

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

July 2014 VOL. 212

Published by AIC

Also visit us at: <http://asahikawaic.jp/en/>



Hokkaido News Top 5



July 2014

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

May 20

A ceremony to celebrate the 160th anniversary of U.S. Navy Commodore Perry's arrival in Hakodate was held at Perry's Square in Hakodate. The event was carried out with participation of the Mayor of Newport, Rhode Island, the Mayor of Hakodate, and 500 citizens from both the U.S. and Japan. Commodore Perry came to Hakodate on May 17, 1854 after the Tokugawa Shogunate had signed a treaty that opened Hakodate and Shimoda ports to the U.S. trade in March of the same year.

May 23

According to the three-month forecast by Sapporo District Meteorological Observatory, this summer is likely to be cooler than usual in Hokkaido. The temperature in Hokkaido will be below average, because El Niño in the waters off the coast of Peru is going to prevent expansion of the anticyclone in the vicinity of Hokkaido. El Niño is a phenomenon that causes a rise in sea temperatures off Peru for about a year.

May 28

The overnight train service "Twilight Express" between Sapporo and Osaka is to be discontinued after March, 2015 due to aging rolling stock, according to West Japan Railway Company. Twilight Express is one of most popular sleeper train services with high-end "suite" cars, dining cars that provide haute French cuisine, and a dome car. The first service started in July, 1989 and currently is Japan's longest overnight train service that travels about 1,500 kilometers for 22 hours.

June 3

Asahikawa Japan-British Society is looking for new choir members who can take part in a performance of Handel's oratorio "Messiah" this coming Christmas season. The society plans to have a concert of Messiah at Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall on December 23. Neil Andrew Sharpe, a pianist from Britain who coaches the choir, expressed his wish to make it an annual winter event in Asahikawa City.

June 14

A full season of blooming flowers has come to Asahikawa Kitasaito Garden, located next to the south entrance of JR Asahikawa Station. Tourists getting off at the station and residents taking a walk are strolling around the garden of 1.7-hectares to have a look at colorful flowers and plants. The flowers in the garden will be replaced in season until the beginning of October.



**ASAHIKAWA
INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE**

For further information or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee
(SASAKI Mai, Kim LACEY, or
SAITO Emmy)

Location:

International/City Affairs Division,
Comprehensive Policy Dept.

Address:

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

Tel: (0166) 25-7491

Fax: (0166) 23-4924

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cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

Reducing Kitchen Waste: Healthy Cooking Grand Prix 生ゴミをグッと減量！ 減るし〜料理グランプリ

Environmental Affairs Department of Asahikawa City is looking for ways to reduce kitchen waste by inviting people to share their delicious and healthy recipes that include skins and cores of vegetable and fruit. Any recipe is welcome as long as it is original.

Date: now to July 11th (Friday)

How to Participate: Fill out the assigned form and mail with a picture of the food to:

旭川市 環境部 環境政策課 ごみ減量政策係 (旭川市6条通9丁目46番地)

Or email necessary files, with a subject line “環境政策課 ごみ減量政策係” to gomigenryo@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

Who Should Apply: Anybody who is residing in or commutes to Asahikawa City

Prize: ¥10,000 (1), ¥5,000 (2), ¥3,000 (2), Asappi character goods for all

For More Information Contact: 0166-25-6324



Special Exhibition “Yasushi INOUE: Man and Literature” 企画展「井上靖 人と文学」

The focused timeframe for the exhibition is around Showa 25 (1950), when two of INOUE's works, 闘牛 (Bullfight) and 猟銃 (The Hunting Gun), were nominated for the prestigious Akutagawa Prize. The former work won the 22nd Akutagawa Prize, but this period was a considerably challenging phase for INOUE Yasushi's life, as he was still working for a newspaper company at the age of 43 while trying to concentrate on writing. This exhibition will try to look into the origins of INOUE's literature inspiration during this time through his short stories and poems.

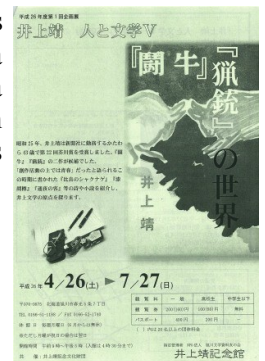
Date: now to July 27th (Sunday)

Time: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (admission is until 4:30 pm)

Venue: INOUE Yasushi Memorial Hall (Shunko 5-jo 7-chome)

Admission: General—¥200, High School Students—¥100, Children—Free

For Further Information Contact: 0166-51-1188



Byakuen KOBAYASHI's Classic Ink Painting Exhibition at Hokuchin Memorial Hall 北鎮記念館 小林白炎墨絵詩書展

Hokuchin Memorial Hall is a small but interesting army museum in Asahikawa. You can see displays of mementos of the famous Seventh Division there. July 5th will be a good day to visit, where you can learn how to ink-paint from 1-3 pm. Also, a special lecture called “Power of Words for Life” will be given on July 6. The lecture will last from 1-3 pm in the Multipurpose Room inside the memorial hall.

Date: now to July 13th (Sunday)

Time: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (admission is until 4:30 pm)

Venue: Hokuchin Museum (Shunko-cho, by Ground Self-Defense Forces)

Admission: Free

For Further Information Contact: 0166-51-6111



Original Illustrations for Picture Books: From the Kembuchi Town Picture Book Museum Collection つたえる はぐくむ えほんのえ！—剣淵町絵本の館コレクションから—

Every one of us has read a picture book while growing up, even before we could read, because illustrations inside the book would take us away to an imaginary land. This exhibition is a chance for you to reminisce your childhood. It will be fun to see the similarities in picture books between Japan and your country.

Date: July 1st (Tuesday) to August 20th (Wednesday)

Time: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm (admission is until 4:30 pm)

Venue: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (inside Tokiwa Park)

Admission: General—¥820, High School Students—¥510, Middle School and Elementary School Students—¥300

For Further Information Contact: 0166-25-2577



Lisa ONO's Live in Asahikawa 2014: Summer Bossa

小野リサ Live in Asahikawa 2014 ~Summer Bossa~

Lisa ONO was born in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where she was naturally exposed to samba music. She is considered one of the biggest contributors to the popularity of Bossa Nova (a lyrical fusion of samba and jazz developed in the 1950s) in Japan. This year marks the 25th anniversary of her debut, and it would be an excellent opportunity to experience the warmth of Brazilian atmosphere which coincides with the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil.

Date: July 8th (Tuesday)

Time: Doors 6:30 pm, Show 7:00 pm

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

Admission: ¥5,500 (¥6,000 at the door)

Ticket Offices: Lawson Ticket (L-Code: 18242), Ticket Pia (P-code: 233-449), Gykkodo Asahikawa, Yamaha Music, FM Riviere Ticket Box, Taisetsu Crystal Hall Museum Shop, A. Evans

For Further Information Contact: 090-6695-8777 (ONO Lisa's Asahikawa Concert Supporter Team)



Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters' 2014 Asahikawa Opening (against Saitama Seibu Lions)

北海道日本ハムファイターズ2014旭川開催(対戦相手:埼玉西武ライオンズ)

Japanese baseball culture is quite unique, and it will be worth going to at least one game while you are in Japan, even if you are not a big baseball fan. It can provide insight into a culture that you just can't get in a museum, castle or religious shrine. And if you are a fan, the experience will be just more enjoyable. There will be constant clanking together of miniature plastic bats with team logos, ecstatic chanting, and singing in unison that reverberate throughout the stadium. Since this is also quite a rare occasion that Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters comes up to Asahikawa, there will be special events prior to and during the games. One more game is coming up next month, so stay tuned.

Date: July 15th (Tuesday) and 16th (Wednesday)

Time: 6:00 pm

Venue: Asahikawa Starukhin Baseball Stadium (Hanasakicho 2-chome)

Admission: Online Reserved Seats ¥4,700 (¥5,000), Infield Reserved S-Seat ¥4,700 (¥5,000), Infield Reserved A-Seat ¥3,600 (¥4,000), Outfield Unreserved Seat—Adults ¥1,600 (¥1,800), Outfield Unreserved Seat—Elementary School Students ¥600 (¥800)
*prices shown in parenthesis are for tickets purchased at the door.

Ticket Offices: Asahikawa Development and Promotion Corporation Ltd., MEGA Don Quijote Asahikawa (Service Counter on 1F), Doshin Play Guide, Ticket Pia (P-code: 826-275), Lawson Ticket (L-Code for July 15th: 10715, for July 16th: 10716), 7-Eleven, JR Hokkaido Ticket Window (*midori-no-madoguchi*), JTB Ticket Desk

Purchasing Online: Fighters' Baseball Team Website: <http://www.fighters.co.jp>

Fighters' Official Smartphone Website: <http://sp.fighters.co.jp>

JTB Ticket: <http://www.jtb.co.jp/ticket>

For Further Information Contact: 011-241-3871 (Doshin Play Guide in Sapporo)



The 28th Nagayama Tonden Festival

第28回永山屯田まつり

This festival, which celebrates the arrival of the pioneers of Hokkaido, is known for featuring Hokkaido's biggest taiko drum, which weighs more than 600kg. There will also be an enormous assortment of floating paper-covered lanterns of various colors for you to enjoy. The festival will start around noon and go on until about 9 pm. If you arrive early, you can checkout food stalls and flea markets at the venue.

Date: July 26h (Saturday) and 27th (Sunday)

Time: Around 12:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Venue: 26th: Ekimae-dori's specially set-up stage

27th: Kamikawa Office and Nagayama ekimae-dori

For Further Information Contact: 090-6695-8777



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR JULY

Life in Asahikawa

Patchwork Hills By KITAMURA Tadao

Some might find it strange that mere immense open fields could attract so many tourists, but that is the case for the so-called Patchwork Hills. The agricultural lands spreading over hills, heaving and sinking in Biei, have been a very famous sightseeing spot for years. Biei Town is a neighbor of Asahikawa City, and it takes just twenty minutes by car from the center of Asahikawa. You can even take the JR train or the local bus from Asahikawa to get there.



When you stand at a certain point amid the hills, you will see a world of neatly arranged and composed colors of farm land. A wide variety of crop species, such as potato, beats, corn, wheat, and so on, at different stages of growth provide an astounding view, as if it were a patchwork quilt.

This spectral interplay between the hills and mountains in the background attracts eyes of many photographers and artists, some of whom have reached new heights of the artistic world with their masterpieces of the scenery.

A lonesome tree and shrubs in the field tend to add zest to the landscape by bringing out the photogenic beauty. “Ken & Mary Tree (ケンとメリーの木),” “Seven Star Tree (セブンスターの木),” and “Parents and Child Tree (親子の木)” even have names to make your photographs more memorable.

By the way, Ken & Mary Tree is a poplar tree whose name came from a promotional picture for Nissan sports car, and “Seven Star Tree,” from a cigarette commercial. Both of them are greatly appreciated by visitors for the breathtaking scenery.

If you prefer a more colorful and lively landscape, you can enjoy a different kind of beauty at the nearby gardens. Flowers that were planted by species or by color on a large scale boast a wide array of colors. For instance, there are “Zerubu-no-oka (ぜるぶの丘),” “Kanno Farm (かんのファーム)” and “Shikisai-no-oka (四季彩の丘)” in Biei and Bibaushi.

When you go a little further, you will reach the Furano area, known for its vast fields of lavender. There, you can enjoy pleasant fragrance of lavender in addition to its elegant color. Even in Asahikawa, about 70 km off, we can almost sense it being carried on the south wind.

The road running through the aforementioned areas is Route 273, which has a nickname of *Hanahito Kaido* (花人街道), or the “Flower/People Road,” where people and flowers meet. The JR Furano line runs parallel to Route 273. You can get to Biei in 40 minutes, to Bibaushi 47 minutes, and to Furano 77 minutes by train.



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Lawson Dobb

Hometown: Gold Coast, Australia

Interviewed: June 19th, 2014 by AIC

AIC: *Where are you from? Please tell us a little about your hometown.*

Lawson: I am from the Gold Coast, Australia, born and raised. The Gold Coast is a popular tourist spot on the east coast of Australia, known for its theme parks and beautiful beaches.

AIC: *The place sounds lovely. So, what are you doing in Japan? Is this your first time here?*

Lawson: This is my third time living in Japan. Beforehand I worked in Okinawa and Osaka on a working holiday visa to help practice my Japanese. This time I was lucky enough to get a job as the 18th Ambassador of the Gold Coast working as an Assistant Language Teacher with the Takasu Town Council.

AIC: *From the Gold Coast to Takasu Town? That is quite a transition. What is it like living in a small town in Hokkaido?*

Lawson: I love it. I've had a taste of country life when I was in Okinawa, and compared to the concrete jungle of Osaka or Tokyo, I prefer the small town life. Everyone in Takasu has been amazingly friendly and has helped me with any problems I have had. I love how anyone can start a conversation with you without any hesitation. You would never find that warmth in big city areas like Tokyo.

AIC: *I am glad you are settling in to your new home. For the next question, you might want to jog your memory. When did you become interested in Japan, and do you remember what piqued your interest?*

Lawson: Hmm... For as long as I can remember! I grew up watching Dragon Ball Z and Pokemon, so I've always loved watching anime. Plus, when I was ten years old, my father worked in Huis Ten Bosch in Nagasaki for three months. Ever since that, I decided to learn Japanese. I also started practicing karate around the same time. All of that has made me become very interested in Japan and Japanese culture.

AIC: *Japanese anime really deserves credit for attracting foreigners to Japanese culture and language. What was your first impression of Hokkaido?*



One of Lawson's favorite spots in Takasu Town

Hello Asahikawa!

Lawson Dobb Interview (Part 2) Continued from Page 5

Lawson: First impression: Cold. I have visited Tomamu last year for a week to ski with friends, but that was during January. I arrived in Takasu Town on April 2 and experienced -14 degrees with blizzard style winds. The Gold Coast is the exact opposite of this, and same goes for Okinawa. It was a cold shock! I haven't even experienced proper Hokkaido winter yet...

AIC: *Well, I have two words for you: Good luck. I am just joking. You will be alright. So how do you like to spend your free time?*

Lawson: I am trying to cram as much stuff in as possible. I try to go to the gym, and train karate at the local club in Takasu Community Center and Asahikawa Taisei Gymnasium. I also practice calligraphy with a bunch of sweet old ladies in Higashi Takasu. Other than that, if there is a good weather, I will go for a bike ride or sightsee around the area.

AIC: *I find it amusing to ask this question to every foreigner that I meet in Japan, because it is hard to pick just one. What is your favorite Japanese food? Oh, and since you've lived in Okinawa and Osaka as well, what were some of your favorite regional dishes?*

Lawson: You are right. I can't actually pinpoint what my favorite Japanese food is. There is so much to choose from! Sushi, miso ramen, and yakiniku are indeed in my top favorites. In Okinawa I always loved eating Taco Rice, while in Osaka I ate too much takoyaki, so my body is still taking a break.

AIC: *Before we end this interview, please tell us what you are looking forward to doing during your stay in Japan. Is there any specific goal that you hope to accomplish?*

Lawson: This time around I plan to participate in as many festivals and events as possible. I'm entering the Takasu Jogging Festival on June 29th, and hopefully I will be able to enter a karate tournament. When winter comes around I plan to learn how to properly snowboard as well. Apart from that I hope to continue studying Japanese.

AIC: *Thank you for your time today, Lawson.*

Lawson: Thank you. It's been a pleasure.



Lawson at Danjiri Festival in Osaka last year

★ *Movies ~ July* ★

*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.

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

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

URL: <http://www.kadokawa-cineplex.co.jp/asahikawa/> (Japanese)

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

Now Showing

- 300: Rise of an Empire (English/R-15)
- Transcendence (English)
- Chokosoku! Sankinkotai (Japanese)
- Kawaki (Japanese/R-15)
- Watashi no Otoko (Japanese/R-15)
- Momose Kocchi wo Muite (Japanese)
- Noah (English)
- Bannokanteishi Q (Japanese)
- Haru wo Seotte (Japanese)
- Watashi no Hawaii no Arukikata (Japanese)
- Need for Speed (English)
- Monsterz (Japanese)
- X-Men: Days of Future Past (English)
- WOOD JOB! (Japanese)
- Seiten no Hekireki (Japanese)
- Thermae Romae 2 (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Edge of Tomorrow (English) 7/4
- Maleficent (English) 7/6
- Sukitteinayo (Japanese) 7/12
- When Marnie Was There (Japanese/Animation) 7/16
- Pokemon the Movie XY (Japanese/Animation) 7/19
- Kamen Rider the Movie (Japanese) 7/19
- Planes: Fire & Rescue (English/Animation) 7/19
- GODZILLA (English) 7/25
- Eight Ranger 2 (Japanese) 7/28

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

URL: http://www.geodinos.jp/cinema/asa_schedule.php?StoreID=5 (Japanese)

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

Now Showing

- Saint Seiya Legend of Sanctuary (Japanese/Animation)
- Juon (Japanese)
- Kawaki (Japanese/R-15)
- Transcendence (English)
- 300: Rise of an Empire (English/R-15)
- Need for Speed (English)
- Chokosoku! Sankinkotai (Japanese)
- Noah (English)
- 3 Days to Kill (English)
- Haru wo Seotte (Japanese)
- Pompeii (English)
- X-Men: Days of Future Past (English)
- Monsterz (Japanese)
- Thermae Romae 2 (Japanese)
- Seiten no Hekireki (Japanese)
- WOOD JOB! (Japanese)
- Frozen (English)

Coming Soon

- Edge of Tomorrow (English) 7/4
- Maleficent (English) 7/6
- Sukitteinayo (Japanese) 7/12
- When Marnie Was There (Japanese/Animation) 7/16
- Pokemon the Movie XY (Japanese/Animation) 7/19
- Kamen Rider the Movie (Japanese) 7/19
- Planes: Fire & Rescue (English/Animation) 7/19
- GODZILLA (English) 7/25

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

Kamikawa Shrine Festival

This is one of the major Shrine festivals in Asahikawa that you do not want to miss. Kamikawa Shrine Festival is back again this year to remind you what summer fun is all about. Portable shrines and troupes of musicians will parade throughout the streets of Asahikawa, and food, drink, and game stalls will line the main street, 3-jo-dori, for as far as the eye can see.

Dates: July 20th (Sunday) to 22nd (Tuesday)

Venue:

Festival Stalls: Between 3-jo-dori 13-chome and 3-jo-dori 20-chome

Main Festival: Kamikawa Shrine Grounds (Kaguraoka Park)

Charge: Free

For More Information Call: 0166-57-2410



Feeeal de Nihongo

Asahikawa International Center has been hosting Japanese language sessions for foreigners or non-native Japanese speakers since a couple of months ago.

Every Monday from 4 pm, volunteers can answer your questions or help you work on the weak areas in Japanese. The lessons will be quite flexible without a strict curriculum or lesson plans. Anybody who wants to improve their Japanese is welcome to participate.

For more information on Feeeal de Nihongo, please call the Asahikawa International Committee (Ms. SASAKI or SAITO) to the number below or send an email to aic1_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp



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!

Dates: July 11th&25th, August 8th&22nd, and September 12th&26th

*Fun Fridays are held on every 2nd and 4th Friday

Time: 1:00-2:00pm & 7:00-8:00pm

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.

Center Computers: The Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome) has two computers available for public use free of charge. There is a time limit for use and prior registration is necessary. Please feel free to come by and use them 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.****