

# 旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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## Hokkaido News Top 5



February 2017

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

### December 26

“Kondo Somekojo,” a dyeing factory in Asahikawa is busy with dyeing *tenugui* (hand towels) with the pattern of a Rooster; the Oriental Zodiac for 2017. The pattern illustrating a Rooster was designed by Michiko Abe in Asahikawa. The Rooster wash cloth is sold on the factory’s online shop (<http://kondo.shop-pro.jp/?pid=110890631>). The dyeing factory was established in 1898 and has been making “big catch flag” banners and so on.

### January 5

An apartment build to accommodate cats will be available to be rented in the coming spring in Asahikawa. The apartment is targeted at cat lovers who gave up keeping cats due to frequent job relocation or old age. The owner of the apartment is also aiming at reducing the number of cats in animal shelters, which are put down because they are homeless.

### January 11

Rikubetsu Town near Obihiro is scientifically proven to be the coldest place in Japan, a private laboratory announced at the town hall. Four researchers at the laboratory have compiled five kinds of data; the number of the coldest days, the ranking of the places based on the previous data, the average temperature on each day, the average of the coldest temperature on each day, and the coldest temperature in each month in places across Japan. Rikubetsu is ranked in top in four out of the five data categories

### January 21

The company president of Domaine de Montille, an old-established winery in Bourgogne, France, visited the Hakodate City Hall and announced a plan to open a winery in Hakodate. He said he’s going to establish a local corporation with people in the agricultural industry, buy farmland, and grow Pinot Noir for red wine and Chardonnay for white wine. A source from the wine industry said some wineries in Bourgogne harvest grapes earlier than before and have removed vineyards from higher altitude because of global warming.

### January 21

A joint research study by Shoshiro Minobe, a professor in the science department at Hokkaido University, and Satoshi Yoshida, a researcher of the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology who graduated from the university, confirmed that a “bomb” cyclone brought about blizzard in winter develops taking heat as source of energy from the Japan Current. Both scientists analyzed sea surface temperature records from September in 1982 through August in 2001 observed by weather satellites. They found out about atmospheric influence by ocean currents using the supercomputer “Earth Simulator.” They then posted an article online for a professional journal of American Meteorological Society.



### For further information or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee (SUGANO Ayumi, Jacob WERSCHHEY, or SAITO Emmy)

### Location:

International/City Affairs Division, Regional Development Dept.

### Address:

Asahikawa International Center Feeeal Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8-chome, Asahikawa 070-0031

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

## Harmony Between Color and Form in Two-Dimensional Art

## 色と形のポリフォニー 平面の魅力

In the same way that music is about the harmony of sounds, the artists whose art is displayed in this exhibit tried to strike a harmony between the colors and shapes in these works and showcase the charms of two-dimensional art.

**Date:** Now until April 9th (Sunday)

**Time:** 9:30am until 5:00pm (No entry after 4:30pm)

**Venue:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (Inside Tokiwa Park)

**Admission:** General ¥510; High School ¥300; Junior High and under FREE

**For further information contact:** 0166-25-2577

\*Notes: Closed on Mondays except for holidays, in which case the next day will be closed.



## Hokkaido University of Education Asahikawa Education Department 2016 Graduate Anniversary Concert

## 北海道教育大学教育学部旭川校 平成28年度 卒業・終了 記念演奏会

Program includes piano, singing, wind instruments, a chorus, and collaborative works from the freshly turned alumni of Asahikawa's Hokkaido university!

**Date:** February 4th (Saturday)

**Time:** Doors 4:00pm, Show 4:30pm

**Venue:** Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)

**Admission:** FREE

**For further information contact:** 080-2871-5307



## Shogyo High School Wind Department 30th Regular Concert

## 旭川商業高等学校高等学校吹奏楽局 第30回定期演奏会

Shogyo is having its 30th regular concert but this time with a special catch. 2017 is the 50th year anniversary of the departments founding!

**Date:** February 4th (Saturday) and February 5th (Sunday)

**Time: Saturday:** Doors 4:30pm, Show 5:00pm

**Sunday:** Doors 12:30pm, Show 1:00pm

**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Big Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)

**Admission:** Assigned Seat ¥1,500; General ¥1,000; High school and under ¥500

**Ticket Office:** Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Lawson (L-code 12379)

**For further information contact:** 080-3231-5975



## 16th Nakada Yoshinao Anniversary Competition and "Snowy City" Asahikawa Music Festival

## 第16回 旭川「雪の降り街を」音楽祭 中田喜直記念コンクール

Featuring special guest SAKASHITA Takahiro, winner of the 9th Competition that was held. He will be performing with SHIBUTANI Aika, whom you may remember if you attended the "Happy Christmas by Piano" event from the December issue.

**Date:** February 12th (Sunday)

**Time:** Show 3:30pm

**Venue:** Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Concert Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)

**Admission:** General ¥1,000

**Ticket Office:** Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Yamaha Music Store

**For further information contact:** 0166-52-2659



## Asahikawa University High School Wind Department 18th Regular Concert 旭川大学高校吹奏楽部 第18回定期演奏会

Program includes songs composed by David Gillingham, Václav Nelhýbel, Gustav Holst, HOSHIDE Takashi, and NISHIMURA Akira, who received first place in the 61st Hokkaido Wind Instrument Competition and 16th East Japan Wind instrument tournament.

**Date:** February 18th (Saturday)  
**Time:** Doors 5:30pm, Show 6:00pm  
**Venue:** Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)  
**Admission:** General ¥500  
**Ticket Office:** Asahikawa University High School, Yamaha Music Store



## Asahikawa University Chorus Club and Brass Band Winter Music Festival 旭川大学吹奏楽部・合唱サークル 冬の音楽祭

The performance is separated in 3 parts. The chorus club will be followed up by the brass band before they share the stage for the final part. If seeing Asahikawa University High School's performance wasn't enough for you, check out this one too!

**Date:** February 25th (Saturday)  
**Time:** Doors 1:30pm, Show 2:00pm  
**Venue:** Asahikawa University Junior College Building Room 251  
**Admission:** FREE



## Koto Flower Wandering Concert 箏 花さすらいコンサート

Koto is a traditional Japanese stringed instrument. It is sort of like a harp played horizontally. If you want a new musical experience or are just really interested in Japanese culture then come on down.

**Date:** February 26th (Sunday)  
**Time:** Doors 12:30pm, Show 1:00pm  
**Venue:** Kagura Public Hall "Kirarin" (Kagura 3-jo 6-chome)  
**Admission:** FREE  
**For further information contact:** 0166-52-2323



## Asahikawa Civic Wind Orchestra 17th Regular Concert 旭川シビックウインドオーケストラ 第17回定期演奏会

Part 1:	Part 2:
<i>Gogatsu no kaze</i>	Papipupepo Medley
<i>Haru no ryoken</i>	SMAP Medley
Variations of Twinkle Twinkle little star	And more!
Csárdás	

**Date:** February 26th (Sunday)  
**Time:** Doors 1:30pm, Show 2:00pm  
**Venue:** Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)  
**Admission:** General ¥800 + ¥200 day of, Elementary School and under FREE  
**Ticket Office:** Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Yamaha Music Store, Coach and Four, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Takasu Melody Hall



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR FEBRUARY

# Life In Hokkaido

“Winter Festivals and Events”

By KITAMURA Tadao

As you may already know, February will be very frosty in Hokkaido and there are many winter festivals or events in this season. The most famous winter event is the Sapporo Snow Festival (さっぽろ雪祭り). This year, it will be held from February 6 to February 12. There are many gigantic snow statues in Odori Park (大通公園) .

Winter events in Hokkaido are not limited to the Sapporo Snow Festival, there are many other events that will be held here and there in Hokkaido. For example, the Sounkyo Hyoubaku Festival (層雲峡氷瀑まつり) is another beautiful event located in Sounkyo, about an hour and a half east of Asahikawa being held from January 25 to March 20 this year. There are many ice buildings and caves that are illuminated in the night. Illuminated ice buildings are quite a sight.

Although it's not very famous, I highly recommend the Shikaribetsu Lake Kotan (しかりべつ湖コタン) as a unique winter event in Hokkaido. It's being held from January 28 to March 20. *Kotan* means “small village.” And a small ice village will appear on top of the frozen lake. In this village, you can enjoy some cocktails poured into the “ice” cup. Surprisingly, you can even enjoy an open-air bath on the iced over lake!

Needless to say, these events described above are held in very cold temperature. If you go there, you should bundle up. Have fun at the various winter events in Hokkaido!





# Hello Asahikawa!

**Name: Pat Madden**

**Home Country: Australia**

**Interviewed: December 20th, By AIC**

**AIC:** So Pat, where are you from?

**Pat:** I'm from a small town in Australia called Bathurst. It's a lot smaller than here but has a very similar vibe. Asahikawa has a lot of people but it is a very quiet town. My hometown has the same feeling. The people seem very similar in their personality. The way they smile at you in the street and say good morning sometimes when you walk past. That is something I have missed living in bigger cities.

**AIC:** What brings you to Japan?

**Pat:** I came here because I met some Japanese people in Australia and they recommended I come check it out. I'd actually never even thought about coming here before then but once I came I started to love it and now I've been here for 4 and a half years since.

**AIC:** Is it your first time outside of your home country?

**Pat:** No, I lived in Minnesota, USA for a while during university. It was a really great experience and taught me a lot. During that time I also spent a little time in Canada visiting friends. I recommend both places. They are amazing!

**AIC:** Do you speak Japanese?

**Pat:** I speak Japanese a little bit. I started learning a year or 2 ago when I realized I would be spending more time here. I'm still learning and can't really speak that well but I can talk enough to have a conversation I suppose.

**AIC:** How's Asahikawa and how long to you intend on staying?

**Pat:** I really like the snow here. I love to snowboard, so having so much snow around makes me really happy. I also really like hiking, camping and riding my bike so with so many mountains and rivers around it is really great to live. Japan is great for anyone who likes to get out and about. With so many restaurants, bars, and places to see and do it really makes living here easy. I'll be here until March.

**AIC:** I'm going to ask about to your hobbies but we got a lot out right there. *(laughs)*

**Pat:** I mainly like sports, especially NFL. I'm also a big film and music fan. I love snowboarding.

I've always played sports growing up including rugby, soccer, field hockey, swimming, and cricket. Also watching matches on TV was always a big part of my weekends or holidays.

Some of the best times of my life are Friday nights at the pub or Sunday afternoon while having a BBQ and a few beers. But there is nothing like watching a live rugby match when there is a lot of state and country pride on the line. I became interested in NFL when I lived in Minnesota. I am now a very devout fan of the Minnesota Vikings. SKOL!!

*Continued on page 6...*

# Hello Asahikawa!

Continued from page 5

Snowboarding is the only way I am able to live in Hokkaido during the winter. As an Australian I really hate the cold weather. I'm just lucky that I love snowboarding so much.

Also, I studied film at university so I have a deep interest in cinema and filmmaking. I hope to make some snowboarding videos while I'm here.

**AIC:** So you wouldn't include Karaoke as something you enjoy?

**Pat:** I find my love for karaoke to be directly proportionate to the amount of beers I have had.

**AIC:** Fair enough. Thanks for letting me interview you!

**Pat:** No worries. If you see me around, make sure you say hi!



## ★ Movies ~ February ★

\*The 1st day of every month is "Movie Day" in Asahikawa. Admission (tax included) is ¥1,100 for Adults, ¥800 for High School Students and Under at all theaters.

\*<Aeon Cinema Only> Every Monday is "Happy Monday." Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for all.

★ **Aeon Cinema:** Miyashita-dori 7-chome / ☎ 74 - 6411  
URL: [cinema.aeoncinema.com/wm/asahikawa](http://cinema.aeoncinema.com/wm/asahikawa) (Japanese)

### Now Showing

- Kiseki: Sobito of That Day (Japanese)
- A Loving Husband (Japanese)
- Hamon: Yakuza Boogie (Japanese)
- Doctor Strange (English/2D/3D)
- The Magnificent Seven (English)
- Silence (English/PG12)
- The Accountant (English)
- Shinjuku Swan 2 (Japanese)
- Honnoji Hotel (Japanese)
- Doubutsu Sentai Zyuohger vs. Nininger: Message from the Future Super Sentai (Japanese)
- The Mole Song 2 (Japanese)
- Yo-kai Watch the Movie: The Great Adventure of the Flying Whale & the Double World, Nyan! (Japanese/Anime)
- Tomorrow I Will Date with Yesterday's You (Japanese)
- Rogue One: A Star Wars Story (English/Japanese)
- A Man called Pirate (Japanese)
- Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them (English)
- Your Name (Japanese)

### Coming Soon

- Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children (English/2D/3D) 2/3
- In This Corner of the World (Japanese/Anime) 2/4 ~ 2/17
- Kimi to 100 Kaime no Koi (Japanese) 2/4
- Survival Family (Japanese) 2/11
- Partners: The Movie 4 (Japanese) 2/11
- One Week Friends (Japanese) 2/18
- Gukouroku (Japanese) 2/18
- La La Land (English) 2/24
- Kareraga Honki de Amutokiwa (Japanese) 2/25
- Kyo no Kira-kun (Japanese) 2/25
- Assassin's Creed (English) 3/3
- Haruta & Chika (Japanese) 3/4
- Doraemon Movie 37: Nobita no Nankyoku Kachikochi Dai-bouken (Japanese/Anime) 3/4
- Moana (English/Anime) 3/10
- Let's Go, Jet's (Japanese) 3/11
- Sing (English/Anime) 3/17
- March Comes in Like a Lion Pt1 (Japanese) 3/18
- P and JK (Japanese) 3/25

## ★ *Movies ~February* ★

\*<Cineplex 7 Asahikawa and Dinos Cinemas Only> Every Wednesday is “Ladies’ Day.” Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for women at all theaters.

\*<Dinos Cinemas Only> Every Thursday is “Men’s Day.” Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for men.

★ **Cineplex 7 Asahikawa:** Nagayama 12-jo 3-chome Western Powers Nagayama / ☎ 49 – 1000

URL: <http://www.unitedcinemas.jp/asahikawa/index.html> (Japanese)

**Directions:** Take Dohoku Bus No. 66, 72 or 665 at Bus stop No. 18 in front of Feeeal Asahikawa Department Store (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nagayama 10 (ju)-jo 3 (san)-chome.”

### Now Showing

- A Loving Husband (Japanese)
- Hamon: Yakuza Boogie (Japanese)
- Doctor Strange (English 2D/Japanese 2D/4DX3D)
- The Magnificent Seven (English)
- The Accountant (English)
- Silence (English/PG12)
- Shinjuku Swan 2 (Japanese)
- Honnoji Hotel (Japanese)
- Doubutsu Sentai Zyuohger vs. Nininger: Message from the Future Super Sentai (Japanese)
- The Mole Song 2 (Japanese)
- Resident Evil: the Final Chapter (Japanese 2D/ English 4DX 3D/PG12) ~2/2
- Tomorrow I Will Date with Yesterday's You (Japanese)
- Yo-kai Watch the Movie:The Great Adventure of the Flying Whale & the Double World, Nyan! (Japanese/ Anime)
- A Man called Pirate (Japanese)
- Your Name (Japanese)

### Coming Soon

- Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children (English/4DX3D) 2/3
- KanColle: The Movie (Japanese/Anime/4DX) 2/11
- Partners: The Movie 4 (Japanese) 2/11
- One Week Friends (Japanese) 2/18
- XXX: Return of Xander Cage (English) 2/24
- Collateral Beauty (English) 2/25
- Assassin's Creed (English/4DX3D) 3/3
- Doraemon Movie 37: Nobita no Nankyoku Kachikochi Dai-bouken (Japanese/Anime) 3/4
- Moana (English/Anime) 3/10
- March Comes in Like a Lion Pt1 (Japanese) 3/18

★ **Dinos Cinemas:** Taisetsu-dori 5-chome / ☎ 21 – 1218

URL: <http://cinema.sugai-dinos.jp/pc/> (Japanese)

**Directions:** Take Dohoku Bus No. 61, 62, 67 or 667 at Bus stop No. 18 in front of Feeeal Asahikawa Department Store (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nippon Seishi mae.”

### Now Showing

- A Loving Husband (Japanese)
- Hamon: Yakuza Boogie (Japanese)
- Doctor Strange (English 4DX)
- The Magnificent Seven (English)
- The Accountant (English)
- Silence (English/PG12)
- Shinjuku Swan 2 (Japanese)
- Doubutsu Sentai Zyuohger vs. Nininger: Message from the Future Super Sentai (Japanese)
- KanColle: The Movie (Japanese/Anime)
- Her Love Boils Bathwater (Japanese)
- In This Corner of the World (Japanese/Anime)
- The Mole Song 2 (Japanese)
- Yo-kai Watch the Movie:The Great Adventure of the Flying Whale & the Double World, Nyan! (Japanese/ Anime)
- Tomorrow I Will Date with Yesterday's You (Japanese)
- Rogue One: A Star Wars Story (English)
- A Man called Pirate (Japanese)
- Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them (English)
- Your Name (Japanese)

### Coming Soon

- Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children (English) 2/3
- Partners: The Movie 4 (Japanese) 2/11
- Survival Family (Japanese) 2/11
- Haha: Kobayashi Takiji no Haha no Monogatari (Japanese) 2/18
- One Week Friends (Japanese) 2/18
- Sword Art Online the Movie: Ordinal Scale (Japanese/Anime) 2/18
- XXX: Return of Xander Cage (English) 2/24
- Kyo no Kira-kun (Japanese) 2/25
- Assassin's Creed (English) 3/3
- Doraemon Movie 37: Nobita no Nankyoku Kachikochi Dai-bouken (Japanese/Anime) 3/4
- Moana (English/Anime) 3/10
- Let's Go, Jet's (Japanese) 3/11
- Sing (English/Anime) 3/17
- Passengers (English) 3/24
- Kong: Skull Island (English) 3/25
- Sakurada Reset Pt1 (Japanese) 3/25
- P and JK (Japanese) 3/25

**Movie schedules change often. Please call the theater for confirmation and details.**

# ASAHIKAWA WINTER FESTIVAL

The Asahikawa Winter Festival will take place Feb, 7th through the 12th! There are many other events going on at the same time so pick up the Asahikawa Winter Festival Executive Committee's event leaflet (pictured below) in both English and Japanese for the full scoop on all events, including a guide map!

You can view, download, and even print off the English version from:  
[http://www.city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp/awf/awf\\_update/d058667\\_d/fil/English.pdf](http://www.city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp/awf/awf_update/d058667_d/fil/English.pdf)



Interesting activities, such as quizzes, discussions, songs, games, handcrafts and many more, all in English! Come meet new people, relax, and relate on Fun Fridays!

## FUN FRIDAYS

**Dates:** February 10th&24th, March 10th&24th, April 14th&28th  
**Times:** 1:00-2:00pm ~Afternoon~ 2nd and 4th Friday of the month  
 6:30-8:30pm ~Night~ 2nd Friday of the month  
**Location:** Asahikawa International Center, Common Meeting Room (1)  
 (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome)  
**Charge:** ¥1,500 for 3 months (Free for volunteer leaders)

The AIC offers many services to make your life in Asahikawa more enjoyable. Here are just a few:

**Volunteer Guide:** Volunteers are registered to help translate and interpret.

**Event Volunteer:** The AIC plans many exciting events throughout the year, such as Friendship Parties. Why not become a volunteer and help plan these events?

**Homestay:** Families are registered to welcome you into their homes for an overnight stay or just for an afternoon visit.

**For further information or to register, please contact AIC.**

## FREE Wi Fi

The Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome) has free wifi available for public use free of charge. Registration for a user card is needed, if you are residing in Asahikawa. Please feel free to come by anytime, as well as check out some of the other services and activities available at the Asahikawa International Center .

## Spread the Word...

Contribute to the AIC newsletter and share any interesting information you may have with other readers. You may write on any topic including, items to buy or sell, offers for culture/language exchanges, or write an essay about your life in Asahikawa or your hometown. The article should not be profit related! Please send your submissions to us at the AIC.



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**\*\*The opinions expressed in the essays are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Asahikawa International Committee or the City of Asahikawa.\*\***