youth Exchange. The objective of Rotary Youth Exchange was based on Mr. Farquhar’s will such as “To commit the establishment of mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and Australia to the young people”. This having been fully achieved, I am confident that this programme was a success. Mr. Farquhar, with his harsh experiences in war, did end up inviting a student from Japan and Mr. Baker, with his background as a prisoner of war, took very gentle care of me like a real daughter. I continue to have a sincere sense of gratitude and respect them as well as to those who have such broad hearts with similar experiences.

Expectations for Future Rotary Youth Exchange

Facilitator: It is difficult to put an end to the talks. Before closing our discussion, I request that you talk about your expectations and opinions for the future Rotary Youth Exchange. I hear the programme is not so active as before.

Harada: The programme of Youth Exchange might have lost its freshness. We are now in an age where even children of primary and secondary school can go abroad. On the other hand, the lack of understanding from parents’ side can be a problem. There was a case I encountered where a girl student was dispatched to the US and her parents made a big objection because the hosts were black people. I pressed her parents to understand, as the host family was a wonderful one for the student. In the case of Rotary Youth Exchange, I think the experience of spending a whole year with Rotarian families is the most valuable.

Tsuji: During the 10 years of exchange programmes that I was involved in, I experienced the difficulty of international exchange. It is true that some people tend to be prejudiced against foreigners. They have a fear of something heterogeneous because they don’t know the reality. I want them to understand that we are basically the same as all human beings. Among the host candidates,

there were people with discriminatory awareness. Some would accept only white students or students from English-speaking countries. I was so disappointed by this idea and I tried to induce a better understanding. There was no problem after arriving at a mutual understanding through the exchange programme.

Hama: I hear that there are very few boy participants in the dispatch from Japan. They seem to have heavier sense of burden than girls, and think that going abroad gives them a delay for their further education and employment. Only one year's delay would be nothing compared with the benefits we gained during that period. Today's young ones may no longer have the aspiration for an overseas experience which our generation had when young. In my personal case, the experiences rather added a higher value to my existence and had a good influence on work. I believe this is the same even today.

Takeshita: The aging of Rotarians may be another problem. There are far fewer Rotarian families whose children are of the same generation of the visiting youth. It is also an essential point of view to rejuvenate Rotarians.

Yoshida: From another view point, I think it is not only the youth that can be an envoy of goodwill. How about "Silver Exchange"? The seniors are knowledgeable and rich in experience. If they interact, they are perhaps able to discuss the culture in deep. It seems there were a lot of things we could not do when we were young but I feel I could do for others now. The period of stay could be shorter. How about a new programme where Rotarians themselves give visits to each other and live together?

Takeshita: When I went to the UK to study English again, many of the participants were seniors from various places in Europe. The level of their conversations was high and I really enjoyed it.

Harada: Today's young ones are not patient enough. That is one problem. Those who have returned from the US, for instance, can't fit so well in Japan and are isolated from classmates. It seems difficult for them to be familiar with the restrictive school rules here. I hope they can be a bit more patient for a while to readapt themselves.

As for the quality of students, those dispatched from Japan are properly selected, I reckon. The problem exists rather in those coming here. One of the reasons is that Japan was not the country they had hoped for. There are those who make complaints about host families, usually because of trifling matters. Things go well if you forgive them with a broad mind.

I have seen several cases where some students who could not fit in with Japanese life, did not study hard to improve their Japanese, or gave troubles to their host families, came back to Japan later, after studying hard, and attended universities with scholarships. I feel the important thing is that they become fond of Japan and go home with this mind. In fact, many of the Rotary Exchange students become very fond of the host countries, just like we became fond of Australia in the core of our hearts.

Hama as facilitator:

Time has passed and we must now close our discussion meeting. It is amazing we can recall so vividly the scenes and sentiments of those days. It must be because it was a wonderful year full of inspiration for us.

We reconfirmed that a strong will not to repeat war was the origin of this programme. We have also heard here and there that all of us have been conscious of our luck to have

participated in the first Rotary Youth Exchange and have always been grateful to those who took good care of us. We will certainly keep in mind our good memories and sense of gratitude. If we have done or can still do something worthwhile for society, not as grand as for peace and goodwill, it would still be a wonderful thing and it would be our pay back.

I believe that we have had meaningful discussions today. Thank you very much.

I expect that the Rotary Youth Exchange Program will continue in good shape, responding to the demands of the times.



from left: Hama, Yoshida, Tsuji, Harada, Fukusho, Takeshita and Mr. Tomoshige Tachibana
26th May 2012, At Shoto-En Garden in O-Hana, Yanagawa

Data and Materials

1. Basic Information on the First Exchange Students

2. Reference Materials



1. Basic Information on the First Exchange Students

The following descriptions are the basic data on the 9 students who were first dispatched to Australia through the Rotary Youth Exchange Project. There are, however, incomplete parts for the lack of records. Please forgive imperfections.

Notes:

- 1) The descriptions are, if not mentioned, as of their departure in 1962.
- 2) The names are listed in alphabetical order.
- 3) All the sponsor clubs belonged to the District 370 at that time.

HAMA, Keisuke (Mr.)

Born in April 1944

Home school: Kobayashi Senior High School

Year: 2nd Year

Principal: Mr. Yoshimori Takayama

Sponsor club: Rotary Club of Kobayashi

Location: Kobayashi City, Miyazaki Prefecture

President: Mr. Michimoto Yokoyama

Departure from Japan and arrival in Australia:

Departed from Tokyo Haneda 9 Feb. 1962, arrived at Sydney Mascot 10 Feb.

Host club : Rotary Club of Hurstville (D.275)

Location : Hurstville, NSW, Australia

President : Mr. John Crawford (1961-62), Mr. Wal W. Scott (62-63)

Host families and addresses:

Dennis & Beryl Andreasen 41 Gardinia St., Beverly Hills, NSW

Ron & Rita Hayes 35 The Mall, South Hurstville, NSW

Ted & Betty Hancock 40 Pleasant Way, Blakehurst, NSW

Ray & Rene Everrit 36 Stuart St., Blakehurst, NSW

Wal & Olga Scott 3 Como St., Blakehurst, NSW

Attended school: Hurstville Boys' High School

Enrolled Year: 4th Year

Principal: Mr. Ross D. Thomas

Roll teacher: Mr. Bede Goodman

Departure from Australia and arrival in Japan:

Departed from Sydney Darling Harbour 6 Jan. 1963,

Arrived at Port of Kobe 3 February

Today: Mr. Keisuke Hama lives in Nara, Nara pref.

KOJIMA, Toshiko (Miss)

Born in April 1944

Home school: Moji Kita Senior High School

Year: 2nd Year

Principal: Mr. Eizo Fukutomi

Sponsor club: Rotary Club of Moji

Location: Moji City, Fukuoka Prefecture

President: Mr. Masami Okano

Departure from Japan and arrival in Australia:

Departed from Tokyo Haneda 9 Feb. 1962 arrived at Sydney Mascot 10 Feb.

Host club : Rotary Club of Corrimal (D.275)

Location : Corrimal, NSW, Australia

President : Mr. G. Tipper (1961-62), Mr. L. Jarratt (62-63)

Host families and addresses :

Lew & Margaret Jarratt 6 Powell Avenue, Corrimal, NSW

N. Carr 360 Princes Highway, Corrimal, NSW

John & Ruby Hall 151 Princes Highway, Corrimal, NSW

Warner & Ursula Reed 7 St. John's Ave, Mangerton, Wollongong, NSW

John & Nancy Hamment Southern Mines Rescue Station P.O. Box 5 Corrimal, NSW

Trevis & Priscilla Birch 2 Ronald Street, Corrimal, NSW

Ian & Dorothy Findlay 9 Aristo Crescent, Mount Ousley, Fairy Meadow, NSW

George & Marry Tipper, 2 Ronald Street, Corrimal, NSW

Attended school: Corrimal High School

enrolled year: 4th Year

principal: Mr. R.W. Caldwell

Departure from Australia and arrival in Japan:

Departed from Sydney Mascot, arrived at Tokyo Haneda 23 Jan. 1963

Today : Ms. Toshiko Yoshida lives in Hita, Oita-prefecture.

MAEDA, Yuko (Miss)

Born in February 1944

Home school: Seiwa Girls' Senior High School,

Year: 3rd Year

Principal: Mother Catherine Theresa

Sponsor club: Rotary Club of Sasebo

Location: Sasebo City, Nagasaki Prefecture

President: Mr. Isao Tominaga

Departure from Japan and arrival in Australia:

Departed from Tokyo Haneda 9 Feb. 1962, arrived at Sydney Mascot 10 Feb.

Host club: Rotary Club of Parramatta (D.275, later 268)

Location: Parramatta, NSW, Australia

President: Mr. Aubun

Host families:

C. L. Robinson, Kohler, Thomas, Harvey, J. S. Pincott, Hewson,
Hingston and Pedersen

Attended school: MacArthur Girls' High School

Enrolled year: 4th Year

Principal: Mrs. Barrett

Departure from Australia and arrival in Japan:

Departed from Sydney Mascot, Jan. 1963, arrived at Tokyo Haneda

Today: Ms. Yuko SHINOZAKI lives in Kasukabe, Saitama pref.

MATSURA, Naoko (Miss)

Born in February 1945

Home school: Seiwa Girls' Senior High School

Year: 2nd Year

Principal: Mother Catherine Theresa

Sponsor club: Rotary Club of Sasebo

Location: Sasebo City, Nagasaki Prefecture

President: Mr. Isao Tominaga

Departure from Japan and arrival in Australia:

Departed from Tokyo Haneda 9 Feb. 1962, arrived at Sydney Mascot 10 Feb.

Host club:

Rotary Club of Cronulla (D.275) and Rotary Club of Caringbah

Location: Cronulla and Caringbah, NSW, Australia

President: Mr. John Adair (Cronulla RC)

Hosts and addresses:

Mr. Alan Mackay 46 Cronulla Street, Cronulla, NSW

Mr. B. Bradley 107 Kingsway, Cronulla, NSW

Mr. J. Hand Mr. R. H. Breakspear

Attended school: Cronulla High School

Enrolled year: 4th Year

Principal: Mr. E. G. Pidgeon

Departure from Australia and arrival in Japan:

Departed from Sydney Mascot, arrived at Tokyo Haneda, Jan. 1963

Today : Ms. Naoko Fukusho lives in Nara, Nara pref.

MIYAMOTO, Kikuo (Mr.)

Born in August 1944

Home school: Hagi Senior High School

Year: 2nd Year

Principal: Mr. Yukio Fukuda

Sponsor club: Rotary Club of Hagi

Location, Hagi City, Yamaguchi Prefecture

President: Mr. Yoshio Hayashi

Departure from Japan and arrival in Australia:

Departed from Tokyo Haneda 19 Feb. 1962, arrived at Sydney Mascot 20 Feb.

Host club: Rotary Club of North Sydney (D.275, later 268)

Location: North Sydney, NSW, Australia

President: Mr. John Hallstrom (61-62), Mr. Bruce Marriage (62-63)

Host families and addresses:

Mr. & Mrs. Bill C. Steanes, 8 MacPherson St., Cremorne, NSW

No information about others

Attended school: North Sydney Boys' High School

Enrolled year: 4th Year

Principal: Mr. Tom Mason

Departure from Australia and arrival in Japan:

Departed from Sydney Mascot, arrived at Tokyo Haneda in March 1963

Today: Mr. Kikuo Miyamoto lives in Illinois, USA

MIYAZAKI, Yoko (Miss)

Born in September 1945

Home school: Shin-ai Girls' Senior High School

Year: 1st Year

Principal: Ms. Kiku Matsunaga

Sponsor club: Rotary Club of Kurume

Location: Kurume City, Fukuoka Prefecture

President: Mr. Ikubei Nagaoka

Departure from Japan and arrival in Australia:

Departed from Tokyo Haneda 17 Jan. 1962, transferred at Sydney Mascot
and arrived at Melbourne Essendon 18 Jan.

Host club : Rotary Club of Rosebud (D.282)

Location: Rosebud, Victoria, Australia

President: Mr. Nelson

Host families:

Donald and Joane Farquhar, Fred and Mrs. Jarman, Peter and Pat Parkinson,
Mr. and Mrs. Billot

Attended school: Rosebud High School

Enrolled year: 4th Year

Principal: Mr. Hudson, vice-principal: Ms. Pat Waller

Departure from Australia and arrival to Japan:

Departed from Melbourne Essendon Jan. 1963, transferred at Sydney Mascot,
arrived at Tokyo Haneda 23 Jan. 1963

Today: Ms. Yoko Sekimoto passed away in 2020.

NAKAMURA, Kazuyo (Miss)

Born in October 1944

Home school: Hagi Senior High School

Year: 2nd Year

Principal: Mr. Yukio Fukuda

Sponsor club: Rotary Club of Hagi

Location: Hagi City, Yamaguchi Prefecture

President: Mr. Yoshio Hayashi

Departure from Japan and arrival in Australia:

Departed from Tokyo Haneda 19 Feb. 1962, arrived at Sydney Mascot 20 Feb.

Host club: Rotary Club of Fairfield (D.275, later D.268)

Location: Fairfield, NSW, Australia

President: Mr. T. Everingham (1961-62), Mr. Sattler (62-63)

Host families and addresses:

Tom & Ivy Everingham 41 Niblic Crescent, Dundas, NSW

John & Phyl Pollard "Trees" Bossley Road, Bossley Park, NSW

Warren & Dorothy Byrnes 129 Crescent, Fairfield, NSW

Bill & Millie Bradford 37 Smithfield St., Fairfield, NSW

Stan & Marion Nagle 901 Horsley Drive, Smithfield, NSW

Bill & Doreen Goodchild 28 Wrentmore St. Fairfield, NSW

Norman & Gladys Tunncliffe 4 Henry St., Turrella, Sydney, NSW

Gordon & Roma Baker 61 Braeside St. Wahroonga, NSW

Attended school: Fairfield Girls' High School

enrolled year: 4th Year

principal: Miss Muriel Dear

roll teacher: Mrs. Mullin

Departure from Australia and arrival in Japan:

Departed from Sydney Mascot, arrived at Tokyo Haneda 13 Feb. 1963

Today: Ms. Kazuyo Tsuji lives in Shime, Fukuoka-pref.

TACHIBANA, Masako (Miss)

Born in January 1944

Home school: Denshukan Senior High School

Year: 3rd Year

Sponsor club: Rotary Club of Yanagawa

Location: Yanagawa City, Fukuoka Prefecture

President: Mr. Kazuo Tachibana

Departure from Japan and arrival in Australia :

Departed from Tokyo Haneda 9 Feb. 1962, arrived at Sydney Mascot 10 Feb.

Host club : Rotary Club of Hunters Hill (D.275, later D.268)

Location: Hunters Hill, NSW, Australia

President: Mr. George Dando (61-62), Mr. Eric Primrose (62-63)

Host families :

Mr. and Mrs. Thomson, Dando, Millard, Moon,
Schahinger, Primrose, Hornor and Unwin

Attended school: Hunters Hill High School

enrolled year: 5th Year

principal: Mr. Jim Ray

roll teacher: Mrs. Leadbetter (?)

Departure from Australia and arrival in Japan :

Departed from Sydney Mascot, arrived at Tokyo Haneda in January 1963

Today : Ms. Masako Harada lives in Itoshima, Fukuoka pref.

TAKESHITA, Yoshimi (Miss)

Born in January 1944

Home school: Meiko-Gakuen Senior High School (Omuta City)

Year: 3rd Year

Sponsor club: Rotary Club of Yanagawa

Location: Yanagawa City, Fukuoka Prefecture

President: Mr. Kazuo Tachibana

Departure from Japan and arrival in Australia:

Departed from Tokyo Haneda 9 Feb. 1962, arrived at Sydney Mascot 10 Feb.

Host club : Rotary Club of Botany (D.275)

Location: Botany, NSW, Australia

President: Mr. A. Hatrick

Host families and addresses:

Mr. and Mrs. J. Mills, 2 Cawarra Road, NSW, Mr. and Mrs. Hansen,

Attended school: Willoughby Girls' High School

enrolled year: 5th Year

principal: Miss Schumaker

Departure from Australia and arrival to Japan:

Departed from Sydney Mascot, arrived at Tokyo Haneda in February 1963,

Today: Ms. Yoshimi Takeshita lives in Kurume, Fukuoka-pref.

2. Reference Materials

RM no.1 Letter from D.370 Governor Sent to all the Clubs to Invite Applicants (From the handwritten copy by Kenji Hama, Kobayashi RC)

28th November 1961

All the Club Presidents of Rotary International District 370

Dear Sirs,

I have the pleasure to inform you that I have received the following proposal for international students from the Governor of the District 275, Australia.

As their school year begins at the end of January next year, the application is urgent. I have a dozen application forms, which are not enough to deliver to all the Clubs. In case you need one, please make a request by express mail and I will send one to you on a first come, first served basis.

1. Eligible Applicants Senior high school students, from 15 to 17 years old
2. Period of Stay For 12 months, as soon as the period of stay ends, the student must go back home without delay.
3. Scholarship Conditions They guarantee all the expenses (tuition, food, pocket money, occasional replenishment of clothing and others) during the stay in Australia. Travel expenses to go and return, however, are to be borne by the individuals.
4. The total number of the students concerned is three (3).
5. The applying conditions include the medical examinations and other certificates, the details of which are described in the application form.
6. Since the school year starts in the end of January, as mentioned above, if the application does not arrive to the counterpart by the end of December at the latest, I suppose it would be difficult to complete the procedure. If you wish to nominate a student, please make a request in a great hurry.

For your information, Sleath Lowrey, the Governor of D.275 who made this proposal, belonged to the same discussion group as I did at Lake Placid, and was on board the same ship from San Francisco to Yokohama through which he and I became very close friends. He is a vocalist, as well as his wife, far exceeding an amateur.

Sincerely

Kanejiro Matsumoto

Editor's notes:

Kanejiro Matsumoto was the Governor of D.370 for the period 1961-62

A training workshop for nominated Governors was held in Lake Placid, USA in May, 1961.

RM no.2

Invitation Letter from the Responsible for the Rotary Youth Exchange Project D.275
(27th December 1961)

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ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Service Above Self - He Profits Most Who Serves Best

Telephones:

Office: 43-6572, JF 2017 Private: JA 4021

SLEATH LOWREY
GOVERNOR DISTRICT 275

428 Pacific Highway,
P.O. Box 11,
CROWS NEST, N.S.W.
AUSTRALIA

46 Cronulla Street.
Cronulla. N.S.W.
Australia.
27th. December, 1961.

Mr. Keisuke Hama.
Honmachi 2.
Kobayashi City.
Miyoazaki Prefecture.
JAPAN.

Dear Keisuke,

Your application to come to Australia under the Rotary Youth Exchange Project has been received and we are most happy to accept it. You will be very welcome in our country.

May I explain that I have the responsibility of organising the Youth Exchange Project in this Rotary district.

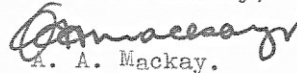
Today, on your behalf, I placed application with the Department of Immigration for your admission to Australia, that Department, will, in turn, advise the Australian Embassy, No. 9 Mita, Tsuna-Machi, Minato-Ku, Tokyo. You should make application to that Embassy for your visa without delay.

Our school year commences on 30th January next, so we would like you to arrive here in Sydney on the 23rd or 24th January if you can. I know that time is rather short. Be sure to advise me of your intended travel arrangements, flight number etc.

As soon as I know which Rotary Club is to act as your host I will write again. I have enclosed a letter guaranteeing your expenses whilst in Australia. You may need this letter when applying for your visa.

With best wishes.

Yours faithfully,


A. A. Mackay.

Enclos.

The following certificate was attached to this letter to guarantee the payment during the stay.

Dear Mr. Hama

On behalf of District 275 I hereby guarantee the payment of all expenses during your stay in Australia under the Rotary Youth Exchange project, which is limited to twelve (12) months.

Yours faithfully,

A. A. Mackay, (Signature)

for: Governor. District 275. Rotary International

**RM no.3 Notice of Sending an Authority to Enrol Certificate Issued by the Ministry of
Education, New South Wales (11th January 1962)**



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Service Above Self - He Profits Most Who Serves Best

Telephones:

Office: 43-6572, JF 2017 Private: JA 4021

SLEATH LOWREY
GOVERNOR DISTRICT 275

429 Pacific Highway,
P.O. Box 11,
CROWS NEST, N.S.W.
AUSTRALIA

46 Cronulla Street,
Cronulla. N.S.W.
Australia.
11th. January, 1962.

Mr. Keisuke Hama.
Honmachi 2.
Kobayashi City.
Miyozaki Prefecture.
JAPAN.

Dear Keisuke,

Enclosed is an "Authority to Enrol" certificate issued by our Department of Education which authorises your enrolment in a selected high school of matriculation standard.

You may need this certificate when applying for your passport and visa. It is important that you bring this certificate with you when you come to Australia.

I have learned from other students of difficulties in obtaining a passport due to your Exchange Control Laws. District Governor Kanejiro Matsumoto is fully informed of steps taken to overcome these problems. If you meet with difficulty in the matter of your passport and visa please get in touch with Mr. Matsumoto through your sponsor Rotary Club, I am sure he will do all he can to help.

Thank you for your thoughtful expressions on international goodwill which you wrote on your application - I'm sure you will enjoy Australia just as much as we will enjoy meeting you and learning at first hand more about your home Country.

Do excuse this somewhat hasty note - time is short and I have many letters to write to students.

I hope you meet no difficulty in getting away - I am looking forward to early news of your anticipated arrival.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Mackay.

Enclos.

The title of the enclosed document was as follows. The contents were a document authorising the enrol to NSW public school in the year 1962 and general guidance on attending school.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, NEW SOUTH WALES
INFORMATION FOR THE GUIDANCE of OVERSEAS STUDENTS and AUTHORITY TO ENROL

RM no.4 D.370 Governor's Monthly Letter, January, 1962 (15th January 1962)

The decision was made that the Exchange Student to Australia would be Miss Yoko Miyazaki, daughter of Koichi Miyazaki, member of Kurume Rotary Club.

We have decided to choose Miss Yoko Miyazaki as the student under the scholarship scheme of the RI D.282. This scheme was brought about by the blind Rotarian Farquhar.

Yoko is now tackling the procedures to go abroad, and she will leave from Haneda on the 17th January, if the permission is obtained as planned.

The period of stay is one year. She will be hosted by the Farquhar family and 3 others, 4 families in total, to be looked after for 3 months each.

Beside this from Australia, we have also had an invitation from D.275. There are many applicants for this case. While the number to accept is 3, I have already transferred 8 applications. The selection is totally in hands of the counterpart, so no one knows who will draw the lucky lot.

Editor's note: In the New Year, the invitation letters (RM no.2) had arrived to 8 students and they were preparing for going abroad.

RM no.5 Notice on Applying for Visa from the Vice Consul, Embassy of Australia
(15th January 1962)

Editor's note: This letter advises to soon apply for visa and indicates the conditions for.



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
TOKYO.

In reply quote No.....

Memorandum No.....

15th January 1962


Dear Sir,

I believe that your daughter has been nominated by Rotary International to study for 12 months in Australia. The conditions for a visa in such cases include a satisfactory medical examination and production of a police no-record certificate. As these formalities take some time I am sending you the necessary forms so that the processing may begin immediately.

Please take the enclosed form to the Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital, together with a passport-sized photograph of your daughter. The hospital will carry out the necessary examination and forward the results to this Embassy for transmission to Australia. I shall inform you of the result as soon as possible.

Please fill in the attached visa application form and return it to me in due course. I shall write to you at a later date concerning placement of the visa in your daughter's passport.

Yours faithfully,


(R.G. Parker)
Vice Consul

Mr. Minoru Matsuura,
119 Mantoku-chu,
Sasebo,
Nagasaki-ken

RM no.6 Notice of the Examination Date for Selecting International Students
(18th January 1962)

18th January 1962

Mr. Keisuke Hama,

Foreign Exchange Administration Bureau,
Bank of Japan

Re: Notice of the Examination Date for Selecting International Students

Mr. Keisuke Hama,

We hereby inform you that the Examination for Selecting International Students, for which you have applied, will be implemented as follows.

- 1) Date: 29th January, from 10.00 AM
- 2) Place: Science and Technology Agency
(5th Floor, Ministry of Education Building) Guide Map attached

Editor's notes: The implementing body of "the Examination for Selecting International Students" was the Foreign Exchange Administration Bureau of the Bank of Japan, and the Science and the Technology Agency of the Ministry of Education acted on its behalf. The content of the examination was only an oral interview test in English.

RM no.7 Newspaper Articles Reporting High School Students Going to Australia

The Mainichi Shimbun, Fukuoka Prefecture Edition, 23rd January, 1962

Senior High School Girl Students Go to Australia for Study, Yanagawa City

Having been invited by the Rotary International Clubs of Sydney, two senior high school girl students are to leave Haneda for Australia on the 9th February by a jetliner.

One is Miss Masako Tachibana (18, 3rd year of Denshukan Senior High, Yanagawa City), the second daughter of Mr. Kazuo Tachibana (54), the president of Yanagawa Rotary Club and the other is Miss Yoshimi Takeshita (3rd year of Meiko-Gakuen Senior High, Omuta City), the first daughter of Mr. Yosoichi Takeshita (42), the senior managing director of Takeshita Metal Works Co., Ltd.

The story started from the friendship between Mr. Kanejiro Matsumoto, the Governor of Kyushu-Yamaguchi District, and Mr. Sleath Lowrey, the Governor of Sydney District. In last November, Mr. Lowrey proposed that Mr. Matsumoto dispatch students to Australia, offering all the expenses during their stay. Governor Matsumoto recruited the candidates by announcing it to all the Rotary Clubs of his District. As the result of selection, the following 8 students have been accepted: 2 from Hagi City, Yamaguchi, 1 from Moji City, 2 from Yanagawa City, 2 from Sasebo City, Nagasaki, and 1 from Kobayashi City, Miyazaki.

During their stays for one year in Australia, they will be hosted by several Rotarian families for 3 months each. The Tachibana family and the Takeshita family are now busy preparing for the voyage abroad and the 2 students are to leave Yanagawa on the 4th February.

The Mainichi Shimbun, Miyazaki Prefecture Edition, January, 1962

Senior High Student Hama, Best in Studies, Goes to Australia

By recommendation of the Rotary Club, Keisuke Hama (17, photo), 2nd year of Kobayashi Senior High School, General Course, is to go to Sydney, Australia for study. He is 1.8m tall, has had the best academic performance at his school, and acts as the school captain. Kobayashi High is proud to dispatch the first international student and the teachers are busy preparing the documents for his departure. The period of stay is one year. Keisuke has an excited young heart eager to well learn the customs, the culture, the history etc. of the country and also to introduce Japan to Australians. His father, Kenji Hama (59), the former manager of Miyazaki Factory, Hitachi Metals Industries, runs a shop to sell Hitachi electrical appliances at Honmachi, Kobayashi City. Keisuke is the second son and the youngest of 4 children of the family.

Exchange Students Invited by R.I. District 275, Australia

I have informed to all the Clubs already by mail concerning the proposal of Youth Exchange from the RI District 275. I would like to make an intermediate report about this as follows.

This proposal is to be developed to mutual exchange of senior high school students in a near future, but for the time being, the dispatch is only one way from Japan to Australia.

Although the number of acceptable students was originally 3, they decided to accept 8 to our 10 applications (the 2 omitted cases are supposed to have missed in time the chance to be discussed.). I should say this is a great favour given to us.

To my regret, however, as the system is so called "part guarantee", the procedure is complicated for obtaining permission to go abroad. After all, the candidates are required to pass the examination for international students for permission and they are to sit for the said exams held on 19th January in Tokyo. (However, I have been reported that 4 girl students, Tachibana, Takeshita, Maeda and Matsura, are exempted from it because they have obtained all guarantee approvals.) I do hope all the other students will break through this difficulty and respond to the favour of the District 275. (By the time you receive this Governor's Monthly, the final results will have been clear.)

The followings are the names of the candidates and the sponsor Clubs.

(In order of application).

Masako Tachibana	Yanagawa
Yoshimi Takeshita	Yanagawa
Kikuo Miyamoto	Hagi
Kazuyo Nakamura	Hagi
Yuko Maeda	Sasebo
Naoko Matsura	Sasebo
Toshiko Kojima	Moji
Keisuke Hama	Kobayashi

Transcript of Governor Matsumoto's Lecture

Mr. Kanejiro Matsumoto, Governor of D.370, gave a lecture at Moji Rotary Club on 18 January 1962. In the first part of lecture, he referred to the ethics of Rotarians that each one must fulfill his/her responsibility, and indifference is a sin. Then, he talked about the episodes of Donald Farquhar in Tokyo and the sequences of the Youth Exchange which he proposed.



VoL. 7 No. 1, 2 Jan., Feb. 1962

門司ロータークラブ

事務所 門司市錦町3番地の2
門司商工会議所内
例会場 門司市元清滝町1丁目
門司倶楽部
例会日 毎週木曜日 12.30~13.30
印刷所 合資会社 渡辺印刷所



無関心は罪惡
各人が責任を果せ

松本ガバナーの講演

(門司ロータークラブにて)
(昭和37年2月18日)

松本ガバナーの講演

37. 2. 18—門司 R. C. で

最初に小島さん（豪州留学生）へ一言申し上げます。275区のカバナーは 若く夫婦ともに声楽家で船中の仮装舞踏会に優勝した程の方で、非常に気さくな人です。お父様も御心置きなく送り出してよいと存じます。

2月23日は R. I. 第57回目の創立記念日を迎えますが、この長い歴史の内にロータリーは少しづつ変貌しています。最初シカゴでポール・ハリス外3人の友・職業の違う4人ーが週に1度各家庭を交互に回りお互に職業知識を深めておりました。その後自分達の知識や親睦を深めるだけではものたりなくなり、人数を増し自分達の住んでいる町のために奉仕をしたらと誰からともなく話がで、これが現在の奉仕団体としてのロータリーにまで発達したのです。それが今日ではさらに国際ロータリーの名の示す如く（最初は国際ロータリーとはいっていませんでした。最近特に国際という字が大寫しになってきたようです。）エービー会長もたびたび世界中のロータリアンに色々な手段を通じて呼びかけていますが、特に強調していますのは国際奉仕の精神でした。水爆、原爆、宇宙開発等の国際競争？

世界が再び戦乱のさなかに巻込まれる危険が少くないという現状が エービー会長の国際奉仕の面を特に「ロータリーとして力を入れねばならない」という結論に到達した結果だと思います。しかしながら国際奉仕といってもロータリーの国際奉仕と政治家のそれとは違うのです。

ロータリーは1人1人のロータリアンのロータリアンの力によって表れ現在世界中に1万1千以上のロータリークラブがあり、会員総数も51万を多分越えたのですが、この数の力でRの力を発揮しよう。そして「特に国際奉仕の面にロータリーの力を発揮しようではないか」とエービー会長が呼びかけているのであります。従って51万有余というロータリアンの力は ただ数がそこにあるというだけでは力にならない。51万のロータリアンが1人1人自分の任務を果してこそ初めて その集積が力になるのです。従って51万のロータリアンの中に 1人でも傍観者の態度があつてはならないと思います。ポール・ハリスのいった有名な言葉に「無関心は進歩の敵だ」という言葉がありますが、我々は無関心であつてはならない。「特にロータリアンは無関心であつてはならない」と57年もの昔ポール・ハリスはいったのです。そしてそ

の精神は今もなお連綿として受継がれ 多分これから永久にロータリアンの中に 生きていく事と思います。無関心であつてはならない。1人1人が積極的に実践しなければならない。エービー会長は年度目標に「行動に努めよ」を第一に掲げ 次に「理解に道を求めよ」「指導力を高めよ」これらを含めて行動ということをして今年の努力目標として 掲げているのも決して由なきにあらずと思います。

私は東京大会の時、ある1つの小さな出来ごとにつづかつたのですが、出来ごとというより具体的にいいますと、東京大会第4日目の国際親善会議のことです。その時私は偶々アジア部会のパネルメンバーを仰せつかりました。パネルメンバーの人々の話が終つてこれから質問に入りますという 会長の声に応じて立ち上つたのが、豪州から来た1人の盲目のロータリアンであります。丁度小島さんの行かれる留学生組織と同様留学生を1年間ロータリアンの家庭で3カ月づつ置く点等も 殆んどあらゆる点が同じであります。この留学生制度を設けたのもこの人でありまして、この人の名はファーカーといいロータリアン誌に「理解は家庭から始まる」という記事を寄稿しています。これは豪州で知り合つた1人の日本人に関してであります。質問ではありませんが 国際親善に関係あると思いますので、もしお許しが頂ければ話し度いと申し出て話



しました。その話というのはこうです。

私は3月号のロータリアン誌に寄稿しましたように1人の日本を知っています。この人は非常に親切な方です。私は豪州の生れで 第二次世界大戦中にアメリカの空軍に志願し、当時日本が占領していたラバウルにいました。その時日本軍の放つた砲弾によって目をやられ それ以来両眼とも失明してしまいました。し

かし、私は日本人を恨んではいません。というのは戦争は政府と政府の争いであって お互1人1人の間には憎しみはないと思うのです。今度東京へ参りましたのも 東京大会に出席したいという目的のほかに、私の曾って知っている日本人の国は どんな国であろうか、その同胞達はどんな人であるかを知りたかったからであり、東京へ参りましてからも街頭や乗物の中やホテルで毎日のように日本人の親切を受けました。そして大会の第1日目で 私は日本人の非常な親切に接しました。それは丁度天皇、皇后両陛下の行幸啓になる日のことでした。私は幸にも席があり座っていました。私の隣りに1人の若い日本女性が座っていました。— 後で分ったのですが、その人は福島県の白川クラブの2、3年前の会長大木さんの娘さんで 東京の大学で学んでおられ 御両親とともにこの大会に参加されたわけです — その隣りの女性が 暫くして私が両眼とも見えないことを知り不具者に対する親切心から 色々私の身の廻りの世話をしてくれるようになりました。（東京大会に御出席の方は御存じと思いますが、英語と日本語との間に 同時通訳をやっていて、これを場内のみに放送しました。従って携帯ラジオを持っておれば 同時通訳を聞くことができたわけです）私がラジオを持っていないことに気付くと若い女性は彼女のラジオのダイヤルを日本語から英語に切変えイヤホーンを私の耳にあてがってくれました。お蔭で私は日本語は一言もわからないのに 日本人と同様すべての日本語を知ることができました。また日本人のするようにすることができました。その女性は「今両陛下が会場の入口に姿をお見せになられましたので立ちましょう」といって腕をとって立たせてくれました。そして「あなたには『君が代』を御存じないでしょうか、もしできるなら私についてお歌いなさい」といって私の耳に口を寄せて歌ってくれました。御蔭で私はまがりなりにも『君が代』を歌うことができました。このように終始私について些細ではありますが 愛情ある親切な行為を示してくれました。私は些細な行為ではあるが、国際親善の根本になるのは こういう人の善意だと思しますので敢えてお話しいたしました。

私はこの話を聞き大変感動致しました。また多分私と同様感銘を受けた人も少なくないでしょう。そしてその人々は私が数10回もこの話をしていると同様に近隣の人、知人等に話したことでしょう。ファーカー自身もこの話を祖国に帰って人に伝えたことと思います。現に私はファーカーと今もなお文通をしています、

ラジオ、テレビに数回でたと書いてありました。この影響を考えて見ますと こんな極めて些細な行為ではあるが 世界中の人に訴えるものは大きいのではなからうか、しかも仮に51万のロータリアンが1人残らず形を変えた行動によって こういう善意を世界中にまき散らすならば、世界中の有力な政治家によるより世界平和への大巾な歩みが51万のロータリアンによってあるいはなし得るのでは……少くとも政治家の数倍もの仕事ができ得るのではなからうかと思うのであります。シュバイツァー博士が「我々は良き人、良き夫、良き父であるだけでは十分ではない。社会人としての我々は 何か社会の為、世の為、人の為に有益なことをなし得ねば良き社会人とはいえない」。51万人のロータリアンは 幸いにも大きな組織を持っています。



私どもロータリアンは所謂ロータリー活動を遂行することによってそれがとりもなおさず世のため、人のために寄与することになるのであります。これ程幸々な立場はないと思います。どうぞ、この上ともロータリーの理想推進に御尽力下さいますようお願い申し上げます。

Editor's note: As described at the beginning of the transcript, Miss Toshiko Kojima, his father and the principal of her school were invited to this regular meeting. The correct date was the 18th January while the 18 February, printed on the Bulletin, is a mistake.

RM no.10 QANTAS Timetable of Far East Route, February 1962

Editor's note: As described on the timetable, the flight for Sydney operated 3 times a week. It called Hong Kong, Manila and Darwin, and took about 16 hours and a half. The single fare between Tokyo and Sydney, the second class, was 435.60 US dollars, according to the price list.

For our return, in January or February 1963, the schedule was said to have been changed to leave Sydney in the morning and to arrive in Tokyo at night of the same day, without calling Darwin.



FAR EAST ROUTE

First and Economy Class.

F/Y

AUSTRALIA to HONG KONG and JAPAN

SYMBOLS :

✧ Boeing 707.

★★ Super Constellation.

+ or -- on G.M.T.	NORTHBOUND READ DOWN All times local	Tue.	Thu.	Thu.	Sun.
		QF274 F/Y ✧	QF230 F/Y ★★	QF274 F/Y ✧	QF274 F/Y ✧
+10	SYDNEY dep.	2200 (S)	1200 M	2100 (S)	2200 (S)
+10	PORT MORESBY arr. dep.		1900 2000 M		
+9½	DARWIN arr. dep.	Wed. 0140 0225		Fri. 0140 0225	Mon. 0140 0225
+8	MANILA arr. dep.	0500 0550	Fri. 0400	0500 0550	0500 0550
+8	HONG KONG arr. dep.	M 0735 0845		M 0735 0845	M 0735 0845
+9	TOKYO arr.	M 1305		M 1305	M 1305

JAPAN and HONG KONG to AUSTRALIA

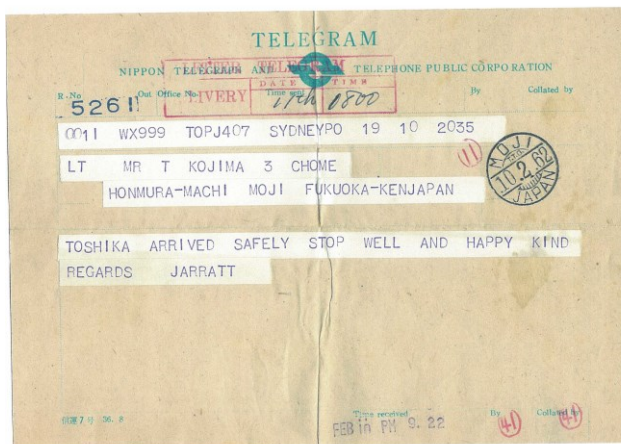
+ or -- on G.M.T.	SOUTHBOUND READ DOWN All times local	Mon.	Wed.	Fri.	Fri.
		QF275 F/Y ✧	QF275 F/Y ✧	QF275 F/Y ✧	QF231 F/Y ★★
+9	TOKYO dep.	1700	1700	1700	
+8	HONG KONG arr.	M 2025	M 2025	M 2025	
+8	MANILA arr. dep.	2110 (S) 2255 2340	2110 (S) 2255 2340	2110 (S) 2255 2340	2359
+9½	DARWIN arr. dep.	Tue. 0520 0605	Thu. 0520 0605	Sat. 0520 0605	
+10	PORT MORESBY arr. dep.				Sat. M 1200 1300 M 1945
+10	SYDNEY arr.	1025	1025	1025	

Meal Schedule : M Main Meal. (S) Supper.

Sleeper Chairs : Full length Sleeper Chairs are provided for all First Class passengers on QANTAS Far East Super Constellation Services.

Traffic Rights : SYDNEY-PORT MORESBY or v.v. SYDNEY-DARWIN or v.v. Local traffic not permitted.
HONG KONG-MANILA or v.v. Local traffic not permitted; however, passengers may be uplifted at Manila for discharge at Hong Kong or vice versa provided they have travelled or are ticketed to travel between Manila and Australia/New Guinea by QANTAS.
HONG KONG-TOKYO or v.v. All traffic may be carried whose documentation includes through air travel additional to Hong Kong-Japan and vice versa.

RM no.11 Telegram Informing the Safe Arrival in Sydney (10th February, 1962)



The text reads

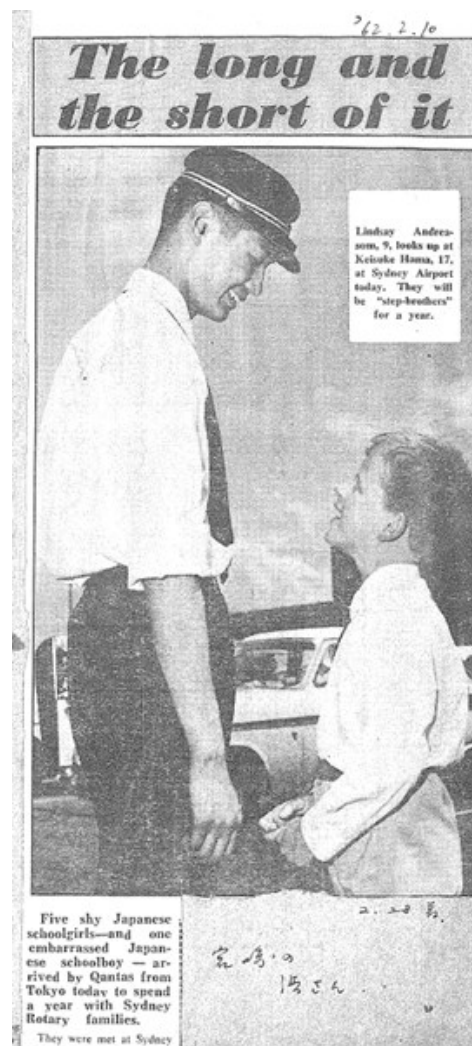
TOSHIKA ARRIVED SAFELY STOP WELL AND
HAPPY KIND REGARDS JARRATT

**RM no.12 Newspaper Articles Reporting the Arrival of Exchange Students
(February, 1962)**



NAOKO MATSURA, 17 today, and YUKO MAEDA, 18—two of six Japanese teenagers who arrived in Sydney yesterday to spend a year in the homes of Rotary International club members.

Matsura and Maeda



Hama

JAPANESE GIRL HERE TO STUDY

An 18-year-old Japanese girl arrived in Australia this week to begin a twelve months' study course at MacArthur Girls' High School in Parramatta.



Maeda

Rotary-sponsored

She is Yuko Maeda, from Sasebo Nagasaki Prefecture, and is one of eight Japanese children of high school age brought to Australia under the auspices of Rotary International.

While she is studying at MacArthur Girls' School, Yuko will live in the North Parramatta home of Rotarian Charles Robinson and family.

Mr. Robinson's three children, Janette, 17; Judith, 16; and Marsh, 9, have already become firm friends with their Oriental "sister."

Yuko, who speaks little English, but understands it perfectly, has enthralled the Robinson family with her display of traditional Japanese costumes and dances.

A high school graduate in Japan, Yuko was attending Seiya Girls' High School which is run by an Australian order of missionary Nuns.

Yuko is intensely interested in English literature, history and music.

Picture at left shows Yuko playing the piano for her host's children, and at right, she poses in a colourful national costume.



Kojima

She's eager to learn



JAPANESE GIRL ROTARY GUEST

An eager-faced Japanese girl who flew in to Mascot on Saturday morning has already decided that Australia is "just fine."

With blue-black hair and some English to her credit, 17-year-old Toshika Kojima, of Moji, Japan, is excited and "happy" about her 12-month visit to Australia.

But she can't get over the amount of "space" here.

"In Japan we only have such a small island with many houses — here space all around and houses only few," she said with a smile (looking up her Japanese dictionary for "few").

This week Toshika will be enrolled as a pupil of Corrimal High School.

In Japan, she attends the North High School at Moji — one of the oldest sea ports in Japan — and has one more year to do when she goes back home.

Toshika is staying with Mr. and Mrs. Lew Jarratt in their modern home in Powell Ave, Corrimal.

She is one of five Japanese high school students who have been brought to Australia by Rotary District 275 to help promote international understanding and peace between the two nations.

All the students will be guests of Rotary Clubs and will stay in the homes of Rotary members.

Toshika is the only student to come to the Greater Wollongong area.

She will stay with Mr. and Mrs. Jarratt who have two teenage daughters, for about two months, and will then go to the home of another Corrimal Rotarian.

Judging by her happy expression and her eagerness to learn, it won't be long before Toshika fits easily into the pattern of Australian living.

Already she has sampled an Australian bush picnic, an informal afternoon with friends of her own age, featuring a buffet-style tea, and her first church service.

Yesterday afternoon Toshika met a group of teenagers who will be her schoolmates at Corrimal High.

She was dressed in a Western-style dress of deep blue with a white collar and a pair of pointed-toe flaties.

Toshika has three brothers — two of whom are married, and 14-year-old Eitaro.

"I have a niece — she's three and called Naoko," she added proudly.

PICTURE: Toshika "wipes up" yesterday for Mrs. Margaret Jarratt in the kitchen of her Corrimal home.

RM no.13 Invitation Letter to the District 275 Conference 1962
(21st February, 1962)



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Service Above Self - He Profits Most Who Serves Best

Telephones:

Office: 43-6572, JF 2017 Private: JA 4021

SLEATH LOWREY
GOVERNOR DISTRICT 275

429 Pacific Highway,
P.O. Box 11,
CROWS NEST, N.S.W.
AUSTRALIA

21st February, 1962.

53 9747
KEISUKE / 1
90 6693
Mr. Kikuo Miyamoto,
C/- W.C. Steanes Esq.,
8 MacPherson St.,
CREMORNE.

Dear Kikuo :

This letter is to invite you to be a guest at our Conference to be held on 5th and 6th March at the Australian Jockey Club's pavilion, Randwick.

We will be happy to have you throughout the Conference of course, but particularly on Tuesday afternoon at 4 p.m. when we plan to have you on the stage in your National costume. (if you have one with you) with the other young people, under the chairmanship of Past President Alan Mackay, who will introduce you all and then President Leon Becker will conduct an interview.

We are very proud to have 9 young people - 8 from Japan and 1 from India - and we would like you to come in contact with as many people as possible.

The Conference terminates at 5.30 p.m. and after a buffet tea we are having a theatre party. Again we would like you to be our guest for the buffet tea and the theatre party.

With kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,

Sleath Lowrey
Governor, District 275

Editor's note: The annual Conference of the District 275 was held from 5th to 6th March. We, the Exchange students were invited to the afternoon session of the 6th, having been requested to be on the stage in National costume, if we have one. This letter was addressed to Kikuo Miyamoto but mailed to Hama possibly by a mistake of choosing the right envelope.

RM no.14 Extract of Material for the District 275 Conference 1962 (5th - 6th March, 1962)



SLEATH LOWREY
Governor, District 275,
Rotary International,

Sleath Lowrey is a Senior Active member of the Rotary Club of North Sydney. He has been a member of that Club since 1942. He served as President during the year 1950-51.

He has been general Manager of "O. J. Williams" of Crows Nest, for the past 19 years prior to which he was with the English Scottish & Australian Bank Ltd. for 18 years.

He was born in Failford, N.S.W.

He has served as a Councillor of the Sydney Suburban Shop Keepers Association for 16 years and as President for 2 years. He was a member of the Conciliation Committee of the Shop Assistants Metropolitan Award for 10 years and for 6 years he was President of the Crows Nest Chamber of Commerce.

He is a Past Chairman of the Board of Roseville Girls' College.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

"He who would serve must ACT"

A warm welcome to all Rotarians and their ladies to our Annual District Conference. We are proud to have His Excellency, The Governor of New South Wales, Lieutenant-General Sir Eric Woodward, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., to officially open our Conference. His Excellency's generous patronage to Rotary in our District is gratefully acknowledged.

The President of Rotary International, Joseph A. Abey, has honoured us by appointing as his personal representative, Dr. Theodore H. Wilson, Third Vice-President of Rotary International and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Rotary International. We are delighted to have Vice-President Ted and his wife Helen with us and we give them a sincere welcome to our District.

We are appreciative of the presence at our Conference of the First Vice-President of Rotary International, Douglas Stewart, and his wife Elvie. We are proud of the further honour that Doug's high appointment brings to our District.

As we gather for the last Conference of our old 275th District, I cannot but recall many happy memories of Conferences over the last 20 years. Of course, the title of the District has twice been changed and, of greater significance, the area has twice been changed, but the spirit has not changed, and I feel confident that from the 1st July next, when yet another change takes place and we become two Districts, the spirit of Rotary will be as strong as ever; for the smaller number of Clubs will give the District Governor a greater opportunity to keep in closer touch with his officers, with a corresponding increase in efficiency.

However, whatever the title of the District might be, we are inspired with enthusiasm on the occasion of the District Conference, whether it is the fellowship, meeting many old friends again, or capturing the spark of rededication, or getting agitated about some new angle of approach or critical of some of the old ideas. Conferences do have the effect of kindling the spark of Rotary in many Rotarians, who hitherto had not caught the real spirit of the movement.

I hope that this Conference will stimulate the thinking of EVERY individual Rotarian present, not only that many problems may be explored in depth, but above all that each one will be inspired to really exemplify his Rotary membership with sincere and purposeful Rotary ACTION.

Portrait of Sleath Lowrey, Governor of D.275, Biography and Message

Vive le Rotary!

Chorus

Vive le, Vive le, Rotary!
Vive le, Vive le, Rotary!
Truth is our right,
Love is our might,
Vive le Rotary!
The grooming of man is a duty we claim.
Vive le Rotary!
Let's carry on business with fame to our name.
Vive le Rotary!

The man with a smile, is the fellow we need.
Vive le Rotary!
Who loses himself in the shaming of greed.
Vive le Rotary!

Chorus

- 2.10 SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION
"Rotarians Are Expected To Be Leaders In Their Vocations."
An Address—"Leadership", by Sir Charles Moses, C.B.E., General Manager, Australian Broadcasting Commission.
- 2.40 Consideration of Resolutions.
- 2.50 Introduction of District Governor Nominee, District 275, 1962/63, Harry Arthy, of Rotary Club of Sydney.
Introduction of District Governor Nominee, District 268, 1962/63, Ed. Hill, of Rotary Club of Blackheath.
- 3.05 EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION
"International House."

- 4.15 Our Youth Exchange Project (Y.E.P.)
Chairman: Past President Alan Mackay, Rotary Club of Cronulla.
Leon Becker, President Rotary Club of Warrigah, will interview our Teenage Guests—
Miss Rita Bhandari Calcutta India
Miss Toshiko Kojima Moji-shi Japan
Miss Yuko Moeda Sasebo Japan
Miss Naoko Matsura Sasebo Japan
Miss Kazuo Nakamura Hagi City Japan
Miss Masako Tachibana Yanagawa Japan
Miss Yoshimi Takeshita Yanagawa Japan
Mr. Kikuo Miyamoto Hagi City Japan
Mr. Keisuke Hama Kobayashi Japan

- 4.55 Conference Announcements and Report of Registrations by Conference Secretary, Lionel Manches.
- 5.00 Final Message from Dr. Theodore H. Wilson, The Personal Representative of the President of Rotary International.
- 5.20 Closing Address by District Governor Sleath Lowrey.
- 5.30 Conference Adjourns for Fellowship.

TUESDAY EVENING

- 6.00— 7.30 Buffet.
- 8.00 Theatre Party—Theatre Royal—"Oliver".

A Part of the Programme, 9 Exchange students were introduced in the session of Youth Exchange Project

RM no.15 D.370 Governor's Monthly Letter, March 1962
(15th March, 1962)

High School Students Invited by District 275 Arrived in Sydney

I have received the news from Sleath Lowrey, Governor of D.275, to inform that the first 6 senior high school students, out of 8 reported in the last issue, arrived safely at Sydney Airport on the 10th February. They and the sponsor Clubs are:

Toshiko Kojima	Moji
Yuko Maeda	Sasebo
Naoko Matsura	Sasebo
Masako Tachibana	Yanagawa
Yoshimi Takeshita	Yanagawa
Keisuke Hama	Kobayashi

He mentions also "My emotion on greeting these 6 youths at Sydney Airport was so great as I cannot express by words."

The remaining 2, Kikuo Miyamoto and Kazuyo Nakamura, must have arrived safely on the 19th February. The letter of Lowrey was dated 12th February.

His letter is concluded with "Dear Kane, I am really pleased that our friendly acquaintance brought about the materialisation of this project between two countries. Furthermore, I wish this will lead to the results of great augmentation of international goodwill and understanding."

Post Script:

As if it follows the letter of Lowrey, I received the news from Alan Mackay, the District Chair for Youth Exchange, to report the safe arrival of the remaining two. He added that he was very sorry not to have been able to adopt the other 3 students recommended by the Clubs of Nagasaki, Isahaya and Nichinan, because the applications had missed committee meeting in time.

High School Students Exchange Program with Australia

As you are well aware of, we dispatched from our District 9 senior high Exchange students, 1 to D.282 and 8 to D.275, Australia, this year.

As for the D.282, the project was launched by the initiatives of the blind Rotarian Don Farquhar and it seems, for the moment, there is no similar plan to dispatch a high school student to Japan from their part. In the D.275 contrarily, they hope to develop this project to a scheme mutually exchanging students in the future. So, we must soon discuss the matter in detail, including whether we dispatch students to each other every year, or dispatch those to one direction one year and in the following year to the other. In any case, I believe the project must not be beneficial to our side only.

There are several requirements to accept foreign students in our Clubs. Aside from the details, I am pointing out a few basic conditions as follows and I hope each member, without exception, will take them in consideration.

First of all, we must find a senior high school which offers to accept a student to come and to secure their commitment of acceptance. Needless to say, the school must sufficiently fulfil the requirements.

Secondly, we need Rotarian families who voluntarily wish to host the international students at home, since the most important principle is that the students are to attend school from the homes of Rotarian families. In Australia, they adopt a system where a certain Club is allocated to each student as the hosting Club and the members of the said Club take care of the student for 3 months in one place. It is not always necessary to do so in Japan but I think this is a good way, so I think we can adopt this system. It is evident that living with 4 different families will give the students much more experiences than just with one family during their stay for a year. When we adopt this system, we need 4 Rotarians who are willing to accept one coming student at their homes. In this case, the Rotarians and their spouses are not necessarily able to speak English but it is very desirable they have children of the similar age. Or, it is better to say this is a requirement. When you have boys or girls of the same generation, the international goodwill by the youth will be truly achieved and the difficulties of communication will be overcome through improvement of Japanese and English each other.

If possible, I would like to be ready to accept international students from D.275 in the new school year, April 1963. I would also like to request you, the President of each Club, to make efforts at your responsibility to solve the two issues mentioned above: 1) to find a school which can accept an international student, and 2) to find 4 Rotarians who are willing to host the student from Australia at home for 3 months. Since this will be a good occasion for the Clubs which lament for not having chances for international services, please voluntarily collaborate with me.

In Australia, as the new school year starts in January or early February. As soon as our acceptance system is decided, we must send them our proposal by October at the latest. To meet these conditions, we must start in July such preparations as to study on the application form with attachments and to produce various printed matters. Therefore, the Presidents of the Clubs, which have found the school are families ready to accept a student, are requested to propose me by the 15th July. My term of Governorship will have expired by that time, but as the Governor's office will be still there till 20th July for the remaining tasks, you can send your letters to the present address.

RM no.17 Invitation Letter to the Annual Rotary Ball to be Held on 4th May
(27th April, 1962)



275th District

ROTARY CLUB OF PARRAMATTA

N.S.W., AUSTRALIA

P.O. BOX 172, PARRAMATTA

PRESIDENT:
L. J. (LES) GENNER
70 MACQUARIE STREET
PARRAMATTA
TELEPHONE:
BUSINESS: YL 9027 PRIVATE: YY 3989

HON SECRETARY:
B. S. (BRUCE) SMITH
P.O. BOX 172
PARRAMATTA.
TELEPHONE:
BUSINESS: YL 9564 PRIVATE: YY 3179

27th April, 1962.

Mr. Keisuya Hama,
C/- Ron Hayes,
35 The Mall,
SOUTH HURSTVILLE.


Dear Mr. Hama,

On behalf of District Governor, Sleath Lowrey, and his Committee I have much pleasure in inviting you to be our guest at the Annual Rotary Ball to be held in the Trocadero, George Street, Sydney, commencing at 8.30 p.m., Friday 4th May, 1962.

During the function it will be our pleasure to present you to Sir John Northcott, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B., who until recently was Governor of this State.

We look forward to sharing an enjoyable evening with you.

Yours faithfully,


L.J. GENNER.
MEMBER OF COMMITTEE

Editor's note: In the middle of the Ball, all the participated exchange students had audience with the former Governor of NSW, Sir John Northcott, being introduced one by one.

Sir Northcott was army officer, having served the World War I and II, and stationed in Japan as the Commander-in-Chief of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force from 1945 to 46. He was appointed the Governor of New South Wales from 1946 to 57 and respected as the first Australian born Governor with his longest service.

Ref. <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/northcott-sir-john-11257>

SOUTH COAST TIMES, MONDAY, JUNE 18, 1962

TOSHIKO AND FRIENDS SANG AT CONCERT



A Japanese girl who has "adapted herself wonderfully to Australian school life," according to her headmaster, Mr. R. Caldwell, appeared with two Japanese friends at Corrimal High School's Annual Concert, on Saturday night.

Australian landscape presents.

The girls hope to take home what they call 'good Australian customs,' mainly concerning husbands.

They are absolutely in agreement about this.

They say: "The husband works very much. This very nice."

Pretty Yuko finds Australian "boys very kind."

Toshiko also loves Australian barbecues. She hopes to take the custom home, along with some poinsettias to plant in the family garden.

The girls found their school life in Japan much harder and stricter, with bigger classes than they now attend and they are amazed at the friendly relations that exist between students and teachers.

They all "like everything" about Australia.

A total of six students involved in the Rotary scheme will be returning to Japan in January.

At Annual Concert of Corrimal High School

From left: Tachibana, Kojima, Maeda

RM no.19 D.370 Governor's Monthly Letter, October, 1962
(15th October, 1962)

High School Students Exchange Program with Australia

After my reporting in the previous issue, I have received two offers, from Nakatsu RC and Kurume RC, that they were ready to host one student each from D.275, Australia. In addition, the 3 Rotary Clubs of Yanai, Ube and Kumamoto have offered to host a student in each Club. I express my cordial thanks to the 5 Rotary Clubs mentioned above.

Next, I have received a letter from the Past Governor Matsumoto which follows.

Since I have received a letter of the following contents, I am going to reply to the sender that I transfer it to the Governor Shindo and the District Chair of Youth Exchange.

Sender: R. K. Senior, International Service chairman, Rotary Club of Sale, Victoria, Australia.
Summary of the letter contents:

I am writing this letter to you by the recommendation of Don Farquhar, a member of Rosebud Rotary Club. I have heard in detail from him of his impression of Japan and the matters with Miss Yoko Miyazaki. I wish to implement a similar project in my Club. My town Sale is located about 130 miles east of Melbourne with a population of 7 thousand.

We would like to invite a girl student of 16 or 17 years old from Japan starting in February next year. The conditions are as follows, which suit to what I have heard from Don.

- 1) For the period from February to December, Sale Rotary Club will take care of her and let her attend a high school.
- 2) The travel expense between Japan and Australia is borne by the parents of the student.
- 3) Here, 6 members of the Club will host her for 2 months each.
- 4) Sale Rotary Club will guarantee all the general expenses, including books, during her stay.

Therefore, I would appreciate that you will invite the Clubs wishing to recommend a candidate with the conditions mentioned above. I would also suggest you, from the experiences I had last year, to respect the following points.

- 1) To investigate the rough figure of travel expense between Japan and Australia and to include it in the conditions to apply.
- 2) The application must come through the Club and the Club is responsible for all.
- 3) Since the travel expense is borne by the student's side, there are restrictions to travel abroad. Namely, the student must pass the examination for selecting international students held by the Ministry of Education. (I am afraid that the selection could be severer than last year because of the recent condition of foreign currency.) This exam is not an extremely difficult one (only English conversation at a low level) but it is held only once every 2 or 3 months, so it is better to apply for it as soon as possible. I believe Mr. Nakamuta, the Youth Exchange Chair, will get information of the exam dates and everything will go smoothly.

The above is the summary of the letter from the past Governor Mr. Matsumoto. I have had no time to directly research the travel fares to Australia but, according to what Mr. Ichiro Yano, the Youth Exchange Chair, found out that cruise ship fare between Kobe and Sydney is


112,899 yen / single and 214,502 yen / return, according to the regular route of Osaka Merchant Marine (Please refer to my Monthly Letter, 15th September). There will be an additional travel cost for going to Sale from Sydney but you can roughly guess it.

Should there be Rotarians in this District who have wish to let a girl student of 16 or 17 years old to go to Sale, Australia, please give me information or to Mr. Nakamuta (Youth Exchange Chair, Fukuoka RC). In case there are many candidates, please leave the selection method to us.

PS. According to what I have researched, the air fare between Tokyo and Melbourne is 474 US dollars (about 170,000 yen)

RM no.20 Letters to Certify two Students' Attendance and Study Records

Keisuke Hama
(13th December, 1962)



HURSTVILLE BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL
FOREST ROAD, HURSTVILLE
13th. December, 1962.
PHONE: LW 3943

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Keisuke Hama has attended this school since 22nd. February, 1962.

It has been a pleasure to have had him with us.

His demeanour, attendance and co-operation have been excellent.


As a student he has improved his English considerably and topped the Science Honours group.

In gaining 1st. place in Technical Drawing, this student has completed four years work in nine months.


Again he came first in Maths. I. and Maths.II - a fine record!

In his final speech, made to an audience of almost 1,000, Keisuke gave a message of goodwill and peace and made a plea for international understanding.

We wish him well.


ROSS D. THOMAS.
Headmaster.

Toshiko Kojima
(14th December, 1962)



SI 6341

HIGH SCHOOL
Corrimal, N.S.W.
14th December 1962

REFERENCE: Toshiko Kojima.


This is to certify that
TOSHIKO KOJIMA
has attended the Corrimal High School during the year 1962.
She has studied English, Biology, Art, Home Economics, History, and Mathematics III.

She has shown great interest in her life among Australian students, and has been very popular with them.

Her conduct at the school has been excellent. Her manner is polite and correct at all times.

At the recent school Speech Night, Toshiko made a speech of thanks, in farewell to her Australian friends.

We wish her every happiness in the future.


Principal.

A Lad is Coming from Australia to Kumamoto

At long last, the invitation of a high school student from Australia will come real soon. Mr. C. L. Robinson, the chair of RI D.268 Youth Exchange Committee, has made great efforts, responding our request, to find a high school student who wishes to come to Japan for one year. He recommended Kenneth Norman Angel, 16 years old boy. I immediately discussed this with Mr. Kiichiro Nakamuta, District Chair of Youth Exchange, Fukuoka RC, to have the conclusion to gladly accept this recommendation and to request Kumamoto RC to host him for the coming one year. I have already informed Mr. Robinson this decision with the agreement of the principal of Kyushu Gakuin High School. Ken will arrival by the end of May.

Last year, 8 high school students, boys and girls, were hosted by D.275 and D.268 (These districts were one till last year). I have sent of course an invitation to the Governor of D.275 but, to our regret, they could not find any candidate this year, while they have a hope to do so next year.

Consequently, we must be satisfied with only one boy from Australia. I feel sorry to the Rotary Clubs of Yanai, Ube-Nishi and Nakatsu, which had offered to host a student, for not having met their expectations. There will be a possibility in the future. When Ken travels around in summer vacation, let us arrange these 3 Clubs to take care of him in priority.

In any case, it is our first experience to host an Australian student in this District. Ken will have difficulty in language but Kyushu Gakuin Senior High is a missionary school and it seems the English is taught intensively. I do expect things will go smoothly in Kumamoto Rotary Club, thanks to the hospitality of President Masunaga and 4 Rotarian families to host him successively.

For your information, Ken's sponsor Cub is the Rotary Club of Parramatta, New South Wales, Australia and Mr. Robinson is a member of this Club.

Gifts from Fairfield RC, Australia

I received a letter from Mr. Steve Paul, honorary secretary, of Fairfield RC (D.268) which hosted Miss Kazuyo Nakamura, one of the invited students to Australia, dispatched from Hagi RC of our D.370, last year. He mentions in his letter that they had presented her 8 colour slides taken during her stay there and a tape recording their greetings in the farewell party. He adds that these are of course the private properties of Miss Nakamura but she will be glad to lend them to other Rotarians who wish to have a look at or listen to them.

Without delay, I wrote back to Mr. Paul to express my thanks for his kindness and to promise to convey his message to all the Rotarians of the District by writing an article on the Governor's Monthly Letter. All the fellow Rotarians, let us borrow these colour slides and the tape from Miss Nakamura, imagine her life in Australia, and share with her our sincere thanks to the kindness of the members of Fairfield Rotary Club.

(Newspaper scrap on the following page)

JAPANESE VISITOR GIVEN TAPE



MR. SATTLER

A tape recording of her farewell by Fairfield Rotary Club was given to Japanese student, Kazuyo Nakamura when she returned home last week.

Kazuyo came to Fairfield 12 months ago under the Rotary exchange student plan.

In that time she attended Fairfield Girls' High School as a fourth year student, and lived with the families of many local Rotarians.

Nearly 30 pupils from local schools were among guests at the club's farewell to Kazuyo.

Past president of Cabramatta Rotary Club and former secretary of Fairfield Club, Mr. Ray Herman was also present.

President, Mr. J. Sattler welcomed the guests and expressed regret at Kazuyo's departure.

Goodwill

"She has not only endeared herself to every-

one, but the experiment has developed international understanding and goodwill," he said.

Mr. Sattler added a tribute to Kazuyo's "grace" and friendly personality" and wished her a happy future.

Kazuyo was presented with several mementoes of her year-long stay in Fairfield, including an ornate necklet, a bracelet and a set of coloured slides.

Past president, Mr. T. Everingham, who as president had welcomed Kazuyo to Australia last year, endorsed Mr. Sattler's remarks.

Local school captains, Jill Davies, Fairfield Girls' High; Christine Pearman, Our Lady of the Rosary Convent; Richard Levandov-

sky, Patrician Brothers, and John Brewer, Fairfield Boys' High, also praised their fellow student from Japan.

Mr. Ted Steel, was welcomed back at the meeting after a term in hospital.

Attendance last week was 95.56 per cent.

RM no.23 25 Years of Service, The Rotary Club of Hunters Hill, April 1983

An Extract from the Memorial Book of the Hunters Hill R.C. commemorating its 25th Anniversary.

1961-62 PRESIDENT GEORGE DANDO (page14-15)

(Precedence omitted)

The ladies also played a big part in Club activities because we had our first Rotary Youth Exchange Student with us in the person of Masako Tachibana who arrived with another nine* Japanese students on 10th of February, 1962. Seven** Rotary families were to host her in their homes during her twelve months stay with us.

The Club financed her out-of-pocket expenses by asking all fellows to pay the sum of two shillings each week with their dinner dues and this was put into a special fund for the purpose. Youth Exchange was allowing us to really share international experiences!

(Middle part omitted)

As time went by our Japanese student “Marsh” was really accepted into our homes and there were many tears as she moved from one home to another. The “movals” were quiet events in the Club’s activities. President George and his wife Joan did so much to make sure this whole project was a success and when he handed over the reins of the Club at 30th June, 1962 there was no doubt that it had been and was to continue for the rest of the 1962 calendar year.

Editor’s note: *five Japanese students arrived with Masako.

 **Nine Rotary families were to host her.

This is an article on the “Rotary-no-Tomo” reporting the achievements of Youth Exchange in the District 263, Gifu and Mie prefectures, starting in 1967 and the historical background of this Program. The author, Masakazu Muto of Gifu RC, describes how RI Youth Exchange commenced between Australia and the USA in 1959 and how the first Japanese student was dispatched from Japan to Australia in 1962.

編集・「友」地区委員
林 初彦・岐阜

地区のたより

第263地区・岐阜・三重

着実に発展する青少年交換 その生い立ちと背景について

岐阜 武藤 昌一

わが地区より最初の交換学生として、各務原RCがスポンサーした山田真理さん（当時、岐阜高校1年在学中）が、オーストラリア260地区ボーデザートRC（現964地区）へ1年間派遣されたのは、あたかも、360地区から分離独立したばかりの361地区初代ガバナーであった故山中義一会員の時、1967年1月であった。翌1968年1月、その見返りとして、オーストラリアのボーデザートRCより、エリザベス（愛称リビー）・サリバンさんが当地区受け入れ第1号の交換学生として来日し、岐阜クラブがホストすることとなった。リビーは、県立岐阜商業高校へ通学しながら、1年間の滞在を終えて帰国したが、これが、当地区における青少年交換の始まりであった。

1969年には、地区に正式に国際青少年交換委員会が創設され、その初代委員長に故山中バスターガバナー、委員に現岡本ガバナーが就任し、ようやく青少年交換もその軌道に乗ったのである。翌1970年には、岐阜RCに地区内他クラブにさがけて青少年交換委員会が特別委員会として設けられ、山内正通前会長が初代委員長に就任した。

以来、当地区とオーストラリアの交換は年を追って拡大、発展を遂げ、今日に至ったが、ロータリーの提唱する青少年交換プログラムは、いつ、いかにして始められたのであろうか。青少年交換は、現在でこそ世界理解のための最も成功したプログラムの一つとして、世界中のロータリーの指導者たちの間に認められているが、最初はRI理事会の外で考えられ、非公式に創始され発展したのである。1950年代の後半に、「地域社会の高校生に対し、文化、習慣、信仰などの全く異なった国を訪問し、1年間をその土地のロータリークラブの保護下で、複数のホ

スト家庭でさまざまな生活体験をしつつ、高校生活を送り、その国の言語を習得し、自己の見聞を広めるとともに、自分の国を代表する親善使節として、受け入れ国の人々との友好親善を増進し、国際的感覚を身につけさせよう」というアイデアを抱いていたロータリアンがいた。

それは米国の偉大な作家マーク・トゥエインの曾孫に当たる人で、ネブラスカ州545地区のスコッツブラフRCの会員でバスターガバナーのハーリー・シェーバーであった。彼は1958—59年度のガバナーを対象としたアメリカのレーク・プラシッドでの国際協議会へオブザーバーとして、自ら赴き、世界中より参加したガバナー・ミニーに自己の意見を述べようとした。しかし、ハーリーは、たまたまトイレで隣り合わせたオーストラリアのガバナー・ミニーに青少年交換に対する自分のアイデアを語ったところ、即座に同意を得たのである。そのガバナー・ミニーこそオーストラリア・メルボルンより会議に出席した280地区（現980地区）エッセンダンRCの会員ジョー・ブラッドバリーであった。

ハーリーと青少年交換の実現を約し、オーストラリアに帰り、間もなく、ガバナーに就任したジョーは、その年、1958年7月、280地区のロータリー財団委員に新任されたばかりのマーティン・フォードRC会員のピーター・バーネットに新しい交換プロジェクトの推進を命じた。しかし、青少年交換はロータリー財団活動を阻害するものだというメルボルンをはじめとする大都市のロータリアンの猛烈な反対があった。それにもくじけずピーターはローリーとジョーの夢を実現すべく、自分のクラブをはじめ主にビクトリア州北東部農業地帯のクラブの協力を得ることに成功し、ついに1959年1月になって米国のRCとの間で3人の男子生徒を相互交換する

に至ったのである。これら3人の男子生徒こそ世界最初のロータリー交換学生で、しかも、ハーリーのアイデアとジョーの協力による所産である。ハーリーもジョーもその後他界したが、ジョーは今でもオーストラリアで「青少年交換の父」として、その栄誉をたたえられている。

さて、日本との交換であるが、1959年、ジョー・ブラッドバリーは、日本の12地区のガバナーに親書を送り、青少年交換についての意見を求めるとともにその協力を依頼したが、2、3のガバナーより丁重な断りの返書が来たのみではかたは返事すらなかったという。一方1955年、ビクトリア州の保養地ローズバッドという町にロータリークラブが創立されるや、ドン・ファークファーは自らチャーターメンバーとして加入した。彼は第2次世界大戦でオーストラリア空軍に志願し、1942年9月に対空砲火のために負傷して、永遠に盲目の身となり、復員後医師の勧めでメルボルンを去り、この地で夫人とともに貸別荘を営んでいた。彼は1958年には全盲の身でありながら、クラブ会員に選ばれ、地域社会のため奉仕の誠を尽くすのであった。戦争で失明して一時は極度の人間不信に陥ったが、ロータリーに入会してからは、戦争の愚劣さを痛感し、世界の平和がいかに重要であるかを周りの人々に説いた。ドンは、かつての敵国日本との友好を確立することこそ、最も重要なことだと悟った。そして青少年交換という新しいプログラムにより日本人の高校生を招待し、自分のクラブでホストするのが一番の近道であると考えて、バスターガバナーのジョー・ブラッドバリーに相談を求めた。そこでジョーは、この盲目の

今年も元気な交換学生が大勢やって来た



平成元年6月号

ロータリアンであるドンが日本との戦争により失明したことを知り、彼をこそ日本との青少年交換の橋を架けるために利用すべき最良の人物であると考え、自らエッセンダンRC会員より募金した500ポンドの金をドンに贈り、1961年5月に東京で開催された国際ロータリーの世界大会にドンの参加を要請したのであった。大会に出席したドンは、幸いにも、今は故人となった当時ガバナーノミニの九州地区八幡RCの松本兼二郎氏に会い、ジョーの意を伝えるとともに、自己の所属するローズバッドRCに日本人の女子高校生の派遣方を求めた。当時、オーストラリアでは依然反日感情が強かったため、ドンはあえて女子学生の選出を願ったという。7月より地区ガバナーに就任した松本氏は公式訪問の都度、訪問クラブでドンに約束した交換学生の選出を要請し、その結果、久留米RCがスポンサーした宮崎洋子さんを決定し、翌1962年1月、ドンのクラブへ派遣した。これが日本人交換学生第1号である。

ローズバッド“ばらのつぼみ”という美しい名前を持ったRCで始められた日本との青少年交換が、今では年間それぞれ100人を超す多きに上っている。

既述の通り、当地区にとっては1967年が青少年交換の創始の年、以来年を追って盛んになり、現在では国内随一の交換実績を誇る。当地区の交換先はオーストラリア、アメリカ、ニュージーランドの3カ国、31地区、1967年から1989年の地区全体の実績は、

岐阜県 (26RC)	派遣 312人	受入 309人
三重県 (17RC)	派遣 99人	受入 94人
合計 43RC	派遣 411人	受入 403人

(1989年9月の派遣、受入を含む)

RIはその綱領の中で「奉仕の理想に結ばれた会員が、世界的親交によって国際間の理解と親善と平和を推進すること」を推奨しているが、この青少年交換プログラムこそ、まさにびったりであり、これをさらに発展させることが世界平和、世界理解への礎となることを確信する。

Editor's Comments

(For the initial Edition)

Shortly after having projected this memorial book, the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred. As the nuclear accident in Fukushima was so disastrous, I passed 6 months with little will to progress the work. It was in the end of September 2011 that I requested the former dispatched students for contributions. Their essays began to arrive by the year-end and I proceeded editing and compiling other materials. It took 4 months to make a prototype of our memorial book. Meantime, I requested contributions from the relevant people and sent emails to hasten some of my colleagues to complete theirs, while I wrote my own essays. In May, during the successive national holidays, I achieved a provisional version and sent the printed copies to my colleagues. In late May, we held a discussion meeting by 6 members at "O-hana" in Yanagawa, Chikugo province, to record the discussion contents to be posted. This place is a historical heritage of the Tachibana family to which Masako belongs. Unfortunately, we received nothing from Mr. Miyamoto, living in the USA, and it was not possible to post his essay.

We were lucky to be offered several works of Kazuyo Tsuji's *Bokusaiga*, ink paintings with pale colours, for decorating chapter title pages. As a background for this, her works done in the same method were displayed in the exhibitions held in Sydney, which had a role of bridging Japan and Australia through cultural exchange.

At the beginning, I had an image of the product no more than a collection of memories within the colleagues and arranging the relevant materials in hand but the contents became gradually substantial. In addition to the stories written on the memories during our stay, we collected a considerable number of the relevant materials to be posted, discovered the process of materialising the Rotary Youth Exchange, and had the pleasure to receive messages from many people. I believe we have finally produced this book worthy to be "the Memorial book for 50th anniversary".

In the process of editing, I have conceived a hypothesis on the history of materialising the Rotary Youth Exchange. It has been taken for granted that Donald Farquhar, blinded in the Pacific War, invited a Japanese student to his Club near Melbourne for the reconciliation and goodwill and Kanejiro Matsumoto took the lead to dispatch Yoko Miyazaki. However, the background for the group of eight other students who were dispatched to the Clubs around Sydney, had not been clarified. Another key person, rediscovered this time, was Sleath Lowrey, the Governor of D.275. As I described in the "In Search of History", the relationship of Lowrey and Matsumoto had been made earlier. My personal guess is that the Governor's rivalry with Melbourne, besides his empathy with Don Farquhar's proposal, could have made it so. In other words, while the honour of proposing the Youth Exchange with Japan and hosting the very first student was to belong to Melbourne, Lowrey, responsible to the District covering Sydney and surroundings, wanted to show that Sydney was superior to Melbourne in the capacity of accepting exchange students and also Sydney was the first city to represent Australia. My concept has been reinforced by the fact that he offered initially to invite three students, more than one, and, as soon as he saw the applicants were far more, he decided to accept up to eight.

If Lowrey ever wrote his autobiography, the question could be solved, which I look

forward to finding another time.

Closing my comments, I would like to express my sincerest thanks to the contributors of the articles and to those who offered the relevant materials and made efforts to confirm them. Personally, I feel relieved from editing works of the precious records and, at the same time, I am in a deep satisfaction to have finally completed my task.

July 2012 Keisuke Hama / Editor

Postscript

This memorial book has been prepared basically for Japanese readers. As we have a number of contributions from the Australian side, they are in English. While a majority of Japanese readers can read English, it is very probable that most Australian readers only understand that part. I can easily imagine they would strongly like to also read the Japanese part. Unfortunately, we could not realise the English translation this time, except main titles, because of the limitation of pages, capacity and financial resources.

I apologise to Australian readers for not yet having met their expectation. Should there be enough interest and facilities for it, an English translation could be made. Please understand that there is still a possibility for this to be done.

Keisuke Hama

Editor's Comments for the English Version

Our long-standing concern, written in my postscript above, has finally been resolved. We have now the English Version for our Memorial Book in a form of electronic file. It seems the information technology has made more progress in these 10 years. I benefited from it utilising the revising function of my PC and a free automatic translation software. I made all the English translation draft myself except the stories of Toshiko Yoshida and Kazuyo Tsuji. When I found, in the original texts, apparent errors or the expressions which could cause misunderstanding, I corrected them.

I asked Wyverne Smith, one of my best friends in Australia and a Master of Education, to proofread English and her husband Keith, an English and History teacher, helped her. Thank you again, Wyverne and Keith, for your great tenacious work. I did not, however, fully accepted their suggestions because, in some cases, I respected the meanings of the original Japanese words or phrases more than the naturalness of the English language. Please understand this policy. My thanks go also to Toshiko and Kazuyo for having translated their stories in English, as well as to all my colleague contributors for confirming or improving their English texts.

Prior to start the production of the English Version, I sent emails or letters to all my colleagues, the former first exchange students, to verify their contact information but I had no answer from Yoko Sekimoto (née Miyazaki). I made inquiries of her sponsor and of her host Rotary Clubs. Then, I was informed by Mr. Shohei Kurata, a Rotarian of Kurume RC, that she had passed away 2 years before. I was so sad to know it. The youngest member of our group left this world first. Yet, her essay and photos remain in this book and she was very happy in them. That is a modest consolation for me.

October 2022 Keisuke Hama

Half a Century after our Stay in Australia

Memorial Book commemorating the 50th Anniversary
of the first Rotary Youth Exchange for Japan
English Version

Produced by: The first Rotary Youth Exchange Students from Japan

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