



## Language Exchange Lounge Series

Join our lively lounge events to meet friendly native speakers and fellow language learners from around the world!

**Hosted at the Asahikawa International Center from 18:00-19:00**

Lounge	Dates
<b>K x J Lounge</b> Korean Language Exchange	<b>12/18 (Thu)</b>
<b>Nihongo Lounge</b> Japanese Language Exchange	<b>12/19 (Fri)</b>



## International Holiday Potluck

**TIME: 11:30-14:30**

**LOCATION:** Asahikawa International Center

**DETAILS:** Come enjoy the holidays with us during our upcoming international potluck! Bring some food to share and play some holiday games with the international community!

**PARTICIPATION FEE:** ¥100

**WHAT TO BRING:** Food to share for 5-6 people (bought food is ok too) and your own drink

**DRESS CODE:** Holiday themed clothes

**12/20**  
Saturday



## Youth English Lounge

**TIME: 15:00-17:00**

**LOCATION:** Asahikawa International Center

**REGISTRATION START:** 12/12 (9:00AM)

**DETAILS:** Join us to speak English and connect with other young people in Asahikawa! We'll play fun games and discuss exciting cultural differences with fellow English speakers!

*For 7th grade to 12th grade students & international residents (all ages welcome for international participants)!*

**12/26**  
Friday



**ASAHIKAWA  
INTERNATIONAL  
COMMITTEE**

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**Check out our website and social media for information regarding the events above.**

**For further information or to register for events, contact:**

Asahikawa International Committee (AIC)

**Address:** Asahikawa International Center Feeel 7F,  
1-jo-dori 8-chome, Asahikawa 070-0031

**Tel:** (0166) 25-7491 **Fax:** (0166) 23-4924

**Email:** asahikawainternationalcenter@gmail.com

**Website:** <https://asahikawaic.jp/en/>



Scan the QR Code to check out our homepage!

Follow us on social media for latest updates and upcoming events!

X (formerly twitter)



Facebook



Instagram



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





Philippine-Australian-style potluck

# Holiday Potluck with AIC!

By John Mabilangan

With the holiday season arriving, this is the time where many communities in North America host potlucks and holiday parties as part of the year-end festivities. As such, AIC will also be gearing into the holiday spirit by hosting its own potluck!

## What Is a Potluck?

A potluck is a communal gathering where friends, family, or members of the community gather for a meal where instead of the hosts, the guests bring food to share with everyone. The closest equivalent to a potluck would be a mochikomi party (持ち込みパーティー) here in Japan. During the potluck attendees typically bring their homemade cooking to share with everyone. Many local Americans as well as immigrant communities gather and bring their own unique dishes to enjoy with everyone. Of course, potlucks do not typically require people to bring home cooked meals as some people occasionally bring snacks, drinks, and food bought from restaurants to contribute. During a potluck, it is an opportunity for attendees to showcase their cooking as well as to taste the recipes of friends, family, and the community. Not only is it an opportunity to enjoy a variety of cuisine and flavors, but also an opportunity to connect with others through food!



Potluck with international students

When I lived in the states, potlucks were both a casual and a personal occasion. They were done either in the workplace, among friends, or with family. Given that my hometown had a large immigrant community, potlucks we had were almost always international. I had friends with roots from India, Vietnam, Korea, China, Togo, and many other countries who would bring their cuisines from their culture. Not only were we able to enjoy tasting their cooking skills, but also experience a taste of their cultural roots. We would always make the effort to bring a lot so that everyone has a chance to bring leftovers home. Potlucks, whether there are foods from foreign cultures, or local cuisines, or even just dishes from the neighborhood restaurants, it is an opportunity to enjoy a meal with close family, friends, as well as the community.

In hosting a potluck this year, AIC hopes to connect with the local and international communities of Asahikawa. If you are interested in joining us, please read all the terms of participation and register via the QR code. See you then!







# A Special Christmas in Melbourne

By Saki Miyauchi

Hello everyone!

I am Saki , a staff member of the Asahikawa International Committee.

Thank you so much to everyone who has participated in our events and activities. For anyone who have never been to our events, thank you for taking your time to read this Asahikawa Info. Hope to see you soon! Today, I would like to share a little bit of my experience outside of Japan. How do you usually spend the Christmas season? Do you have your own favorite way to celebrate the holidays?

I personally love this season so much, with songs, lights and lots of snow covering the whole city. As a Dosanko(Japanese word for a person who was born and raised in Hokkaido), I could not imagine Christmas without beautiful snow. Growing up, some of my favorite winter films are The Chronicles of Narnia, The Polar Express, and The Holiday. It always made me excited to see beautiful winter sceneries in films. These movies are the reason why I love the white Christmas so much.

Two years ago, I got to experience the Summer Christmas outside of Japan, and it was actually a refreshing season for me! It was in Melbourne, Australia, in 2023. Australia is located in Southern hemisphere where the seasons are opposite to Japan. This is why December is in hot summer there. People in Australia celebrate mid-summer Christmas with outdoor picnics, barbeques and beautiful decorations.

Here are some photos from Melbourne.

There are various ways to enjoy the summer holiday season with friends and family.

## Christmas Carnival



The annual Christmas Carnival provides a handful of rides for each age group, carnival games where you can win huge plush toys, and an iconic ferris wheel. You can enjoy carnival foods and drinks as well. I tried the Sky Rider, which will take you 35-metres in the air for amazing views of the city. I was scared to death with the chair spinning forever up high, but it was an interesting experience.

## Moonlight Cinema

It typically runs from early December to early April at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne. You can get tickets online and bring your own food and drinks or purchase some on the spot. It's always nice to watch some good films with good company



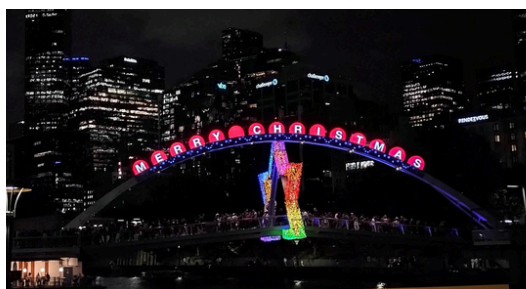
## Christmas Cinema

This is another option for movie lovers. This event is presented by City of Melbourne, where you can enjoy a Christmas films for only 5 dollars. It was so much fun to watch "ELF" in the lively hall filled with familie

## Call Santa for Free

This is my favorite one. If you are a believer of Santa Claus and wish to talk to him someday, you can call Santa for free from a payphone by dialing #HOHOHO (#464646) during Christmas season.

I tried it, and it was connected to a Santa's place at the North Pole immediately! It would be so nice if children can try that in Japan as well!



## Christmas River Show

There's a huge river called Yarra River in Melbourne. It is usually a bit cloudy brown. However, with the Christmas projections at night it looks so beautiful. Lots of people gather around the river area to enjoy the fun light show with its exciting music.

It's a cold winter in Asahikawa, but let us enjoy this special season with our own unique ways! If you get an opportunity to visit our center, please let me know how you spend your Christmas!

